



Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

8:15 a.m.- spoken

10:30 a.m.- sung liturgy

Welcome to St. John

St. John Lutheran Church 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.stjohnbluebell.org www.facebook.com/stjohnbluebell

Nursery School website: www.stjohns.com

610-277-1086

Staff:

Pastor Rachel Manke

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Ray Hopkins, Director of Youth and Family Services

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Our Council Members are listed on our website.

Celebrating 257 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2026.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Parents with young children: Please know your children are welcome and cherished in worship! Wiggles and all! If you find a need to step out with them during worship, we have arranged a special Prayer Ground in the Great Room down the sanctuary stairs. At the 10:30 service, the service is streamed onto a screen above that area so you can continue to worship.

This service is live-streamed on the church's YouTube page.

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Order for Worship

Welcome

Prelude~ “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”

Philip M. Young

Handbell Choir

Thanksgiving for Baptism

The assembly may rise.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

P: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne
and to the Lamb!

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font as the presiding minister continues.

P: Merciful God,
you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

You lead us beside still waters.

We thank you for the waters of creation:

morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves.

We thank you for the waters that nourish us.

Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness

who accompanies us on our journeys.

We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection.

We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow.

Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows.

Break down barriers that divide us.

Fill us with the breath of peace.

Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism,
and for making us a new creation.

We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise,
now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn ~ “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joi - ce and sing! Now is the tri - umph
 2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might - y stone is
 3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:
 rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joi - ce and say:
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:
 one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.
 Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615
 Text © 1952, ren. 1980 *Hymns Ancient & Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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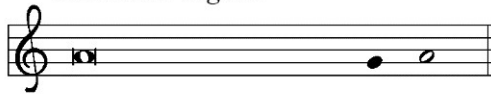
Greeting

- P: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who was raised from the dead to bring everlasting hope, be with you all.
- C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

(8:15) spoken responsively (10:30) sung

The cantor begins.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



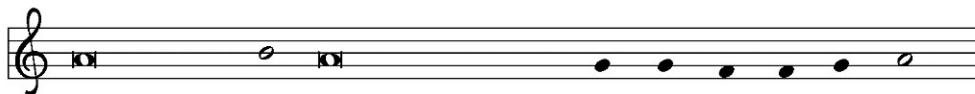
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C:** Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C:** A - men.

(8:15)

P: This is the feast of victory for our God.

C: Alleluia!

(10:30) Hymn of Praise~ "This Is The Feast"



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

Children's Message

Word

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

A: The first reading is from Acts.

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(8:15) Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (Spoken responsively)

¹ I love the Lord, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,

² **for the Lord has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me;
I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”**

¹² How shall I repay the Lord
for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the Lord.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all God's people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O Lord,
is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O Lord, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the Lord.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the Lord
in the presence of all God's people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the Lord's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

(10:30) Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (Cantor, then ALL)

I will take the cup of sal - va - tion, and
call on the name of the Lord.

How can I repay the LORD
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the LORD's name. R.

O precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of the faithful.

Your servant, LORD, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds. R.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make;
I will call on the LORD's name.
My vows to the LORD I will fulfill
before all the people. R.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-23

A: The second reading is from First Peter.

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly may rise.

Gospel Acclamation



Choir: Our hearts | burn within us* while you open to | us the scriptures.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.

Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: The gospel of the Lord.
 C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

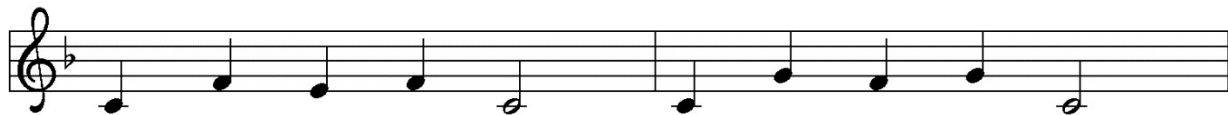
The assembly may be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Manke

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

Hymn of the Day ~ “Day of Arising”



1 Day of a - ris - ing, Christ on the road - way,
 2 When we are walk - ing, doubt - ful and dread - ing,
 3 Lo, I am with you, Je - sus has spo - ken.
 4 Christ, our com - pan - ion, hope for the jour - ney,



un - known com - pan - ion walks with his own.
 blind - ed by sad - ness, slow - ness of heart,
 This is Christ's prom - ise, this is Christ's sign:
 bread of com - pas - sion, o - pen our eyes.



When they in - vite him, as fades the first day,
yet Christ walks with us, ev - er a - wait - ing
when the church gath - ers, when bread is bro - ken,
Grant us your vi - sion, set all hearts burn - ing



and bread is bro - ken, Christ is made known.
our in - vi - ta - tion: Stay, do not part.
there Christ is with us in bread and wine.
that all cre - a - tion with you may rise.

Nicene Creed

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

A: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

A: Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we might recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick. We pray especially for: Jon, Bob, Abigail, Diane, Roger, Maria, Carolyn, Rosemary, Angelo, Tony, Andy, Greg, Sivan, Joan, Kevin, Rob, Matt, Bongchun, Jimmy, Lance, Stacey, Eleanor, Marie, Greg, Nan, Joshua, and Robert. Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. Merciful God,

C: **receive our prayer.**

A: Eternal Light, we give thanks for Olavus Petri, Laurentius Petri and all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of your glorious presence.

C: **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered. The pastor concludes:

Pastor: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

P: The peace of the Risen Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Meal

The assembly may be seated.

Stay with us, till night has come: our praise to you this day be sung.
Bless our bread, open our eyes: Jesus, be our great surprise.

Walk with us, our spirits sigh: hearn when our weary spirits cry
Feel again our loss, our pain: Jesus, take us to your side.

Walk with us, the road will bend: make all our weeping, wailing end.
Wipe our tears, forgive our fears: Jesus, lift the heavy cross.

Talk with us till we behold a joyful life you will unfold:
Heal our eyes to see the prize: Jesus, take us to the light.

Stay with us, till day is done: no tears nor dark shall dim the sun:
Cheer the heart, your grace impart. Jesus, bring eternal life.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering

Music: Walter L. Pelz

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings



Scan to give an offering.

*We are grateful for your support of St. John. Here are the ways to share tithes and offerings: **You may make use of the offering plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary, or scan this QR code to use Square.** Simply Giving - You can arrange for a regular gift (weekly, monthly, quarterly) to be deducted from a bank account. Please contact Laura Smeltzer, bookkeeper, at stjohn1802bookkeeper@gmail.com.*

For communion: We practice a "standing station" distribution of communion. An usher will indicate to you when it is time to come up. They will have empty cups for you to take if you are to have wine, and proceed down the center aisle. First, receive the wafer from pastor, putting your hands out. Then, if you are receiving wine, hold up your empty cup to the pouring chalice to receive the wine. Grape juice is in the tray beside the cup in pre-filled cups. Younger children or anyone not receiving are welcome to come up for a blessing from the pastor. You will return to your pew from the side aisle. Christ is the host of this meal, his real presence in bread and wine, and **all are welcome at the table.**

The assembly may rise.

Offertory Prayer

P: Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory.
You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day
when we will hunger and thirst no more.
Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus,
that goodness and mercy may follow us
and bless the world you love.
In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving



P: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.



P: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them to the Lord.



P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.


Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

C: Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again: we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able. We ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving, and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with the heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.



C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to boldly pray:

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

An usher will indicate to you when it is time to come forward for communion.

The assembly may be seated.

Communion Canticle ~ Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The assembly may be seated. The meal is shared.

Communion Anthem~ "In Thee Is Gladness"

Douglas E. Wagner

Handbell Choir

Post Communion Blessing

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

A: Holy One,
through this meal you have made your home among us
and are making all things new.
Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts,
to love our enemies,
and to bring your healing to the nations.
In the name of Jesus,

C: **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end,
Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead,
and the Spirit, our advocate and peace,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ~ “That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright”

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the
 2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with
 3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in
 4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to

sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing
 con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will
 this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our
 you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther

eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!
 ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.
 strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.
 e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Dismissal

P: Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Go in peace. Proclaim the good news. Alleluia!

C: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

Postlude ~ “Trumpet Tune on *Puer Nobis*”

Wayne L. Wold

Serving Today in Worship

Pastor

Pastor Rachel Manke

Director of Music

Lawrence Baker

8:15 Usher

10:30 Usher

Ryan and Peter Antochy

8:15 Lector

Kim Even

10:30 Lector

Barbara Speece

8:15 Communion Assistant

10:30 Communion Assistant

8:15 Acolyte

10:30 Acolyte

Ryan Antochy

Video Technicians

Phil Wood, Adam Kiefski, Xavier Mitchell, & Megan Kiefski

Counters

Dave Ochocki and Patti Whitcomb

Flowers are given today by the Schwab family in honor of their daughter, Audrey's 16th birthday.

This Week at St. John...

Sunday, Apr 19

8:15 Worship

9:15 Adult Class/Sunday School

10:30 Worship

1:45 Cub Scouts

Thursday, Apr 23

10:00 Visual Arts Class

12:15 Pastor's Bible Study

6:30 Bell Choir Rehearsal

7:30 Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Monday, Apr 20

10:00 Quilters

Friday, Apr 24

10:00 Visual Arts Class

6:30 Boy Scouts Troop 98 [FH, MPR, YC]

Wednesday, Apr 22

1:30 Visual Arts Class

Sunday, Apr 26 (Quilt Blessing Sunday)

8:15 Worship

9:15 Adult Class/Sunday School

10:30 Worship



Scan this QR code to see the church calendar on our website.

Happening at St. John

Ladies Who Lunch - Join the St. John Ladies Who Lunch on **Tuesday, April 21st at noon**. The group will meet at PJ Whelihan's Restaurant, 799 Dekalb Pike, Blue Bell. RSVP to Rita Stock at 610-608-1140 or Stock825@comcast.net.

Upcoming: The Arts at St. John Concert - Join us for the final concert on **Sunday, May 3rd at 4 pm**. Philalea will be performing Brahms' Piano Trio No 2 and Debussy Piano Trio. Full details are available on our website: www.stjohnbluebell.org.

Pastor's Thursday Bible Study - Our Thursday Bible Study continues this week at 12:15 pm with our study on the book of Proverbs. Bring a bagged lunch! Regular attendees take turns bringing a special treat to eat. Join us.

Altar Flowers - Remember that YOU can sponsor our weekly flowers for Sunday worship. They are not actually in the budget, so your sponsorship is helpful. Celebrate an occasion, remember a saint of yours, etc. \$30 is the cost. The sign-up sheet is at the base of the stairs in the Great Room.

News and Info

2026 Summer Youth Trip: Gettysburg (July 12–17) - This summer we're returning to Gettysburg for a week at the seminary! In 2026, we'll be partnering with the seminary and participating in **Theological Education of Youth (TEY)**—a program that blends service, fun, and opportunities for youth to dig deeper into their faith. All youth in the confirmation program through completed 12th grade are invited. For details, please contact Ray Hopkins at rayhopkins1802@gmail.com.

Vacation Bible School is Coming! (July 27 & 29) - Are you dreaming of summer? St. John will host a two-night Vacation Bible School to explore "Who is My Neighbor?". Children are invited to explore what it means to be neighbors in Christ. Students will enjoy games, crafts, and intentional activities to learn how our faith calls us out into the world to love and serve our neighbors. VBS will take place on **7/27 & 7/29 from 6-8 pm**. This VBS cannot run without the help of volunteers! All materials will be supplied. Commitment is the two VBS nights plus one info meeting to review the material and expectations so that everyone is comfortable before the children arrive! Please reach out to Carin Antochy (carin.antochy@gmail.com) if you can help make this year's VBS a success.

Spotlighting St. John Groups - Did you know that each team that helps keep our congregation running so well has a specific mandate in the church constitution? We will be highlighting individual groups in the coming weeks. Take a look and see if there might be some place where you think you could add your own personal talents and passion. New ideas and fresh takes are always welcome! If you find your interest piqued, get in touch with Megan Kiefski (mskiefski@gmail.com) or Pastor Rachel.

Social Ministry Team - The mission of this group is to "extend Christian compassion and serve the human needs of people both within and outside of the congregation". This team is also tasked with studying governmental and social issues that affect the church in general and our congregation specifically. The social ministry team has worked with many local charitable organizations and provided forums to talk about the many social statements from the National ELCA organization. Is there a local organization that you are engaged with that could use our help? Are you passionate about specific issues in the world that are affecting us all? This may be a place for you.

Bulletin Announcements & Weekly Email - To request the inclusion of an announcement in the bulletin, please contact the church office by Monday of that week. To request inclusion in the weekly email, contact Katie Myers by Monday of that week.



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