

The Revelations of St. John



We continue the season of Epiphany through February and begin Lent on March 1.

Ash Wednesday is March 1 this year. We will begin our Lenten journey together that evening with worship at 7:30 p.m.

Our traditional Soup Suppers return on Wednesday, March 8 from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. A simple meal of soups and breads will be served. We have created a sign up on line for those who wish to donate soup or bread.

Following our meal, we will have Lenten Worship at 7:30 p.m. Lenten services are much shorter than our Sunday services, and more contemplative in nature. We use a different liturgy as well. This year's theme will center on the writings of Martin Luther in his Small Catechism. An offering will be collected to benefit the ELCA World Hunger Fund each week. We encourage you to take on a new spiritual practice for Lent by attending worship on Wednesdays.

Lenten Devotions will be available on Sunday, Feb. 25.

Our schedule of special worship services in Lent is to the right. Our Holy Week Schedule is listed on the last page of our newsletter.

All are welcome at St. John's. Please invite others to join you at worship or at one of our many opportunities.

Worship Highlights

Sundays in February — Season of Epiphany
Services at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School meets at 9:15 for children, youth & adults *except* Feb. 12 and 19.

Sunday, Feb. 12 — One Worship Service
Due to the Congregation Meeting, we will have one worship service at 9:30 a.m., followed by the meeting.

Wednesday, March 1— Ash Wednesday
Service at 7:30 p.m.

Sundays in March — Season of Lent
Services at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays in March
Soup Suppers from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.
Lenten Worship at 7:30 p.m.





A Report from our Outgoing Council President

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am honored and grateful for having had the opportunity of serving as your Church Council President. Being Council President was a big job, but with the assistance of the Pastor, fellow members of Council, and the Congregation it was possible to be successful in this position.

I thank you all for your time and commitment, and support throughout my term. I know that you will embrace and support Kathy Erdman as your new Council President as you have me during my time in office. I look forward to continuing my work with Council in the role of Secretary.

May God bless you and your loved ones!
Monika Bontempo

Council Notes:

- Members may find hardcopies of all minutes on the side table near the elevator in the Great Room.
- Council Meetings are held monthly; committee meetings are held as needed for each group.
- All members are able to serve on Council. All members and non-members are strongly encouraged to serve on a committee.
- Council Members are nominated in the Fall; our congregation has our elections in December.
- Officers for the Council are elected and voted on by current Council members each year—usually in December or January.

Finance Information from Year-End

St. John Current Fund Budget vs. Actuals

Month of December 2016

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$21,231	22,040	809
Total Expenses	23,545	21,812	1,733
Operating Income (Loss)	(2,314)	228	2,542

Jan 1 – Dec 31 2016

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Total Income	286,355	286,744	389
Total Expenses	284,660	282,017	2,643
Operating Income (Loss)	1,695	4,727	3,032

Council Members 2017

Executive Committee

President: Kathy Erdman
 erdmankath@gmail.com

Vice-President: Phil Vande Berg
 philvandeberg@yahoo.com

Secretary: Monika Bontempo
 mbontempo2015@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jack Ruse
 jackruse@gmail.com

Pastor Sarah Stobie
 pastorsarahstobie@gmail.com

Congregation Council Members

Jeff Brown
 Maripat Brown
 Carol Gorman
 Sue Lorenski
 Joy McCabe
 Carol Weidler

Thank You Notes to Our Church

We often get thank you notes from the many agencies and charities that we support. All too often, they are read and shared only at Council. This month, I would like to share these notes with you. Your contributions and support are greatly appreciated. —Pastor Sarah

Thank you very much for your meaningful gift to support the work of Mercy Ships. Your belief in our work is a personal encouragement to me, as well as to the forgotten poor. Each life-changing story is a part of your story now. *Don, on behalf of Mercy Ships*

Dear Friends,

Because of your support, transplant families have a warm and caring place they can call home when theirs is far away. Thank you for helping this holiday season with your gift in support of our Adopt-A-Family program. *Howard M. Nathan, President, Gift of Life Family House.*

Dear St. John Lutheran,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for your gift to the Wissahickon Valley Public Library's Annual Giving Campaign. In a year with over 174,900 people using the library, your donation helped make it possible to purchase books, magazines, DVDs and electronic resources. Thank you for being our partner as we strengthen the future of learning in our community. *Sincerely, Catherine A. McCauley, Library Board President*

Dear St. John,

Canines for Disabled Kids would like to thank you for your donation to our program. We, and the children whose independence is expanded with the help of the service dogs in their lives, appreciate the support. *Sincerely, Kristin Hartness, Executive Director*

Dear St. John Church,

Thank you for your generous donation to the soup kitchen. We run our kitchen on the love of people like you! *Gratefully, Bill Rinker, President, Grace and Cecil Bean Soup Kitchen.*

Dear St. John,

On behalf of SPOHNC's directors and members, thank you for your donation. SPOHNC has a strong history of supporting patients who are diagnosed with oral, head and neck cancer. Your contribution will help to continue to raise awareness, and expand our essential programs. *With sincere appreciation, Mary Ann Caputo, Executive Director, Support for People with Oral and Head and Neck Cancer*

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent gift to ELCA World Hunger. Your support provides water and hygiene programs, agriculture and animal husbandry, health clinics and micro loans, and education in more than 60 countries, including the United States. Thank you for responding in faith to address hunger and poverty. *Until all are fed, Daniel Rift, Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal.*

Dear St. John,

We would like to thank you for your financial support. It will make it possible for our volunteer organization to continue serving our community. *Sincerely, the members of Centre Square Fire Company*

*Join us for our
Annual Congregation Meeting
on Sunday, Feb. 12
immediately following the
one worship service at 9:30 a.m.*

Nursery School News

The Nursery School has been busy! PreK has learned about hibernation and how animals handle cold temperatures. The Perkiomen Watershed will be visiting to present a program on Polar Animals. The Middies are learning about dinosaurs. They are also working hard at cutting and pencil grip skills. Our Youngn's have been focusing on the numbers 1 - 5. Soon their color weeks will begin!

The entire school participated in a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Challenge. Children were asked to donate men's socks. They spent a morning rolling the socks around a granola bar and pack of crackers and securing it with a rubber band. This took a lot of hard work and concentration for such little hands. The children were able to make a big difference with a total donation of 242 pairs of socks that will go to homeless men in Norristown and Philadelphia via The Giving Tree. *Carrie Engel, Director*

Below, small hands roll and wrap up socks for project.



Girl Scout Sunday

We will celebrate Girl Scout Sunday on March 12 at the 10:30 a.m. service.

All Girl Scouts, please let Pastor Sarah know if you would like to participate! And of course, all Girl Scouts should wear their uniforms that day! And did you know? Pastor Sarah is an adult Girl Scout, too!

Pancake Breakfast — Youth Fundraiser

Our high school youth have begun fundraising for the next Youth Gathering Trip in 2018—Houston, Texas! That is not far away at all!



They will be having a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 9 to 10:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We encourage our members to come and support our youth!

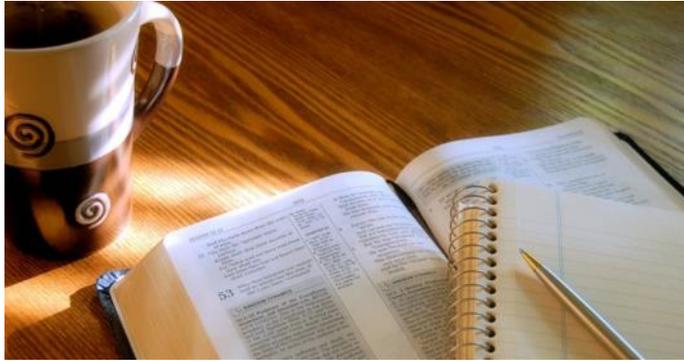
Easter Bunny Lunch and Egg Hunt

St. John is happy to be the location for this year's event, run the by Ladies Auxiliary of the Centre Square Fire Company.

We will host them and their event on Saturday, April 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The community is welcome!

More details will be coming, but save the date!





Pastor Sarah's Bible Study

Pastor's Tuesday Morning Bible Study continues with our study of Old Testament Scriptures regarding prophecy, the Messiah, and the kingdom of God. Each week will be different—We meet on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. in February 14, 21, and 28--- our last class of the series is the 28th. Join us!

Luther 101

To celebrate the upcoming 500th anniversary in October of the Reformation, we will have a monthly Adult Class on Luther, Lutheranism, and the Reformation. We began this January and meet every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m.



Our second gathering, Feb 21, will be on the early beginnings of Martin Luther. Video and Powerpoint will be used. All are welcome to learn more about our Lutheran heritage in 2017!

Pub Theology

Pub Theology is a new movement in the Lutheran Church for our young adults, ages 25-40ish.

Martin Luther gathered frequently with the young adults of his time over a stein to discuss faith, theology and life in a relaxed setting. We will honor this old tradition by gathering monthly in a local pub on the second Tuesday of every month. *Join us Tuesday MARCH 14, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at MaGerks in Fort Washington. We will not meet in February.*



RSVPs are helpful—please email Pastor Sarah at pastorsarahstobie@gmail.com

Boomers @ the Bar



Pastor Sarah has been asked if she would begin a small group similar to Pub Theology, but for our older members—Baby Boomers and Up!

Our first gathering will be Monday, Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m. We will meet at MaGerks in Fort Washington. If you are interested, or planning on attending, please contact Pastor Sarah ASAP. Thank you!

Hatha Yoga Classes

Our popular yoga classes continue on Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Our instructor, Kelli Pannepacker, will guide us through gentle moves and poses. All levels of skill are welcome; Kelli is quick to assist you. You may drop-in for \$8 a session. No pre-registration is necessary. We meet in Fellowship Hall; please bring a mat or towel to use. Questions? Please connect with Pastor Sarah or Kathy Erdman.



Challenge 2017

Just a reminder that our stewardship challenge for 2017 has begun. We have been challenged to raise our offerings up by \$217 per person this year. This challenge, if met, would eliminate much of our dependence on our endowment.

Please remember to use your envelopes when you make an offering, or you may also use the Simply Giving program which automatically deducts your offering from your bank account.



The winter session of art classes has begun at St. John. Classes are run like a one room school house and are filled with students of all skill levels working in all mediums.

New sessions start 4 times a year and new students are always welcome. **Our next session begins the week of March 26.** So, if you always wanted to learn to draw or paint, check out the art class at St. John. They are very affordable, only \$80 for ten 2-hour sessions, plus you are supporting St. John. If you would like to get on the email list and receive notifications when the new sessions start or have further questions, please drop Ann L. Brennan a note via email at annlb609@gmail.com.



Yarn Crafters in February

Want to learn a new skill? Or, be reminded? In January, we taught Crochet 101. In February, we will teach Knitting 101! **Our next monthly gathering of Yarn Crafters will be Wednesday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m.**

We will be offering a workshop on Knitting 101 — how to make a basic piece that can be altered to make a potholder, scarf, baby blanket, and even a baby hat!

There is no cost to come, but... please bring the materials needed for the workshop.

- * Needles sized 13, sometimes also called 9 mm. *Not circular, please.*
- * 1 skein of Super Bulky (6) weight of yarn.
- * Please avoid other sizes for yarn, especially fine or baby. We have given a label as a reference.
- * You may invite friends and neighbors to join you.



Easter Candy Sale begins Feb. 12. Brochures and order forms will be available in the Great Room following services, through March 12.

We need people to sell to their coworkers and families to make this a success. Proceeds will be used for a special project at church. Contact Betty Jeanguenin with questions -- 610-279-5312 or yellowbelly1@verizon.net.



Altar Flowers are a wonderful way to remember a special person or date.

Please sign up to sponsor our altar flowers (or bulletins) by using the pink clipboard, located on the Information Table in the Great Room, or by contacting the Church Office. Thank you!



We are collecting items for the Seminary Student Food Bank at LTSP. The need is great. Seminary students often make choices between paying bills and buying food. Our offerings help!

Please donate canned goods, ready-to-make meals, and other items that are non-perishable. We also need drivers to deliver the food once a month. Donated items may be dropped off any time and left in the front closet by the main entrance. Thank you!

Continued from last page...



Pastor Sarah is creating an updated **“homebound” and visiting list** to use this Spring/Summer. If you would like to be on either list, please call Pastor today.

Chili Cook Off Returns!

Join us on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. for our Chili Cook Off. This adult fellowship event is a highlight every year..

- If you make a special chili, please bring it ready to eat! We will provide bowls, utensils, and drinks. You may BYOB.
- If you do not like chili, we still invite you to come—bring a dish to pass (hoagies, chicken, etc).
- Please DO RSVP and let us know if you will be bringing a chili, salad or dessert. Sign up either online (please go to our website) or on the sheet in the Great Room.
- Questions? Please connect with Kathy Erdman at erdmankath@gmail.com or Monika Bon-tempo at mbontempo2015@gmail.com.

ELCA: What is a Synod?

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod expression of the ELCA cares for the health and vitality of Christ's Church in Philadelphia and Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties. The congregations of the synod in representative assembly elects a bishop to be their pastor, and the bishop appoints staff members to help carry out the varied ministries of that office. The synod is organized into nine geographic conferences, each of which elects a local pastor to be their Dean (a part time assistant to the bishop). Congregations may be organized into local groupings or clusters to do cooperative ministry and mission. This simply means that no one is alone in doing God's mission. There are supports for moving forward and resources in times of trouble. Our Synod website is ministrylink.org



The Arts at St. John's resumes on Sunday, March 12 with a very unique ensemble appearing for the first time in our area. The Philadelphia Flute Quartet is a professional ensemble now in its second season dedicated to the perfor-

mance of music for multiple flutes, educational presentations and ensemble coaching. Core members of the quartet include Kathleen Brown, Christine Hansen, Anne Levinson and Thomas Meany.

The quartet has performed in recitals for the Church of the Holy Trinity in Philadelphia, the Afternoon Music Club in Phoenixville, the Flute Society of Greater Philadelphia, Calliope Music, the Rittenhouse Soundworks Musical Gathering, and the Andrea Clearfield Salon.



Please join the quartet in recital on Sunday, March 12 at 4 pm. and bring a friend. As always, a scrumptious reception follows the concert. They will perform a challenging program of works, many composed or arranged by local friends and colleagues. The piccolo, alto and bass flutes will be featured in the program along with the traditional flute. Interesting for the eyes as well as the ears.

Lawrence Baker, Director of Music

Final Reminders

The best way to get the latest news? Sign up for our eNewsletter which is sent every week on Wednesdays. You may do this by emailing Pastor Sarah from the email address you wish to receive the eNews.

Help on Sundays is often needed. Every Sunday we need ushers, lectors, communion assistants, etc.

If you are able to assist, please feel free to sign up online through our website link or *call the Church Office and we will sign you up over the phone.*



Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 p.m.
April 13

Good Friday Service at 7:30 p.m.
April 14

Vigil of Easter Service at 7:30 p.m.
April 15

Easter Sunday Services
April 16
7:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Easter Potluck Breakfast
8:30 to 10 a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

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1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thursday
www.stjohnbluebell.org

Nursery School: 610-272-7163
www.stjohnsns.org



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Church in America**

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Staff

Rev. Sarah Stobie, Pastor
Lawrence Baker, Director of Music
Vicki Ochocki, Office Assistant
Barry Stock, Facilities Coordinator
Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director
Katie Myers, Sunday School Director/Webmaster
Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator
Dave Ochocki, Book-keeper

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