

# *The Revelations of St. John*



## **God's work.** Our hands.

Join us on Sunday, Sept. 10, as we celebrate "*God's Work. Our Hands.*" Sunday with all of our sister churches in the ELCA.

We begin our two worship services schedule, too!  
**Join us for worship at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.**

Between services, we will have a special speaker sharing news about our synod, our denomination and opportunities for service.

Stay after our first service, or come early before our second service. Name tags will be available—be sure to put one on for the morning!



At St. John, we do a lot of "collections" for local and global charities. Our September focus will be on the charity called Soles4Souls. More information about our September Collection is on page 10.

You may start bringing your shoes on Sunday, Sept. 10. Our efforts for Soles4Souls are being coordinated by the Social Ministry Committee here at St. John.



On Sunday, Sept. 17, we will have our annual "*Rally Day*" to kick-off our Sunday School Education and Fall Programming.

Sunday School for children and youth will begin at 9:15 (sharp!) with a special treat in Fellowship Hall. Youth will meet with their leaders and the children will "make and take" a special craft. Parents can meet teachers and other parents during the craft time.

We also will begin our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study at 9:15 in the Multi-Purpose Room. Each Sunday, adults will gather to study the synoptic gospels. For the first few weeks, we will have a guest facilitator along with Andrea Greyson, our adult bible study leader. All adults are welcome—this is a great new study!

Name tags will be available this Sunday—please be sure to put one on when you arrive.



## A Report from our Council President

Early September is such a time of transition, isn't it? Transitioning from more relaxed lifestyles, hopefully some vacation enjoyed, and for some, time away from St. John. Then, early September rolls around and BAM! We're back in the swing of things. Back to two services, meetings, activities and preparations for the not so distant holiday season. But, it's also a time to enjoy lovely warm days, cool evenings and beautiful colors in both the sky and the trees.

Looking forward, we have lots of exciting events coming up—starting with our 2nd Annual Classic & Antique Car Show, Saturday, September 9 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in our parking lot. Last year's show was so successful and we're anticipating an even bigger and better show this year. I hope you will make time to come out and support St. John, have a great time with family & friends admiring the incredible cars on display, and have a tasty lunch in Fellowship Hall. We return to two services the following day. We're participat-

ing in the CROP Walk in Lansdale which is coming up, as well as the Blessing of the Animals in early October. We're also looking forward to a dramatic presentation, *An Evening with Martin Luther*, presented by the actor Stephen Seyfried followed by a German themed Potluck Supper on October 21. You'll find all our activities on the website and in the weekly calendar in the bulletin.

I'm reminded of the words from Jeremiah 29:11: *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."* Placing our hope and future in God's hands and heeding his call and direction will serve us all well as we celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation as well as our many years of ministry in our own community.

I want to thank all of you for being here at St. John, for your contributions both financial and other (and both are much needed and appreciated), and for the work you do whether it is large or small to keep our light shining all year long! See you in September!!

Together in Christ, Kathy Erdman

## Finance Information through July 31, 2017

### 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  
Michael McConnell  
Evan Speece  
Carol Weidler

#### St. John Current Fund Budget vs. Actuals

##### Month of July 2017

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Total Income \$	30,747	32,156	1,409
Total Expenses \$	25,151	23,006	2,145
Operating Income (Loss)	5,596	9,150	3,554

##### 2017 Year to Date

	Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Total Income \$	179,443	176,332	(3,111)
Total Expenses \$	172,541	168,437	4,104
Operating Income (Loss)	6,902	7,895	993

Dear Friends,

Summer was not “low-key” this year at St. John. We had the highest overall summer worship attendance in over 4 years, and we had many visitors join us. Our Tuesday morning Bible Study also continued throughout the summer with great attendance. And, we enjoyed the presence of Caylyn Moglia, a summer intern from Valparaiso University.

We also welcomed two new employees to the church staff. After celebrating Vicki’s many years at St. John this past June, we interviewed candidates and offered the position of Church Office Assistant to Susan Flanagan. Susan has been with us since late July. She has previous church experience as a Volunteer Coordinator, among other tasks!, at St. Thomas in Whitmarsh. Susan is excited to work in our office and meet our members. Susan works in our office Tuesday through Friday during our posted office hours.

After many years as Treasurer and then bookkeeper, Dave Ochocki requested that we hire his replacement this summer so that he could do hands-on training in August and September. While we are sad to see Dave step down, we did as he asked; we interviewed candidates and offered the position of Church Bookkeeper to Marcie Godby. Marcie began working with Dave this August. Marcie has many years of bookkeeping experience, and looks forward to working in our Church Office. Marcie will have scheduled hours onsite, and we will post them once she has decided when they will be.

Plans are underway to thank Dave Ochocki for his many years of service to St. John. We also are very grateful that he has graciously agreed to assist Marcie as needed in the months ahead for training. We will share more details about Dave’s *Thank You* in the weeks ahead.

In the meantime, please plan on meeting both Marcie and Susan on Sunday, October 1, between worship services. They will attend worship that day to meet as many members as possible. Please help us welcome Susan and Marcie warmly to our staff!

Our Fall looks to be a busy one! On the following pages, you will see the return of many Fall favorites as well as a few new opportunities. You will definitely notice the emphasis on the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We have many events to celebrate the anniversary, and we hope that you will join us for them. How often do we celebrate a 500th? Not very often! So do plan on

attending our events and learning more about the reformation then and now.

In celebration of the Reformation, my Tuesday Morning Bible Study will focus on the Letter to the Romans. This Bible study is well-attended and very thorough. We walk through the verses, I share insights from the Greek text, and we discuss history, doctrine, and context. I love teaching the Bible. And, I love sharing new ideas and insights with people. Bring your own Bible from home, or use one here from the church. All are welcome to join us.

We also have many fun, fellowship events for people of all ages happening this Fall. All of our events and opportunities are open to the public. Please feel encouraged to welcome your friends and neighbors who are looking for a new church home, or who have not been to a church in a long time. Personal invitations are always the best! Make a goal this Fall to invite at least three friends to come to St. John for an event or worship. Many “locals” around us have never been inside St. John! *Let’s change that this Fall.* Our upcoming Car Show provides us an excellent opportunity to welcome people on our grounds and in our building! Be bold, be brave and invite others!

God told Isaiah, *“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”*

God is always creating, always doing.

We are part of God’s plan to create and to do in his name. Let us perceive what God is calling us to do as his hands and feet and let us be bold, like the early reformers, and do something new and radical and different. Church was not meant to be stagnant. Church was always meant to be a place of witness, of hope, of grace and of action. We come from a tradition of reformers—let us keep that tradition and keep reforming!

God’s Blessings to you and your loved ones,

*Pastor Sarah*







### Pastor Sarah's Bible Study

Pastor's Tuesday Morning Bible Study will resume on Tuesdays beginning Sept. 19. We will be studying the Letter to the Romans. Along the way, we will hear voices from many theologians—Barth, Augustine, Luther, among others!

**Join us on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. We usually have coffee and donuts on hand** (because honestly, Pastor needs her coffee...). Men and women of all ages are welcome to attend. This is for all levels of knowledge, and all persons with questions.

### Sunday School for Adults

We give thanks for Andrea Greyson's leadership last year for our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study. Andrea has graciously agreed to facilitate a new study this year, beginning at 9:15 on Sept. 17.



Our first study will be on the synoptic gospels using a curriculum that is almost 100 years old, and still in use locally and nationally!

Joining Andrea the first few weeks, our special guest facilitator will start our journey studying the life and ministry of Jesus Christ as told through the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

No materials are needed at this time. Please come! The group will meet in the Multi-Purpose Room each Sunday when there is Sunday School. Questions? Please connect with Pastor Sarah or Andrea Greyson.

### New—St. John Book Club!

Beginning in September, we will start a new monthly book club open to St. John members and their friends. Our Book Club will meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. here at the church. **Our first gathering will be Wednesday, Sept. 27. Join us in the Troster Room.**



Linda Carpenter, a retired long-time educator, has graciously offered to get the group started! Linda has chosen the book for September, and it is The Orphan Train by Christina Baker Kline.

This has been a popular book and is easily acquired at used book stores or the library.

New books will be chosen by the group at large, as well as facilitating responsibilities. Join us for our first gathering and discussion! Come with ideas and suggestions for future books!

### Women's Retreat Is Scheduled!



**Save the date for Saturday, Nov. 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Our last retreat was held this past June, and was so well-received and appreciated that Pastor Sarah is planning this new opportunity before the Holiday Season takes over!

Our retreat is for all women of St. John, along with their friends. We will enjoy a Bible Study, a special craft and fellowship! Our theme will focus on Thanksgiving and God's Grace.

We will gather at 9 a.m., and end our time together with a simple lunch. Please RSVP to the Church Office if you are able to come.



**Another great VBS event!** On Saturday, August 19, St. John was turned into the deep woods as we hunted moose, played games, made crafts, and explored bible stories. Children from 2 to 11 joined in singing and learned that Jesus is the Light (Follow Him!). Our Fellowship Hall was decorated like an impressive campsite complete with a tent, fire, logs, and nature sounds. We ended with a delicious camp out lunch of hot dogs, fruit, trail mix & the most amazing s'mores. Thank you to all the families that joined us – we loved our 2017 VBS event with you!



## September brings the return of Sunday School!

Mark your calendars for our Sunday School Rally Day on Sunday, Sept. 17! We have some exciting things planned for this fall!

Would you like to help with our Christian Education program? There are a variety of roles that have flexibility & different commitment levels, so if you're interested in helping, even on a substitute or trial basis, please reach out!

You can contact our Sunday School Director, Katie Myers, at [stjohnbluebell@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnbluebell@gmail.com) or 215-896-8981.



**Thank you to all the volunteers that helped make the VBS program a success!** Thank you for giving of your times and talents to create a very special event that will last a lifetime for the kids.

"Jesus is the Light of the World" – thank you for bringing that light to VBS families!

## Nursery School News

**St. John's Nursery School is anticipating a great new school year.** There have been many changes this summer to get ready. Our classrooms have new windows. We are looking forward to a quieter, warmer environment as a result. Our playground has received a facelift. The children are sure to enjoy more grassy space to move around in with the mulched areas removed. We welcome Mrs. Denise Schwanholt as our new assistant. Denise will be floating between classrooms and in the hallways as a helper to all. All teachers are starting the year with a course in CPR and First Aid.

We look forward to September when we welcome 85 students to the 2017-2018 school year, St. John's Nursery School's 38th anniversary as a school. Thank you for your support!

Carrie Engel, Director



# Youth News & Important Dates

## High School News



Our high school youth, grades 9 to 12, gather weekly on Sundays at 9:15 in the Youth Room for study and conversation—but mostly, conversation!

This year the group will be focused on the National Gathering experience for next summer in Houston, Texas. Fundraising will be necessary, and our youth will be busy this year with getting prepared.

Our leaders are Megan and Justin Kiefski and Jessica Brunner. If you have questions about the group, please connect with them, or through Pastor Sarah.



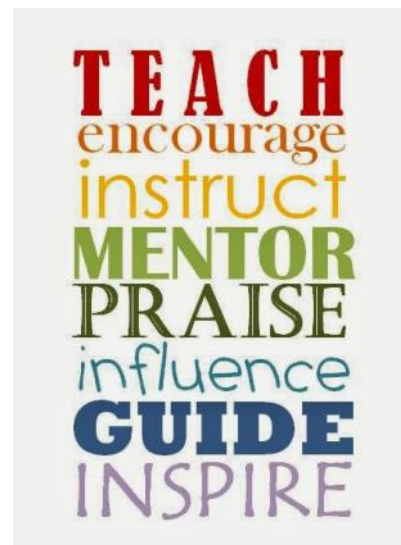
## Blessing of the Backpacks

We will bless the backpacks of our children and youth at both services **on Sunday, Sept. 17**, during Children's Time. Children are encouraged to bring their school or daycare backpack for a blessing and small tag to put on the backpack.

## Junior High News

**Confirmation classes will resume on Sunday, Sept. 17, during the Sunday School hour for all 7-8th graders.** This year, the focus is on the New Testament and parts of Luther's Small Catechism.

*Two great events are planned for our confirmands this Fall.*



**Our synod-wide JYG (Junior Youth Gathering) is scheduled for Nov. 10-11.** Pastor Sarah needs RSVPs for current 7-8th graders who would like to attend. There is a registration fee for the event, too.

## Blessing of our Teachers and Leaders

**On Sunday, Sept. 24**, we will bless all of our teachers and leaders from our Sunday School, and any other educators within our community at both worship services. Teachers, mentors, and leaders have such an impact on our children and youth. Let's thank them for their commitment to our children and youth, and let's bless their work for the upcoming year!



**Our confirmands will gather on Sunday, Oct. 15, at 5 p.m. for Pizza and a Movie at the Church.** RSVPs needed, friends are welcome to attend, too.





### Second Annual Classic and Antique Car Show

**Saturday, September 9, 2017 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

St. John Lutheran Church

**\*All Vehicles MUST BE Parked by 11 a.m. to be  
Judged \*Rain Date Sept. 16, 2017**

Awards for Top 40 Vehicles, Pastor's Choice Award,  
Best of Show, Best GM, Best Ford, Best Mopar, Best  
Import, Best Modern Classic, Best Truck, & More!

Door Prizes, 50/50 Drawing,

Food, Music and Kid's Craft Area

*Our church will be selling food and drinks, with all  
profits benefiting our Capital Expense Fund.*

Come for lunch! Bring a friend or two!

**NEW! We will have a free historical cemetery tour  
beginning at 1 p.m.!**

If you are able, please carpool to the car show, and  
park along Skippack Pike. There will be assistance  
for crossing the street provided by the fire  
department.

Questions?

Please contact the Church Office or  
Dennis Brennan.



### Blessing of the Animals—Saturday, Oct. 7

In honor of Francis of Assisi's festival day in  
October, many churches have a time to bless the pets  
of the community. **This year, we will offer a  
Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, Oct. 7 from  
10 a.m. to noon.**

Pastor Sarah will be outside, rain or shine, under the  
portico blessing animals as their loved ones drive  
them through! Pastor has blessed cats, dogs, reptiles,  
you name it! God created our beloved pets to keep  
us company and provide comfort. Come and give  
thanks for your pet, and have him or her blessed!



### Evening of Silence and Healing Tuesday, Oct. 17

St. Luke the Evangelist not only wrote his gospel and  
the Acts of the Apostles, he was also a physician. **In  
honor of his festival day, we will have a time of  
silence, prayer and healing on Tuesday, Oct. 17  
from 7 to 8 p.m.**

This will not be a "Service" with a liturgy but instead  
will be an open sanctuary with a prayer & healing  
station. People may enter and leave our space of  
silence and reflection as they wish. Those who serve  
in the medical field are encouraged to come and  
receive a special blessing as well.

# Visual Arts Program

## Welcome to the Visual Arts Program at St. John's!



Classes are designed to cater to the individual and are run like a one room school house. Consequently in each class there are drawers, watercolorists, acrylic and oil painting, beginners and more advanced painters.

Each session has a theme, with a formal lesson taking place every other week. New students have lessons based on their specific skill set while still participating in the regular class.

### **This Fall, our session schedule is:**

- **Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 12: 30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**
- **Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

*Each session runs 10 weeks, and cost \$80 per person.*

*Most sessions start on their day beginning the week of Sept. 6.*

*Ann has 4 sessions a week at St. John that are open to members and the public. You may invite friends to join you for the wonderful class.*

*To register, or if you have questions, please call Ann at 610-457-9224 or email her at [annlb609@gmail.com](mailto:annlb609@gmail.com)*

## About Ann...

Ann L. Brennan is a local artist and teacher whose life experiences, emotions and mood are reflected in her work. Ann is constantly trying new techniques and experimenting with new colors. The constant in Ann's work is her love for the world that surrounds her and the happiness it brings her. Her greatest joy is when the viewer feels the emotions that she had while creating the piece.



Ann studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and has participated in many workshops offered by local artists. Her work experience is as varied as her work. She has worked in display at a local department store, acted as the in house agency for several automotive franchises, worked as a picture framer and scanned documents for legal and insurance purposes. The one job that has remained the same over the years is teacher, which she has done for over 20 years. To Ann teaching is a constant gift to her. She believes she gets far more from her students that she could ever give back. Watching her students grow as artists and achieve greatness is a thrill that is hard to match. Plus their struggles have aided Ann in becoming a better artist.







*The Arts at St. John's* opens its' 17th season on Sunday, October 1 with a Woodwind Concert at 4 p.m. It is the first time a program for this combination has been featured on our series.

No section of an orchestra can boast the sheer range of tonal color than the woodwinds. Whereas the string and brass sections each have a more blended and homogeneous sound, the woodwind instruments are all completely distinct from each other, not just in timbre and tone, but in the very way that they create the vibrations that initiate the sound. From Mozart through the modern era, composers have relied on the woodwinds to be their painters palette.

As a result of the differences in the instruments, a challenge of playing in a woodwind quintet is to create a unified sound. However, there are also a myriad of ways to combine the sounds together to make new colors and effects, not to mention the potential to play the differences off of each other for great effect.

The woodwind quintet as a form was firmly established by Anton Reicha and Franz Danzi, two composers who specialized in the genre, and whose lives and styles bridged the Classical and early Romantic eras. Composers during the 19th century continued to prefer strings and piano for their chamber music works. The Italian composer Ludwig Thuille's beautiful and romantic *Sextet for Piano and Winds* is a notable exception to this, and remains one of the few works of his that is still performed in the modern era.

It was the turn of the century, however, that saw the great leap forward in wind writing. Wanting to distance themselves from the string-dominated Romantic era and forge new ground, composers started seeking out new forms and new sounds as a way to express their art. And what better place to look than the woodwinds?! The 20th century saw an enormous surge not just in the more prominent role of winds in orchestral writing, but in the amount of music written specifically for winds. In France, Francis Poulenc and five of his contemporaries (a group named "Les Six") decisively set out in this direction. Poulenc wrote sonatas for nearly every wind instrument (he died before he could complete his bassoon sonata), and wrote some of the most thrilling and enduring wind chamber music of his era. His *Sextet for Piano and Winds* is no exception. From the raucous outer movements to the sublime and soaring slow movement, it is an example of woodwind writing at it's best.

Westchester, PA native son Samuel Barber continued this tradition in the middle of the century. He was commissioned to write *Summer Music* by the Chamber Music Society of Detroit. (Each member of the Society donated a small amount towards the project, in one of the earliest examples of what we now know as crowd funding.) Originally planned as a piece for winds, strings and piano, the evocative work eventually evolved into a wind quintet as he composed it. It's difficulty is matched by its ingenuity and beauty, an it remains one of the move beloved gems of the wind quintet repertoire to this day.

Mark the date and bring a friend. A program you will not want to miss!



Lawrence Baker  
Director of Music

## ***Our Schedule for the Fall***

***Oct. 1 at 4 p.m. — Woodwind Concert***

***Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m. — Vespers Service***

*(for more info, see page 14)*



**Altar Flowers** are a wonderful way of remembering a loved one or celebrating an event such as a birthday or anniversary. Here at St. John, we offer sponsorships for altar flowers weekly. You may sign up on the pink clipboard in the Great Room, or call the Church Office.

A suggested donation of \$25 is requested for each arrangement. We have two arrangements a week.



## **Our Stewardship Challenge for 2017 is coming to a close.**

We are grateful to the many members who have already stepped up and met the challenge to donate \$217 extra this

year to the church. We have needed it, and we will report more why in November during our next Stewardship focus. Until then, thank you for meeting the challenge and providing much needed support to St. John's mission and ministry.



## **First Sundays**

**On the first Sunday of the month, St. John will focus on our serving opportunities for the month ahead.**

First Sundays will be a great time to sign up to assist in worship, bring a meal to a person in need, donate canned goods for our food bank, or volunteer to help out at an upcoming event. Each month, we will feature 1-2 areas we need assistance. Can you help? Sign up! Be God's hands and feet in many different ways!



As featured on our cover page, we will be focused on collecting shoes for the charity, Soles4Souls.

Soles4Souls was founded as a disaster relief organization after philanthropists and shoe executives provided footwear to those most impacted by The Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004 and Hurricane Katrina in 2005. They continue to act as second wave responders providing footwear and clothing to those in need during times of disaster.

You may visit their website [soles4souls.org](http://soles4souls.org) for more information!

**Here at St. John, we will collect shoes the month of September and deliver them to a donation site in Doylestown.**

Please tie the laces of your used or new shoes, and if necessary, tie them together with strings if there are no laces. This helps greatly with sorting.

You may drop off your shoes in the Great Room whenever the church is open. Thank you for your support!



**Lutheran Disaster Response**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

**Lutheran Disaster Relief** provides immediate support to domestic and global areas affected by natural disasters.

Currently, the LDR is collecting funds for persons affected by Hurricane Harvey. Unlike many charities, the LDR gives 100% of your offering to the cause. If you are interested in donating to the LDR, please see Pastor Sarah for an envelope following services.



**Hunger is a real situation, even here in eastern Pennsylvania. 1 in 8 adults struggle with food scarcity and hunger. They are students, they are people working full-time jobs, they are your neighbor.** Last year, we began donating food to the seminary students here in Philadelphia, and we made a huge impact on their lives. St. John, along with other churches in our synod, stepped up when the Bishop shared the need for a food bank at our seminary.

You may support this mission by donating canned and boxed goods as you are able. We also are seeking drivers to take the food monthly to the seminary in Mount Airy. Please sign up on the clipboard in the coat closet by our main entrance. This is also where we collect the food. Thank you for your generosity!

### **October is Lutheran Charities Month here in our Synod!**

We will have special offering envelopes passed out during October to help support our local Lutheran Charities. The network today is comprised of Diakon, KenCrest, Lutheran Settlement House, Silver Springs Martin Luther School and Liberty Lutheran. The Liberty Family of Services includes: Artman, Liberty at Home, Lutheran Congregational Services, The Hearth at Drexel (formerly Mary J. Drexel), Paul's Run Retirement Community and The Village at Penn State.

Our offerings will be given to the LC, and distributed by the board of directors as needed with each branch of the Lutheran Charities tree.

For more information about Lutheran Charities, or for information about their largest fundraiser, the Bike Steeplechase, please visit their website listed below: [Lutherancharities.org](http://Lutherancharities.org)



### **Make a difference in our community!**

**St. John will be participating in this year's North Penn/Lansdale CROP Walk on Sunday, October 15, beginning at 1 p.m.**

We will be forming a team, led by Steve Taylor, and seeking sponsors for our walkers. If you are able, please walk on Oct. 15 to end hunger in our local area. 25% of all money earned will help fund the ministry Manna on Main Street, a Lansdale-based food pantry and soup kitchen serving more than 30,000 meals annually.

Watch for more information in the weeks to come-- save the date now!



**St. John will be collecting a special offering during the month of September for the synod-wide campaign called Forward Together in Faith.**

We will pass out special envelopes in September, and our guest synod leader will share with us news about the campaign on Sept. 10 between worship services.



## Connecting with Others

*Our “Connecting with Others” opportunities are ways for our adult members to meet and get to know one another better in a less formal setting.*

*Some offerings are age-specific and some offerings are centered around hobbies. It is all about connecting with new people and also re-connecting with old friends.*



### Yoga Classes are available!

Thursdays with Kellie

- Classes will be held from 2 to 3 pm.
- Cost is \$35.00 for 8 sessions or you may drop in for \$8.00 a session.
- Please bring your own mat or towel.

This is open to the public, bring a friend!

Instructor: Kellie Pannepacker



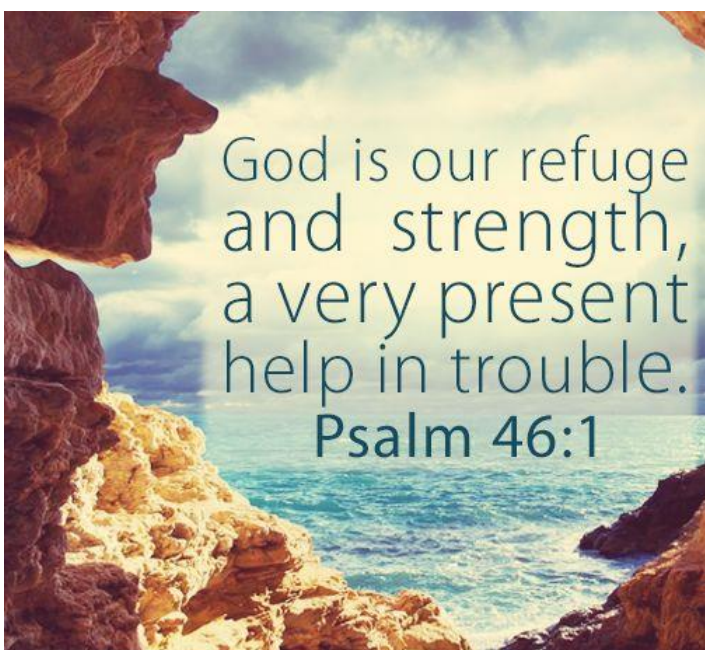
### Quilting with a Purpose!

**Monday Morning Quilting Group** will resume on Monday, Sept.

18 downstairs in the classrooms. Our quilts are made and donated to local and global charities. All skill levels are welcome! Questions? Please call Anita 610-279-2421.

Watch for our Blessing of the Quilts Sunday in November!

Boomers @  
The Bar



Last year, we began a group for our Boomers, similar to the Pub Theology group (*see next page*). We gathered as a group of 50 year olds and above to share a meal and a drink, and to discuss faith in our daily lives, the movies, the books we read, and more.

This year, we will begin Boomers @ The Bar in November—**our first gathering is Tuesday, Nov. 28, with a location to be determined.**

We are looking for a coordinator to assist with details and also choosing topics for the group to discuss. If you are interested in being the coordinator for the group, please speak with Pastor Sarah.



**Martin Luther would approve—Pub Theology is a gathering of young adults who, over a meal and a pint/bottle/glass, discuss theology in today's world.**

Our Pub Theology group has been meeting for over a year, and we have shared fellowship, laughter, conversation and faith stories as a group of adults 25 to 50. Our gathering is intentional—to discuss the state of faith in our society and the future of the church as a whole. This year, in celebration of the Protestant Reformation, we will also read and discuss an ELCA Social Statement each month.

**Our first gathering is Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m. at a local establishment—to be announced soon.** We will continue to meet the second Tuesday of the month through May 2018.

In October, we will discuss the social statement, *Caring for Creation*. You may find a link to this document on our website.

Friends are welcome, especially those who think “church” isn’t relevant—through the social statements and our discussions, we will see how much “church” is needed!



### Welcoming all Parents!

A member of our congregation who has many years of experience in the teaching field has offered to help create a parenting support group here at the church.

*This group would be for parents of all ages with children still in school.*

If you are interested in participating in this unique small group, please speak with Pastor Sarah. She will connect you with one another to get started!



### Yarn Crafters has grown!

**We will now meet two times a month, the 2nd Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. as well as the 3rd Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. for those who work during the day.**

Yarn Crafters is a group of knitters and crocheters of all skill levels. Our group also shares a mission-based focus. We are completing service projects that benefit local charities and our own congregation--baby blankets, baby hats, baptism blankets, prayer shawls, and more. But, we also are committed to teaching beginners the basics, and will always welcome a new person into our group.



With a Thrivent Grant, we have purchased yarn, needles and hooks to create beginner bags! We also provide yarn for those who crochet and knit our service projects.

***We are excited to share that we will bless our efforts on Sunday, Oct. 8 at both services. Our crafters may come forward to share in the blessing. To date, we have literally lost count of the hats and blankets made!*** Join us as we celebrate our efforts and give thanks for this ministry.



## Reformation Celebration

### The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation will be celebrated in September and October.

*Here are a few of the events that are locally happening in our area, including at St. John!*



#### **Luther 101-A Review of Luther's Small Catechism**

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, we will gather at 7:30 p.m. to review Luther's Small Catechism using a suggested guide from the ELCA. This is a perfect opportunity for those new to Lutheranism, or for those who have forgotten their confirmation studies! All are welcome!

**Reformation Vespers Service** Join us here at St. John for the second offering in our Arts at St. John's Series: Reformation Vespers Service on Oct. 29 at 7:30 to 9 p.m. The service will feature an expanded setting of Evening Prayer with the inclusion of J. S. Bach's Reformation Cantata "Ein feste Burg" with festival choir and orchestra.

**An Evening with Martin Luther** Join us on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 4 p.m. for a special dramatic presentation by Steve Seyfried about the life of Martin Luther. Mr. Seyfried describes his program as modeled after TED Talks and brings to life Martin Luther and the movement that changed the course of Western religion. Following the program, we will have a German-themed potluck for all who attend. Bring your favorite dish to pass—let us know that you are coming by RSVPing through our website or by calling the Church Office.



#### ***Synod Events Open to All***

#### **THE REFORMATION – 500 YEARS OF MUSIC SEPTEMBER 16 @ 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

To commemorate the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation, Dale Travis will be presenting this concert at Little Zion Lutheran Church 267 Morwood Road, Telford, PA on September 16 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will pay tribute, not only to Martin Luther, but also show the lively and ever evolving growth of our faith in the Spirit, which gathers the church around the Word and the Sacrament. It will consist of the very first congregations hymns, the works associated with Bach and Handel who signed SDG (Solo Del Gloria) at the end of their Sacred compositions, some of the most famous songs praising God, giving nod to their creative poems in their native tongues, and the acknowledgement to the creative devotional spirit in Spirituals and Gospel Songs. Audience participation will also be requested on a few hymns!

#### **BLAZING SHADOWS: LUTHER AND IGNATIUS TWO REFORMERS, FAITH TO FAITH, OCTOBER 14 @ 7:00 PM**

Join us at **St. Rose of Lima Church**, 428 S. Main Street, North Wales, PA 19454, Parish Center

Meet and Greet with Food at 6 pm

Talk & Panel Discussion at 7 pm

**Speakers and Panelists:** Dr. Philip Krey & Bishop Joseph Martino

**Other Panelists:** Dr. Jonathan Linman, NY Metro Synod, Christine Eberle, Campus Ministry, Gwynedd Mercy University, Dr. Christopher Bellitto, Historian, Kean University

*Co-sponsored by St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church & St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, North Wales, PA. Call 215-699-4604 for more information.*



**TOGETHER IN HOPE: LUTHERANS AND CATHOLICS COMMEMORATE REFORMATION IN SEPA, OCTOBER 21 @ 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM**

Lutherans and Catholics will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation with an ecumenical seminar and worship on Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9:30 am to 2 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale. *1517-2017, From Conflict to Communion – Together in Hope* features a seminar with The Rev. Donald McCoid and Dr. John Borelli highlighting recent theological progress toward unity between Lutherans and Catholics. The Rev. Dr. Peter Donahue, president of Villanova University, and Bishop Claire Burkat will lead worship. Cost is \$15 including lunch. To register, please go to [ministrylink.org](http://ministrylink.org), and find the event listed there.



**Giving Thanks for our Church**

Dear Friends of St John,

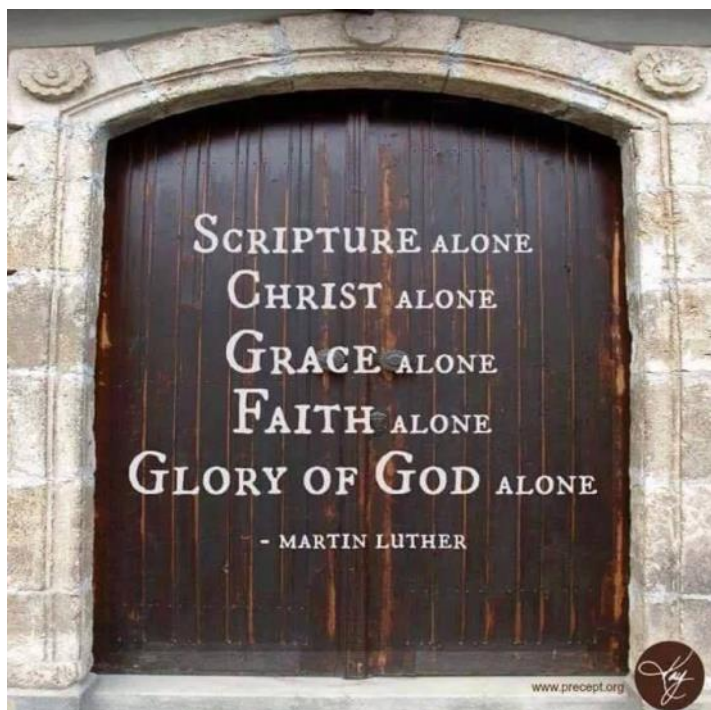
We are so grateful that St John has been our loyal advocate in raising money for implementation of research & expanding education advanced by SADS, an international/nationally focused organization & locally by CHOP's Heart Watch. This is done in memory of our Ryan. This year we netted over \$11,000 Our hope is that infants, children & young adult lives will be saved in part due to your generosity & kindnesses.

Thank you with love & gratitude,  
O'Donnell, Speece & Weidler Families

Dear St. John,

Sincere thanksgiving was expressed to Pastor Sarah with the delivery of much needed assistance to our neighbors in need these past two weeks. The family was overwhelmed and very grateful. Thank you for your offers of help and gifts to the family. Resources have been shared, and long term plans and goals are being created.

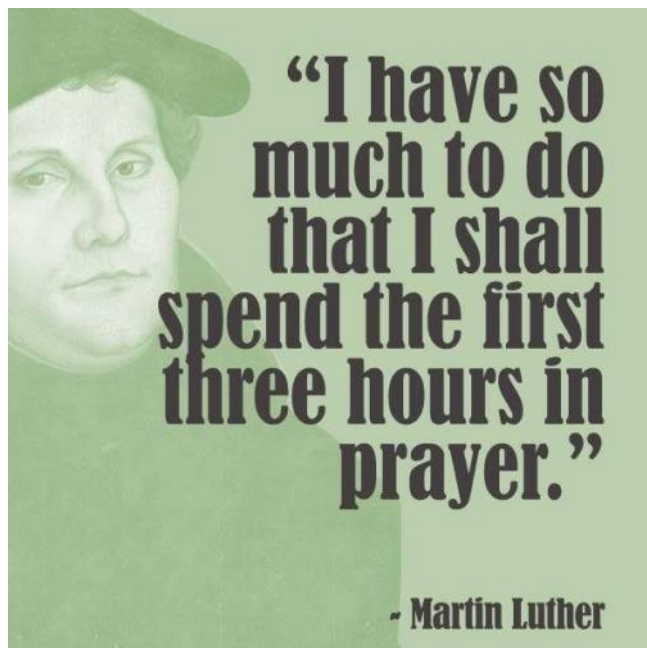
Thank you again for your gracious help!



## 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.

**The best way to share news?** Forward our eNews to friends and family, pass this newsletter onto others, and “like” and “share” our posts and events through your own Facebook accounts.



### St. John Lutheran Church

1802 Skippack Pike  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
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Office Hours: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on M,  
9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on T, W, F  
12:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. TH

Nursery School: 610-272-7163  
[www.stjohnsns.org](http://www.stjohnsns.org)



### Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



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## Staff

Rev. Sarah Stobie, Pastor  
Lawrence Baker, Director of Music  
Susan Flanagan, Church Office Assistant  
Barry Stock, Facilities Coordinator  
Carrie Engel, Nursery School Director  
Katie Myers, Sunday School Director/Webmaster  
Ann Brennan, Visual Arts Program Coordinator  
Marcie Godby, Bookkeeper

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