

**St. John  
Lutheran  
Church**

Fall 2019

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# The Revelations



*An exciting & busy fall is planned at St. John!*

The **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Car Show** is **September 7<sup>th</sup>** – join us as we host classic & antique cars. There will be kids' games and activities, a bake sale, and a handcrafted items for sale.

Last year's popular raffle baskets are back! Local businesses have been incredibly generous in supporting the car show and donated many gift cards & items for the baskets.



We continue our 250<sup>th</sup> celebrations with a Revolutionary War Reenactment and Cemetery Tour in October and a special 250<sup>th</sup> themed wine tasting in November. Details inside.

A new year of Sunday School begins September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 am. We also return to our regular worship services at 8:15 am and 10:30 am.

*We look forward to seeing you this fall!*

## Thoughts from Pastor Steve



Dear Saints of St. John,

I continue to learn more about St. John – its history and present - at a time when there is focus on the future. The transition process is beginning, and the folks of St. John will be considering ministries, strengths, leadership, growing edges in the coming days. Pastor Bell will be guiding this transition process.

My role is to serve as a parish pastor in this period. I am very visible on Sunday mornings, leading worship. I appreciate getting to know the Council leadership and being part of Council's monthly meetings. I have enjoyed joining the Tuesday morning Bible Study and joining discussions with St. John's committees. I am in the office on Tuesday, Thursdays, and often Fridays. I am available for conversation in my office or visits – to homes or hospitals. I am not always aware of pastoral needs, so I urge folks to call me at the church office when there is a pastoral need.

I am looking forward to this fall at St. John – I know there are a lot of events planned, some in connection with the 250th Anniversary (yahoo!). I will get to know you all a little better and see what a 'normal' Sunday looks like. I will be working with the parents of confirmation aged youth (and confirmands) to launch the Confirmation program this fall. Jean and I will be making a special presentation in connection with the Reformation -- a PowerPoint presentation on the 500th Anniversary celebration of the Reformation in Wittenberg in 2017. See elsewhere in this Newsletter for dates and details.

I ask for your prayers and your help in my time at St. John. I tend to learn faces before names, so please keep (gently) reminding me when I do not have your name on the tip of my tongue. Please let me know if I am neglecting any aspects of pastoral ministry. Please comment on my sermons or worship leadership. And, please, in this anniversary year, keep the faith that has brought St. John to this point in its history (and future!)

Excuse me, I have to get back to having a blast – a Polar Blast – at St. John's VBS!

Pastor Steve  
Bridge Pastor

## Council Update

Brothers and Sisters of St. John,

Things are happening! It has been a busy summer already with the 250th celebrations, repair work, assembly of transition and call teams, VBS, and the various continued committee works that help us continue at St. John and the community. I wanted to thank each one of you for your continued efforts, support, understanding, and prayers as we move forward in many different ways. The church is people, and nothing could be done without the diligent efforts of all led by the guidance of our Lord! In the coming months there will be several opportunities to lead, serve, contribute, and be a part. I challenge each of you to be in prayerful support and contemplation about what you can offer. No job is too small or too large to contribute whether it be physically, prayerfully, mentally, monetarily, or anything in between. We are all called to serve Him and further His kingdom so join me as we move forward together!

In Christ,

Phil Vande Berg  
Council President

## Celebrating 250 Years

### Our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year – More Exiting Events Coming

We kicked off our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year with a beautiful service presided over by Bishop Davenport. Following the service, we shared a delicious brunch. It was a great start to our 250<sup>th</sup> year celebrations! Coming up next:

***Revolutionary War Reenactment, Cemetery tours and Musket firings. Saturday October 12, 10 am to 3 pm.***



As part of our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, on this day we will honor St John's role in the Revolutionary War. After the Battle of Germantown, on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1777, General Washington's forces retreated westbound on Skippack Pike. St John served as a field hospital for wounded soldiers. The soldiers that did not survive were buried in unmarked graves. Later, 14 more revolutionary war soldiers were also buried here in marked graves.

To honor this heritage, on **Saturday October 12** we will be hosting a group of Revolutionary War Re-enactors, The Pennsylvania

6<sup>th</sup> Regiment. They will be portraying a period hospital tent and medical team, with medical tools and implements. They will talk about the kind of care that would have been being provided to the injured soldiers. They will also perform 2 musket shot demonstrations that day. Additionally, there will be guided tours of our cemetery. For the kids, there will be colonial children's games that were popular 250 years ago. Food will be available for purchase.



***250 Years of American Wines, a special wine tasting event. Saturday November 30, 5 pm.***



This wine tasting event will take us from the beginning of our church history and bring us to the present. Leading us on this journey will be Dave Barber, an award winning wine educator. The evening will last 2 hours and will begin at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Heavy appetizers and cheeses will be included.

Dave will use his vast knowledge of wine to guide us through a sampling of popular wines of different periods of American history. Tickets must be purchased in advance and will be priced at \$25 per person. This will include all 7 tastings as well as the appetizers. There will also be the opportunity to win a raffle basket including a bottle of each of the featured wines. Tickets will go on sale later in September on a first come first served basis.

Please direct all questions to Joan Linton (610-247-3954, [lintonjoan@gmail.com](mailto:lintonjoan@gmail.com)).

***Save the Date! - Homecoming Service, Sunday December 1, 2019***

***Pictures from our Anniversary Service, June 16, 2019.***



*250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Group Photo.*



*Members present for both the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1969 and the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*





## Children and Youth News



On *Sunday, September 8th* we'll kick off a new year of *Sunday School*.

Join us at 9:15 in Fellowship Hall for singing before moving on to classes for different age groups, Pre-school through 5th Grade.



**St. John Youth Group** is open to any teenager between 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Youth Group meets every Sunday from 6 to 8 pm. Each night play games (indoor & outdoor), listen & play music and have a discussion.

### Youth "Lock-In" on September 27<sup>th</sup>!

On September 27, youth group will be having a "lock in" event. This all-night event will have games, activities and pizza, and is open to anyone in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.

## Adult News

### *A Special Invitation from the Pastor Steve and Jean! Two years after 500 years ...*

Pastor Steve and Jean had the incredible opportunity to be part of the 500th Anniversary celebration of the Reformation in Lutherstadt Wittenberg for 7 months in 2017. There was a summer long exposition that surrounded the Old Town of Wittenberg with pavilions and tents and stages and visitors from all over the world. Jean and Steve were volunteers welcoming guests to the Castle Church to visit, to worship, to attend concerts, to learn of the intricate history of the church with the doors where Luther 'posted' his 95 Theses.

On **Sunday, October 27** between worship services (9:15ish), Jean and Steve will share their experiences using slides and 'original' artifacts. It will be a fun way to commemorate the Reformation 2 years after 500 years!



### *Sunday Bible Study begins September 8th at 9:15 am.*

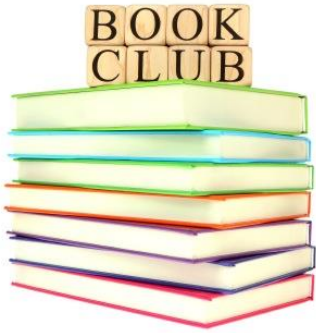
You are warmly invited to join in, we will continue a comparative study of the synoptic gospels. No homework required! We follow the Sunday School calendar, anyone and everyone is welcome to drop in or be a regular attendee.

### *Pastor Steve's Morning Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.*

The class will begin studying the book of Revelations on September 10. We gather in the large classroom downstairs, and often have coffee and treats to share.



## Connecting with Others



**St. John Book Club** meets monthly and chooses its next book at each gathering.

If you are interested in learning more about our group, please connect with Linda Carpenter or call the Church Office. Please watch your weekly bulletin, eNews, or website for the most current details! All are welcome to join us.



### **Our Visual Arts Program continues with a new Fall session!**

Ann Brennan, our instructor, will offer a new session starting the week of September 9<sup>th</sup>. Classes are offered mornings (Thursdays & Fridays) and evenings (Wednesday & Thursday). Visit our website for more details.

To register, please contact Ann Brennan at [annlb609@gmail.com](mailto:annlb609@gmail.com). This class does have a limit to participants and is filling fast, so registration is necessary.



**Christian Service Quilting Group** will meet Monday September 16th at 10am in the 1st floor Sunday school wing. New members are welcome to join us. If you can tie a knot, we have a job for you! Also, if anyone has lightly used sheets you'd like to donate, we'd be grateful. Bring them anytime in a plastic bag, labeled "Attn: Quilting Group". Your donations are needed and greatly appreciated! Our mission quilts are given to comfort those in need: locally, nationally, and internationally! Questions? Please ask Anita Hill any time after Sunday service.



**Our popular yoga class continues on Thursdays at 2 p.m.** Sessions are ongoing, drop-ins are welcome. Our instructor, Kellie Burnette LMT, CYT, AHC, will guide us through gentle moves, poses, and breath. All levels of skill are welcome; Kellie is quick to assist you. The cost for the 8 week session is \$40, or you may drop in for \$8 a session. No pre-registration is necessary. Please bring a mat or towel to use. Questions? Please connect with the Church Office. For a full description of our yoga classes, please visit our website.

## Serving God Together



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

***Soles4Souls Collection starts September 8<sup>th</sup>!***

Your used shoes can have a second life! We will be collecting gently used shoes from September 8<sup>th</sup> to October 6<sup>th</sup>. Please tie or rubber band pairs together and drop off in the Great Room.

***A Laundry of Love event is being scheduled for late November. Look for details this fall!***



***MLK Day 2020 is fast approaching!***

Save the Date: MLK Day of Service at St. John will be January 20, 2020.

Join us as we open our church up to the community for an exciting day of service and projects!

In the meantime, help us prepare by gathering supplies over the coming months!

We will be using plastic grocery bags to create PLARN to make mats for the homeless and making Activity Boxes for children in the hospital using cereal boxes. How can you help today? Please bring your used **cardboard cereal boxes** and **clean plastic bags** to the church starting September 1. Collection bins can be found in the Great Room at that time. Any questions, please be in touch with Kathy Erdman or Monika Bontempo.

Want to learn more about plarn and mats? See how a Houston Lutheran church is making plarn sleeping mats: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Church-members-create-community-charity-with-12512418.php>

Rita Stock is collecting items for the Fidget Quilts for Alzheimer and dementia patients. Especially needed: just the **back pockets from blue jeans** and a few folks that can use a machine to sew a straight line. A box is available in the Great Room, along with a sample "Fidget Quilt". Any questions, contact Rita at [stock825@comcast.net](mailto:stock825@comcast.net).



**Collections for the Being Beautiful Foundation is taking place now.** They need school supplies, toiletries, laundry soaps, fabric softeners, towels, washcloths, sheets, etc. (Please no razors.) The box is in the Great Room coat closet.



A new choir season kicks off in just a few weeks. Each September choir directors far and wide put out pleas for new members to join their ranks. Who doesn't want new singers? I was recently reading a blog that had 17 reasons for joining. Here I offer just five of those reasons why taking the plunge and joining the choir might be the best thing you ever did.

1. **Musicality** It's official, singing in a choir improves the way you hear music, it draws out your innate musical ability and intensifies your appreciation of harmony. There is a natural learning curve that occurs quite organically as a consequence of singing regularly in a group that strengthens your ear. Where choral singing is concerned, the whole really is the sum of the parts, and choir members soon become aware of how harmonies complement each other.

2. **Mental Health** Many scientists have done extensive research on the benefits of choral singing on psychological well-being. Studies have shown that the mental health benefits of choral singing include enhanced brain function, strengthened feelings of togetherness, and the release of endorphins and oxytocin resulting in reduced stress and depression.

3. **Confidence** It's surprising how many people are told from an early age they can't sing – a myth that can discourage potential singers for decades. Most people don't imagine they will ever perform in front of an audience, and to experience this for the first time as part of a choir can be life changing. The truth is that, unless there is major hearing loss, anyone can learn to sing. Singing in a choir gives you permission to make noise as part of a group, and choir directors report witnessing new members' confidence grow rapidly.

4. **Belonging** The modern world is one where people are increasingly isolated. Social media networks offer a semblance of community but the lack of contact with people in real time and space can intensify feelings of alienation. Singing has been central to church worship and ritual as a way of connecting communities since ancient times. Being part of a group working towards a shared goal can fulfill this human need for belonging.

5. **Aerobic and Toning** A choir rehearsal is a wonderful workout for the lungs. The actions of producing tone, breathing and opening the diaphragm all oxygenate the blood, creating more white blood cells, which strengthen the whole body. The breathing rate slows and deepens, releasing endorphins and increasing a profound sense of well-being. Done correctly, singing also improves your posture and helps tone your stomach muscles – a strong core supports the spine so your body will be less prone to injury as you age.



So, what are you waiting for? There is a chair waiting for you on Thursday nights beginning September 5th. A very exciting season is planned including our 250th Anniversary Concert performance of Mozart's Requiem on November 10 at 4 p.m. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Lawrence Baker  
Director of Music

## Arts of St. John Concert News



*Join us for a concert on October 20, 2019.*

*The Arts at St. John's* opens its 19th season of concerts on Sunday, October 20 with the West Chester University Chamber Orchestra at 4 p.m.

The West Chester University Chamber Orchestra is a vibrant ensemble that attracts an ever-growing audience of all ages. It performs a wide range of repertoire, often collaborating with faculty soloists, and showcasing its own members. Concert presentations are innovative, including performances in the round, audience interaction, and guest annotators. It also joins

hands with area organizations to help raise awareness and funds for those in need.

## Nursery School News



*St. John's Nursery School is excited to begin our 40th school year!*

Our classrooms will soon be filled with 85 eager little faces! It will be good to have the hallways brightened with crafts, laughter, song and learning! We are thrilled and grateful that the Great Room is back together so our entrances and exits will be running as usual. Thank you to all that played a role in getting the building back into working order!

We'd also like to thank Barry Stock and Mickey Engel for hanging upper cabinets in 5 classrooms, adding doors to open cabinets and a huge, much needed set of bookshelves in the teacher's room. Barry also painted the stalls and heater in the girls' bathroom. The improvements are terrific! Thank you all for supporting St. John's Nursery School over the years.

We look forward to sharing our learning adventures with you over the school year!

# ELCA Churchwide News



*Updates from the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.*

Our denomination, the ELCA, holds a churchwide assembly triennially - to worship, vote on matters of governance and policy, and be church together for the sake of the world. This past week's churchwide assembly was full of important votes and actions, including:

- Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton was reelected for a second six-year term on the first ballot.
- A declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Approved resolution declaring the ELCA is a “sanctuary church body,” encouraging participation in the ELCA AMMPARO initiative for migrant children, discernment of care for our immigrant neighbors in our context, and the promise of forthcoming resources for this work. *(A handout explaining the implications of this action are available in the Great Room.)*
- Approved support for the World Council of Church's *Thursdays in Black*, awareness movement for a world without rape and violence.
- Voted to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance, in honor and remembrance of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9.
- Approved a declaration for inter-religious commitment, reaffirming ecumenical and interfaith partnerships.
- Approved the recommendations from a strategic taskforce which has been studying how to work toward authentic diversity in our church.
- Approved memorials: affirming but not “endorsing” the Poor People's Campaign, care for immigrants and refugees, and other statements.
- Adopted a new social statement, “Faith, Sexism, and Justice: a Lutheran Call to Action,” and its implementing resolutions.
- Deacon Sue Rothmeyer was elected Churchwide Secretary, a full-time position which acts as executive administrator and leader on all constitutional matters and interpretation.
- Constitutional change for Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) to be ordained, from the previous practice of consecration.
- Celebrated the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.



## Contact Us

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Nursery School Info:  
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stjohnsns.com

School visits are  
available by  
appointment only.

## Staff Listing

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**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

