

**St. John
Lutheran
Church**

Summer 2019

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The Revelations



Celebrating 250 years of mission and ministry, 1769-2019.

June 16th kicks off our 250th Anniversary!

Join us on Sunday, June 16, 2019 at 9:30 am for a special Festival Worship Service. The service will be presided by our Synod Bishop Patricia Davenport and our new bridge Pastor Stephen Godsall-Myers.



June 16, 2019

9:30 am – Special service and music
11:00 – Group photo taken of all attending
11:15 – Brunch served in Fellowship Hall

More details inside on this and other 2019-2020 events to celebrate this milestone anniversary!

Thoughts from Pastor Steve



Greetings from greater Harleysville,

It was a pleasure for Jean and me to be at St. John on Mothers' Day to begin getting to know the members of St. John. I look forward to being the 'regular' Bridge Pastor starting on June 16th. In these weeks leading up to that start, I will be getting established with the staff, Council and committees, setting up my office and visiting members as called upon. Sue will know how to reach me in case of a pastoral emergency.

One reason for my staggered start is that I have plans to be in Germany from the end of May thru June 11. It is a trip that will connect us with German friends in Hamburg, Berlin and Lutherstadt Wittenberg and allow me to attend the Rotary International Convention in Hamburg (I am the President of the Harleysville Club).

I am honored to start at St. John as you begin the celebration of 250 years of ministry. Having had a chance to celebrate 500 years of Reformation in Wittenberg in 2017, I appreciate the opportunity anniversaries give to appreciate past and heritage and the witness of those who have gone before us. I also appreciate the foundation our history gives us to look forward. St. John is certainly being called to look forward in this anniversary year that will mix both transition and celebration, reflection and aspiration.

I look forward to getting settled here and learning about what St. John has done, is doing and hopes to do. I look forward to being your pastor. Let's support and pray for each other in these days. I may need to be reminded of a name or gently nudged or whispered to when I make a pastoral miscue, but I will try to remind you and myself about our wonderful God who surrounds us with grace – amazing grace.

So, let the celebrations begin – let's praise and thank God together!

Pastor Steve

If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact the Church Office and a message will be sent to Pastor Steve!

A Word on the Transition



Dear Friends of St. John's,

As you can well imagine, I was at first taken back when asked if I would consider working with your congregation again as you enter into another time of pastoral transition. It was such a privilege to serve as your interim pastor from February 2013 until July of 2015. I am excited by the opportunity to join with you through this new transition.

For several reasons my role this time around will be somewhat different than last time I served St. John's. First, this time I am functioning as your interim consultant which means that I will concentrate on working with you in preparation for welcoming a new pastor. Your bridge pastor, Stephen Godsall-Myers, will be taking care of all the pastoral responsibilities, including worship, pastoral care, relating to Congregational Council, etc.

Another difference is that this time we are transitioning from a relatively short pastorate. In 2013 when I began serving at St. John's, Pastor Welther had recently retired after more than 30 years. I'm anticipating that some of the information that we gathered back in 2013-15 is still relevant. I'm hoping that we can use some of that material when we prepare and submit new forms.

The most important aspect of any pastoral transition is for a congregation to take an honest look at themselves and analyze where they have been and where God is calling them to go forward. This includes evaluating what is working and what is perhaps best to change or eliminate. Ultimately we want to prepare to welcome a new pastor to St. John's to serve you and the community.

After finishing at St. John's in the summer of 2015, I have served as the Interim Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Perkasio, and since February of 2016 I have served as the Director of Mobility and chairperson for the Committee of Deans for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod. This involves working with congregations in transition and with pastors who are looking for new opportunities.

Thank you for welcoming me back to St. John's. I look forward to meeting with the Congregation Council in July and working with them to appoint a Transition Team. I urge you to hold St. John's in prayer as we move forward to see what exciting things that God has in store for the congregation as you move into your 251st year.

Love, peace

Pastor Marcia Bell

Director of Mobility, Southeastern PA Synod ELCA

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267-640-5642

Council Update

Greetings,

250 years ago a group of people in this land found common ground in their faith, and followed God's lead to plant a church. Throughout the ages the faith and hope of the people of St. John, carrying out God's calling, have changed thousands of lives. He has guided us in our many forms through both prosperous times, and those less certain. As we celebrate all that He has done for 250 years may we continue together, united to answer the calling of our risen Lord. Come home to St. John, all are welcome here!

Yours in Christ,

Phil Vande Berg

Council President

Finance Update



The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod recognized St. John Lutheran Church as one of the top 15 congregations supporting synod. St. John contributed over \$25,000 in 2018 to support the synod. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Worship Service Update

Our summer worship schedule will begin on June 16th and continue through the summer. Sunday Service will begin at 9:30 a.m. Please join us!

Festival Worship Service – June 16, 2019

Join us for a special service!

9:30 a.m. – Worship service

11:00 a.m. – Group photo - Keeping with tradition, we will take an anniversary group photo after service. Our last anniversary photo was taken in 1969!

11:15 a.m. – Brunch



Check out the back wall of the sanctuary and the Troster Room for historical photos of St. John through the years!

From our Director of Music, Larry Baker

Psalm 150 is known as a psalm of praise for God's surpassing greatness:

Praise the Lord!

Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

Praise him with the trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with string and pipe!

Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

We will celebrate our 250th Anniversary with a service filled with music that praises our God for 250 years of faithful service. It seems fitting that our celebration begins on the feast of the Holy Trinity. Our Prayer of the Day for this feast begins "God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time

you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us."



Our prelude will be the celebrated hymn *Te Deum Laudamus* ("We praise Thee, O God") set by the thirteen year old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart in 1769 – the year our story begins. This ancient hymn of the church was traditionally attributed to St. Ambrose. Normally sung on festival days (such as the feast of the Holy Trinity), the hymn's text has also become a favorite choice of composers for celebratory occasions.

Our psalm offering will be Franz Joseph Haydn's celebrated setting of "The Heavens Are Telling" from his



oratorio *The Creation*. Additional works included that morning are Zeb Highben's new work "God Alone Be Praised" and Randall Thompson's beloved *a cappella* setting of "Alleluia."

Our expanded Chancel Choir will be joined by trumpeters **Steven Heitzer** and **Alex Serio**, and timpanist **Alyssa Resh**.

God and God alone be praised!

Lawrence Baker

Director of Music

Anniversary Event Calendar

Save the date for these upcoming events! More details will be posted on our website and shared via the weekly bulletin & e-News. Stay tuned!

- September 7, 2019 – **Annual Car Show**
- October 12, 2019 – **St. John during the Revolutionary War** – Revolutionary War Reenactors will help bring to life the role that St. John Church had as a hospital during the Battle of Germantown. Also, a cemetery walk of war veterans' graves.
- November 30, 2019 – **Wine & Cheese Tasting Event** led by a renowned wine connoisseur.
- January 20, 2020 – **2nd Annual MLK Day of Service**
- April 26, 2020 – **Homecoming Services** for all members, past & present!
- June 7, 2020 – **Congregational Brunch** to conclude our celebration year

Children and Youth News

Thank you for a great year of Sunday School!

Sunday School concludes on June 9th and we had a great year of learning and fun! Thank you to all Mr. Vince and all of our Sunday School teachers for their time and talent!

Family Movie Night – June 8th

Join us Saturday, June 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. for Family Movie Night! We will watch an age appropriate movie with parents and children. Snacks will be served!



Vacation Bible School – August 5th to 8th

Join us for Polar Blast – Where Jesus' Love is Cool!

We will be having VBS for children Pre-K through Grade 6. August 5-9, 6 to 8 p.m. Join us for the fun!

Online registration opens on June 6! Check our website for details.

VBS takes many hands! Can you help? To volunteer contact Vince at StJohn1802Youth@gmail.com.

Adult News

Many of our small groups take a hiatus during the summer months. Please check our website or call the Church Office for the most up-to-date information.

Morning Bible Study will continue to meet on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. We gather in the large classroom downstairs, and often have coffee and treats to share.

St. John Book Club will meet June 25th at 7:30 p.m. in the Troster Room. This month's book is *A Place for Us* by Fatima Farheen Mirza. All are welcome! Join us for a great discussion.

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!

Contact Us

St. John Lutheran
Church

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610-277-1086

Office Email:
stjohn1802@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Tues – 10-2

Wed – 12-4

Thur – 1-5

Fri – 12-3

Website:

Stjohnbluebell.org

Facebook:

@stjohnbluebell

Twitter:

@stjohnbluebell

Nursery School Info:

610-272-7163

stjohnsns.com

School visits are
available by
appointment only.

Communications at St. John

Weekly Church Bulletin Announcements – If you are a committee chairperson or have news to be included in the Sunday Church Bulletin Announcements, please get this information to our Church Office Assistant, Sue Klosterman, by Tuesday noon, prior to the Sunday you want it included.

E-News delivered to your email. You can continue to expect updates about important happenings around St. John.

St. John Website -Katie Myers continues to manage the website and updates it weekly. Visit the website often to get the latest news over the summer months!

Linda Carpenter is managing our **Facebook account** and will to post news frequently.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Staff Listing

Rev. Stephen Godsall-Myers, Bridge Pastor	wittsgm@gmail.com
Rev. Marcia Bell, Interim Consultant	marciagbell@comcast.net
Lawrence Baker, Director of Music	lawrencebaker22@gmail.com
Barry Stock, Facilities Coordinator	stock825@comcast.net
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