

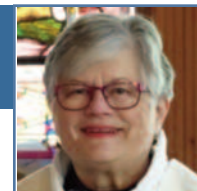
St. John's Journal

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church • 1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094



September/October 2017

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARKS



"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Amen."

Neither autumn nor Reformation is a liturgical season, but in many of our congregations — including St. John's — the months of September and October 2017 will include a variety of emphases that highlight both of these calendar items!

The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation is an important time in the life of the church to look back and renew the passion that led Luther's reformation. GRACE! The heart of the Reformation will be at the heart — This unique observation, rather than merely marking a past historical event, gives Lutherans and others both to give thanks for our heritage and to look to the future, centered on worship. Again and again we return to God's grace poured out in baptism and nurtured through word and sacrament.

Another Fall observance that we will observe is the Blessing of Animals on Sunday October 1st following the 11:15 am service. This is the Sunday closest to Feast of St. Francis, who tradition tells us started our beloved custom of having Nativity Sets.

Gather with me under the big tree near the Office with your pet/pets. Please have your pets on leash or in a cage if appropriate to your pet. To help the local animal shelter, you are invited to bring rolls of paper towels which are so needed.

Welcome back to worship and Sunday School and all our great church activities!

In Christ,

Pastor Peggy Marks

WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER



Two Sunday Services starting September 10th at 9:00 am and 11:15 am

Sunday School starting September 17th at 10:15 am

September 3 rd	13th Sunday after Pentecost One service 9:30 am Ken Weaver preaching
September 10 th	14th Sunday after Pentecost Start of Two (2) Worship Services at 9:00 am and 11:15 am
September 17 th	15th Sunday after Pentecost Blessing of backpacks at both services Sunday School starts at 10:15 pm Confirmation classes begin at 12:15 pm
September 24 th	16th Sunday after Pentecost

October 1 st	17th Sunday after Pentecost Blessing of animals at 1:00 pm
October 8 th	18th Sunday after Pentecost Betsey Eley preaching
October 15 th	19th Sunday at Pentecost Confirmation class at 12:15 pm
October 22 nd	20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 29th	Reformation Sunday Come to worship and Sunday School to meet Katie Luther. Wear Red!

PASTORAL ACTS



Baptisms:

- 6/18/2017** **Austin Lee Torres**, Son of Brianna Smith and Travis Torres
8/13/2017 **Lily Anne White**, Daughter of Kellyanne White and Keven White

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST COUNCIL MEETING



Brief Review of August 14, 2017 Council Meeting

Opening Devotions by Pam Hemphill.

Pastor Marks Report:

- Confirmation classes begin Sunday Sept. 17th from 12:15-3:00 pm (3rd Sunday of the month).
- New member classes Sept. 17th and 24th from 10:15-11:00 am New members received Oct 1st.

President's Report:

- Looking to get more members on various committees.
- **Finance Committee:** New requisition form prepared to be filled out when something purchased and signed by committee chair.
- **Property:** Looking into a variety of issues on our campus including painting of steeple; fixing of sign on highway, hand grip on back entrance to office building and chair lift for Education Building.

Worship and Music Committee:

- Summer Family game nights a great success — thank you, Janice.
- Two services start Sept. 10th. 9:00 am and 11:15 am Coffee hour is finally back!!
- Blessing of Backpacks on Sunday Sept. 17th (children bring their backpacks to worship to be blessed as a new school year starts.)
- Blessing of the animals on October 1st at 1:00 pm.

Education Committee:

- Sunday Church School begins Sunday September 17th

Stewardship Committee:

- After some discussion, it was decided to have our stewardship campaign after the annual meeting.

Fellowship Committee:

- Bingo game party to be held Friday Nov. 3rd. Admission will be cans for food for the Thanksgiving food baskets at St. Mary's and/or contribution to Shelf stable milk collection.

WELCA:

- October Fest Saturday October 28th
- Craft Show Saturday November 18th

Call Committee:

- With Pastor Richter's move back to Texas, Pastor Scott Schantzenbach will now be working with us during the transition time.

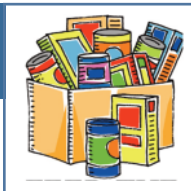
New Business:

• ***Constitution update.***

Roy Fennimore, Pam Hemphill, Lois Gibbs, Henry Fickenscher and Pastor Marks have completed the update of our constitution. It was last done in 2003. Council members were given copies to read and it will be discussed at our meeting in September. The goal is to have it presented before our January annual meeting so everyone can read it and vote on it.

Next meeting: September 11, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

SOCIAL MINISTRY



Shelf-Stable Milk

We are still collecting shelf stable milk and as of this date for 2017 we have bought 1,105 cartons. This included \$184 donated from the overflow for directory printing. Also Target gave us a \$25 gift card that bought 13 extra cartons. Since kids are home from school now these extra contributions are really needed and appreciated

FELLOWSHIP



**Friday, Nov. 3rd
7:30 pm
Education Bldg.**



Let's Give Thanks for BINGO!

Join the fun as we count our blessings — Bring a donation for the Monroe Township food pantry to help make Thanksgiving more fulfilling for those less fortunate.

All ages are welcomed to play. Ask a friend (or two) because everyone loves BINGO. Share a snack/BYOB — *optional*

CONFIRMATION CLASS/NEW MEMBER INFORMATION 2017–2018



Confirmation Classes

The Confirmation program at St. John's is a two year program for young people in grades 7 and 8. Classes will begin on Sunday September 17th from 12:15-3:00pm. Class on this day is for parent/s and student!

Confirmation classes will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 12:15-3, with a parent providing pizza/water/snacks and a parent being part of the class each month. Our policy for safe children requires two adults in a classroom. Please note the change this year from the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Classes on September 17th and October 15th will be based on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. **On Tuesday September 12th at 8pm on PBS** there will be a movie called, **"Martin Luther, Idea that Changed the World."** I would encourage parents and students to watch this movie together.

There will be registration forms for Confirmation Class on the table in the Narthex for you to register your child. Expectations and class schedule will be handed out at first session.

STEWARDSHIP



The sharing of our many gifts from God — our time, our talent, our treasure, our faith, our family and our prayers.

"For it is in giving that we receive."
St Francis of Assisi



New Member Classes

Have you been worshipping at St. John's?

Do you have questions about the Lutheran church?

If so please join Pastor Marks at our new member classes to be held on Sundays September 17th and 24th in between the services in the Office Building. (10:15-11:00 am)

September 17th: Basic info about Lutheranism

September 24th: Intro to mission and ministry of St. John's

October 1st: Reception of New Members at either service (9:00 am or 11:15 am)

CALL COMMITTEE



The Rev. Scott Schantzenbach, assistant to the bishop for Stewardship, Transitioning Congregations and Excellence in Ministry from the New Jersey Synod, will now be assisting St. John's Church during our call process. He has been briefed by Pastor Aaron Richter, who recently ended his tenure on the Bishop's staff, about the details of our pastoral transition. St. John's Call Committee will meet with Rev. Schantzenbach in the next few weeks to discuss ideas and possible options for the future.

Also, please be aware that church council meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. Your input is valued. Council meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER



A Look at *Luther* and the Reformation • Rick Steves' CD "*Luther and the Reformation*"

Wednesday September 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Along with the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation represented the growing pains of a Europe evolving from the Middle Ages into the modern age. Rick Steves travels in the footsteps of Martin Luther — distilling the story of that bold monk, the chaos of the Reformation, and the larger political, economic, and theological context into an *engaging, inspiring, and enlightening* hour.

Wednesdays September 20th, 27th, October 11th, 18th and 25th at 7:00 pm

Justified: 500 Years of Faith : A 5–Session Bible Study on Reformation Themes

In this Bible Study we will focus on key teachings of Martin Luther on the Word, Baptism, the two kingdoms, vocations and justification. (Student book is \$6.00)

We will meet in the Office from 7:00-9:00 pm (at the latest!)

WORSHIP AND MUSIC



Mark Your Calendar!

On **August 20th**, Pastor Nelson Rabell-Gonzalez will be preaching to us and Pr. Marks will be at Apostle's in Turnersville to complete the pulpit swap.

Choir rehearsals will resume the **first week in September**.

Band rehearsal time has been changed to **7:30 pm Tuesday nights**.

Beginning Sunday, September 10th we will be having **two services** each Sunday — **9:00 and 11:15 am**.

Sunday September 17th

Sunday School will begin at 10:15 am to 11:00 am.

Blessing of Backpacks at both services

It's back to school time and a perfect opportunity to send our precious kids back to school knowing how much Jesus loves them. So on Sunday, September 17th have your children of all ages bring their backpacks to worship with them so both the children and their backpacks will be blessed as they head back to school!

Then come over to the Education Building for a great welcome back to fall activities with a time to catch up with friends and have some yummy goodies.

October 1st at 1:00 pm

Blessing of the Animals.

Last fall the Blessing of the Animals service had to be cancelled because of bad weather — was not good for man or beast!!! This year we are hoping for better weather. So on Sunday October 1, 2017 we will gather under the big tree near the Office Building to bless our precious pets. They must be on a **leash** or in a **cage** — water will be available for them. We want to help bless our local animal shelter! We would like to **collect paper towels** to be **donated to local animal shelters**. Invite your friends to come with you and bring their pets.

October 1st is the Sunday closest to the remembrance of **St. Francis of Assisi** who is also remembered for the **first Nativity Scene**.

October 1st we will receive **new members** during both services.

October 21st is the Halloween Parade.

Rain date October 22nd.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Faith Club

Faith Club will resume Wednesday September 13, 2017. If you're interested in joining an uplifting women's group as we walk through life's challenges, please let me know so I can order your subscription to *Gather Magazine*.

St. John's 18th Annual Golf Outing

Community Luncheons and our Annual Golf Outing go together like coffee and cream!

Faithfully on the second Saturday of the month a crew of dedicated cooks, pot washers, table setters and servers dish up tasty meals for our neighbors — many of whom are food insecure and just plain lonely. Our guests love our pretty tables and the chance to fill up on coffee and fellowship.

How is all this wonderful food paid for?

The Annual Golf Outing which this year is being held on **September 16th at 1:00 pm** at the **White Oaks Golf Club**.

Cost is \$85.00. See Joe Zwaan for more information.

HELP WANTED

ARE YOU SAD THAT YOU'VE RUN OUT OF THINGS TO FIX AT HOME?

We can help!

St. John's own "property brothers" — Roy Fennimore and Obie O'Brien — could use some extra hands for basic maintenance and minor repairs to the church properties.

We won't charge you a quarter to paint the fence, like our friend Tom used to do — you can fix things here for **FREE!** So if you know the difference between a claw hammer and a ball-peen hammer, between a box wrench and a crescent wrench, and between a crow bar and the corner bar, you're perfect for this opportunity.

Contact Roy at (856) 262-8915 or by email at rkfennimore@verizon.net.

A Reminder from the "Counters"

Please use your envelope and only put the amount on it. Your offering is recorded by the number on the envelope — no need to put your name on the envelope.



WELCA NEWS



Coffee Hour • Important Announcement!

Coffee Hour begins again soon; all members are invited to attend!

Date: Sunday, September 10th.

Time: After the 9:00 am service

Place: Education Building

Who: Everyone is invited

We are in need of a few more coffee hour heros. (Hosts)

The job of a Coffee Host is to bring goodies (homemade or store bought), set up the coffee & teapot, put out the fixings, paper products and juice, and put tablecloths on the tables. All the other supplies will be provided. It's best (and most comfortable) for two people (or families) to work together. (We can help you find someone to pair up with.) Each Coffee host is usually needed only a couple Sundays during the year.

Anyone who would like to help is asked to call **Gail Oberle**. (609-313-0800).

Christmas Craft Show

Our annual **Christmas Craft Show for 2017** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 18th, from 9:00am to 2:00pm**. We always have a terrific selection of homemade gifts to choose from to start your Christmas shopping. Don't forget to bring your appetite because we'll be cooking some great lunch items in the kitchen. This is a great chance to see old friends, as well as meet new ones, and get into the Christmas spirit.

For information about reserving spaces, or for space applications, please contact **Ann Adams (856-728-3462)**, or for general information and volunteer opportunities, please contact **Gail Oberle (609-313-0800)**. Spaces are **\$20.00 for the main level in the Ed Building**, including the use of a table, and **\$15.00 for lower level spaces** (no tables provided.)

Roast Pork Dinner/Octoberfest

W.E.L.C.A. is proud to announce the date for our **2nd Annual Octoberfest and Roast Pork Dinner: Saturday, October 28, 2017, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm**. We will once again feature Live Music, provided by St. John's Jazz Band, with favorite tunes and Oompah Music, including Polkas!

Tickets for the event should be purchased in advance — as seating in the Education Building is limited, and we were at near-capacity at last year's Dinner. **Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$4 for Children under age 12**. They will be available starting September 10th. (Tickets will also be available at the door, but *only until we are at capacity*.)

Meals will be available for take-out, for the same prices as the admission prices; tickets are not needed for take-out.

Once again guests are invited to bring your own beverage (beer or wine only); soft drinks, coffee, tea, hot chocolate and water will be provided. The event is open to all; invite your friends, neighbors and family! We hope to see a capacity crowd once again this year!

AFTERNOON TEA

St. John's Afternoon Tea ☘ September 13th at 2:00 pm ☘ Parish House Tea Room

A Cream Tea is a form of afternoon tea, a light meal consisting of tea taken with a combination of small sandwiches, scones, clotted cream and jam. Observance of the custom originated amongst the wealthy social classes in England in the 1840s.

Please join us on September 13th at 2:00 pm in the Parish House Tea Room for our Afternoon Tea. All are welcome. No charge, just a free-will offering.



REFORMATION SUNDAY



500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION ❖ October 29th, 2017

Come and meet "Katie Luther" ❖ *Who is Katherine von Bora Luther?*

Well, come and find out!!! And bring your friends and family

Children's message

Services of Celebration at 9:00 am & 11:15 am

Wear **RED** as we celebrate to **500th Anniversary of the Reformation**. *And look to the future!*



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PHOTO GALLERY

2017 🌿 St. John's Confirmation Class



2017 🌿 Strawberry Festival



2017 🌿 July Game Night



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PHOTO GALLERY

2017 🌿 St. John's Gardens



St. John's Lutheran Church Staff

Interim Pastor:

The Rev. Margaret M. Marks

Administrative Coordinator:

Pat Reed

Organist/Music Director

Director of Bell Choirs:

Janice Smith

Band Director:

Ken Weaver

Sexton:

Betsey Eley

Webmaster:

Rich Oberle



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church • 1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094
Email: stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com • Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742
Website: www.stjohnselc-wnj.org