

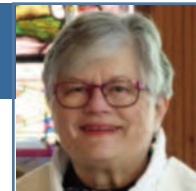
# St. John's Journal

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



November/December 2017

## PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR MARKS



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

A question for you: **Why do you go to church every week or almost every week?**

Some answers that folks have given to that question include:

*So they can enjoy community*

*So they can use their gifts*

*So they can discover their purpose*

*So they can worship God*

*So they can learn the word*

*So they can participate in missions*

*So they can practice generosity*

*So they can forge lifelong friendships*

*So they can enjoy food!*

If you find yourself coming to church infrequently—why is that? I would love to learn why so that as a congregation we can address the issues holding folks back from regular worship. Would you please take the time to email me at [peggy\\_marks@comcast.net](mailto:peggy_marks@comcast.net) and share your thoughts with me? (note there is an underscore between my names)

In Christ,

Pastor Peggy Marks

## WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER



**9:00 am Traditional Worship — 11:15 am Jazz/Swing Band Led Worship**

**10:15–11:00am Sunday Church School**

**November 5<sup>th</sup> All Saints Sunday**  
*Lighting of individual candles in memory of loved ones*

**November 12<sup>th</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 19<sup>th</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Celebration of Thanksgiving**  
*(bring non-perishable items for Food Bank)*

9:00 am Worship Service

Baptism of Mia Elizabeth Pyne

11:00 am Worship Service

Baptism of Ryan Alexander Cusmina

12:15 am Confirmation Class

**November 26<sup>th</sup> Christ the King Sunday**  
*with service observing the Church Year*

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> First Sunday of Advent**  
*The Message of St. Nicholas — kids be sure to bring your parents to church today!*

**December 10<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 24<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve**  
9:00 am — Early Christmas Eve Day Service  
(no Communion)

### Christmas Eve Services

7:30 pm — Family oriented service with Holy Communion

10:00 pm — Organ led worship with Holy Communion *(Services include singing of Silent Night with candles)*

**December 31<sup>st</sup> First Sunday of Christmas**  
9:00 pm One service only of Lessons and Carols *(no Communion)*

## PASTORAL ACTS



### Baptisms:

**8/13/2017**     **Lily Anne White**, Daughter of Kellyanne White and Keven White  
**9/17/2017**     **Rose Stroyek**, Daughter of Li-Ann Stroyek

### Wedding:

**10/14/2017**     **Thomas Beamer and Kelly Boeckle**

### Funeral:

**10/15/2017**     **Charles T. Jack IV (CJ)**, infant son of Charles and Christina Jack (born 9/7/17)

### All Saints Sunday

Saints who have died since All Saints Sunday 2016 include:

**Dolores Fanz 1/18/17**

**Fred Garrison 2/3/17**

**Donna Van Houten 2/12/17**

**Charles T. Jack IV born 9/7/17 (lived for 2.5 hours)**

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE



We welcome anyone who would like to help and or participate in the services or programs or events that are noted below. Effective immediately, please let Pat know if you are able or if you would like to be usher or greeter for the second service, also acolytes are needed. If any confirmed members would like to serve as an acolyte, please also let Pat know.

I would like to thank all the young adults who have been asked to serve as acolyte at the last minute, it's really your first small step to become a leader in the church, thank you all.

**November 5th** We will be remembering the Saints of the Church. If you would like to have someone remembered regardless of when they may have died, we ask that you let us know. Why? This year we will again light candles in memory of your loved one and give to you the candle that was lit in their memory. This is our gift to you.

**November 19th** Thanksgiving service, going back to what we have done in the very long ago past, we will ask you bring in non-perishable items to put in to a food basket for a family that is not as blessed as some of us are, in order to have a Thanksgiving.

**November 26th** Christ the King Sunday, Pastor will lead us through the seasons of the Church and we will sing hymns appropriate for those seasons.

**November 26th December 1st or 2nd** The church will need to be decorated for the upcoming Christmas Concert sometime within this time frame also for the Advent/Christmas season. If you would like to help, please let someone on the Worship and Music committee, Council or call the office to leave a message stating you would like to help.

**December 2nd** We will have our Christmas Concert. It is always entertaining and it helps to get us into the Christmas spirit. Last year we had a reception in the basement of the church aka "under croft" and it was such a success, we would like to do that again. We will need volunteers to bring in some light refreshments, help set up, help to serve and to help clean up.

**December 24th**     **9:00 AM**     **Service will be led by Ken Weaver – NO COMMUNION**  
                              **7:30 PM**     **Family Service/Candlelight service**  
                              **10:00 PM**     **Traditional Candlelight Service**

**December 31st**     **9:00 AM**     **Service will be led by Betsey – NO COMMUNION**

**January 7th** We will return to our two (2) services after only having one service the two weeks before.

We hope to see you at as many as these special services as is possible.

*Peace to you all,*

Betsey Eley, Worship and Music Chair

## EVANGELISM COMMITTEE



We are attempting to rekindle our Evangelism Committee, with help from any volunteers to share thoughts, ideas and experiences. We are hoping to reach out to the community, and encourage visitors to worship and socialize with us.

Our church's mission statement, which is displayed on our Website, reads:

***"Worship and Praise God; Spread the Good News of the Gospel of Our Lord;  
Encourage and Support One Another in Faith; Reach Out in Ministry to the Community"***

With the hopes of building a committee to share in this mission, I have developed an outline for possible development. These are just some possibilities to help define the questions, and lay out a possible "road map" to start us on our way.

- 1) **Mission:** to promote St. John's by all means available, particularly through utilization of "word of mouth" - the best and most effective advertising there is.
  - a) Give member "something to talk about"
  - b) Promote St. John's to all guests
- 2) **Review** hand-out materials
  - a) Brochures, maybe an info. "card". Study the wording and see if it says what we need it to say
  - b) Visitor's packets - review, make sure all is current and friendly
  - c) Material in pews to inspire, inform, call to action; research available resources thru our publishing sources
- 3) **Develop** additional materials for outreach
  - a) A Post Card or Invitation
  - b) Visitor Follow-up thank you card / letter/ event list
  - c) Possible questionnaire to solicit ideas, and solicit opinions....?
- 4) **"Physical"** Outreach:
  - a) New arrivals to Williamstown: List available? (for mailing.)
- 5) **Signage:** Review design and information value of exterior and interior signage

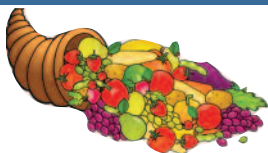
If we follow this blueprint, whether modified, added to, or pared down somewhat, with the idea in mind that we being God's hands and working towards His purpose, perhaps we can begin to build our membership and enhance our image in the community.

Please drop me a note by email or text, or call or see me to volunteer. We could then schedule a meeting and share our ideas and experiences, and begin to build plan of action! (roberle4@comcast.net or 609-313-0500.)

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Oberle, Evangelism Chairman

## STEWARDSHIP



### Stewardship and Thanksgiving



*Stewardship is a way of sharing God's blessings.*

In this season of thanksgiving, a sincere "thank you" to everyone who supports our congregation throughout the year with their attendance, service and regular financial contributions to the ministry of St. John's.

## CONSTITUTION UPDATE



Our Constitution had not been updated since 2003 and thus this past summer, Pastor Marks, Lois Gibbs, Henry Fickenschier, Pam Hemphill and Roy Fennimore undertook the task of updating it. This included adding in the new amendments and changes mandated by the ELCA and clarifying some language and making some needed changes. Council will be approving the final edition at its November 13th meeting. The next step will be providing opportunities for the congregation to read it and ask questions and get clarifications. Those dates will be in early January with approval set for our January 28th Annual meeting.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY



**When:** Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Office Building. We end by 9:00pm

**What:** We explore — the bible — current events in the church and any other topic that grabs our attention!! We love discussing how our faith intersects with life!

**Topics:** We will be using the Living Lutheran (monthly magazine from the ELCA) to discuss a variety of subjects.

**October 25th:** Living Out our Commitment: How is the ELCA carrying out its vision of diversity?

**November 1st:** After the Media leaves, Lutherans stay. What does disaster response look like years later?

**November 8th:** Freed in Christ to serve the neighbor 500 years of Lutherans in action

**November 15th:** To be chosen

We will take a break until the New Year!

## CLASSIFIED

### GARDENING



If you like to garden and keep grounds clean, your church needs you. After many years of maintaining the church gardens and grounds, I am going to retire.

I would be happy to work with and help someone get started.

Lois Gibbs

856 875-4907 or See me at church



## FELLOWSHIP



### Let's Give Thanks for BINGO!

**Friday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> • 7:30 pm • Education Bldg.**

Join the fun as we count our blessings — Bring a food donation for the Monroe Township food pantry as well as a White Elephant Gift.

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



## WELCA NEWS



The women of St. John's WELCA invite everyone to our annual Christmas Craft Show, Saturday, November 18th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Please come out and check out all our crafters and start the Christmas season. There will be plenty of crafts, gifts and decorations to help fill out your holiday shopping list!

We'll also be serving homemade soups, hot sandwiches, and home baked goodies at our bake table.

This is a great chance to catch up with friends and family members you may not get a chance to see as often as you would like, have lunch, meet new people and find new friends!

*For additional information please contact: Gail, (609) 313-0800; or gailoberle@comcast.net.*

*For crafter inquiries, Call: Ann, (856) 728-3462*

### Cookie Bakers Needed



Our annual Christmas caroling to our home-bound members will probably be Sunday, December 17th, after the second service. We are looking for volunteers willing to bake and donate one dozen cookies or some fruit for our gift baskets.

A list of names and addresses will be available for anyone wanting to send Christmas cards to them. We will confirm the date of caroling in advance of the actual date.



## AFTERNOON TEA



**Come join us for our Thanksgiving Afternoon Tea being held on November 15th.**

We have so much to be thankful for and I am especially thankful for the wonderful ladies who help with the Tea and who participate every month. Tea is held at 2:00 pm in the Parish House Tea Room.



*Christmas Afternoon Tea*

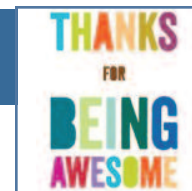


*will be held on December 20th at 2:00 pm in the Tea Room.*

It is always a very festive Tea with many surprises, so please try to join us as we celebrate the Christmas Season.



## IN RECOGNITION . . .



### Sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen in Camden

How did 35-40 people from St. John's, Apostles and Holy Communion Lutheran Churches spend two hours on Sunday afternoon October 22nd? Well if you haven't guessed — making over 700 Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches for the folks served by Cathedral Kitchen in Camden which serves a large homeless population. It was a meaningful way to spend part of our afternoon — we got to know some of the folks from each of the other congregations, had lots of fun and laughter and even learned new life skills — just ask Dan Del Rosso!!! This is just the beginning of working together with our local Lutheran Churches. The next PB&J event will take place at St. John's. Watch for the date and yes start stocking up on Peanut Butter and Grape Jelly.



## HOLIDAY CONCERT



*St. John's Lutheran Church of Williamstown  
Welcomes Everyone to  
Our Singing and Ringing in the Season*

**Saturday, December 2nd**



**6:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

Wine and Cheese Reception immediately following Concert  
in the undercroft (lower level of the Church)  
Please feel free to bring your favorite wine if you wish  
Cookies, chips or anything else in or on a dish



*This is a fantastic way to start the Holiday Season!*

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PHOTO GALLERY

### 2017 🐾 Blessing of the Animals





## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PHOTO GALLERY

### 2017 🍁 St. John's Oktoberfest

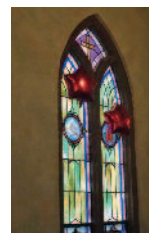
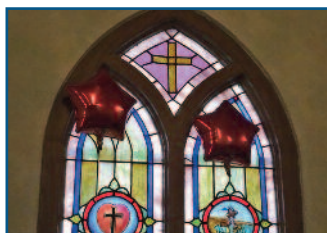


### 2017 🍁 Reformation Sunday

#### New Members Received Reformation Sunday

**Left to Right:** Doug Hauser, Myrtle Garner and David Cusmina holding Baby Ryan

**Back Row:** Bob Garner, Carol Glassman and Caren Cusmina



## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

**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



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