

# St. John Journal

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



MARCH/APRIL 2020

## GREETINGS FROM PASTOR TAMMY



No dry bones here! So much rain we have been experiencing lately!

Springtime breezes seem to bring waves of greeting to us early this year along with crocus bulbs slowly raising their heads from all of the life-giving water.

As we enter into the season of Lent, we are reminded of a never-ending spring of living water, of God's grace that refreshes us, cleanses us, and moves us to once again raise our heads in hope, free to bask in the glory of the Son.

The Passion of Christ will awaken the whispers of Paul and Timothy: *"let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus"* (Phil. 2:5), reminding us, encouraging us to show the strength and power to love.

As we worship together and hear of the extraordinary love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, may the life-giving waters of the Spirit swell in each one of us causing us to overflow with selfless love, revealing compassion and tenderness through the mystery and mysticism of the faith.

We are stronger together. Together, we can help one another to know and dwell in the love of God through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is what experiencing Christian mysticism is all about — knowing and dwelling in the love of God.

We experience the Risen Christ through Word and Sacrament but also in our fellowship as *the body of Christ in the world*. We worship together offering our Glorious God praise and thanksgiving. May we also gather together to feed one another (bodily and spiritually) at our Lenten soup suppers where we can discuss Christian mysticism and how it still matters today.

Our God wants to draw closer to us as we grow closer to one another. The breath of God continues to move us to echo the whispers: *"let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus"* and like *"forget-me-nots"* we grow together wildly and still rely on the daily radiance of the Son.

We have the strength to love. Let us spread far and wide and remind one another to pour out encouragement and shower love throughout the land.

In Christ,

Pastor Tammy

## WORSHIP IN MARCH & APRIL



**TWO SERVICES AT 9:00 AM AND 11:15 AM (Unless otherwise noted)**

<b>March 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>First Sunday in Lent</i>
<b>March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>
<b>March 15<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>
<b>March 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>
<b>March 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>
<b>April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Palm Sunday/Sunday of Passion</i> <b>ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM</b> <i>Brunch to follow</i> <i>Easter egg hunt for children</i>

<b>April 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Easter/The Resurrection of Our Lord</i>
<b>April 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>
<b>April 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>

**EVENING SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK AT 7:30 PM:**

<b>April 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>
<b>April 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Good Friday*</i>

*\*Ministerium Good Friday Service will be from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at First UMC of Williamstown.*

## PASTORAL ACTS & EVENTS



- January 4<sup>th</sup> Monroe Township Historical Society Historic Church Tour in our Sanctuary
- January 13<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting
- January 15<sup>th</sup> Church Tea in Parish House
- January 18<sup>th</sup> Mystery Dinner in Education Building
- January 19<sup>th</sup> Reception of New Member (Jennifer Brenner)
- January 20<sup>th</sup> Grief Support Meeting
- January 24<sup>th</sup> Ministerium Unity Service at Crosskeys UMC
- January 26<sup>th</sup> Congregational Meeting
- January 27<sup>th</sup> Adult Bible Study
- February 8<sup>th</sup> Council Retreat
- February 9<sup>th</sup> Installation of Council members
- February 13<sup>th</sup> Hosting of Synod Workshop for Clergy
- February 24<sup>th</sup> Adult Bible Study



Synod Workshop held at St. John's on February 13<sup>th</sup>

## COUNCIL NEWS



### **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING AND COUNCIL RETREAT**

The annual congregation meeting was held on Sunday January 26th.

Printed copies of the 2019 Annual Report to the congregation were distributed, and committee heads read reports and answered any questions that arose.

The congregation voted on and approved a plan to have the entire parking lot resurfaced this spring. The funds will primarily come from earnings on the investment account, with additional amounts coming from donations to the parking lot fund and the property improvement account. The resurfacing will be scheduled for this spring.

The congregation also approved updating the St. John's constitution to conform to the 2019 model constitution provided by the synod. Once the updates are done, the new constitution will be sent to the synod for approval. None of the changes in the update are significant or have an impact on the way the church operates or its mission.

The congregation approved new council member Pat Brownawell to fill the opening left by Lois Gibbs term ending.

The council met on February 8 for their annual retreat meeting to elect officers and plan for the coming year. Officers elected were Obie O'Brien, President; Rich Oberle, Vice President; Henry Fickenschner, Treasurer; and Pat Brownawell, Secretary.

## LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS



### **GATHER FOR MEAL, FELLOWSHIP, AND STUDY**

Each Wednesday evening from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm beginning March 4<sup>th</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Study topic will be Christian Mystics: Seers, Saints & Sages (using Carl McColman's book).

## ST. JOHN EDUCATION AND SUPPORT



*Even though my grief is my own...*



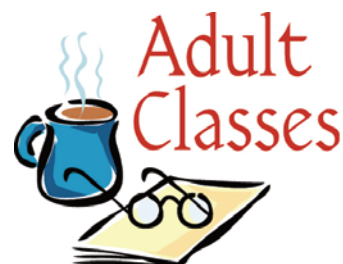
### **GRIEF SHARING AND SUPPORT GROUP**

Located in the Tea Room of the Parish House at 7:00 pm on March 16<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **ADULT EDUCATION**

Adult Bible Study will not be held in March, but will continue on the April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Parish House.

Join us for coffee, cookies and cups of blessings as we study together the Book of Romans.



### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Class is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> in the Parish House from 12:30-2:00 pm. There will be no class in April as confirmands are asked to assist in Holy Week services.

The 2020 Confirmation Class will make their confirmation on Pentecost Sunday (May 31<sup>st</sup>). We will hold our final review class on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:00 pm. Confirmation rehearsal with dinner will be held on Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES**

Anyone interested in having their child(ren) receive their First Holy Communion soon, please reach out to Pastor Tammy.

Classes will take place on April 1<sup>st</sup> and April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Parish House from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm. First Holy Communion will take place during the Maundy Thursday service at 7:30 pm.



### **SYNODICAL EVENTS**

The Delaware Mission District Meeting with Elections will take place on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 910 Marne Hwy, Hainesport, NJ in preparation of the May 1<sup>st</sup> — Second Synod Assembly. All members of our congregation are welcome to attend the district meeting along with those registered for Synod Assembly. Please reach out to Pastor Tammy if interested. Transportation will be available.

### **BOOK CLUB**

Anyone interested in reading for group discussion *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, please let Pastor know for order placement.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



**Moses as a Bible Hero is our focus through Mid March, then the *Passion Story* and *Ten Commandments* in April.**

***Our children do a presentation at the 9:00 am service, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month based on their Bible Studies***

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** Children will be presenting the *10 Plagues of Egypt*

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** Palm Sunday — Children will be part of the reenactment of the *Passion*

We are practicing ringing the chimes and hope to present a music selection during the service.  
After the Palm Sunday Brunch there will be an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Egg Dyeing.

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** Children will be presenting the Ten Commandments

As we grow, we are looking for adults who would like to be part of our ministry. We can always use:

*An extra set of hands in the craft room.*

*If you love telling stories, come join us. We will give you the necessary materials*

*If you love to draw or design things, we could use your helping designing scenes to go with our Bible Stories*

*If you have a flair for dramatization, you will be more than welcome.*

Thanks to our Sunday School Teachers for all they are doing. This year has been an exciting new adventure as we have the children reenact the Bible Stories they are learning. We hope the congregation is enjoying this new addition to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 9:00 am worship service.

## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY ACTION AND OUTREACH



### **MILK, MILK, MILK**

Don't forget! We are always collecting shelf-stable milk for the Food Pantry. There is a milk pitcher located in the Narthex for donations. We are the only church that provides the Food Pantry with milk.

### **COMMUNITY LUNCHEON**

St. John Community Luncheon is held the second Saturday of each month at 11:30 am in the Education Building. Help and desserts are always needed. Next Luncheon is March 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **MONEY FROM AMAZON**

These days many of us shop on line. If you shop at Amazon, it has a program called AmazonSmile that provides a way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop at their site. You can use your existing Amazon account and all products from Amazon are included at the same low price it makes available to everyone.

St. John's is now one of the charitable organization listed at AmazonSmile. If you go to this site and select St John's as your charity, Amazon will send St John's 0.5% of your purchase(s) at NO additional cost to you. This includes all purchases every time you shop at Amazon's site.

It is very easy to take advantage of this program and raise money for our church. Simply go to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Facebook page, find the post about Amazon Smile, and click the link.

Then:

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Start shopping.

If you go to Amazon's regular site after you have already selected St John's as your charity at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) a popup message will appear asking if you would like to donate to your charity.





## ST. JOHN SOCIAL EVENTS



### **AFTERNOON TEA**

There will be no Afternoon Tea in March during Lent. The next Afternoon Tea will be Wednesday April 15th at 2:00 pm.



### **3<sup>RD</sup> FRIDAY OF THE MONTH**

**March 20<sup>th</sup> • 7:00 pm**

Game Night – two separate events— Adult Event and Youth Event  
Get your game face on and come ready to play! Board games, card games, guessing games and ping pong — there's something fun for all ages. Enjoy an evening of good-old friendly competition and laughs. Invite a friend! Bring a snack to share — BYOB (wine and beer only) optional

**April 17<sup>th</sup> • 7:00 pm**

Relay Race and Lego Building competitions

**Needed — regular legos**

**Palm Sunday • April 5<sup>th</sup>**

**Music, Drama, Brunch, Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Egg Dyeing  
Palm Sunday Service with Dramatization of the Passion Story  
Bell Choirs, Youth Choir, Chancel Choir**

Brunch following 10:00 am Church Service  
Easter Egg hunt for all following brunch  
Easter Egg Dyeing following Easter Egg Hunt

#### **Help needed**

Readers for dramatization

Older youth and adults to help with egg hunt and dyeing

#### **Supplies needed**

Filled Plastic Easter eggs (filled with wrapped candy or small trinkets)

Six dozen Hard Boiled Eggs for dyeing

Dyeing Kits



**Craft Night: Coming Soon in May — Spring Wreaths.** More information to follow.

## ST. JOHN MUSIC MINISTRY



### ST. JOHN LITTLE BIG BAND

The St. John's Little Big Band leads the 11:15 Service. Their music gets you foot tapping and adds so much to the worship service. The band welcomes instrumentalists who would love to praise God through music. If you are interested, see Ken Weaver after the 11:15 service.

### ST. JOHN CHOIRS AND BELLS

	Practice Time:	Experience Level	Provide Special Music for:
Chancel Choir	Thursday 8:00 to 9:00 pm	Teens & Adults welcome	Sing 1 <sup>st</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays 9:00 am service
Youth Choir	During Sunday School	Everyone welcome	Sing 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9:00 am service
St. John's Ringers	Thursday 7:00 to 8:00 pm	Some experience needed	Ring 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 9:00 am service
3 X 3 Ringers	Sunday after 11:15 pm service	Some experience needed	Ring 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 9:00 am & 11:15 am service
Chimers	During Sunday School	No experience needed (6 yrs +)	Ring occasionally 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

*All St. John's Music Groups provide music for Special Occasions*

#### Coming Soon: New Ringing Workshops

Please let Janice Smith know if you want to give it a try. 856-981-0729

*No musical talent necessary — a very simple method is taught.*

If you read music, you will advance quickly to one of the established bell choirs.

#### Requirements

*Can count to 10*

*Know the difference between right and left hand on command*

*Can distinguish green and orange colors helpful, but not necessary.*

Seriously, that's it, you will be taught the rest.



## EVANGELISM



**"Who goes there?"** ... It's a common (but older) expression ... sort of like a greeting, with a sense of caution.

Most often, this isn't used in that same way anymore, as language has evolved ... or as some may opine, devolved over the years; but it isn't totally unused!

I suggest, when people drive by a church that looks like it's been there a long time, and yet the viewer has never been in it - or perhaps has not been in any church ... for long time, they may wonder, "Who goes there?" One wonders, does anyone I know go there ... and/or do many people ever go there anymore?

In our case, we know that we go here, to St. John's, for spiritual renewal, support, and instruction, and for fellowship and Divine worship, among others who believe as we do. The passer-by doesn't see us, hear us, or in most cases, know any of us ... but also in many cases, they DO know one or more of us, but have ever "thought of us in this way."

Putting our Evangelism hats on, let us contemplate this. How can we let others that we know, or have known but maybe have lost touch with, that we are still faithful, and that we still attend this awesome church, and worship our Awesome God here?

Perhaps "technology" ... often perceived as a double-edged sword - can be of assistance! A great suggestion was given to me by one of our members after the Annual Meeting last month. It's been suggested that those of us who use social media such as Facebook take advantage of the "check in" feature when arriving here.

This would allow any friends or followers to recognize that you deem St. John's to be a worthy place to go - and as time goes by ... that you report in from here often (or regularly, perhaps.) Most of us use a "smartphone" and turn off our sounds when we come inside. ... a quick extra second or two for "checking in" might be a good way to "Evangelize!"

I would suggest "not necessarily" photographing and tagging others all the time, because we all get a lot of comments when that happens - but from time to time, it lends credibility to your post! (And we can all handle a few extra "Likes". ...)

It's just one thing ... but it could be one big thing ... to get our church's name "out there," and help build the good will that could help to build our congregation!



## ST. JOHN CHURCH PHOTO GALLERY



### New Member — Jennifer Brenner



### Unity Service



### Murder Mystery Dinner



### Sunday School Presentations



### Family Fun Night



### Afternoon Tea





## ST. JOHN CHURCH PHOTO GALLERY



### More Activities at St. John's Church



## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

### Pastor:

The Rev. Tammy Harmer

### Administrative Coordinator:

Pat Reed

### Organist/Music Director

### Director of Bell Choirs:

Janice Smith

### Band Director:

Ken Weaver

### Sexton:

Betsey Eley

### Webmaster:

Rich Oberle

### Newsletter Editor:

Marie Fickenscher



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