



# ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

## February 2018

Volume 23 *To sing the Praises of God, to Live the Grace of Jesus, to Share the Gift of the Spirit.* Issue 1

### A Message from Pastor Kristin



#### Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14

**12:00noon:** Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

**6:30 p.m.:** Soup and Sandwich Supper

**7:15 p.m.:** Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

#### Join Us Every Wednesday During Lent

February 21, 28, March 7,  
14 and 21

**6:30 p.m.:** Soup and Sandwich Supper

**7:15 p.m.:** Holden Evening Prayer and Conversations with the Savior

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

These are the words we hear as ashes are placed on our forehead on Ash Wednesday, a solemn day of the church year. A day we recognize our mortality. We were created up out of the dust and we will return to the dust. We may think we are invincible, but in the end, we are dust.

February 14 begins the 40 day season to Easter. Gather with us as we receive ashes on our foreheads and as we gather around the table of Jesus' own body and blood given and shed for me and for you and for the whole world. Join us throughout the Wednesdays in Lent for “Conversations with the Savior.” Each week Jesus will have a conversation with a special guest – the words will make us think, challenge us, and comfort us in our faith journey.

Take time this lent to read God's word, pray for all people, and give generously to people in need.

God's Peace –

Pastor Kristin Dubsky

**Annual Congregation Meeting** – Sunday, March 18 immediately following the late service. All members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

### Content ...

Birthdays .....	17
Lent / Easter.....	2-3
Church Calendar.....	17
Council Member List..	9
Finance .....	19
Prayer List .....	18
Thank You.....	10-11
Worship Leaders.....	18
Youth.....	8-9



## February 14

### ASH WEDNESDAY

**6:30 p.m. Supper**

*Turkey corn soup with turkey salad  
sandwiches provided by the  
Fellowship Committee*

## ASH WEDNESDAY

On February 14, we gather to worship and observe “Ash Wednesday.” Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of our 40 day journey to Easter called Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we receive ashes on our foreheads, reminding us of our mortality. “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

**12:00 noon** Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

**6:30 p.m.** Soup and Sandwiches in the Fellowship Hall

**7:15 p.m.** Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes with music and choir

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

**6:30 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Supper**

**7:15 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer and**

Please join us on Wednesday evenings for dinner at 6:30p.m., followed by worship at 7:15 p.m. with “Holden Evening Prayer” which will include a conversation with Jesus each week—“Conversations with the Savior”

### February 21—“I am the bread of life”

*Assorted soups with hot dogs provided by the  
Evangelism Committee*

### February 28—“I am”

*Ham and bean soup with ham sandwiches provided  
by the Sunshine Circle*

### March 7—“I am the gate”

*Vegetable soup with turkey sandwiches  
provided by the Adult Choir*

### March 14—“I am The Good Shepherd”

*Potato soup provided by the Kosen Family and Friends*

### March 21—“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

*Chili with grilled cheese sandwiches provided by the Adult Bible class*

## Holy Week and Easter

**Maundy Thursday** — March 29—6:30 p.m.  
Worship with dinner, Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar

**Good Friday** — March 30—7:15 p.m.

**Children’s Event** — Saturday, March 31

Children’s Easter Program, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

**Easter Sunday** — April 1

**6:30 a.m.** Sunrise Service in the Chapel in the Woods

**8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.** Festive Easter Worship

No Sunday School Classes

*Easter Breakfast served between 7:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.*

*(Free-will offering will be collected for our youth headed for  
Houston for the ELCA National Youth Gathering.)*



**February 14 (Ash Wednesday): Community of St. Dymas** – prison ministry of Delaware-Maryland Synod

**February 21 (Wednesday Lenten Service): Access Carroll** – provides health assistance for those in need, an outreach program of Carroll Hospital Center.

**February 28 (Wednesday Lenten Service): Carroll County Habitat for Humanity**—non-profit group of volunteers who build new homes or repair existing homes for the less fortunate.

**March 7 (Wednesday Lenten Service): Haitian Timoun Foundation**– We are a very high impact, clearly focused, grassroots movement that has been bringing hope, sustainability, and dignity to the children and people of Haiti for more than 10 years. We believe in education, economic development, community engagement, and local leadership.

**March 14 (Wednesday Lenten Service): Mosaic, Inc.** – Helps those who are suffering from mental illness.

**March 21 (Wednesday Lenten Service): Fisher House** – A network of comfort homes where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one is receiving treatment. These homes are located at major military and VA medical centers nationwide

**March 29 (Maundy Thursday): Carroll Hospice** – Helps families who have members who are terminally ill, providing medical care and spiritual care, another outreach program of Carroll Hospital Center.

**March 30 (Good Friday): Tender Care Pregnancy Center** – A faith-based, non-profit organization dedicated to helping women with pregnancy related concerns. Provides pregnancy testing and verifications, limited to first and second trimester ultrasounds, counseling, community referrals, parenting classes, and material assistance to anyone in need.

**April 1 (Easter): 25% ELCA World Disaster Relief, 25% Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, 50% St. John's Lutheran Church**

**ELCA World Disaster Relief**– Helps provide clothing and housing for God's people throughout the world.

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service** – Works diligently with government and service partners to care for Central American children and families fleeing to the US for refuge. LIRS is playing a national advocacy role as well as a service role during this current emergency. LIRS provides service to unaccompanied migrant children, which upholds their best interests and recognizes their vulnerabilities to exploitation and abuse.

# HAPPENING AROUND THE CHURCH

Christian Singles will celebrate Valentine's Day on Friday, February 16, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall beginning with a covered dish dinner. Each person is asked to bring a covered dish. All Adult Singles are invited for an evening of Christian fellowship and fun.

## Sunshine Circle.

The next meeting of the Sunshine Circle will be held on March 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pat Heath is in charge of Devotions, we will be making St. Patrick's Day Favors under the direction of Carol Blubaugh, and Mia Hoyer is the hostess. Special offering is toothpaste. All ladies of the church are invited.

All ladies of the church mark your calendars now for **St. John's Annual Mother and Daughter Banquet** May 8, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall.

Please watch bulletins and newsletters for more information.

## Sunshine Circle's Adopt A Child

A note received from the Sunshine Circle's sponsored child, Bikiltu, from the "Adopt a Child" program, has been placed on the bulletin board in the Caring Corner. Your loose change, which is collected the first Sunday of each month, has helped Bikiltu live a happier life. Thank you.



The Soup Kitchen Committee will meet February 23, 2018 at 10:30 a.m.

Mark your calendars now for the annual **SPRING BLOOD DRIVE SET FOR APRIL 7, 2018 FROM 7:30AM UNTIL 12 NOON** in the Fellowship Hall here at St. John's. Watch upcoming bulletins and newsletters for information.



HELP GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE.



**The Shepherd's Staff Newsletter Team will meet to assemble the newsletter on Monday, March 5 from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and Tuesday, March 6 from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** Lunch will be provided. All are welcome to come work, enjoy **good fellowship, share a meal and help to spread the news about The Shepherd's Staff** and their ministry. For more information contact Linda Sterner at 410-596-3921 or [sternerlm@outlook.com](mailto:sternerlm@outlook.com).

# HAPPENING AROUND THE CHURCH

Save the date!

We are looking forward to another amazing week at  
St John's Lutheran Church in July.



**Annual Meeting of the  
Congregation will be held  
Sunday, March 18 2018.**

Committee chairs:

**Committee Annual  
Reports** are due into the  
office by Sunday, February  
25.

**Treasurers:** Reports for  
Audit Committee are due by  
Sunday, February 4.

**Audit Committee:** Your  
reports are due to the office  
by Sunday, March 4.

## Keep the Date!!!!!! MAY 4 and 5: YARD AND RUMMAGE SALE

The Annual Spring Yard and Rummage Sale will be held  
on Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5. Collection of  
donated items will be from Monday, April 30 -  
Thursday, May 3. Details will be announced in the next  
issue of the Newsletter.

Anyone needing to donate items earlier is asked to  
contact Gloria or Dennis Kniss, 717-359-7681, 443-605-  
4963, or [dennisrkniss@gmail.com](mailto:dennisrkniss@gmail.com) to make  
**arrangements. We can begin accepting your "early"**  
donations after March 1.



## Pastoral Acts:

Baptism

Sara Jane Miller

January 14, 2018

# HAPPENING AROUND THE CHURCH

## **EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

February will hopefully provide you with an opportunity to share God's love to all you encounter!

We sent greeting cards and letters to the military folks we pray for each week, thanking them for protecting our country and doing their best to keep us safe.

Our committee continues to work on senior profiles on folks 75 and older. We can use your help to nominate someone you want to read about in our church history book! This month read about a close neighbor, the corn man, Ronald Leister, who has a birthday on Valentine's Day. This article can be found on page 7.

You did it! We met our goal of collecting 100 pairs of eyeglasses! We collected 112 pairs in 2017, making the total number of eyeglasses collected since 2006 at 2,057, along with the help of Carrollton 4-H! Very productive job of recycling while helping others! This is a generous church family!

By now we hope you have received a call from us to update our directory with current phone numbers and addresses! If you haven't, please call Frances DeBruyn, our Office Manager, at 410-848-6402 with your updated information.

We voted that our submarine sandwich sale profit would go to the Jacob Armacost Foundation and the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, June 27 – July 1, 2018. Please take orders from your neighbors and friends, and let us cater your Super Bowl meal with cold cut or turkey subs along with delicious desserts made by the youth! If you want to help make subs, we begin at 9 am on Saturday, February 3, in the Fellowship Hall! Pick up times are Saturday from 12:00 until 2:00 p.m. or after both church services on Sunday, February 4!

The Evangelism team will meet on Saturday, February 3 at 9:00 a.m. to fill Love packages that we will fill with goodies to deliver to homebound shut-ins to be delivered by committee members. Fellowship and prayers will be delivered along with cards and greetings the first part of February. If there is someone in your family who needs a visit, please call the church secretary or someone on our committee!

Please inform us of students graduating from high school, trade school, or college in 2018, so we can prepare for a church celebration.

Continue to count your blessings and do share God's love to everyone. Try to be kind in all you think, say and do!

Loretta Basler  
443-289-8938

**FOR HAPPY MOMENTS, PRAISE GOD.  
DIFFICULT MOMENTS, SEEK GOD.  
QUIET MOMENTS WORSHIP GOD.  
PAINFUL MOMENTS, TRUST GOD.  
EVERY MOMENT, THANK GOD**

## SENIOR PROFILE: **Ronald Levine Leister**



Ronnie was born February 14, 1938 in Hanover General Hospital, Hanover, Pennsylvania, the son of George A. and Jennie Rill Leister. When his parents brought him home to the family farm on Leister's Church Road, he was welcomed by his two sisters, Lavena and Betty. IN the early 1950's, the family welcomed a foster child, Larry D. Ward, a.k.a. "L.D.". Ronnie had many chores and on-the-job training, so it was obvious he was meant to be a farmer from day one.

He speaks fondly of his childhood involvement with St. John's – attending the picnics, getting his quarter to spend on a soda and a hot dog and going through confirmation classes with Reverend Willis R. Breneman (who was very strict).

Ronnie graduated from Westminster Senior High School in 1956. That same year, Mr. J. Owings Rebert asked him if he would close graves for St. John's cemetery. Sometime in the early 1980's, he also began opening the graves as well. He served almost 50 years with these cemetery responsibilities. Thank you, Ronnie, for a job well done.

In 1961, while on a trip to Ocean City, he met Carolyn Rill. Apparently, things went well as they were married in 1962. They were blessed with three children – Sonya, Dr. R. Todd and Jason Leister. Eventually, four grandchildren came along – Jacob, Sarah, Austin and Ashley Leister.

Ronnie is the third generation on the family farm which produces various grains and vegetables. He and Carolyn work well together as a team. They both talked of how modern equipment and technology have made farming / agriculture business easier in many ways.

Many people know Ronnie better as "The Corn Man". He explained that this endeavor actually began as a hobby, with some corn and vegetables sold from the back of a wagon. People soon came from far and wide to purchase the famous and delicious Leister corn. The demand grew and they needed help from family members, especially the grandchildren in this booming "corn business". He and Carolyn both agree the experience was great and it taught the grandchildren responsibility, good work ethics and how to deal with other people.



Ronnie, thank you so much for your many contributions to our church family and to the community at large.

Submitted by: Dale H. Miller

# MEN OF THE CONGREGATION

*All men of the church are cordially invited to attend and participate in all of the activities of the Men of the Congregation.*

The Men of the Congregation held their first meeting of 2018 on Saturday, January 6 at the Ascension Episcopal Church. Ten men attended the buffet breakfast event. The topic of the day dealt with the challenges of Joshua as he led the Israelites towards the promise land and thoughts about the New Year. Dave Bollinger added a reading entitled, "The Dash."

Upcoming events are as follows:

- February 3: Breakfast at Ascension Episcopal Church at 8:00 AM.
- February 10: NO Meeting.  
(Please note the change)
- February 13: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. This will be a joint effort with the youth and all funds raised will go to the Youth Gathering.
- March 10: Breakfast meeting at Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren at 8:00 a.m.

- April 14: Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren.
- April 23 or 30: Western District Lutheran Church **Men's Spring Dinner Meeting.**  
Details to follow.
- May 12: Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren.
- June 5: Clean up for Strawberry Festival, 6:30 PM
- June 7: Strawberry Festival Cleanup Rain Date, 6:30 pm
- June 9: Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. at Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren followed by final preparations for the for the Strawberry Festival.

All men of the congregation are invited to participate in any or all of the activities.

## YOUTH

**Buy A Mile Fundraiser** – It is 1244 miles to Houston. Help our group get to Houston as you "buy a mile" (or a few miles). Cost: \$10/mile. We have displays in the narthex and in the Fellowship Hall showing you how we are doing in raising the money we need to get to Houston. (This fundraiser will take place of our "stock" fundraiser that normally began at Easter.) This fundraiser will run through May.



### Buy A Mile

Fundraiser For ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston



**\$10.00 per mile**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your donation!**



# YOUTH



## Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Sale - through February 11.

The Youth Group is selling Gertrude Hawk Chocolates to help us get to Houston and the ELCA National Youth Gathering. Members of the youth group will be in the narthex after worship February 4 and

11. Please stop by and order some Easter chocolate. (It will be delivered around March 5).

**Tuesday, February 13 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** - Join us between 6:00—7:30 p.m. for pancake dinner. A free-will offering will help the Youth group get to Houston. (Youth Group and Men's Group will be working this event.)



Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, March 3, 2017, 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. *Sponsored by St. John's Lutheran Church Youth Group.* \$8.00 in advance; \$10.00 at the door; \$5.00 for children

4-10; ages 3 and under eat free. Tickets available now.

Call Bonnie at 410-857-8756 or text at 443-935-7407.

**Youth Gathering Participants Meeting** - Sunday, February 11 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Benjamin's Lutheran Church. Bring a few dollars for pizza.

# COUNCIL

## Council Notes from the January 2, 2018 meeting

- ⇒ Council members have started to read and discuss the book, Called by God to Serve by Robert F. Holley and Paul E. Walters. The beginning discussion focused on the mission and goals for our church.
- ⇒ There will be a Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, which will be a **men's group and youth** event to benefit the youth going to Houston in June.
- ⇒ Grover Conrad and Edith Linthicum were removed from the parish roster and Thomas Register was added to the parish roster.

Pam Goodson, Council Secretary

# 2018 Council Members

## Steve Findeisen

410-848-6069

stevefindeisen@verizon.net

## Genny Resch

410-857-9145

gresch@mghus.com

## Carl Rebert

410-861-9058

cjrebert@comcast.net

## Lori Bucacink

410-857-5339

lisj@comcast.net

## Mick Zechman

443-398-4299

mzechman@westgov.com

## Pam Goodson

410-751-6446

dpgoodone@msn.com

## Matthew West

410-848-4414

camelotwest@comcast.net

## Jack Joiner

410-848-8166

jjoiner66@aol.com

## Dennis Kniss

717-359-7681

denniskniss@gmail.com

## Pastor Kristin Dubsy

410-299-4853

pastor@stjohnswestminster.org

# 2018 Committee Chairs

Cemetery .....	Ken Seitz
Christian Education & Youth.....	Julia Wolfe
Evangelism.....	Loretta Basler
Fellowship.....	Karen Siegman
Stewardship.....	Carl Rebert
Property.....	
Worship & Music.....	Dennis Kniss
Christian Outreach.....	Roxanne Malbrough
Finance.....	Janet Gross
	John Bucacink

# THANK YOU

## Friends and family of St. John's,

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers sent by all of you for the passing of my dear husband, Grover. In the past months, we have missed coming to church and seeing everyone. He is now resting in peace at the feet of Jesus.

Sincerely,

Peggy Conrad and family

---

## To St. John's Church Council, thank you for the gift card. It's been an honor to serve the congregation of St. John's this past year.

John Bucacink

---

## THANK YOU.

I wish to thank all who visited, sent cards and phone calls while I was recovering from my knee replacement surgery. Also, thanks to the Evangelism Committee and Dolly & Dan for their delivering a bag of goodies from the committee.

God Bless All,

Tom Tracey

---

## I want to thank St. John's for their generous Christmas gift. I am truly blessed to work with such kind and giving people.

Frances DeBruyn

---

To all who donated a turkey, THANK YOU! Because of your generosity, turkeys are available for the events that will be held during the next six months. St. John's is so blessed by your willingness to share your resources!

Nancy Dean

---



Thank you for being such an important part of our ministry. With your donations, we were able to make Christmas brighter for almost 100 children and their families this year.

Sandi & Matt West

---

Dear Friends of Jake,

**We are so very grateful for all the support we received from St. John's for the Pig Roast & Silent Auction Fund** Raiser we had for Jake. We truly could not have done it without the time, energy, and generosity of our church family.

Special thanks go out to Karen Siegman for organizing the kitchen and Audrey Byrd for lining up the desserts, everyone who volunteered their time to help the day of the auction, everyone who made a dessert, made a donation, bought tickets and items. The auction was a huge success thanks to all of your help!

Jake will be 22 (cannot believe it!) in February. He continues to remain happy and healthy. He receives several therapies each week which we will be able to continue with the funds raised from the Pig Roast & Silent Auction.

Jake is the best he can be because of the help we receive, so thank you all for helping us help him! It is an honor **to be Jake's family and we are humbled and overwhelmed by the generosity of our families, our friends, our church and our community.** Your support is appreciated more than words can describe and we can never thank you enough.

May you all have a blessed and happy new year! The Armacost Family

# THANK YOU


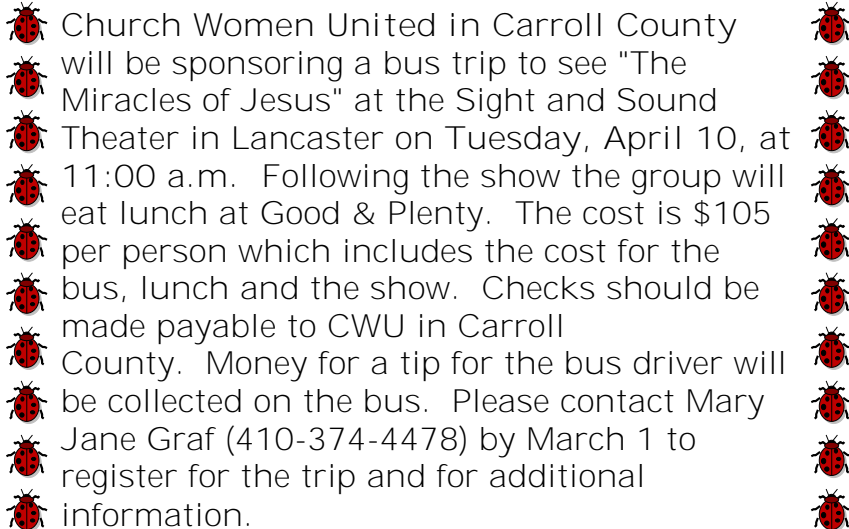
I want to thank the church council for the gift card that I received at Christmas. I enjoy the work I do for the church and am grateful for their acknowledgement.

I also want to thank everyone who has sent me cards and well wishes during my recent illness. It is a blessing and comfort to know that I am in the thoughts and prayers of so many people.

Janet Gross

The Christian Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous "Giving Tree" contributions. Because of people like you, those less fortunate will be equipped with the "Bare Necessities."

## HAPPENING AROUND TOWN



 Church Women United in Carroll County will be sponsoring a bus trip to see "The Miracles of Jesus" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster on Tuesday, April 10, at 11:00 a.m. Following the show the group will eat lunch at Good & Plenty. The cost is \$105 per person which includes the cost for the bus, lunch and the show. Checks should be made payable to CWU in Carroll County. Money for a tip for the bus driver will be collected on the bus. Please contact Mary Jane Graf (410-374-4478) by March 1 to register for the trip and for additional information.



**2ND ANNUAL  
EMPTY  
BOWLS**

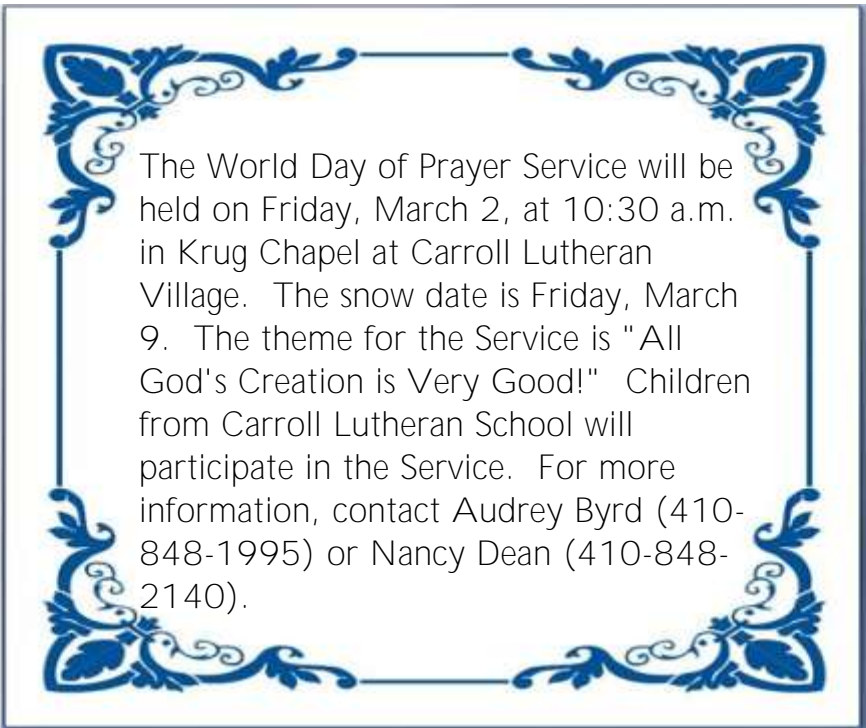
A simple meal of soup and bread and a handcrafted bowl to take home as a reminder of those whose bowls remain empty.

Featuring soups by the area's top restaurants!


**SAVE THE DATE!  
MARCH 18, 2018**

Proceeds benefit The Shepherd's Staff.  
Call 410-857-5944 for more information.



The World Day of Prayer Service will be held on Friday, March 2, at 10:30 a.m. in Krug Chapel at Carroll Lutheran Village. The snow date is Friday, March 9. The theme for the Service is "All God's Creation is Very Good!" Children from Carroll Lutheran School will participate in the Service. For more information, contact Audrey Byrd (410-848-1995) or Nancy Dean (410-848-2140).



**Church & Village: Partners in Ministry February 2018**  
 Lifelong Learning Courses

Winter 2018 Lifelong Learning courses are open to all older adults in the community. Come join us and beat the winter blahs!

- Art History Series** – The February 20 session features the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany. Susan Williamson from the Carroll County Arts Council instructs. Cost is \$10 per adult.
- Poetry 101** – Jo Donaldson teaches the basics on Wednesday February 7 through March 14 from 10:30am to Noon. Cost is \$25 per adult.
- Introduction to Collograph Printing** – Susan Williamson from the Carroll County Arts Council instructs on February 12 and 19 from 1-3pm. Cost is \$30 per adult.
- South Mountain and Antietam** – Phil Muskett from Carroll Community College lectures on February 16 from 9am-Noon and escorts a field trip to Antietam on February 23 from 9am-1pm. Cost is \$35 per adult.

Please register in advance for all Lifelong Learning opportunities by calling 443-605-1070.



## Basket Bingo 2018



JOIN US FOR BASKET & BAG BINGO!

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Doors open at 11:30 am  
Games begin at 1pm!  
\$15.00 advance tickets / \$20.00 at the door!

Our annual Basket Bingo is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 2018 featuring Longaberger Baskets, Thirty-One Gifts, Vera Bradley and more. Doors open at 11:30 am, games begin at 1pm!

- Food and Refreshments Available all day!
- Door Prizes & Raffles (including 50/50 & purses)
- All Baskets Generously Filled — Special Baskets and Themed Baskets!
- Bring a non-perishable food item to be entered for a chance to win a special prize

All proceeds benefit Carroll Lutheran School; this year we will be raising funds for our technology needs.



### A Place to Explore and Grow

In today's busy world, it is important to set aside time for children to be children. To give them opportunities to meet new people, challenge themselves with new activities, and to find a place to feel accepted and loved just as they are. Summer Camp is that place. Mar-Lu-Ridge has been a community which supports youth and families for over 58 years. We provide a safe, Christ-centered, fun environment for your camper. View our brochure at <http://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/camp/> to choose the program that is right for you. Maybe you are a Night Owl who likes to stay up late. Or maybe Space Camp will fulfill your dreams of building a rocket and exploring the stars. Cooking, Adventure, Mini Camps, Day Camp, and Horseback are just a few more! Camperships are available for all who need assistance - no child is ever turned away. **Register before February 18 to save \$35/camp** (Day camp and Family Camp excluded)

### Men's Winter Retreat

February 3, 2018

Time: 8:30AM till 2PM

### *“Men of Integrity”*

Using several strong men in the Bible as examples, we will look at what integrity means to the Christian man.

Plan on enjoying a continental breakfast and a scrumptious hot lunch prepared by the ladies of Pleasant Grove UMC.

**Pleasant Grove UMC**  
**15300 Dover Road**  
**Reisterstown, MD 21136**  
**410-913-6182—reservations**

## Policy on Unrestricted Gifts and Bequests

This document is meant to codify a set of practices to guide our use of exceptional gifts to St. John's. Many wills, trusts & bequests include language about the specific purpose(s) of the gift. This document refers to those gifts which do not include specific wishes and restrictions. These decisions and deliberations will be conducted by the Council and such other committees and/or individuals the Council designates. This does not rule out the creating of ad hoc committee(s).

### 1. We will tithe 10% of the unrestricted gift.

As Christians, we recognize that everything we have is a gift from God. Tithing is an important spiritual discipline that reminds us to depend on God's grace rather than to follow our culture's call to depend on ourselves, or to seek security in accumulated wealth. Tithing is an opportunity for our congregation to participate in important and exciting work done by other non-profits.

As we consider where to tithe our money, we will use the following guidelines:

#### a. Preference of Lutheran-affiliated and other faith-based charities and Organizations

The gospel of Christ calls us to work for justice in this world. We believe that supporting organizations who also work from a place of faith, answering God's call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God, is a way to show the world God's love. It is important for us to support the work of Lutheran-affiliated agencies. However, if a Lutheran agency is not meeting the needs we would like to support, we will turn to other faith-based organizations first, and secular agencies second.

#### b. Preference for local community charities and organizations (Carroll, Mid Maryland, Southern PA, Greater Baltimore)

St. John's supports a variety of local groups including Carroll Food Sunday, NESAP, New Life For Girls, and others. If the cliché "charity begins at home" has any place in our decisions and deliberations; this is it. We should continue to be mindful of other local groups, especially those that have a connection to our church and congregants.

#### c. Charities and organizations that put others first

While all charities support causes and needs of others, some use the money more effectively. Several agencies track this effective use of donations. Charity Watch is the premier site/organization for tracking this data.

<https://www.charitywatch.org/top-rated-charities>

### 2. We will transfer 10% of the gift to Property or Building funds

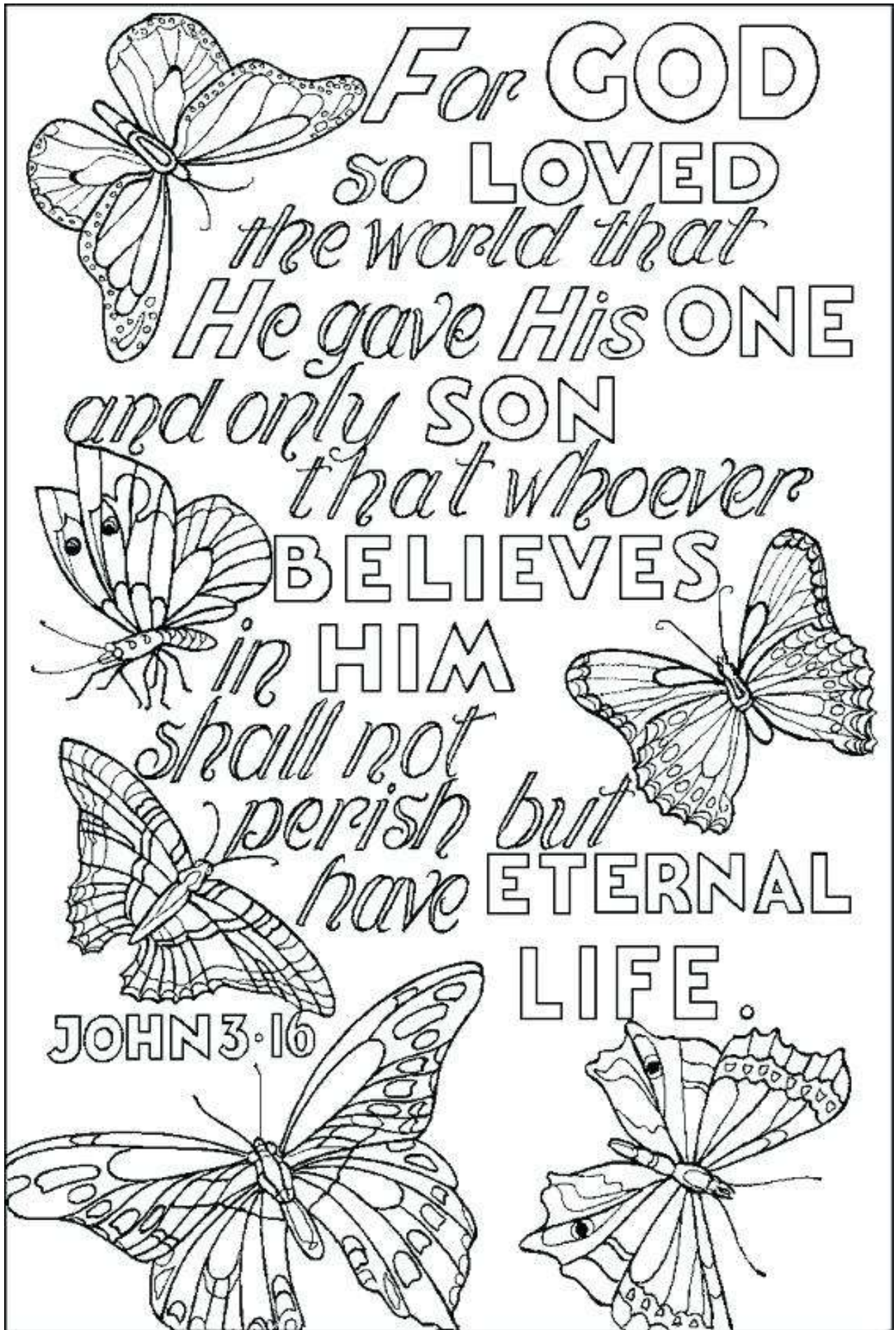
Few people express "keeping the lights on" as the goal for a bequest or gift. However, good stewardship of our church, outbuildings and property is an important goal. Some importance must be given to improving, updating and maintaining the physical structures that comprises St. John's. This can include initiating and completing a specific project or joining with existing funds for a larger/more long-term expenditure.

### 3. We will use 80% of the gift to strengthen the life and mission of the congregation.

The Council will actively seek ways to use unrestricted gifts to strengthen the life and mission of our congregation, which might even include increasing the percentage allocations under Sections 1 or 2 above. For example, unrestricted gifts could assist St. John's in growing our congregation and social media presence. Consistent with our constitution, Council will present to the congregation for approval any recommended distribution under this section, which meets or exceeds the existing constitutional threshold for such spending/distributions, currently set at \$6,000.

**Final Note:** At all points in this process Council should be acting prayerfully and thoughtfully. Considering the long-term benefits of these actions, the long-standing traditions and practices of the church, and, to the extent possible, the wishes of the donor(s).

**Mission:** To Sing the Praises of God, to Live the Grace of Jesus, to Share the Gift of the Spirit



*For* **GOD**  
*so* **LOVED**  
*the world that*  
*He gave His* **ONE**  
*and only* **SON**  
*that whoever*  
**BELIEVES**  
*in* **HIM**  
*shall not*  
*perish but*  
*have* **ETERNAL**  
**LIFE.**

**JOHN 3:16**

# Lent

W Q K P G N I T S A F P K V K F L  
P O A S H W E D N E S D A Y C Z R  
S N R E C I F I R C A S T N R K L  
R S L R V Z K Y N B N N S N U K B  
H C E W O F X P G N E E M O C E D  
M R P N H S J B G L H F X I I E N  
C X C N E F Y N P S T P G T F W J  
V R G W B V I M A P E R N A I Y Q  
T N O B M R I P T A P A I I X L J  
P R H S P N T G S H M Y V L I O K  
L E L S S Q P T R R K E I I O H W  
B N N L Q R E F M O K R G C N V B  
Z X N A E R G K T C F K S N H R C  
B R N P N R F B L T C F M O C K K  
T K A F B C J N K L K K L C P M Q  
W R N M Y L E X C R Q C A E L V J  
E L M E D I T A T I O N Y R Q F C

almsgiving  
ashes  
ash wednesday  
cross  
crucifixion  
easter  
fasting  
forgiveness  
holy week

lent  
meditation  
prayer  
prepare  
reconciliation  
sacrifice  
sorrow  
spring



# FLOWERS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

**Deadline:** March 11, 2018

**Cost:** \$11.00 for each container of flowers

**Payment:** Cash or check (made payable to St. John's Lutheran Church with "Easter Flowers" written in the memo line)

**Return to:** The offering plates or the Office manager's mailbox.

## EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM:

**IMPORTANT:** *The Information you fill in BELOW is what will appear in the special Easter Sunday bulletin insert. Please print clearly.*

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ at \$11.00 per plant

Number of Tulips \_\_\_\_\_ at \$11.00 per plant

TOTAL Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$11.00 per plant

**Total Due:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The Easter Plant purchase(s) is (are) given:

\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_ to the glory of God

\_\_\_\_\_ Give my flowers to a shut-in.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

# CHICKS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

*Purchase paper chicks to remember or honor a loved one this Easter!*

The purchase of each paper chick represents the purchase of ten live chicks for families in need around the globe – a program of the ELCA's Good Gifts.

*"Ten little chicks make a difference"*

**DEADLINE:** March 11, 2018

**COST:** \$10 for each paper chick

**PAYMENT:** Cash or check (made out to St. John's Lutheran Church with "Easter Chicks" in memo portion)

**RETURN TO:** The offering plates or the Office Manager's mailbox

## EASTER CHICKS ORDER FORM

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

Number of paper chicks \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 per paper chick buys TEN live chicks)

**Total Due** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** *The Information you fill in BELOW is what will appear in the special Easter Sunday bulletin insert. Please print clearly.*

The Easter Chick purchase(s) is (are) given:

\_\_\_\_\_ in memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ in honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_ to the glory of God


BY: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)





# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	1	2	3 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> Men's Breakfast at Ascension Episcopal Church  <b>8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.</b> Making/Selling Subs
4 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> Worship <b>9:15 a.m.</b> Education Hour <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Worship <i>Altar Flowers: Melanie Martindale</i>	5  <b>6:45-9:00 p.m.</b> Carrollton 4-H	6  <b>6:15 p.m.</b> Handbells  <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Council	7  <b>7:30 p.m.</b> Choir	8  <b>9:00 a.m.-Noon</b> Westminster Conference	9	10  <b>All Day</b> Scrapbooking
11 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> Worship <b>9:15 a.m.</b> Education Hour <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Worship <i>Altar Flowers: Dale Miller</i>	12  March Newsletter Input Due	13  <b>6:00—7:30 p.m.</b> Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  <b>6:15 p.m.</b> Handbells	14 Ash Wednesday <b>12:00 noon</b> Service <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Soup Supper <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Service  Choir Immediately following service	15	16  <b>6:30p.m.</b> Christian Singles	17
18 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> Traditional Worship <b>9:15 a.m.</b> Education Hour <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Contemporary Worship <i>Altar Flowers: Stanley Parks</i>	19	20  <b>6:15 p.m.</b> Handbells	21 Lent <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Soup Supper <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Service  Choir Immediately following service	22  <b>10:00 a.m.</b> March Newsletter Assembly	23  <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Soup Kitchen	24
25 <b>8:00 a.m.</b> Worship <b>9:15 a.m.</b> Education Hour <b>10:30 a.m.</b> Worship <i>Altar Flowers: Lois Bankert</i>	26  <b>6:00 p.m.</b> Coin Club	27  <b>6:15 p.m.</b> Handbells	28 Lent <b>6:30 p.m.</b> Soup Supper <b>7:15 p.m.</b> Service  Choir Immediately following service			



02/01 Langdon Parsley  
02/02 Nancy Wright  
02/05 John Gavin  
02/06 Matthew LeDuc  
02/08 Lisa Gavin  
02/09 Carol Siegman  
02/11 Jeffrey Siegman  
02/14 Jonathan Corun  
02/14 Ronald Leister  
02/14 Julia Wolfe

02/18 Leona Dell  
02/18 Miles Miller  
02/19 John Bucacink  
02/21 Jonathan Bean  
02/23 Kari Gillman  
02/24 Krystal Dean  
02/24 Nancy Squires  
02/25 Larry Huber  
02/26 Jacob Armacost  
02/26 William Corun

02/26 Derek Konsen  
02/26 Dietrich Konsen  
02/26 Deborah Schaefer  
02/26 Robert Short  
02/27 David Coppersmith, Jr.  
02/27 Margaret Langdon  
02/28 Matthew West

# FEBRUARY 2018 WORSHIP LEADER CALENDAR

DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	USHERS/ OFFERING (10:30)	COUNTING TEAM
2/4	8:00am	Jack Joiner	Jack Joiner		Bonnie Wilson	David Ogg	Joan Phillips Jean Seitz Ken Seitz
	10:30am	Pat Heath	Steve Findeisen		The Findeisen Family		
2/11	8:00am	Paul LeDuc	Paul LeDuc		Stacey & Larry Huber	Brian Leister	Audrey Byrd Stewart Sterner Drew Dean
	10:30am	Doris Zepp	Stephanie Dean		The Brian Leister Family		
2/18	8:00am	Dennis Kniss	Dennis Kniss		Nancy & Tom Tracey	Genny Resch	Deb Schaefer Michael Schaefer Dale Miller
	10:30am	John Bucacink	Lori Bucacink		Joan Phillips & Jean Seitz		
2/25	8:00am	Maggie Langdon	Maggie Langdon		Phyllis & Jim Menchey	Nancy & Bill Squires	Sarah LeDuc Paul LeDuc Dave Bollinger
	10:30am	Julia Wolfe	Austin Leister		Lois & Phil Short		

*For the month of February, the Altar Guild is Lois Bankert and Dale Miller (8:00 a.m.) and Barbara and Richard Smith (10:30 a.m.).*

*\*NOTE: March 1, Ash Wednesday Assisting Minister: Donna Yeager*



**MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S:** George & Theo Amoss, Jacob Armacost, Dave & Loretta Basler, Lily Blubaugh, John & Betty Boone, Charles & Zadie Brehm, Pat Brehm, The Family of Grover Conrad, Mittie Coppersmith, Ron & Beverly Dutterer, Janet Gross, Donald & Pat Heath, Jeanne Joiner, Nancy Jones, Betty Knisley, The Family of Edith Linthicum, Pat Lipscomb, Yvonne Mathias, The Family of John Neudecker, Jr., Bonnie Null, Claire Null, Muriel Sabo, Tracey Sanford, Adelaide Sies, Richard Smith, Emily Van Horn, The West Family, Lorrie Wilson and The Zincon Family.

**FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S:** Taylor Barnes, Rita Bauhof, Dawn Bitzel, The Bordenski Family, Beth Anne Basler Busch, Amber Blubaugh, Ronald Boone, Joann Bradich, Andy

Cashman, Scott Cronkite, Jerry Day, Ella Edwards, Jackie Farver, Christian Filipov, Morley Frado, Ginni Gordon, Laurel Greeley, Pat and Jerry Grotfelty, Natalie Halpin, Elwood Hawes, Sr., Eila Howe, Linda Basler Holland and Ken Holland, Gabriel Knepp, Jeannie Leister, Don & Charlotte Ludwig, Joe McLaughlin, Pastor Richard Michael and Eva Michael, Wyatt Miller, Jeanne Mueller, Erin Murphy & Haitian Timoun Foundation, Kay Murphy, Harold Nelson, Pauline Nelson, Leann R., The Family of Ron Resch, Beverly & Jack Rose, Jessica Runnels, Ms. Wilda Simpson, David & Debbie Smith, Aileen Stroebel, Courtney Topolski, Wendy Steil, Elizabeth Watson, Laura Welty, Tammy Williams.

**THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:** Keith Blizzard, Marshall Brown, Barry Durm, Michael & Lucia Gaffney, Katie & Brian Fenstemaker.

*This prayer list was updated on January 29, 2018.*

**Please help keep this list current and accurate. Contact the office at 410-848-6402 or office@stjohnswestminster.org with changes (changes include updates, corrections, deletions, new names).**

## **THANK OFFERING FUND**

Our Thank Offering Fund continues to be a significant resource for our congregation. On behalf of St. John's we are very happy and thankful for the congregation's response and offerings to this date. We all hope this fund can help our church mission go forward without many of the financial problems and needs that confront other congregations. Remember the creation of this fund is being used in the future to help balance a yearly budget or for other missions of the church that the Finance Committee and Church Council approve.

Below are several ways that a member can make a donation to the fund. This will be an ongoing fund to which a member can contribute at any time writing their request through church envelopes, E-giving or any of the other options suggested.

### **Ways that you can contribute to the ongoing spirit of Christ in our church!**

Donation Cash or Check; Appreciated Securities; Real Estate; Bequests (Wills & Trusts); Life Insurance; Qualified Retirement Plans.

## **Electronic Giving is Easy!**

**A**s a way to automate your weekly or one-time offerings, Electronic Giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Electronic Giving is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. This can be done in one of two ways: 1) Fill out an Authorization Form (found outside the church office) and send it to the church office, or 2) Go to the church website ([www.stjohnswestminster.org](http://www.stjohnswestminster.org)) and click the green "Online Giving" button at any time to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history.



**THRIVENT  
FINANCIAL®**

*Connecting faith & finances for good.®*

### **Thrivent Choice: Directing Choice Dollars®**

By directing Choice Dollars® through Thrivent Choice, eligible members recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations and congregations. (Directing Choice Dollars®

and receiving funds from the Thrivent Choice program are subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice program.)

Thrivent choice dollars must be allocated by March 31.

Also, we have opportunities for Action Teams projects and their \$250 allotments. Please contact Gloria Kniss for suggestions or assistance in applying. Thank you.

## **St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

827 Leister's Church Road Westminster, MD 21157 ~ 410-848-6402 ~ [www.stjohnswestminster.org](http://www.stjohnswestminster.org)

*St. John's Epistle is published each month by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Westminster, Maryland.*

*St. John's is a congregation of the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.*

Articles for the March newsletter should be submitted no later than Monday, February 12, 2018! Please send the articles to Frances, the Office Manager, at [office@stjohnswestminster.org](mailto:office@stjohnswestminster.org) or place them in her mailbox. Thank you!

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

827 Leister's Church Road, Westminster, MD 21157 • 410-848-6402 • [www.stjohnswestminster.org](http://www.stjohnswestminster.org)

Pastor: The Rev. Kristin Dubsy • [pastor@stjohnswestminster.org](mailto:pastor@stjohnswestminster.org)

Office Manager: Frances DeBruyn • [office@stjohnswestminster.org](mailto:office@stjohnswestminster.org)

Director of Music: Wayne Grauel • [music@stjohnswestminster.org](mailto:music@stjohnswestminster.org)—410-804-8407

Office Hours:



## Worship Schedule

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship Service

9:15 a.m. Education Hour (All are Welcome)

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion Worship Service

### *Please contact the church office....*

... if you move to a new address or your telephone number or email address changes.

... if you or a member of your family is admitted to the hospital so the pastor may schedule a hospital visit.

... when a member of your family leaves home for college.

... when your committee or group plans a meeting or an activity—the date needs to be cleared and the church calendar noted.

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage PAID  
Permit No. 469  
Westminster, MD

Return Service Requested  
Time Value Material

827 Leister's Church Rd.  
Westminster, MD 21157

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church