



ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

December 2016 / January 2017

Volume 21 *To sing the Praises of God, to Live the Grace of Jesus, to Share the Gift of the Spirit.* Issue 10

A message from Pastor Kristin



A Quick Look ...

Christmas Party
Sunshine Circle & Adult Bible Class—Bring a covered dish!
Wednesday, 12/7
6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Sunday School Program
Celebrate!
Sunday, 12/18
9:15 a.m., Sanctuary

Christmas Eve
Family and friends!
Saturday, 12/24
3:00, 5:00, 7:00, and 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day
Christmas Lessons and Carols
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
One Service

New Year's Day
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
One Service

“Come, though long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.” ELW 254

We enter this season of advent waiting and watching for the signs of God’s presence among us. We continue to hear God’s word, and we wait and remember the child who was born to set us free from our sin and fears.

“Joy to the World, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king” (ELW 267)

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Come and celebrate Christmas Eve (3pm, 5pm, 7pm & 10:30pm) and Christmas Day (Lessons and Carols at 10:30am) with us at St. John’s and hear the old, old story of God’s love for all people.

May you experience God’s loving presence during this Advent and Christmas Season!

God's Peace -

Pastor Kristin Dubsy

Christmas Eve Worship
3:00 p.m.

Carols, Christmas Story, Sermon & Communion

All services below are with Candlelight and Holy Communion.

5:00 p.m.

Festival Family Service with Children’s
Message and Special Music

7:00 p.m.

Family Service with Children’s
Message and Special Music

10:30 p.m.

Festival Service with the Adult Choir
and Handbell Choir

Pre-service music will begin 15 minutes before.

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CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHNS!

Celebrate!

Christmas Eve Worship

Invite your family, your friends, your neighbors, and everyone you meet to join us for Christmas Eve!

5:00, 7:00 & 10:30 services are with Candlelight and Holy Communion.

3:00 p.m.

Christmas "Unwrapped"
Carols, Christmas Story,
Sermon & Communion

5:00 p.m.

Festival Family Service
with
**Children's Message and
Special Music**

7:00 p.m.

Family Service
**Children's Message and
Special Music**

10:30 p.m.

Festival Service with the
Adult Choir
and Handbell Choir
*Pre-service music will begin
15 minutes before.*

Christmas Day Sunday, December 25

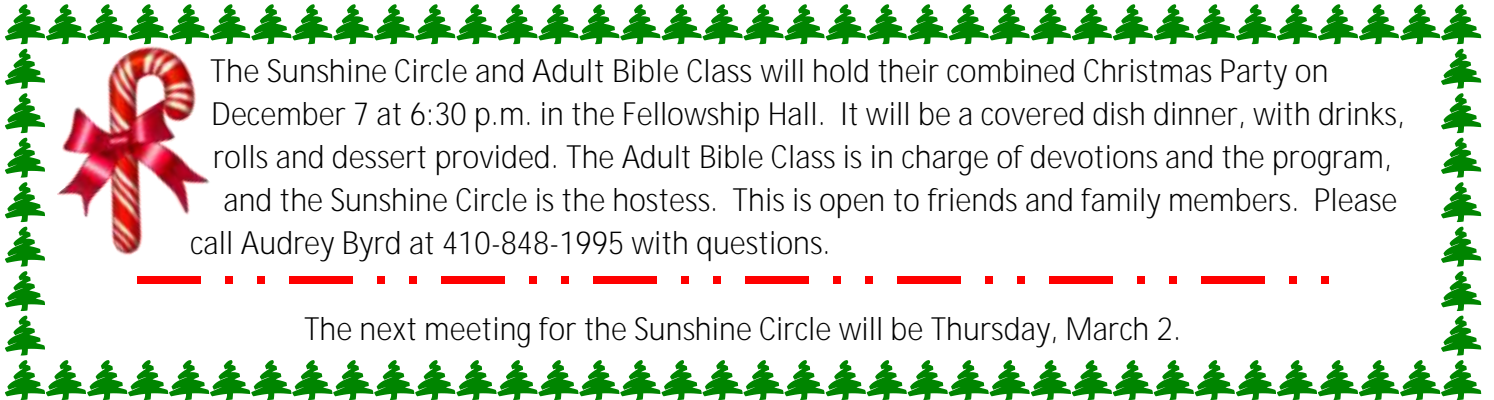

10:30 a.m.

Lessons and Carols
(no Sunday School)

New Year's Day, January 1

10:30 a.m.

(no Sunday School)

The Sunshine Circle and Adult Bible Class will hold their combined Christmas Party on December 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a covered dish dinner, with drinks, rolls and dessert provided. The Adult Bible Class is in charge of devotions and the program, and the Sunshine Circle is the hostess. This is open to friends and family members. Please call Audrey Byrd at 410-848-1995 with questions.

The next meeting for the Sunshine Circle will be Thursday, March 2.



A Christmas celebration for the Christian Singles Group will be held on Friday, December 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, a wrapped gift (\$10), and a food item for Carroll County Food Sunday. All adult Singles are invited to attend for an evening of fun and fellowship.

The Christian Singles Group will meet on Friday, January 20, at 6:30 p.m. at Nancy Dean's house. Come and bring a friend as we join together to celebrate the beginning of a "New Year".

Pastoral Acts:

Funeral

Gloria Barnes—November 14, 2016

New Members—11/27/2016

Jon & Andrea Cosentini

Marc & Mia Hoyer

SUB SALE TIME!!

Expect your call to take orders for submarine sandwiches this month!

Order yours to support *Workcamp 2017 and the Jacob Armacost Foundation!* Pick-up your delicious sand-wiches on Saturday, February 4 from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. and Sunday, February 5 after each service! Youth will be selling desserts at the pick-up point! So plan on purchasing your dessert, too!

St. John's Sunday School

Christmas Program!

All are invited to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth on **Sunday, December 18, from 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.** We hope you will be able to join us for this wonderful opportunity to share the talent and gifts of the younger members of our congregation! Light refreshments will be served after the program.

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Middle & High School Youth Groups

Roadtrip 2017! Our high school youth will attend this great Delaware/Maryland Synod event in Ocean City, Maryland, **January 20-22, 2017!**

Sunday, December 4, is the last day to order poinsettias and animal stock shares for Christmas Eve.



MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S: Jacob Armacost, The family of Gloria Barnes, Dave & Loretta Basler, Lavena Basler, Dot Bean, Bob Blauvelt, Frank Blauvelt, Amber Blubaugh, John & Betty Boone, Charles & Zadie Brehm, Pat Brehm, Shirley Daniels, Beverly Dutterer, Donald & Pat Heath, Marc Hoyer, Jeanne Joiner, Nancy and Harry Jones, Betty Knisley, Sarah LeDuc, Edith Linthicum, Yvonne Mathias, Claire Null, Muriel Sabo, Lynne Scherbarth, Ken Seitz, Adelaide Sies, Ken Seitz, Richard Smith, Emily Van Horn, Lorrie Wilson and Charles Zincon.

FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S: Carole Arrieto, Rita Bauhof, Ronald Boone, the Boone Family, the Bordenski Family, Norma Brown, Congregations of the Delaware/Maryland Synod, The Family of Austin Carey, Chad Carey Family, Patty & Jim Coolsen, Kathy Cornell, Ashley and Andrew Davis, Jerry Day, Mark Reshnet & Pam Dempsey, Sarah Egan, Jerry Farver, Nancy Ferster, Jenn Freed and Family, Deb Freeland, Lily Glennon, Teddy Goff, Seth Goldsmith, Ginni & Len Gordon, Matthew Gordon, Jen Granek, Gary & Lee Gray, Sue Graybill & Family, The Family of Daniel Greeley, Chuck Gyory, Marilyn Habicht, Mark Habicht, Natalie Halpin, Jeremiah Harlan, Ron Harris, Ellwood Hawes, Sr., Diane Heil, Governor Larry Hogan, Nancy Hollingsworth, Paula Holmes, Eila Howe, Ameilia James, Precious Johnson, The Family of Gerry Kadonoff, Gary & Dennis Keirle, Catherine Keller, Gabriel Knepp, Rhoda Kniss, Family and Fiends of Woody Kocher, Mamie Koontz, The Jim Kroneberger Family, Sara & Nick Lacasse & Gage, Cole & Nathaniel, Dave & Rachel Lal, Lazarus UCC Church, Richard LeDuc, Edward Leister, Jeannie Leister, Gerry Long, Don & Charlotte Ludwig, Charlie Malbrough, Dashiell Malbrough, Don Malbrough, Maria Malbrough, Phil Malbrough, Paula Martin, Sue Mencer, Wyatt Miller, Robyn Moses-Harney, Jeanne Mueller, Erin Murphy & the Haitian Timoun Foundation, June Murphy, Kay Murphy, Donald and May Nelson, Harold Nelson, Jackie Nelson, Mark Nelson, Troy Petty, The family and friends of Sally Preble, The Pyle Family, Fred & Kathi Polanco, Eric Redilius, Irma Register, Beverly & Jack Rose, Sue Schildwachter, Connor Schlude, Wilda Simpson, Joshua, David, & Debbie Smith, Madelyn Smith, Finley Smith, Wendy Steil, Roger J. Stewart, Nick Tasker, Bikiltu Wakgari Wakjira, Eileen West, Sarah and Jake Woodward, Paul Yeager.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Shane Anderson, Keith Blizzard, Marshall Brown, Barry Durm, PFC Cory Farver, Michael & Lucia Gaffney, Private Joshua Gaske, Katie & Brian Fenstermaker, Scott & Lisa Hourin and family, Brian Malbrough, Hannah Sisler, Pam Sisler, Capt. Corey S. Squires, Heidi Scherbarth Tompkins and Will Yingling.

This prayer list was updated on November 29, 2016.

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).

HAPPENING AROUND THE CHURCH

St. John's Soup Kitchen Committee will work The Shepherd's Table on Fri., Dec. 23rd at 10:30 a.m. The committee will need donations of desserts and holiday candy. If you can spare two or three hours to help God's People in need, please contact Lisa Gavin 410-857-1499 or Jackie Leister 410-857-0505. Let us remember those less fortunate during this holiday season.

The Shepherd's Staff Newsletter Team will assemble the winter edition of The Shepherd's Staff's newsletter on Mon., Dec. 12th - 9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Tues., Dec. 13th - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Wed., Dec. 14th - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (if needed). Lunch will be provided. For more information contact Linda Sterner 410-596-3921 or sternerlm@outlook.com.

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT BIKILTU!

On **December 4** and **January 1**, containers will be available in the church for loose change to be used for the Sunshine Circle's "Adopt a Child" program. **Thank you for helping change this young girl's life!** We will continue to share information on Bikiltu.
- Audrey Byrd



MEN OF THE CONGREGATION

News from the Men of the Congregation (December and January)

PAST NEWS

November 12: The regularly scheduled breakfast meeting was held on Saturday, November 12 at the Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren. Phil Short led a discussion about objects in the Bible. Ten Men of the Congregation attended.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Dec. 2016 thru Feb. 2017)

December 10: The regularly scheduled breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday, December 12, 8:00 AM, at the Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren.

January 14: Regular meeting will be held on this date. Details will be in the bulletin and provided online

February 11: Regular meeting will on Saturday, February 11, at 8:00 AM. Details of the meeting will be printed in the bulletin and placed online.

February 28: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

Advent Family Gathering

Sunday, December 4th 1 - 4pm

Bring your family and friends and start a new tradition! Enjoy the warmth of our woodstoves and campfires, create some holiday crafts to decorate your home, make a beautiful wreath with live greens from our property, and fellowship over a delicious meal in Agape Hall.

\$7/adult \$3/youth ages 3 – 11 Children under 3 are free

Please RSVP by December 1- (301) 874-5544 | mlr@marlu-ridge.org

Note: Please bring your own wire and wire wreath frames. All other supplies included in the cost.



THANKS THANKS THANKS THANKS

Dear St. John's friends and family,
 We would like to thank everyone who sent cards, visited, called, and sent their good thoughts and prayers to us following Sarah's hip surgery. It was wonderful for everyone to share God's love with us in so many ways.
 Sincerely,
 Paul and Sarah LeDuc

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Adult Bible Class Rummage Sale held on October 14 and 15, 2016.

For all of those who:

- Donated items - baked goods - THEIR TIME!!!
- Helped to set up tables, racks and unload the shed on Sunday before the sale.
- Priced and put out items for display during the week.
- Provided food for the workers during the week.
- Helped to wait on our Rummage Sale customers.
- Helped to prepare and serve the food.
- Helped to clean up on Saturday after the sale.

The Rummage Sale could not be held if it were not for the "many hands" that come to make the job easier! An hour to help unload boxes is such a big help and greatly appreciated! Without the support of the entire congregation, this event could not be held.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!
 Profit - \$5,000.00

Karen Siegman

2017 Council Members

Steve Findeisen

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Dennis Kniss

717-359-7681

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Pastor Kristin Dubsy

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pastor@stjohnswestminster.org

2017 Committee Chairs

CemeteryKen Seitz

Christian Education &

Youth.....Julia Wolfe

Evangelism.....Loretta Basler

Fellowship.....Karen Siegman

Stewardship.....Carl Rebert

Property.....Michael Grothe

Worship & Music.....Dennis Kniss

Christian Outreach.....Roxanne Malbrough

Finance.....Janet Gross

John Bucacink

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2017



We are excited to announce a NEW DATE for this year's
 Vacation Bible School.

Mark your calendars for July 10- July 14, 2017.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Evangelism News

The evangelism committee met on Sunday, November 13, after early church to prepare for visitations to our homebound members. Later we visited 18 congregational members, bringing them prayers, kind words and a goody bag for them to enjoy at their leisure! We had fun doing God's work here on earth! We shared the good news of Jesus while making the visits, and we are so thankful St. John's Lutheran Church members can be successful in bringing love and joy to those who are presently shut ins! You all brought us joy in seeing you and praying with you!

Sharing of information included the loss of two wonderfully dedicated committee members, Bobbi Corun and Gloria Barnes! We sent sympathy cards to the Barnes family and get well cards to Dot Bean and Lavena Basler for speedy repairs after surgery!

The committee then voted to sponsor the Super Bowl Sub sale with Dave & Loretta Basler, with Lisa & Dave Ogg agreeing to be chairpersons. They voted to support Jacob Armacost and Workcamp 2017! We ask for your prayers, support, orders and help! We will make cold cuts and turkey Subs for \$5.00 each on Saturday, Feb 4, from 9 until 12. Pick up will be from 12 noon until 2:00 p.m. We will call members

for orders or you may call the church office! The deadline for ordering is January 20.

On Saturday, February 4, our committee will be preparing for the next visit to our shut ins! Please contact us if you know someone who needs a visit!

The committee made a welcome bag for Mr. Wayne Grauel, our new musical director.

We continue to interview and write stories about our senior citizens about 80 years young or younger to be included in the Epistle and Historian Book of Church Members! It is a choice, we contact you, and we honor your wishes whether you want to be included or not! Think about it and call the church office at 410-848-6402 if you are ready to be interviewed! We want everyone included!!

Kindly watch weekly bulletins for updates.

If you are looking for a committee to serve The Lord with your God given talents, please join us! We enjoy what we do and enjoy working together, and we accept all abilities! We will find a way you can serve, and it will make you feel great!

Be kind to one another!
Loretta Basler

Be a Santa's Helper! For the Last 16 years, my husband and I have collected money to donate stuffed animals to the children at Sinai and John Hopkins Pediatric Oncology wards, in hopes of making Christmas brighter for over 500 children.

These adorable Bears will be ready to go to the hospitals this year only with your help. Johns Hopkins expects over 100 children to be in their Pediatric Oncology Unit through Christmas morning. Our goal is to make sure that each and every one of those children receives a Bear on Christmas morning. Sinai does their best to not have children on their ward for Christmas, but instead they put the stuffed animals in a "Hope Chest" to give to children who come in for procedures throughout the year.

Your generous donation will last a lifetime. I have had the opportunity to meet some of these children and it makes such an impression on not only the child receiving the gift but on the family whose lives are completely turned upside down by having a sick child.

Please be a Santa's Helper this year. Your monetary donation will allow us to send enough Teddy Bears to these hospitals so every child will have a brighter Christmas. Call or e-mail us today with your donation at 410-848-4414/ 443-929-2105 or west697@comcast.net.





Harry: Harry was born on July 6, 1936 in Scotland Neck, North Carolina. His parents were Harry Lee and Frances Elizabeth Jones. Mr. Jones worked for the Norfolk & Carolina Phone Company, and Mrs. Jones was a homemaker and also worked in a floral shop.

Harry went to all Elizabeth City schools, graduating from Elizabeth City High School in 1955. He went into the United States Coast Guard for four years (two years of active service and two years in the reserves). On active duty, he worked on large naval destroyers, helping to rescue ships in trouble.

Nancy: Nancy Brehm was born on March 12, **1937 on the family farm on Leister's Church Road** to J. Elwood and Evelyn Brehm. Mr. Brehm was a

farmer and Mrs. Brehm was a homemaker. Nancy has one sister, Doris Brehm Rebert.

Nancy went to Westminster Elementary and graduated from Westminster High School in 1955. She went to Baltimore Business College for one year, and she worked for a short time while attending the college.

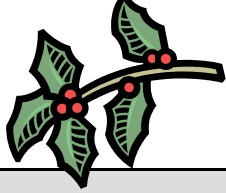
Nancy and Harry met on a blind date in Baltimore, and the two were married on September 16, 1956 at the parsonage on Pennsylvania Avenue by Reverend Willis R. Brenneman. They moved to North Carolina on their wedding night.

They have two children, Debbie Braman and Kevin Jones, three grandchildren, one great-granddaughter and two step great-granddaughters.

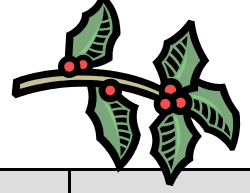
Harry and Nancy moved back to Westminster on October 1957. Harry worked for twenty-five years at Springfield State Hospital and Rosewood Hospital as property manager. After retirement, he went to work at Weis Market in Westminster for six years doing different jobs until he was seriously hurt on the job. Nancy worked as a secretary for the State of Maryland, eleven years with Juvenile Services and twelve years at Maryland Public Broadcasting. After retiring, Nancy set up flea markets, completing personal crafts and **food to be sold at the Farmer's Market, and she was always busy.**


Both were active at St. John's, with Harry being the president of the church council, serving with Pastor Makolin, and he served on the property committee. He was sexton of the church for five years and was also a leader for the youth group. Nancy was in the choir, and she took part in the outdoor plays that were held at St. John's annual Sunday School picnic each August. She also started serving banquets in the Fellowship Hall and started a bowling league. They contributed many active years of accomplished work at St. John's.

Respectfully submitted by Loretta Basler



December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 ALL DAY Scrapbooking
4 <i>Advent 2</i> 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Altar Flowers: Audrey Byrd</i>	5 6:30 p.m. 4-H	6 7:30 p.m. Council	7 6:30 p.m. Sunshine Circle / Adult Bible Class Christmas Party 7:30 p.m. Choir	8	9	10 8:00 a.m. Men's breakfast -Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren
11 <i>Advent 3</i> 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Altar Flowers: Jean Seitz</i> 1:00—7:00 p.m. Moklak Family Dinner	12 9:30-2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. Coin Club Banquet	13 Shepherd's Staff folding, Fellowship Hall in use 9:00-2:00 p.m.	14 9:00-2:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Choir	15	16 6:30 p.m. Christian Singles	17
18 <i>Advent 4</i> 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Altar Flowers: Deb Schaefer</i>	19	20	21 7:30 p.m. Choir	22 11:00 a.m. Christmas Bulletins Folding Party	23 10:30 a.m. Soup Kitchen	24 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Services
25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30 a.m. Worship ONE SERVICE <i>Altar Flowers: Blythe Zechman</i> 	26	27	28	29	30	
OFFICE CLOSED						



Happy Birthday!

Jennifer Nevin 12/05	Nancy Dean 12/10	Gregory Dell 12/16	Christopher Short 12/21
Petrina Gillman 12/06	Ian Bucacink 12/11	Braiden Sabo 12/16	Christine Brehm 12/23
Allison Sabo 12/06	Douglas Goodson 12/11	Lynn Habicht 12/17	Carol Blubaugh 12/25
Hannah Sisler 12/06	David Bollinger 12/12	Carl Rebert 12/17	Avery Dull 12/27
Kelly Cox 12/07	Elizabeth Kriel 12/12	Joan Phillips 12/18	Leslie Seitz 12/29
Elizabeth Short 12/08	Robert Blauvelt 12/13	Jean Seitz 12/18	Sandi West 12/29
Keith Siegman 12/08	James Dodge, Jr. 12/14	Kenneth Williams 12/18	Shannon Dell 12/31
Robin Weisse 12/08	George Fleming 12/14	Kayla Hunt 12/19	

Is there an omission? A change needed? PLEASE contact the church office at 410-848-6402!



January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day 10:30 a.m. Worship One Service Altar Flowers:	2	3	4	5	6 Epiphany Day	7
8 Epiphany Sunday 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Altar Flowers: Frances DeBruyn	9	10	11	12	13	14 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast ALL DAY Scrapbooking
15 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Altar Flowers: Genny Resch	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Altar Flowers:	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 4th Sunday after Epiphany 8:00 a.m. Worship 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Altar Flowers:	30	31	<div style="text-align: center;"> High School Road Trip </div>			

	Nancy Boone 01/01	Regina Resch 01/06	Matthew Resch 01/15	Hannah Seitz 01/27
	Debbie Miller 01/01	Mary Blauvelt 01/09	Karen Siegman 01/16	Nicole Yeager 01/27
	Sue Shaffer 01/02	Marlyn Leister 01/09	William Tasker 01/17	Donna Armacost 01/28
	Darrin Peregoy 01/02	Nancy Tracey 01/09	Megan Martindale 01/19	Barbara Williams 01/29
	Elizabeth Knisley 01/03	Karen Monroe 01/10	Gloria Kniss 01/21	John Brehm 01/30
	Ronald Menchey Sr. 01/03	Muriel Sabo 01/12	Naomi Mathias 01/21	Betty Hoff 01/30
	Shelly Brehm 01/04	Lindsay Dodge 01/15	Kristin Dubsy 01/23	
	Megan Resch 01/05	Genny Resch 01/15	Jessica Seymer 01/24	

 * **There are several spaces available on the 2017 flower calendar.** *
 * **Flowers can be purchased for \$45.00.** *

DECEMBER 2016 WORSHIP LEADER CALENDAR

DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	ACOLYTE (10:30)	GREETERS	NURSERY	USHERS/ OFFERING (10:30)	COUNT TEAM
12/04	8:00am	Dennis Kniss	Dennis Kniss		Della & Greg Dell		Barbara & Richard Smith	Joan Phillips Jean Seitz Ken Seitz
	10:30am	Pat Heath	Gloria Kniss	Austin Leister	Joan Phillips Jean Seitz			
12/11	8:00am	Tracey Sanford	Tracey Sanford		Carol Lynn & Ken Siegman		Brian Leister	Maggie Langdon Muriel Sabo Carl Rebert
	10:30am	John Bucacink	Lori Bucacink	Erik Gillman	Matt & Sandi West			
12/18	8:00am	Jack Joiner	Jack Joiner		Linda & Stewart Sterner		Gloria Kniss	Wanda Siegman Drew Dean Stewart Sterner
	10:30am	Donald Heath	Spencer Goodson	Olivia Leister	Pam & Spencer Goodson			
12/24	3:00pm	TBD		None				
	5:00pm	TBD		TBD				
	7:00pm	Donna Yeager		TBD				
	10:30pm	Julia Wolfe		TBD				
12/25	One Service 10:30am	TBD	TBD	TBD	Audrey Byrd Dale Miller		Nancy & Bill Squires	Genny Resch Dennis Kniss

*For the month of December the Altar Guild is Dale Miller & Lois Bankert (8:00 a.m.) and Carol Blugaugh (10:30 a.m.).
Christmas Eve: 3:00 p.m.: TBD 5:00 p.m.: Carol Blugaugh 7:00 p.m.: Dale Miller 10:30 p.m.: TBD*

JANUARY 2017 WORSHIP LEADER CALENDAR

DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	GREETERS	NURSERY	USHERS/ OFFERING (10:30)	COUNT TEAM
01/1	One Service 10:30am	Doris Zepp	Doris Zepp	TBD	Phil & Lois Short		Barbara & Richard Smith	Pat Heath Donald Heath Darry Gross
01/08	8:00am	Carl Rebert	Carl Rebert		Marion & George Fleming		Barbara & Richard Smith	Deb Schaefer Michael Schaefer Dale Miller
	10:30am	Pat Heath	Stephanie Dean	Tate Gavin	Wanda Little Melanie Martindale			
01/15	8:00am	Jack Joiner	Jack Joiner		George Nelson		Brian Leister	Sarah LeDuc Paul LeDuc Dave Bollinger
	10:30am	Donald Heath	Sarah LeDuc	Olivia Leister	Nancy & Bill Squires			
01/22	8:00am	Dennis Kniss	Dennis Kniss		Audrey Byrd		Genny Resch	Joan Phillips Jean Seitz Ken Seitz
	10:30am	Donna Yeager	Karen Siegman	Lara Findeisen	Jean Seitz & Joan Phillips			
01/29	8:00am	Jimmy Bean	Jimmy Bean		Mark Howard		Pat & Donald Heath	Maggie Langdon Muriel Sabo Carl Rebert
	10:30am	John Bucacink	Austin Leister	Christopher Gillman	Dolly & Dan Long			

*For the month of January, the Altar Guild is Lois Bankert & Dale Miller (8:00 a.m.) and Gloria Kniss & Sharon Minor (10:30 a.m.).
New Year's Day: Gloria Kniss & Sharon Minor*

THANK OFFERING FUND

Our Thank Offering Fund has had a great kick-off. 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 can be done before the end of 2015 or any time in the future. This will be an ongoing fund that a member can contribute to at any time writing their request through church envelopes, E-giving or any of the other options suggested.

In the future there will be updates in the newsletter as to the growth of the fund. If anyone has questions please contact the church treasurer.

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.

FINANCIAL NEWS/COUNCIL LIST/UPDATE

Keeping You Current

We would like to keep everyone current on our Spending Plan. Every Sunday in the bulletin, we publish the prior week's offering. Here is the update of the progress of our Spending Plan.

The average weekly current offerings needed to meet our 2016 Spending Plan are \$3,950 per week and the average weekly benevolence offering needs to be \$380.00.



JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2016	
Total Income	\$129,554
Total Expense	\$144,077
Net Income (Deficit)	\$(14,523)
Improvement Fund Income	\$4,755
Improvement Fund Expenses	\$3,265
Benevolence Income	\$9,956
Thankoffering	\$3,344

The Altar Flower Chart for 2017

is posted and ready to be filled. Please place your name and phone number on the chart for the Sundays you choose. The cost for flowers remains at \$45.00.

Pick up your 2017 Giving Envelopes in the Fellowship Hall.

Reminder for 2017: Electronic Giving is Easy!

As 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) 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.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

827 Leister's Church Road Westminster, MD 21157 ~ 410-848-6402 ~ 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 February newsletter should be submitted no later than Tuesday, January 10, 2017! Please send the articles to Jennifer, the church secretary, at office@stjohnswestminster.org or place them in her mailbox.

Thanks!

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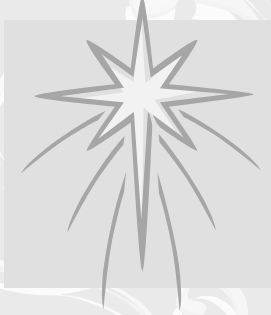
Pastor: The Rev. Kristin Dubsy • pastor@stjohnswestminster.org

Office Manager: Frances DeBruyn • office@stjohnswestminster.org

Director of Music: Wayne Grauel • music@stjohnswestminster.org—410-804-8407

Office Hours:

Tuesday - Friday, 9:00-3:00



Worship Schedule

8:00 am Holy Communion Worship Service

9:15 am Sunday School (All are Welcome)

10:30 am 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.

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