



ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

February 2020

Volume 25 *To sing the Praises of God, to Live the Grace of Jesus, to Share the Gift of the Spirit.* Issue 1



February At-A-Glance

Saturday Feb 1
Men of the
Congregation Mtg

**Saturday/Sunday
Feb 1 & 2**
Pick Up Subs

Saturday Feb 8
All Day Scrapbooking

Monday Feb 10
Sew Day

Friday Feb 21
Christian Singles
Valentine Party

Tuesday Feb 25
Shrove Tuesday

Wednesday Feb 26
Ash Wednesday

A Message from Pastor Kristin

Lent is coming soon. It begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. Here is a poem from Jan Richardson from her book *Circle of Grace* to reflect on as we wait and prepare for a season of repentance.

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Joel 2:12-13

Rend Your Heart

To receive this blessing,
all you have to do
is let your heart break.
Let it crack open.
Let it fall apart
so you can see
its secret chambers,
the hidden spaces
where you have hesitated
to go.

Your entire life
is here, inscribed whole
upon your heart's walls:
every path taken
or left behind,
every face you turned
toward
or turned away,
every word spoken in love
or in rage,
every line of your life
you would prefer to leave
in shadow,

every story that shimmers
with treasures known
and those you have yet
to find.

It could take you days
to wander these rooms.
Forty, at least.

And so let this be
a season for wandering,
for trusting the breaking,
for tracing the rupture
that will return you

to the One who waits,
who watches,
who works within
the rending
to make your heart
whole.

God's Peace,

Pastor Kristin Dubsky



Annual Meeting
Sunday, March
22 following the
10:30 am
service.

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HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH



The Christian Singles Group will have their Valentine's Celebration on Friday, February 21, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with a covered dish meal in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring a covered dish and a friend. All adult Singles are invited for an evening of fun and Christian Fellowship.

All Day Scrapbooking

Join us on Saturday, February 8 for a day of scrapbooking. Please contact Kristy Lea Dean at buyabasket@kristydean.com or Genny Resch at gresch@mghus.com for more information.



The Soup Kitchen Committee would like to say THANKS to all who have previously answered the call for plastic containers. The time has arrived to put out the call for MORE plastic containers. We appreciate any that you could provide us to assist with this ministry.



St. John's Soup Kitchen Committee will work at The Shepherd's Table on Friday, Friday, February 14th, 10:30 a.m. at Westminster United Methodist Church. Please contact Lisa Gavin-410-857-1499 or Jackie Leister-410-857-0505, if you can help work or if you can donate baked goods. This is a great way to work and get to know our church family while feeding God's hungry people.

The Evangelism Committee posted a challenge of collecting 100 pair of used eyeglasses. We collected 143!! Way to go St. John's! Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low and middle income countries lack access to basic eye care services. These 143 will help so many to see 20/20! Thank you everyone!



The Evangelism Committee continues to collect used eyeglasses. Please put them in the bin in the Caring Corner.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH

WELCOME TO 2020!

SEW DAY will be held on Monday, February 10, from 9:00 until noon, weather permitting. If you are unsure as to whether the event will be held or not due to the weather, please call Gloria 717-359-7681 or 443-605-4963 that morning after 7:00 am.

If you have an interest in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, please feel free to come. All are welcome!



LOOKING AHEAD

- ♥ Tuesday February 25 - Shrove Tuesday. Pancake Supper - Tuesday, February 25, 5:30-7:00pm. A free-will offering will be collected for our youth group service trip to Pennsylvania this summer. Sponsored by our Youth Group.
- ♥ Wednesday February 26 - Ash Wednesday. Services at 12:00 noon and 7:15 pm.
- ♥ Tuesday February 25 - The Audit Committee should complete the audits reports and have them turned in to the office. Please bring a hard copy to the office and email a copy to office@stjohnswestminster.org.
- ♥ Sunday March 22 - The Annual Meeting will take place following the 10:30am service. In order to prepare for the meeting. All treasurers reports are due into the audit committee by Wednesday, February 5. All committee reports are due into the office by Friday, February 15. Audit committee reports are due into the office by Friday, February 25.
- ♥ Friday and Saturday May 1 & 2 - The Spring Yard and Rummage Sales will be from 8 am until 2 pm both days. A bake sale and turkey corn soup sale will be held on Saturday.
- ♥ The Strawberry Festival will be on Saturday, June 13. The Peach Festival will be on Saturday, August 22. Please mark these dates on your calendar. The Festivals require a lot of help to be successful.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH

Men of the Congregation

News for February

January Recap:

The January Breakfast Meeting was held on January 4th at the Ascension Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall. Ten persons were in attendance. Phil Short gave a Bible lesson on Lazarus and the Rich Man and related the study the current economic situation in our country. Dennis Kniss had handouts on four Biblical persons who went from obscure beginnings to greatness in their own right.

February Meeting:

February's meeting will be on Saturday, February 1 at 8:00 AM. The meeting will be held in the Ascension Episcopal Church Fellowship Hall. Please come and join others in fellowship, good food and devotions.

Upcoming Events:

March 14: Breakfast, 8 AM at Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren.

April 11: Breakfast, 8 AM at the Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren This date is subject to change due to the Day before Easter.

April 27: Westminster District Men's Banquet. Information will be coming soon.

May 9: Breakfast, 8 AM at Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren

June 9: Cleaning of the Pavilion, 6:00PM, in preparation for the Strawberry Festival

June 11: Rain date for cleaning pavilion

June 13: Breakfast, 8 AM at Meadow Branch Church of the Brethren followed by final preparations of the Pavilion for the Strawberry Festival.

All are welcome to join in these activities. For additional information, contact Dennis Kniss or John Bucacink.

Church Women United in Carroll County is sponsoring a bus trip to see "Queen Esther" at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster on Tuesday, May 5. The cost is \$110 which includes the cost of the bus, the show and lunch at the Good & Plenty Restaurant after the Show. The cost for children - Ages 4 - 12 - is \$70. You may go to Kohl's parking lot or to Lazarus UCC Church parking lot to get on the bus. The bus will leave Kohl's parking lot at 8:15 a.m. It will leave Lazarus UCC Church parking lot at 8:45 a.m. To reserve a seat on the bus, call Mary Jane Graf at 410-374-4478. Checks should be made payable to Church Women United of Carroll County and can be mailed to Mary Jane Graf, 5115 S. Church Street, Lineboro, Maryland 21102. All money is due by April 1.



HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CHURCH

SPRING YARD AND RUMMAGE SALES ON THE HORIZON!!

The Adult Bible Class is making plans to coordinate the Spring Yard and Rummage Sales to be held on May 1st and 2nd. As in the past the sales will be from 8 am until 2 pm both days. A bake sale and turkey corn soup sale will be held on Saturday. Watch for additional information in the next newsletter, in the Friday e-pistle and in weekly bulletins.

As you do your spring cleaning and/or have some unwanted items, keep us in mind. We are currently collecting if you need to move items now. (Small items only at this point) Contact Dennis or Gloria Kniss if you need items picked up for the sale. We can be of help because you help others!

The Fall sales were very successful and with your continued help, we will have another successful effort this spring. Several charitable organizations have benefitted by your generosity and with your continued support we hope to continue that outreach with the proceeds that are realized. More next month!



World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer Service will be on Thursday, March 5, at 10:30 a.m. in Krug Chapel at Carroll Lutheran Village. The theme is "Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk!" This Service is sponsored by Church Women United in Carroll County and will include the participation of some of the students from Carroll Lutheran School.

Please Recycle!! Be a responsible steward of the environment!

We have been recycling for many years through the Hanna Paper Retriever Program. The green and yellow bin allows us to recycle the following items:

Paper, newspapers, mail, magazines, and shredded paper (please place shreds in a bag)

Boxed office records, booklets, school and office paper, file folders, glossy paper, and reports

*****HARD BACK and PAPERBACK BOOKS*****

*****CARDBOARD (if it is flattened)*****

*Paper clips, staples and fasteners are okay to be with paper

So as you make your journeys to the church, bring your recyclables with you. Help to keep our environment clean and green.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CONTINUES REACHING

The Christian Outreach Committee will meet on Thursday, February 6th at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact Roxanne Malbrough – 410-404-0977.

The Christian Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their generous “Giving Tree” contribution. Because of people like you, those less fortunate will be able to have the “Bare Necessities” to keep them warm this winter.

“Dollars for Disasters” - The Christian Outreach Committee will be collecting monetary donations starting February 26th, ending April 5th. The money will go toward the disasters in Puerto Rico. Donation jars will be placed in the narthex and front of the church. Thank you in advance for your support. Any questions contact Roxanne Malbrough 410-404-0977 or roxmlb@gmail.com.

The Cold Weather Shelter Committee would like to thank members of St. John’s for their generous donations of cookies. They really enjoyed them and the meal we served. They are so appreciative and thankful that this committee has joined other churches, organizations, non-profits, etc. to support the Cold Weather Shelter. The next time this committee works the shelter is **February 11th** and we are looking for donations of a variety of **brownies**. Please bring your donations to the church on Sunday, February 9th and leave them in the kitchen, marked “Cold Weather Shelter.” For more information contact Linda Sterner 410-596-3021 or email sternerlm@outlook.com.



OUTREACH GOES TO THE COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Cold Weather Shelter

Recently, someone asked me about the Cold Weather Shelter: how many people came to the shelter, are they really homeless, how many women versus men, etc., etc. I was also asked to write an article for The Epistle.

Each Friday, volunteers received (via email) a newsletter called "This Week in Review" written by Clare Kazyak, Program Coordinator, Cold Weather Shelter. Here are some highlights from a recent edition:

Approximately 35 participants were provided an evening meal and overnight shelter.

Continue to serve significantly more men than women, we have recently been serving 5 – 8 ladies per night.

The shelter has provided refuge to 116 unique individuals since November 15, 2019.

Clare Kazyak also stated: "There are many things that lead someone down the path to homelessness. Some may have experienced an accident or a significant health challenge that led to a loss of a job or large medical bills. Others may have a mental illness or an addiction that severely interferes with daily living. Some have a history of significant childhood trauma, while others are fleeing a violent situation in what was their home until very recently. Others may be part of a group that tend to be marginalized by our society and find it hard to maintain relationships, employment and housing. Many have no safety net of family or friends with means to support them through tough times.

For many who come our way, it isn't just one of these factors that have caused their homelessness, but instead a complicated web of several of these things. The lack of affordable housing in our community compounds these situations. Some of our participants choose to share their stories with us while others choose to be more private. Regardless of how much they tell us, each and every one of our participants do have a story, an important story."

I have been involved with The Shepherd's Staff for 27 years and The Shepherd's Table, 25 years as coordinator of The Shepherd's Table (I took two years off to be a caregiver to my late mother.) working with at one time, ten cooperative churches and now down to six cooperative churches and 25 years as coordinator of St. John's Soup Kitchen Committee. Working at the Cold Weather Shelter has been a unique experience. I only recognize three people from the shelter who come to the soup kitchen. Also, some of the participants at the shelter have jobs: working at grocery stores, fast food restaurants, handyman jobs and some work for other local businesses.

At the soup kitchen, we have guidelines to follow and lead our guests to follow these guidelines. At the Cold Weather Shelter, there are rules to follow but I found that the participants lead the Food Service Volunteers on how things should be done at the shelter. Food Service Volunteers check in at 6:30 p.m. and get ready to serve the food at 7:00 p.m. or earlier depending on when participants have check-in. The Food Service Volunteers prepare food plates for the women and they are delivered to Safe Haven Women's Shelter (in the same building) and there is a Safe Haven Men's Shelter (also in the same building). Female participants sleep in the kitchen of the Safe Haven Women's Shelter. Food Service Volunteers serve male participants from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. Food Service Volunteers also prepare five to six meals for participants who arrive later in the evening. By 8:00 p.m., we clean up our area of serving, mark and date all leftover food, put the food in the refrigerator and leave the shelter. During this time the participants and Staff Volunteers have taken down all tables and chairs, put them in storage for the next time. The participants start claiming their spot on the floor with their mattresses and personal bags. They take turns using the showers before lights out. The next morning there is cereal and fruit for breakfast and the participants must leave the building by 7:00 a.m. Due to weather conditions, participants may stay longer as long as there are Staff Volunteers.

(continued on page 8)

COLD WEATHER SHELTER (CONT FROM PAGE 7)

At the soup kitchen, we served the meal at 12:30 p.m., seconds at 1:00 p.m., take outs at 1:45 p.m. and by 2:00 p.m., most guests have left the church and we begin the cleanup and leave the church by 2:00 p.m.

Some clarification: Food Service Volunteers are volunteers who are strictly involved with serving the participants an evening meal at the shelter. Staff Volunteers check-in participants, set up tables and chairs, use the security wand during check-in, they also do bag checks and take the food to the Save Haven Women's Shelter, etc. Safe Haven Shelter provides a safe home for participants. These participants are in a program that helps them to be self-sufficient and prepares them to move onto group homes. The participants must do laundry, clean the living area, prepare their own food, find jobs, etc. All shelters are run by the Carroll County Department of Human Services.

I hope this article will give you an insight into the Cold Weather Shelter and a comparison between the Cold Weather Shelter and the Soup Kitchen. The Cold Weather Shelter Committee and The Soup Kitchen Committee are very appreciative for the support and encouragement from the members of St. John's. Both committees also thank you for your generous donations of food, plastic containers and gift cards from Thrivent Financial (Thrivent Action Teams Projects).

Respectfully Submitted by,
Linda M. Sterner

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE COMMUNITY

From the Carroll County Times (December 9, 2019)

Holiday Hope: \$5,000 Donation Received from St. John's Lutheran Adult Bible Class

The Adult Bible Class at St. John's Lutheran Church in Westminster donated \$5,000 to Holiday Hope, pushing the total raised so far past \$9,000.

Holiday Hope is an annual campaign, now in its 21st year, in which the Carroll County Times teams up with Access Carroll, Carroll County Food Sunday, Carroll Hospice, Neighbors in Need Year Round and The Shepherd's Staff to help the less fortunate during the holidays. This year's goal is to raise \$125,000 for the five partner charities by Christmas.

The St. John's Bible class made a \$1,000 donation to each of the five nonprofits.

Access Carroll offers integrated healthcare services on a sliding fee scale to uninsured and low-income residents to help patients maintain good health and manage illnesses.

Carroll County Food Sunday operates food banks for the county's needy from locations in Westminster, Taneytown and Eldersburg.

Carroll Hospice provides palliative care and support services to people with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

Neighbors in Need Year Round, administered through Human Services Programs of Carroll County Inc., provides assistance with rent, essential utilities and security deposits for people struggling to maintain their housing.

The Shepherd's Staff is a Christian outreach and support center serving those in need and encouraging pathways to self-sufficiency.

IN APPRECIATION

Dear Friends of Jake,

We are so very grateful for all the support we received from St. John's for the Pig Roast and Silent Auction Fundraiser 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, and bought tickets and items. The auction was a huge success thanks to all your help!

Jake will be 24 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

THE SEASON OF LENT STARTS ON FEBRUARY 26

ON ASH WEDNESDAY

On February 26, 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 Spoken Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes

6:30 pm Soup and Sandwiches in the Fellowship Hall provided by the Fellowship Committee.

7:15 pm Service of Holy Communion with the Imposition of Ashes with Music and Choir

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

6:30 pm Soup & Sandwich Supper

7:15 pm Holden Evening Prayer
(watch the Sunday bulletin and Friday e-blasts for details on each week).



Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday - February 25 - 6:30 pm
Worship with dinner, Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday - April 10 - 7:15 pm
The Seven Last Words of Christ in Word and Music

Children's Event - Saturday, April 11
Children's Easter Program, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Easter Sunday - April 12
6:30 am Sunrise Service in the Chapel in the Woods
8:00 am & 10:30 am Festive Easter Worship
No Sunday School Classes

Easter Breakfast served between 7:00 am - 10:00 am (Free-will offering will be collected for Youth Service Trip this summer).

2020 Lent & Easter Special Offerings

The Season of Lent

February 26 (Ash Wednesday): Community of St. Dysmas – prison ministry of Delaware-Maryland Synod.

March 4 (Wednesday Lenten Service): Access Carroll – provides medical treatment and prescriptions to those people who do not have healthcare coverage.

March 11 (Wednesday Lenten Service): Sober Truth Substance Abuse Treatment Program – hope to be a model for other treatment programs. We want to provide temporary transitional housing, employment guidance and nutritional counseling in the future.

March 18 (Wednesday Lenten Service): Carroll County Food Sunday – food distribution center for those in need.

March 25 (Wednesday Lenten Service): Mosaic, Inc. – helps those who are suffering from mental illness

April 1 (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.

April 9 (Maundy Thursday): Carroll Hospice – Non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for patients needing end-of-life care, allowing them to live as fully and comfortably as possible by providing quality palliative care, pain and symptom management and support for their families.

April 10 (Good Friday): Pregnancy Support Center – seeks to create a safe non-judgmental environment where individuals can come to discuss their pregnancy related concerns in hope of a positive choice.

April 12 (Easter): ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service. Lutheran Disaster Response – has a rich history of responding to disasters. This work encompasses the disaster response work of the ELCA in both the USA and internationally. In both areas, there has been a long commitment to working with local communities in a way that allows them to develop their own response. **Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service - working 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 the current emergency. LIRS provides services to unaccompanied migrant children that uphold their best interests and recognize their vulnerabilities to exploitation and abuse.

WITH GRATITUDE

Dear St. John's Congregation,

Thank you so much for the gift you presented to me at Christmastime. Your thoughtfulness and kindness are sincerely appreciated. It continues to be a blessing to be able to present the Word to each of you through the singing of the Church Choir and the accompaniment of Maggie Langdon. May all of you be blessed in this coming year!

God's peace be with all of you!

Dennis Kniss

I would like to thank the members of St. John's and the Church Council for the generous gift card I received at Christmas. It is very much appreciated. I also want to thank the members of the Handbell Choir, Dennis and the Adult Choir for all their hard work and devotion in preparing and presenting the music for Advent and Christmas. It is a joy for me to work with these dedicated folks and a privilege for me to continue to serve the congregation of St. John's.

In His Service,

Maggie Langdon

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the gift of \$50.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response. With your Spirit-filled generosity you help and hope to families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response make possible short-and long-term recovery and rebuilding of lives and livelihoods. Thank you for sharing the gifts God has activated in you!

In Christ,

The Rev. Robin Brown

Mission Funding Director, Congregations

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church Staff,

May the gift of His love bring you joy this Christmas season and throughout the New Year. This is in appreciation for your care of the cemetery.

Sincerely,

Mary A. Snyder

I want to thank the ladies of St. John's Sunshine Circle and the Adult Bible Class for the beautiful Christmas basket filled with all kinds of goodies and fruit. I don't often get homemade cookies so they are my favorite.

Sincerely,

Yvonne Mathias

Church Family & Friends, The Family of Theo Amoss would like to thank our St. John's family & friends for the flowers, prayers and support for our family during this difficult time. We appreciate the many cards and monetary church donations made in Mother's name. Our church family truly means so much to us as it did to Mother.

The Amoss Family

To my church family, Thank you for remembering me throughout the year with cards, goodies baskets and altar flowers. It means so much to receive these acts of kindness. They are greatly appreciated.

Thanks again,

Anna Rae Siegman

WITH MORE GRATITUDE

Dear St. John's Congregation,
I would like to thank everyone for their cards, thoughts and prayers.
Barb Smith

Dear St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church,
I can't tell you how much we appreciate your support to help our neighbors in need with a hand up, this is the time of year when many families and individuals are the most vulnerable. Thanks to your generous gift we didn't have to turn anyone that needed help. Through the first 9 months of 2019 NESAP was able to provide clothing, food, housing, school supplies, medical, transportation and utility assistance to individuals and families in our local community totaling \$208,686.00, fulfilling 1299 service requests. In September alone we provided 154 services which included 267 bags of groceries and \$13,469.67 in financial assistance. Thank you! You have made a real difference in the lives of the people we serve.
Blessings,
Donn Dietrich
Executive Director
NESAP

Dear St. John's Congregation,
I appreciate the gift my adopted church family presented to me for Christmas. In addition I'd like to thank the "Friday Ladies" for keeping me on my toes and keeping the paperwork flowing. I truly do not know how I would do it all without the help of Audrey, Dot, Janet, Betty and Joyce assembling bulletins each week. More kudos go to the group that joins them for newsletter festivities, Sue, Lois, Phil, George, Marion, Diane, and whomever I have forgotten to mention. I thank you all!
God bless,
Deb Priester

"THANK YOU" to all who donated turkeys for future events. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Nancy Dean

Dear St. John's,
Thank you for the Christmas gift card. I am happy to work with Dale to open our church for Sunday services. I have found it to be a way that I can serve the Lord and still maintain my ever changing schedule of babysitting my grandchildren.
Thank you,
Lois Bankert

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the animal shares for Christmas Eve! We raised \$850.00! We purchased a family farm (A cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training), a couple of goats, a rooster and 20 more chicks. Our donation was given on a day all gifts were matched so we doubled our impact!
Your gifts make a difference!
Pastor Kristin

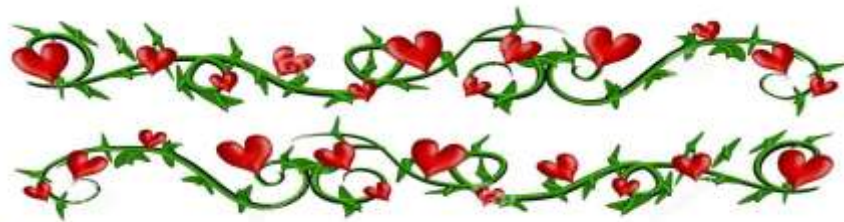
COUNCIL NOTES

2020 Council Members

2020 Committee Chairs

<p>Lori Bucacink - President 410-857-5339 lisj@comcast.net</p> <p>Andy Kleinschmidt - Vice-President 443-621-7144 ajk3797@yahoo.com</p> <p>Carl Rebert - Treasurer 443-253-1573 cjrebert@comcast.net</p> <p>Carol Nevin - Secretary 410-876-2589 fburgman@aol.com</p> <p>Gary Leister 443-340-2835 grleister71@gmail.com</p>	<p>Melanie Martindale 443-789-4592 mmartindale23@gmail.com</p> <p>Sharon Minor 443-789-3019 ssisminor@hotmail.com</p> <p>Matthew West 410-848-4414 camelotwest@comcast.net</p> <p>Mick Zechman 443-398-4299 mzechman@westgov.com</p> <p>Pastor Kristin Dubsky 410-299-4853 pastor@stjohnswestminster.org</p>
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<p>Cemetery</p> <p>Christian Education & Youth</p> <p>Evangelism</p> <p>Fellowship.....</p> <p>Finance</p> <p>Property</p> <p>Stewardship.....</p> <p>Worship & Music.....</p>	<p>Ken Seitz</p> <p>Genny Resch</p> <p>Open</p> <p>Karen Siegman</p> <p>Janet Gross John Bucacink</p> <p>Open</p> <p>Carl Rebert</p> <p>Dennis Kniss</p>
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The Brethren Home Community of the Cross Keys Village in New Oxford, PA has a group that collect used stamps. The group processes them and sells them to buy items needed for the residents of that facility. With the money they have received, they have purchased wheelchairs, ride on scales, recliner chairs, defibrillators, geriatric chairs and shampoo recliners, just to name a few. You can help in this ministry by saving your used stamps. Simply cut the envelope in half to eliminate the address or cut around the stamp by 1/2 inch and bring it to the bin in the Caring Corner in Fellowship Hall marked Stamps. Thank you for helping the residents of this community. For questions contact Audrey Byrd at 4120-848-1995.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Langdon Parsley	02/01
Nancy Wright	02/02
Roxanne Malbrough	02/03
John Gavin	02/05
Matthew LeDuc	02/06
Lisa Gavin	02/08
Carol Siegman	02/09
Jeffrey Siegman	02/11
Jonathan Corun	02/14
Ronald Leister	02/14
Julia Wolfe	02/14
Brody Wheeler	02/16
Leona Dell	02/18
Miles Miller	02/18
John Bucacink	02/19
Jonathan Bean	02/21
Kari Gillman	02/23
Gabriella Miller	02/23
Nancy Squires	02/24
Larry Huber	02/25
Jacob Armacost	02/26
William Corun	02/26
Derek Konsen	02/26
Dietrich Konsen	02/26
Deborah Schaefer	02/26
Robert Short	02/26
David Coppersmith, Jr.	02/27
Margaret Langdon	02/27
Matthew West	02/28

HOPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!



FEBRUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 SUB SALE DAY 9:00 am Assembly of subs Noon - 2:00 pm Sub Pick Up
2 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers: Betty Blauvelt	3 6:00 pm 4-H Meeting	4 6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal 7:30 pm Church Council	5 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 3:00 pm Christian Outreach & Cold Weather Shelter Mtg	7	8 All Day Scrapbooking
9 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers: Dale Miller	10 9:00 am-noon Sew Day	11 6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal	12 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	13	14 10:30 am Soup Kitchen	15 1:00pm - 9:00pm Fellowship Hall In Use
16 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers: Patrick Brehm	17	18 6:15 pm Handbell Rehearsal	19 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	20	21 5:00 pm Christian Singles	22
23 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Education 10:30 am Worship Altar Flowers: Stanley Parks	24 6:30 pm Coin Club	25 Shrove Tuesday 5:30 - 7:00 pm Pancake Supper 6:15 pm Handbell rehearsal	26 Ash Wednesday 12:00 noon Service 6:30 pm Soup & Sandwich 7:15 pm Service Choir immediately following service	27	28	29

FEBRUARY 2020 WORSHIP LEADERS

DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	ALTAR GUILD	USHERS/ OFFERING (10:30)	GREETERS	COUNTING TEAM
2/02	8:00am	Tracey Sanford	Tracey Sanford	*****	Lois Bankert Dale Miller	*****	Linda & Stewart Sterner	Gloria Kniss Dennis Kniss
	10:30am	John Bucacink	Steve Findeisen	Jacob Yadush	Barbara & Richard Smith	The Leister Family	Lois & Phil Short	Darry Gross
2/09	8:00am	Dennis Kniss	Dennis Kniss	*****	Lois Bankert Dale Miller	*****	Sue Shaffer	Joan Phillips Jean Seitz
	10:30am	Roseann Kleinschmidt	Spencer Goodson	Grace Kleinschmidt	Barbara & Richard Smith	Genny Resch	Joan Phillips Jean Seitz	Ken Seitz
2/16	8:00am	Tracey Sanford	Tracey Sanford	*****	Lois Bankert Dale Miller	*****	Nancy & Tom Tracey	Genny Resch Maggie Langdon
	10:30am	Doris Zepp	Mia Hoyer	Tate Gavin	Barbara & Richard Smith	David Ogg	The Findeisen Family	Mick Zechman
2/23	8:00am	Melody Hession	Melody Hession	*****	Lois Bankert Dale Miller	*****	Nancy Boone	Tracey Sanford Carl Rebert
	10:30am	Carl Rebert	Karen Siegman	Spencer Goodson	Barbara & Richard Smith	Nancy & Bill Squires	The West Family	Dave Bollinger

Prayer



Requests

MEMBERS OF ST. JOHN'S: George Amoss, Jacob Armacost, John Barnes, Dave Basler, The Family of Lavena Basler, Levi Blubaugh, Lily Blubaugh, John & Betty Boone, Charles Brehm, Pat Brehm, Donald Dell, Beverly Dutterer, George Fleming, Janet Gross, Donald Heath, Jeanne Joiner, Betty Knisley, Paul LeDuc, Olivia Leister, Yvonne Mathias, Sue Mencer, Phyllis Menchey, Bonnie Null, Claire Null, Joseph Olenik, Stanley Parks, Doris Rebert, Karen Reinhold, Muriel Sabo, Tracey Sanford, Anna Rae Siegman, The West Family, Lorrie Wilson, Jean Yeakel, Gloria Yingling, Pastor Michael Dubsy and Chaplain Jimmie Schwartz.

FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S: Karen Aldridge, Helen Armacost, Ed Arnold, Joann and Lou Bardiche, Keely Barkell, Taylor Barnes, Family & Friends of Rita Batho, Marcia Batista, The Family and Friends of Kelsey Berry, The Bogdan Family, Ronald Boone, The Bordenski Family, Chris Clise, Scott Cronkite, Tammy Crosby, Jerry Day, Demetrius, Frank DiTaranto, Lindsey Durm, Ella Edwards, Robin Ehrenfeld, Jackie Farver, Christian Filippo, Morley Frodo, Red and Carol Fun Danish, Marg Goodlin, Gini Gordon, Pat and Jerry Gratefully, Family and Friends of Laurel Greeley, Natalie Halpin, The Family of Brad Hamilton, Dave Haschert, Elwood Hawes, Sr., Sherry Honeycutt, Dawn Itzel, Lisa and Kevin Jones, Pastor Bob Kidd, The Knepp Family, Mamie Koontz, The Family of Jeannie Leister, Don & Charlotte Ludwig, Nick and Darlene Majorcazak, The McGuire Family, Joe McLaughlin, The Mesick Family, Pastor Richard Michael and Eva Michael, Wyatt Miller, Jeanne Mueller, Kay Murphy, Tim Riddle, Hal Roche, Beverly & Jack Rose, Jessica Runnels, Ann Schmidt, Zella Sherman, The Family of Haylee Shifflett, Ms. Wilda Simpson, Anne Smith, David & Debbie Smith, Carolyn Snyder, The Family and Friends of Ridgely Spence, Aileen Strobel, Joan Tait, Elizabeth Watson, Hal Water, Tammy Williams.

THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Keith Blizzard, Marshall Brown, Barry Durm, Katie & Brian Fenstermaker, Michael & Lucia Gaffney and Tim Priester.

This prayer list was updated on January 28, 2020

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 this fund will be 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!

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.



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THRIVENT MEMBERS: Update On Action Teams and Direct Choice Dollars

Congratulations! Eligible Thrivent members utilized \$5,250 last year for church related activities and mission projects. There were 21 action team projects in all! Thank you for taking the time to apply and utilize Action Team money. If you did not apply for your Action Team money, the money was put back into Thrivent's account.

I have a list of projects that you can pick from if you are not sure of where to put your Action Team Money. Talk with me or call me if you need ideas and are willing to use the Action Team Money (\$250.00). I can assist you in the paper work and ideas for the money.

Gloria and Dennis Kniss, Congregational Advocate for Thrivent
717-359-7681 or 443-605-4963
Email: dennisrkniss@gmail.com

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 March Newsletter should be submitted no later than February 14, 2020! Please send the articles to Deb, the Office Manager, at 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

Pastor: The Rev. Kristin Dubsy • pastor@stjohnswestminster.org - 410-299-4853

Office Manager: Deb Priestler • office@stjohnswestminster.org

Organist: Maggie Langdon - mlangdon47yahoo.com **Choir Director:** Dennis Kniss - denniskniss@gmail.com



Worship Schedule - September 8 - May 31, 2020

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion Worship Service

9:15 am Education Hour

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.

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St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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