

Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

SUPPLY PASTORS FOR DECEMBER:

December 3 - The Rev. Robert vonFrisch
December 10 - The Rev. Robert vonFrisch
December 17 - The Rev. Richard Bardo
December 24 - The Rev. Michele Kaufman
December 31 - The Rev. David Kistler



CONFIRMATION: Following completion of the catechetical program, on Sunday, October 29 during the 10:00 a.m.

Worship service, a baptized youth from our congregation, Taylor Buchman, confirmed her faith in the Triune God and her intention to continue in her baptismal calling as a faithful, serving member of Christ's body. Our prayers and blessings are with you, Taylor.



CONGRATULATIONS: On November 30, 1957, Nancy E. James married Robert W. Reed, Jr. here at St. John's. Reverends Shuster and Eisenman officiated. This year, Robert and Nancy Reed will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary! May God bestow his blessing upon you, Robert and Nancy, as you celebrate this milestone anniversary, and may you continue to be a blessing to each other.



CHRISTMAS TRIBUTES: Forms for placing Christmas tributes "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one are available in this month's newsletter and on the narthex table. This year, the tribute may be in the form of red poinsettias and/or a monetary gift to Brandon's Forever Home (organization helping foster children). Please give the completed form along with payment to Janet Brady by December 17, or you may mail the form and payment to the church office. **We must receive all orders by December 17.**



FLOWER CHART: The flower chart to sponsor 2018 altar flowers will be available in the St. Stephen's Room on Sunday, December 3. The price for altar flowers is \$17.00.



ADVENT GIVING: Sunday, December 3 will begin our Advent Giving. Listed below are the dates and "gifts" for giving each Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Sims (788-2866).



December 3 – St. Luke's Manor and Pavilion: tissues, lotion, women's deodorant, and women's white crew socks. [*Regulations have limited the items allowed to be used by St. Luke's residents; please donate only those items listed. Please also note: men's items are not needed this year as there are currently enough to be distributed.*] ***PLEASE NOTE THIS UPDATE

December 10 – Salvation Army: hats, scarves, gloves and mittens.

December 17 – Head Start: books, games, toys, socks, sweatshirts, and sweatpants suitable for children ages 3 & 4.

December 24 – Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund – cash donations.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: On Sunday, December 3, following Worship, we will hold our annual Christmas party in Luther Hall. The dinner is being sponsored by LCW and will be catered by Capriotti's. Members are asked to bring a salad, side dish or dessert. The sign-up sheet is now available in the St. Stephen's Room.



Christmas Dinner

LIVING NATIVITY: Christ Lutheran Church in Conyngham will hold their 24th Annual Drive-Thru Living Nativity on **Saturday, December 2** and **Sunday December 3 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** both days. There is no charge. The Living Nativity depicts various scenes telling the story of the birth of Jesus, and includes live animals.



CHRISTKINDLFEST: On Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3, from 12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days, Christ



Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold their annual Christkindlfest event. They welcome us to join them in celebrating the Christmas story by enjoying their sound and light Fontanini Nativity Display. There is a Tannenbaum tea room where you can indulge in tea, scones and other treats. There will be crafts for sale. Their location is: 210 West Green Street in Hazleton.

HANGING OF THE GREENS: Please note this date change. On Sunday, December 10, following the Worship service, we will hold our annual “Hanging of the Greens” – when we decorate our church in preparation for the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: During this season, we are once again surrounded by many secular symbols associated with Christmas. On Sunday December 17, during the Worship service, our youth will present a play titled “The Christmas Window” to remind us of the true meaning of Christmas. Please come out to support our youth and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Following worship, we will sing “Happy Birthday” to our Lord Jesus and enjoy some cake.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Please note this change in date. Come join us on Sunday, December 17, as we celebrate the Christmas season with our members who are limited in mobility. Following Worship, and after we sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus, we will provide lunch (pizza and beverages) for those who will be staying to carol. After lunch, we will leave promptly at 1:00 p.m. to travel to retirement and nursing homes in our area to sing Christmas carols for residents. All are invited to join us in this ministry. If any members of St. John’s who are over 80 or are shut-in wish to invite our carolers, please phone Arlene Poltrock (788-3710) by December 13.



FRITZINGERTOWN CHRISTMAS SERVICE:



Pastor Kaufman will hold a service at the Fritzingertown Senior Living Community on Monday, December 18 at 2:30 p.m. Please join us as we visit the residents to worship and celebrate together the coming and birth of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE: On December 24,



the Fourth Sunday in Advent, at 10:00 a.m., we will worship through a traditional Advent service of Lessons and Carols. There is no communion during

this service. Seven lessons will be read, with a hymn following each scripture reading. The readings tell of the fall of humanity, the promise of the coming of the Messiah, and the birth of our Savior, Jesus.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP – TIME CHANGE:

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us in the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord this Christmas Eve. Come at 4:30 p.m. on December 24 for a time of pre-service meditation as music of the season is presented. The service of Holy Communion will commence at 5:00 p.m. A children’s sermon will be provided and the service will conclude with the traditional candle-lighting ceremony. This year’s time change is due to the shortage of supply pastors for Christmas Eve, and we graciously thank Pastor Kaufman for working with us to supply this evening.



CUB SCOUTS CHRISTMAS TREE SALE:

Cub Scouts Pack 63 is currently holding a Christmas tree sale. There is an order form in the St. Stephen’s Room; there are a variety of types and sizes. All trees are \$25 and pre-orders will be accepted until November 12. If you don’t wish to pre-order, trees will be sold Nov. 24-26, Dec. 2-3, and Dec. 9-10 in our church parking lot across the street. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Cipriani at 578-6952. Proceeds from the tree sale will go toward the purchase of new pack supplies, the annual banquet, and other fun scouting activities. Please come out and support our scouts!



THANK YOU'S:

FROM PASTOR JOE SCHOLTES ---

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the warm welcome you extended to Bonnie and me on Sunday, October 29. It was wonderful to touch base with so many people who were a significant part of our lives. We are grateful for your kind greetings, your hospitality, and your good spirit. And I was delighted that, after all these years, you enthusiastically shouted, "God's love freely given!"

May St. John's continue to live deeply in God's grace.

In Christ,

Pastor Scholtes



FROM GERALD & ALICE BOOCK ---

May God richly bless each and every one who contributed to making Gerald's "96" so special. Our deepest thanks to all.

The poem's a treasure
created in love,
With words from the Master
inspired from above.
God bless all the people
who took time from the start,
It indeed was a blessing
which came from your heart.
Our prayer is for blessings
from God to each of you,
Keep working with the Master
and He'll keep blessing you.
~ Alice and Gerald Boock

2017 OFFERINGS: Please note that Sunday, December 31 is the last day to submit offerings to be credited for 2017. Any offerings received later than **the morning of December 31** will be posted to year 2018.



TEAM REPORTS: All team reports for the annual congregational meeting must be turned into the church office by **Sunday, January 6**. Please be sure to turn in reports by the due date, at the latest; it takes a substantial amount of time to prepare the Bulletin of Reports.



NOMINATIONS FOR 2018 CHURCH COUNCIL:



Nominating Committee

The nominating ballots for the 2018 Church Council will be distributed on **December 3, 10, and 17**, at 10:00 a.m. – just prior to the start of the Worship service.

Current members of Church Council are: Janet Brady, Jennifer Cipriani, Carol Crawford, Kim Deliman, Peggy Hawk, Jan Jacobus, Dawn Klick, Jane Krouse, Carolyn Kuehn, Edna Maslo, Joyce Ray, and Don Wenner, Jr. The four members of council whose term ends on January 2018 are: Jan Jacobus, Peggy Hawk, Jane Krouse, and Janet Brady.

Voting members of the congregation (confirmed members who have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year) are encouraged to participate. Any voting member who is 18 years old or older may be nominated, except for Janet Brady, who is completing six consecutive years of service on council and is, therefore, constitutionally mandated not to serve another consecutive term. You may nominate up to four (4) eligible members.

At the close of nominations, the Nominating Team (Jennifer Cipriani, Carol Crawford, and Joyce Ray) will tally the ballots and list the eligible names in order, from the person receiving the highest number of votes to the least number of votes. These persons will be contacted in that order to request permission to place their names on the election ballot for the congregational meeting in January. When eight persons have given their permission, the election ballot is full. Please approach this process with prayer asking God for guidance.

CALL COMMITTEE:

Our Call Committee members have been finalized and approved by council. Members are as follows: Melody Hinderer, Jane Krouse, David Leitner, Judy Mundie, Jenna Ray, and Richard Wenner, Sr. Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their task of searching for a pastor to shepherd and lead St. John's in our spiritual growth in praise and worship of God. We also ask all members to enter into a time of prayer, patience and discernment of the Holy Spirit during this time of transition.



Call Committee