

Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

SUPPLY PASTORS FOR JANUARY:

January 7 - The Rev. Robert Sauers
January 14 - The Rev. Rashion Santiago
January 21 - The Rev. Diane Kareha
January 28 - The Rev. Brenda Boyer



REPORT ON ADVENT GIVING: Thank you to all who brought gifts for those in need during this Advent season. Your generosity and willingness to help others demonstrates the spirit of this season. Here's what was received:



- ❖ **Gifts for residents of St. Luke's Manor and St. Luke's Pavilion (Dec. 3)** - \$ 119 cash, 26 boxes of tissues, 12 containers of lotion, 18 pairs of socks, 20 personal size tissues, 16 containers of deodorant, 1 neck scarf, and 1 hat.
- ❖ **Gifts for Salvation Army outreach (Dec. 10)** - \$ 175 cash, 2 earmuffs, 16 scarves, 29 hats, and 47 pairs of gloves.
- ❖ **Gifts for Head Start (Dec. 17)** - \$ 150 cash, toys, reading books, games, coloring books, crayons, chalk, clothing, pajamas, socks, and towel set.
- ❖ **Cash donation for Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund (Dec. 24)** - \$153.

May God grant that these gifts bring joy and comfort to those who receive them.

CONGRATULATIONS: On December 20, Gerald and Alice Boock celebrated their **70th Wedding Anniversary!** We offer them our warmest wishes for continued happiness as they celebrate a lifetime of memories together. Gerald and Alice, you are an inspiration to us all! May God's blessings continue to enrich your lives.



LEFTOVER GOODIES NEEDED: For the first coffee hour of the New Year, **Sunday, January 7**, we will be serving Christmas "leftovers". We ask that you bring in any "leftover" Christmas cookies or other goodies to share with our church family during this social hour.



UNDECORATING: On **Sunday, January 7**, immediately following coffee hour, we will be undecorating the church. Please stay and help, if you are able.



BEYOND VIOLENCE WOMEN'S SHELTER: During the months of **January and February**, we will be collecting items for Beyond Violence Women's Shelter in Berwick. Beyond Violence provides support and safety to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. There will be a basket available in the St. Stephen's Room to place your donated items. Items needed are:



Thank you in advance for your support. May God bless, comfort and provide hope to those going through this painful and difficult time in their lives.

COFFEE HOUR: The 2018 sign-up sheet to host a Coffee Hour is in the St. Stephen's Room. There are many months still available. Coffee Hour is normally held on the first Sunday of each month. We recommend two hosts/hostesses.



RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS:



In the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, descended on Jesus. As Jesus emerged from the waters of the Jordan, he heard the voice of God saying, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11) The Holy Trinity was revealed. On **Sunday, January 14**, we commemorate the baptism of our Lord Jesus, by John the Baptist, in the Jordan River. During the January 14 service, we will renew our baptismal vows and remember the promises we made to God and those promises God made to us. Through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, we have been cleansed and forgiven our sins. And to those who believe, we receive eternal salvation.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING:

The annual meeting of our congregation will take place on **Sunday, January 28**, at the close of the **10:00 a.m. Worship service**. All voting members are asked to be present. Included in the meeting will be a vote on the 2018 congregational budget and the election of members to three-year terms on the Church Council. A printed *Bulletin of Reports* will be available by January 21 so that members can review the agenda, the proposed budget, and the 2017 reports ahead of the meeting. **Submissions for the Bulletin of Reports should be turned into the church office by January 5.**



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING (February 4, 2018):

Can you guess how much consumers spend on food for the Super Bowl each year?

10 billion dollars.

Can you guess how many in the world live in poverty? 1 Billion.

1 in 5 children in the United States live in poverty.

Please mark your calendars: Souper Bowl of Caring is February 4, 2018.

Can you imagine what would happen if the above dollars were reversed?



Please support the ELCA Hunger Appeal efforts to end hunger by giving a donation and/or bringing a food item for the Valley Food Pantry on February 4th. Let's "tackle" hunger together.

Thank you, Melody Hinderer
ELCA World Hunger Appeal Advocate

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES:

First Holy Communion classes, taught by Pastor Kaufman, will be held next month, **February**. If your child is eligible (in second grade or older and has not yet received instruction) and has not yet registered, please phone or email the church office.



FRITZINGERTOWN WORSHIP SERVICE:

On the third or fourth Monday of every month, St. John's holds a Worship service at Fritzingertown Senior Living. The services are led by Pastor Kaufman. Many residents attend the service and are always excited to see us. Our January service is scheduled for **January 22**, with a **snow date of January 29**. If you are able, come and join us. It's a wonderful ministry and we get to see several of our members that can no longer attend regular worship.



THANK YOU: I would like to thank my church family who, once again, during a difficult time, was a source of comfort and support to me and Tara. I wish to thank all who have prayed for my healing, sent me cards and get well wishes, visited me, sent meals, and helped me at home. Thank you to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for my beautiful shawl which comforted me especially in the hospital. I have been so blessed to be part of St. John's – you truly are family to me and a reflection of God's love. With much love and gratitude, Betty Kushner



LOOKING AHEAD – MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

Here are some important dates to mark on your calendar in 2018:

- Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday
- Mar. 2 – CWU World Day of Prayer
- Mar. 25 – Palm Sunday
- Mar. 29 – Maundy Thursday
- Mar. 30 – Good Friday
- Apr. 1 – Easter

