

Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

SUPPLY PASTORS FOR MAY:

May 7 – The Rev. Kim Lengert
May 14 – The Rev. David Kistler
May 21 – The Rev. John Hazel
May 28 – The Rev. Robert vonFrisch



CWU'S MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY:

Church Women United will Celebrate "May Friendship Day" in a worship service to be held **Friday, May 5, 2017 at St. John's United Church of Christ at 1:00 p.m.** Following the service, there will be coffee, tea, and other refreshments. Please sign up by April 30th; the sign-up sheet is in the St. Stephen's Room. This year's theme is: *Kindling New Fires of Love*. During the event, a Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) offering will be accepted. The FLC is an ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. For those women participating, each time you say a pray for justice, peace, and reconciliation, you set aside one "least coin" of your currency as a tangible token toward your prayer being answered. These least coins will then be offered at the event to be dedicated to the work of love and reconciliation around the world. The coins must be wrapped in penny wrappers.



SAUSAGE SUPPER:

Our spring sausage supper will be held **Saturday, May 6th** from 3:30 – 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the supper are \$11 for adults and \$3.50 for children ages 6-10. Children age 5 and under eat for free. Proceeds from this event support St. John's Building Fund. Volunteers are needed to set up tables, peel potatoes, provide cakes, serve and clean up. Our sign-up sheets to volunteer and to provide cakes/desserts are in the St. Stephen's Room. To purchase tickets, please contact Carol Crawford at 788-1361 or Arlene Poltrock at 788-3710.



MOTHER-DAUGHTER TEA: In celebration of Mother's Day, our LCW is planning a Mother-Daughter Tea for **Friday, May 12th at 5:30 p.m. in the St. Stephen's Room.** This is for women and girls of all ages, and will include a light supper and a special presentation about crosses by Pastor Kaufman. The sign-up sheet for attendance and covered dish offerings is in the St. Stephen's Room.



ANNUAL INDOOR YARD SALE: Our annual indoor yard sale will be held **Saturday, May 20th.** The time of the sale is 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with a \$1 per bag sale from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Because Luther Hall is needed for other planned activities, please do not bring your donated items prior to Sunday, May 7th. Beginning on May 7th, you can bring your items on Sundays while the church is open or during office hours (Mon, Tues, and Fri 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.). If you are unable to come during that time, please phone Mary Ellen Sims (788-2866 or 436-8120) and she will come to unlock the door at an agreed upon time. Please start saving items; we rely on your generosity for our success. The proceeds benefit the ministries of our *Lutheran Church Women*. Volunteers are very much needed for set up and to help on sale day. A sign-up sheet is in the St. Stephen's Room. Please consider giving your time, if you are able.



SHOOFLY PIE – THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who supported our shoofly pie bake in any way, making this fundraiser a wonderful success. With the help of many, we baked 855 pies! Proceeds in the amount of \$4,238.00 were raised to support the many ministries of our *Lutheran Church Women*.



BEYOND VIOLENCE WOMEN'S SHELTER:



We continue to collect items during the month of May to benefit Beyond Violence Women's Shelter in Berwick. We are grateful to everyone for helping those who have been a victim of violence in relationships and who are going through a very difficult time in their life. There is a basket available in the St. Stephen's Room for your donations. The following items are most in need:

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| children's craft supplies | cleaning supplies |
| diapers and wipes | large freezer bags |
| dish detergent | batteries (all sizes) |
| shampoo/conditioner | light bulbs |
| body wash | towels/wash cloths |
| toothpaste/toothbrushes | foil/saran wrap |
| laundry baskets | large storage bins |
| women's hygiene products | |
| laundry detergent & fabric softener | |
| paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, paper plates) | |

MEMORIAL DONATION TO BUILD PLAYGROUNDS: Our church recently received a request to take up a collection to help build playgrounds in the Greater Hazleton Area. The request came on behalf of the "Remembering Ryanne Cara Foundation." Ryanne passed away suddenly from a viral infection at the age of four. The foundation was created to honor the memory of this young life lost too soon. The foundation has raised funds to build a new playground at Whispering Willows Park in Conyngham, where Ryanne used to play. The foundation is looking for volunteers to help with the build. Everyone is invited to attend the dedication ceremony on May 14th. The foundation is continuing to raise funds to build more playgrounds in Ryanne's memory to benefit other children. Approved by Council, our church will be taking up collection on **May 7th and May 14th** to aid in this endeavor. For more information, please refer to the letter on the bulletin board in the St. Stephen's Room.



SUMMER BREAK: Sunday, May 21st will be the last day of Sunday School until classes resume on Sunday, September 10th. Thank you to our teachers for working so hard to guide our children in faith and love toward God. See you in Sunday School in September!



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES:



Remember - our fallen heros. They are the reason that we are free.

On **Monday, May 29th at 11:00 a.m.**, a Memorial Day Ceremony will be held **at Calvary Cemetery** in Drums to honor those who have died while serving in our country's armed services. Another Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at **1:00 p.m. beginning here at St. John's Cemetery**, continuing to the Methodist Cemetery, and ending at the Municipal Building. Following the ceremony, hot dogs will be served at Freedom Park. All are invited! Please come to honor the memory of those courageous men and women who have fought and laid down their lives for our freedom!

MEN'S APPRECIATION BREAKFAST:



On **Saturday, June 17th**, Father's Day weekend, we honor and give appreciation to all the men of our church by serving them breakfast at **9:00 a.m.** in Luther Hall. The breakfast includes scrambled eggs, sausage, home fries, and toast with coffee, milk, and orange juice to drink. For dessert, we will be serving Mary Ellen's delicious and much sought after Sour Cream Dutch Cake. We truly appreciate all that you do! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC:



Our annual congregational picnic will be held on **Saturday, June 24**, at Nadine Sauer's picnic pavilion. Come early to swim and enjoy some conversation. The meal will begin at **4:00 p.m.** Please bring a food item to share and we ask that everyone bring their own drinks.



CRADLE ROLL: Thank you to Dawn Klick for volunteering to be our new Cradle Roll Coordinator. The Cradle Roll program recognizes the importance of the youngest members of our church. Cradle Roll members are children newborn to three years of age. This program provides families with materials and resources which educate them regarding normal growth and development of babies and toddlers, provides great ideas regarding age-appropriate activities to do with little ones, and most importantly shares how parents can provide a God centered home for their families. At the end of membership on the Cradle Roll, children are the age of readiness to begin attending Sunday School.



LOOKING FOR NEW CWU LIAISONS:

After years of service as our liaisons in the *Church Women United*, Lorraine Klinger and Joyce Ray are retiring. We are looking for two members to take on this important endeavor and ministry. The commitment includes attendance at three planning meetings and three worship services per year. Our local group of Church Women United is comprised of nine churches of various denominations. If you would like more information or are interested in becoming a liaison, please see Lorraine or Joyce. We thank you, ladies, for your many years of service!



STEWARDSHIP CHAIR NEEDED: Our Stewardship Team is still looking for a chairperson. If you are interested, please see Don Wenner, Jr. The Stewardship Team's purpose is to educate the congregation in the Biblical principles of whole life stewardship and not merely the raising of money to meet budgets. Our stewardship team encourages members of the congregation to use their time, talents, and monetary offerings to further the mission and ministries of the Church and to be good stewards of God's creation. "All Christians are but God's stewards. Everything we have is on loan from the Lord, entrusted to us for a while to use in serving him." ~ John MacArthur



NEW ROOF: On Sunday, April 23, following the worship service, a special congregational meeting was held to approve replacement of the flat roofs on the bell tower and the first floor Sunday School. The congregation unanimously approved to replace the roofs. The construction will be done by Hutchinson Construction in the amount of \$23,900.00 which includes a 20-year warranty. The congregation also approved repairs to the damaged ceiling up to \$5,000.00. The construction and repairs will be paid out of the Roof Fund and Building Fund.

THANK YOU! Bill Keck would like to thank everyone for the visits, cards, phone calls, and prayers he received during his stay in the hospital. He is touched by the kindness received from our church family. He is eager to get back to church and we look forward to having him back!



GRADUATION: We want to know when members of St. John's are graduating from high school or schools of higher education, so that we can celebrate with them and pray for them on their journey. If you are graduating or know a member of St. John's who is graduating this spring, please contact the church office with: the graduate's name, the name of the institution from which he/she is graduating, and future plans, if they are known.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR: This summer, Vacation Bible School will be held **July 31st – August 4th**. Come and join us! More details to come.

