

Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

SUPPLY PASTORS FOR OCTOBER:

October 1 - The Rev. Rashion Santiago

October 8 - The Rev. John Hazel

October 15 - The Rev. David Kistler

October 22 - The Rev. Kim Lengert

October 29 - The Rev. Joseph Scholtes



BAPTISMS: We had two baptisms since our last newsletter! On August 27th

Colten Bryce Coxe, and

on September 3rd, **Jayce Chad Smith**,

became children of God and made

members of the Church through the waters of

Holy Baptism. We rejoiced with Colten, his

parents John Coxe and Samantha Heintzelman,

and with Jayce, and his parents Chad and Tracey

Smith, at these momentous events. We pray for

them the guidance of the Holy Spirit as they walk

in the grace of God.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: God calls us to care for all of his creation, including animals. On

Saturday, October 7th at 1:00 p.m. we give him

thanks for his creation and the companionship of

his animals, and ask for his blessing upon our

cherished pets. If you feel your pet is too shy, you

may bring a photo instead to receive a blessing. If

you have a particular concern for an animal(s),

such as an animal in captivity or in a shelter, you

may bring a photo, as well, for a blessing. All

animals should be leashed or caged. Any

donations collected will be given to Poodle and

Pooch Rescue of Florida to help in their efforts to

rescue the abandoned dogs of the Redlands (some

pictured below) that they saved from Hurricane

Irma. PPR is a non-profit 501c3 organization that

is run entirely by volunteers and 100% of your

donations will go directly to the care of the dogs

that have been rescued. Our member, Tara

Kushner, is a volunteer transport coordinator for

this organization. To learn more, you can visit

www.poodleandpoochrescue.org.



JOY BOXES: During Sunday School on Rally Day, our youth created "Joy Boxes" to be distributed to our shut-ins and

anyone else that could benefit from a "pick me up." On Sunday, September 24th, Pastor Robert von Frisch blessed the boxes before distribution.

Extra boxes were made and the youth is willing to create more should anyone request them. If you know someone that would like a little extra "joy", please contact a member of Learning Ministry.



LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR TRAINING :

If you are interested in becoming a

Lay Eucharistic Minister, there is still

an opportunity in 2017 to receive the

required training. Lutheran Congregational

Services is providing a training session at St.

John's Lutheran Church in Stroudsburg on

October 7th from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The cost is \$25 per person and participants should

bring a pen and paper, a bible and lunch. For more

information or to register, contact Pastor Jennifer

at 610-425-2981 or email

info@lutherancongregational-services.org. If you

are having difficulty and need help signing up,

you can also phone or email Tara at the church

office and she will complete your registration.



HARVEST HOME: In thanksgiving to God for

the fruits of the earth and for the promise of

the "final harvest" when all the saints will be

gathered at the banquet of our Lord, we will

celebrate "Harvest Home" **Sunday, October 8th.**

Please bring your donation of non-perishable food

items and/or your monetary offering placed in the

"Harvest Home" envelope available in your

offering envelope box. These will be given to the

Valley Food Pantry as a way of sharing God's

bountiful provision with our neighbors in need.



THANK YOU: Judy Mundie and Carol Crawford

would both like to thank everyone for their

prayers and concerns. Judy is continuing

therapy for an injury to her shoulder. Carol

recently underwent surgery for a hip replacement.



SHOOFLY PIE BAKE:

It's that time again! Our fall shoo-fly pie bake will be held on **October 9th and October 10th** (Monday and Tuesday). Proceeds support the ministries of mercy and outreach extended by *Lutheran Church Women* of St. John's. Both men and women are invited to help. Sign-up sheets to volunteer and to order pies are available in the St. Stephen's Room. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Crawford at 788-1361 or Arlene Poltrock at 788-3710. Your support will be greatly appreciated.



REFORMATION SUNDAY: This year we celebrate the **500th Anniversary of the Reformation**. Throughout the year we have been celebrating in many ways, from the lessons taught in Sunday School, to the distribution of inserts outlining the progress of the Reformation movement from Germany to the United States, to this year's Vacation Bible School teachings and theme "Mighty Fortress," and to our Reformation Faire which included a display of our own church history. Tokens and memorabilia of our history are still on display in the St. Stephen's Room, and more will be added leading up to Reformation Sunday. Our congregation has been blessed throughout the years!

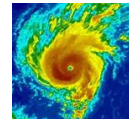


On **October 29th, Reformation Sunday**, our 10:00 a.m. worship service will be a special celebration. We are so excited to have **Pastor Joseph Scholtes**, our pastor from 1980-2000, lead us in worship. We are also excited to welcome special guest **Pastor William Horn**, our pastor from 1976-1979. We have so many fond memories of Pastors Scholtes and Horn and their families. For many of us, they were an integral part of our Christian upbringing and growth in faith.

Reformation Sunday will also celebrate another special event, the Affirmation of Baptism of Taylor Buchman during the worship service. Following worship, there will be a luncheon in Luther Hall. If you plan on attending the luncheon, please sign up on the sheet in the St. Stephen's Room, or phone Tara at the church office at 570-788-2685 or email: stjohns@epix.net with your name and the number of people attending, so that we can properly prepare and order the food. We even heard that Martin and Katie Luther might join our celebration! Don't miss this – please plan on attending.

Hurricane Relief

HURRICANE RELIEF: In response to the recent devastation in Texas and Florida caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, we are collecting monetary donations to aid in the efforts to help the many victims. Special envelopes have been placed in the narthex to make a donation. Please make checks payable to *St. John's Lutheran Church* and mark "Hurricane Response" and place in the offering plate. Funds raised will be matched by Thrivent to increase the help received by the victims.



SAUSAGE SUPPER – DATE CHANGE:

Please note that this year our fall sausage supper will be held **Saturday, November 4th 3:30 – 7:00 p.m.** The date has been changed to accommodate our celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation the preceding Sunday. 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. Sign-up sheets to volunteer will be in the St. Stephen's Room in the near future.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY: On **Sunday, November 5th**, we celebrate the Festival of All Saints - also known as All Saints' Day. On this day, we will remember by name those members and friends that have been called to heaven since the previous All Saints' Sunday. We also celebrate those recently baptized into the communion of saints. Respectively, candles will be lit in their remembrance and honor.



BUS TRIP - SIGHT & SOUND THEATERS:

Time is running out! A bus trip has been planned for **Friday, December 1st** to see *Miracle of Christmas* at Sight & Sound Theaters in Lancaster. **Seating is first come, first served and the bus is almost full.** The cost is \$90 and includes your ticket, transportation and lunch at Shady Maple. A non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required to reserve your seat. Final payment is due November 8th. Please give your deposits to Betty Kushner.



THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS:

On Tuesday, September 12th several members gathered for lunch and discussion concerning Thrivent Financial. As you may be aware Thrivent is a membership organization of Christians who want to be wise with money and live generously. Members are individuals who have invested in Thrivent's various financial products.

There are various benefits as a Thrivent member. One particular program involves Thrivent Action Teams. Twice a year, members can apply for a \$250 grant to get a fundraiser, educational program or service project off the ground.

For those who are not invested in a Thrivent product, you are invited to consider an associate membership for \$20 per year. In return, you are allowed to apply for ONE project per year for up to three years. Your \$20 investment on behalf of the church would provide you with the opportunity to underwrite a church project for \$250!

Would you like to learn more? Are you already a Thrivent member? How can you get involved? And if you aren't a member of Thrivent, would you consider investing on behalf of St. John's? Imagine the possibilities! To learn more, I encourage you to speak to Pastor Kaufman, Peggy Hawk or Betty Kushner.

ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING:

It's finally here! Registration for the National Youth Gathering is open! The National Youth Gathering is an amazing event. It usually involves some 30,000 youth and adults. Mass gatherings, workshops, learning activities, social gatherings, and service projects allow young people to explore their faith and be encouraged to ask questions and better understand what it means to be a Christian in the world today. I would encourage any youth who might be interested to speak with Pastor Kaufman. She currently has a group of 6 youth and 4 adults who plan to attend. To be eligible students need to be in 8th grade or older to attend. Don't wait... we need to register and make flight arrangements as soon as possible.



INTRODUCING FAMILY SUNDAY:

The Learning Ministry would like to set aside the first Sunday of each month for our youth and family members to become an active participant in the worship service. There are many ways, that together, you can experience worship through actively volunteering. Ex. Greeter, presenters, collection ushers, acolyte, etc.

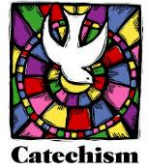
We are encouraging family members to take this opportunity to grow closer with their child. Join the Sunday School students, lead by example, help the youth to understand that they are an important part of the church and can grow closer to God through acts of service for the good of others.

It is our hope the children can learn that there is a place for them to experience and feel their faith in action.



CATECHISM CLASSES:

Catechism classes have begun and are being taught by Pastor Kaufman. Classes will be held twice a month – on the first and third Sundays at 4:00 p.m. If a conflict should arise on a particular future date, that class will be rescheduled at the agreement of the Pastor and students/parents.



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:

The volunteer sheet to sign up to serve during the Sunday worship services is located in the narthex. If you are interested in volunteering for a particular duty that you have never done before, please contact a member of Worship and Music and they will be happy to work with you.



WE'RE INVITED:

Our friends at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Pastor Kaufman's home congregation) have kindly invited us to join them during their movie night. This month's movie showing on **Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30 p.m.** will be *Fences* starring Denzel Washington and Viola Davis. *Fences* is the film adaptation of the Pulitzer-prize winning play about a working-class African American father trying to raise his family in the 1950s, while coming to terms with the events of his life.

We have also been invited to join St. Paul's at their annual Halloween party on **Friday, October 27th at 6:30 p.m.** St. Paul's is located at 316 South Mountain Boulevard in Mountain Top.

