

Ministry Matters

- in the congregation and beyond -

WORSHIP SERVICE TIME WILL RETURN:

Please note that our worship service time will change back to **10:00 a.m.** on **Sunday, September 10th**.



SUPPLY PASTORS FOR SEPTEMBER:

September 3 - The Rev. Michele Kaufman
September 10 - The Rev. Brenda Boyer
September 17 - The Rev. David Kistler
September 24 - The Rev. Robert von Frisch



CATECHISM REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION

MEETING, SEPTEMBER 3, 2017: It's almost that time. Summer is coming to an end; autumn is quickly approaching. Soon, Sunday School for our children will resume, and our catechism class will begin a new year.



Catechism

In order to prepare for catechism instruction, there will be a registration and informational meeting immediately following the church service on **Sunday, September 3rd**. If your child is in the 6th, 7th, or 8th grade, they are eligible to begin catechism instruction, which is a two-year program. If your child is older but has not yet received instruction, they are invited to register and receive instruction. **If you are already participating in catechism, we ask that you attend this meeting, as well.** Pastor Kaufman will be leading instruction, and classes will need to be rescheduled to an agreed upon time that is convenient for everyone.

Registration is required so material can be purchased for each child.

If you have any questions, you may phone the church office at 570-788-2685.

CHOIR: Choir practice will start back up on **Wednesday, September 6th at 2:00 p.m.** Choir will meet every

Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. thereafter. If you are interested in joining our church choir, please contact Arlene Poltrock at 570-788-3710.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION:

We are offering First Holy Communion classes to all young people in the second grade or older who have yet to receive instruction. If you have not yet registered, please phone the church office at 570-788-2685. Instruction will be scheduled soon.



GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS/ SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY:



**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
KICKOFF**

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."
1 Peter 4:10

The Sunday School class invites you to be a part of the God's Work Our Hands, Sunday School Kickoff Project on **Sunday, September 10th**. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to join us and use their hands to touch the lives of others by carrying out God's work. Let's come together, meet in the St. Stephen's Room and fill it with eager, joyful hearts, willing to serve in God's name.

Help us bring happiness to others as we create "Joy Boxes." If you know anyone that can benefit from a little "pick me up," please talk with someone on the Learning Ministry Team by September 3rd. Together, we can touch the lives of others by doing God's work with our hands.

Learning to give of ourselves for the sake of others is a great way to start the 2017-2018 Sunday School year. We have some exciting things planned for this year. Join us! See where this year will lead us!

~ Submitted by The Learning Ministry Team (Members of Learning Ministry are: Kimberly Deliman, Janet Brady, Jennifer Cipriani, Melody Hinderer, Dawn Klick, Betty Kushner, and Patty Phile)



LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (LCW): LCW has resumed. All women of the church are members of LCW and are encouraged to attend the meetings. LCW meets in September, October, November, March, April and May. This important ministry organizes fundraisers in order to provide financial support to those in need both in our community and worldwide. Please see the July 2017 newsletter for a list of several of the missions that our LCW has supported. If you would like more information, please contact Mary Ellen Sims at 570-436-8120.



HOBO PARTY: On Sunday, September 10th at 4:00 p.m., we will be having a Hobo Party at Nadine Sauer's pavilion. Come and honor the generations this Grandparent's Day by coming together to share your stories around a campfire "Hobo Style." What is this, you might ask...



Hobo meals were whatever could be scavenged and cooked over an open fire. Your hosts will provide meat and the base for the stew and everyone brings a canned vegetable suitable for soup. You will add your can of vegetables to the stew pot, warming over the open fire.

After the Hobo Stew is warm, it is time to dig in. Stew will be served in the empty cans, so be sure to bring an old pot holder, oven mitt, or can cover. If you prefer eating with a metal spoon, bring it along in your pocket. If you want to add a little more fun to the evening, you may come dressed as your best hobo in your favorite, well-worn clothes.

There is a sign-up sheet in the St. Stephen's Room, or you can call Lorraine Klinger at: 570-788-3470. Please sign up, so that we can determine the amount of meat needed to start the stew. You can bring a dessert to share. Please bring your own drinks.

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2018: Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in



faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives. Youth who are in 8th - 12th grade at the time of registration are eligible to attend. **Registration will be live and online starting September 15, 2017.**

SCREENING OF "LUTHER" MOVIE: The 2003 film "Luther" will be shown in Luther Hall on Sunday, September 17th at 1:00 p.m. *Luther* is a full-length feature film starring Joseph Fiennes as Martin Luther, and co-starring Alfred Molina as John Tetzel and Sir Peter Ustinov as Frederick the Wise. The film depicts the life of Martin Luther beginning from the time he became a monk through the Diet of Augsburg. Running time is 123 minutes. Please bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Our prayer shawl ministry will resume on Wednesday, September 20th at 9:30 a.m. Please prayerfully consider joining this ministry for fellowship, knitting, and crocheting. Members meet the first and third Wednesday of the month. Beginners are welcome. This ministry makes baby blankets to be given at birth or baptisms, as well as shawls and lap blankets for those in need.



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. You may bring your pet or a photo of your pet. If you have a concern for an animal(s), you may bring a photo, as well, for a blessing. All animals should be leashed or caged. A free will offering, in the form of donated items (i.e. food, collars, cleaning supplies, etc.) or a monetary donation will be taken Saturday and Sunday to benefit the animals in our community.



HARVEST HOME: In gratitude to God for the gifts of field and garden, we will celebrate Harvest Home during the worship service on **Sunday, October 8th**. Please give prayerful thought to the ways in which God has nourished you, and please bring a “thank offering” in the form of a packaged food item (or several) to be given to the Valley Food Pantry. Monetary offerings received in the “Harvest Home” envelopes will also be given to the Valley Food Pantry.



SHOOFLY PIE BAKE: Our fall shoofly 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 will be available in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Crawford at 788-1361 or Arlene Poltrock at 788-3710. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

SAUSAGE SUPPER – DATE CHANGE:

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.



FRITZINGERTOWN SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY: Each month, on either the third or fourth Monday at 2:30 p.m., our congregation provides a worship service in Fritzingertown Senior Living Community. Pastor Kaufman leads the brief service and members of St. John’s are present to participate and assist residents with the service. All members are invited to join in this ministry. Please refer to the church calendar each month to confirm the date.

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITOR TRAINING FOR 2017: The following dates are set for Lay Eucharistic Training from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.: **September 16th** at Christ Lutheran in Hellertown, and **October 7th** at Christ Lutheran in Stroudsburg. 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@lutherancongregationalservices.org.



BUS TRIP - SIGHT & SOUND THEATERS:

A bus trip has been planned for **Friday, December 1st** to see the performance *Miracle of Christmas* at Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster. If you have never seen a show at these theatres, it is an amazing experience! The cost is \$90, which includes the cost of your ticket, transportation and lunch at Shady Maple. **To reserve your seat, a non-refundable deposit of \$25 is required. Final payment is due by November 8th.**

“After decades of crushing Roman rule, the Hebrew people are losing hope. When will the promised Messiah come? Into the midst of this turmoil, young Mary is told she will miraculously bear God’s son. Who can even believe such a thing? Celebrate the season with your whole family as the Christmas story unfolds right before your eyes.” ~ *Sight & Sound Theatres*

