



THE EVANGEL

FEBRUARY 2019

Led by Christ...Sharing Love...Serving All



FROM THE PARISH REGISTER



Please Pray For

Shannon Kooser, Art Grau, Liam McKeum, Tom Hamilton, Eric Scott, Sherry Vitale, Chuck Torre, Lenny Bredthauer, Dave Currier, Susan Rush and David Quintero, Tom Wade, Dave Moorefield, Don Miller, Norm Mason, Ron Thomas, Sue Dennis, Beth Simonds, Carol Dyas, John Dyas, Loretta Geisler, Esther Guffey, Kenny Neighoff, Tony Perfetti, Gloria Fowler, Kathy Mathers, Sarah Totushek, Mojoy Hudiburgh. Emad Morshedi, Genevive Schultzhuis, Al Behringer and those who are expecting.



Wedding Anniversaries

Roy & Brenda Jordan, Jr. their 45th on February 2nd
Nick & Shelli Warren their 11th on February 2nd
John & Alice Hamilton their 14th on February 6th
Bill & Amy Everhart III their 33rd on February 8th
Wayne & Pat Hudson their 56th on February 10th
Donald & Dorothy Merritt their 65th on February 14th
Larry & Carroll Paul their 60th on February 14th
Brian & Anita Dragan, Sr. their 13th on February 18th
Robert & Sharon Fosler their 52nd on February 18th
Greg & Melissa Knight their 9th on February 19th
Howard & Candyce Fales Jr. their 36th on February 26th
Charles & Sylvia Chaney their 53rd on February 27th



FROM OUR PASTOR

A NOTE FROM PASTOR GILROY:

It is never easy to say good-bye to all of you. It was difficult when I retired a little over nine years ago, and it isn't any easier now as I finish my brief time as your interim pastor. Unfortunately, my last Sunday with you was snowed out, and soon I will begin my tenure as the interim pastor at St. Martin's here in Annapolis while Pastor Oravec, a good friend and fellow Navy Chaplain, is away on active duty with the Navy for an extended period of time.

It goes without saying that Nancy and I will miss you, but look forward to sharing some time with you this year as you celebrate the 100th Anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church. We look forward to hearing about all the anniversary activities, and to being with you when we can to share in those activities and events.

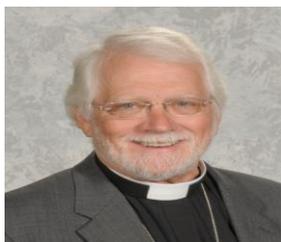
Being with you through Advent and Christmas was special and I'm glad it all worked out as it did. It brought back a lot of good memories for me, and was the first time in years that I was able to lead a congregation in worship throughout those wonderful seasons of the Church year.

Now, as I leave to begin another new journey in ministry, I do so with the confidence that you will really like and enjoy your new interim pastor. It is a privilege for me to commend Pastor Ed Whetstone to you. Ed is an old friend, and someone I truly respect. Our relationship goes back to "Luther League" days, and when I was a seminary intern in Smithsburg, Maryland, Ed was a pastor in Sharpsburg, Maryland so we saw a lot of each other there as well. When I heard Ed was chosen to be your "bridge interim," I was glad and relieved. I'm confident you will feel the same.

God bless you all and St. John as you search now for your new pastor. It is a process guided by the Holy Spirit and I pray that it will all go well for you and those who are now candidates for the position.

I will keep you all in my prayers, as you will always be in my heart.

In God's peace and love,
Pastor Gilroy



From Our New Bridge Interim Pastor, G. Edward Whetstone

Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Only yesterday I began my ministry with you, and already I'm dashing to meet a deadline for your newsletter!

I look forward to serving as your Bridge Interim Pastor, surely your last before you extend a call. I was glad to be able to meet many of you at yesterday's worship services, the first in your nine-month 100th Anniversary Celebration. As I am just beginning to know you, it seems it would be useful for you to begin to know me.

In 2010 I retired, having served 33 years as pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Catonsville. Vicky and I married in 1988, and still are living in Catonsville. In 2000 Vicky began working at Lutheran World Relief, less than a year after they relocated their national headquarters at the Inner Harbor. Our daughter Linsey is married and living in Parkville. Our son Micah lives with his family in St. Paul, Minnesota.

I grew up in Harrisburg and spent my high school years in Hagerstown. Following my graduation from Gettysburg College, I attended Northwestern (now Luther) Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. My first call was to serve the three congregations of the Sharpsburg Parish in western Maryland. Your pattern of three Sunday services feels like old times. Except there I had to travel back roads from service to service, and here you have them all in the same building!

These retirement years have afforded welcome time for refinishing furniture, unhurried yardwork, memorable travel and puttering with longtime collections: antique Christmas and Easter decorations, abolition autographs and other ephemera, and Martin Luther coins and medals dating back into the early 1600's. The best times of all are visits with our grandsons Benjamin, 12, and Abram, 10.

Across these years I've also twice served as Interim Assistant at Christ Lutheran at the Inner Harbor, and as Interim at First English in Baltimore, and done supply preaching along the way.

I look forward to meeting you, and seeing you at worship. I hope you will call upon me as you have need of pastoral care. My church email address is ewhetstone@sjlc.org, and my home phone number is 410-788-5475. Should such a need arise, I will want to hear from you.

You have had the benefit of faithful pastoral care with the interim ministries of the last 18 months. Now that time is drawing to a close, and you are increasingly restless and ready for this time in between to come to a close. You have entrusted your Call Committee with a profound task. Keep them and their task in your prayers.

I'm pleased to be with you for this time, this last season before you call and embrace a new pastor and partner in ministry, as together you continue to worship and serve our loving God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

God's Peace, Pastor Whetstone

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

If you are scheduled for surgery, or will be hospitalized for an extended time, or have an emergency health care issue, please be sure to inform the church office (410-859-0020) so that pastoral care can be offered, and your name added to the prayer list. It is extremely important to us that we can be there for you!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us in the Adult Sunday School classroom on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. You are welcome at any time.

ALTAR GUILD

FLOWERS: You can dedicate the altar flowers in honor of, or in memory of a loved one – all you need to do is call the church office or email stjohn@sjlc.org, with the wording for your dedication. Altar Flower dedication must be **received 2 weeks prior to requested Sunday.**

The altar flowers cost \$50 for both vases or \$25 for one, and you can take them home when services are done on Sunday. **Just a reminder there are no flowers on the altar during Lent.** If you have noticed, there have been no flowers on the Altar for the last few weeks. The reason for this is that there is no more money in the Flower Fund. It costs \$2200 per year to fully fund this program. Of course, dedications of flowers are still welcome.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings St. John Family,

As this will be my last Evangel article as Congregational Council President, again I'd like to thank you, my St. John family, for your support. Other items I want to ensure all are aware of:

Welcome Pastor Ed Whetstone ! !

St. John is blessed to welcome Pastor Ed Whetstone as our Bridge Interim Pastor. Pastor Whetstone is Pastor Emeritus from Salem Lutheran Church in Catonsville and will be with us until our Call process is completed and St. John has its new Senior Pastor. Please take the time to introduce yourself to Pastor Ed, if he doesn't get to you first.

Call Committee

The Call Committee has been formed, installed, trained, and is moving forward in scheduling interviews with potential candidates provided by the Synod. Please remember Confidentiality is paramount during this process. Communications will be provided to the congregation when necessary, our patience will be greatly appreciated. Please keep the Committee in your prayers. As announced, the Call Committee members are: Tami Jones (Chair), Pam Weammert, Abby Hood, Bert Brosius, Fred Haab, Dan Johnston.

HAPPY 100th Anniversary ! ! ! !

Thanks to Pastor Carolyn Shank for kicking off our 100th anniversary celebration providing a wonderful message during our services on January 20th. I encourage everyone to watch their Evangels and other communications from St. John for dates of other upcoming special events, which includes other guest Pastors coming back to St. John and the 100 Anniversary banquet being held on Sunday September 29th at Michael's 8th Avenue.

God's Peace and Blessings to you and your families!

Bill Everhart

CONNECTIONS

Connections Discussion group, meets Sunday mornings, (after the Contemporary service), will be delving into a fascinating study of A.W. Tozer's book "The Pursuit of God" with a study guide. Whether you are thirsting for more of God or do not yet know of the "mighty longing after God" that so consumed A.W. Tozer's life and ministry. The study will draw you into a deep, abiding relationship with the One who "nourishes the soul". This

spiritual masterpiece exposes the roadblocks that keeps us from fully knowing God, reveals our responsibility of the pursuit, and ultimately leads us into the very presence of God Himself.

If you are interested in joining the group and/or desire the book, please call Carroll Paul at 410-859-0891.

EVANGELISM AND STEWARDSHIP

A Note from the Treasurer

We are pleased to announce that St. John now allows online and mobile giving. The ELCA has designated Tithe.ly as their preferred vendor for this service. This will allow you to donate electronically from your bank account or credit card. You will have the ability to set up an automated giving plan so there is no need to find cash or write a check for your envelope. With this program, you can set the frequency and day that your contribution will occur. You will also be able to monitor the amount you have donated throughout the year.

There is a convenience fee for this service which has been discounted due to the ELCA agreement. Bank transfers are charged .5% plus \$.25 per transaction. Credit cards are 2.4% plus \$.25 and AMEX is 3.5% plus \$.25. You have the choice of covering this fee or having it deducted from your contribution. The more people that participate in this service means less work for our weekly counters.

You can access this service through the secure “Give” tab on the sjlc.org website or download the “Tithe.ly” app on your smartphone. Keep in mind, the ministry and business of the church continues regardless of the weather or vacation schedules. Please see Frank Link or Margaret Stalsberg if you have any questions.

Frank Link
Treasurer

2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES ISSUANCE

Your envelopes are available in the All Purpose Room. If you do not see your envelope box please contact the church office.

If you are currently not receiving envelopes and would like to receive 2019 envelopes please contact the office as soon as possible.

FELLOWSHIP

The Sunday fellowship breakfast teams can use donations. Donations can be dropped off in the upstairs kitchen. There is a sign-up sheet on the wall outside the kitchen in the All-Purpose Room.

Take Care

Do we care? On Sunday, please look around you and see who is missing. Take the time and check on those that are missing and live alone. No matter what our age anything can happen to anyone of us. It's nice to have someone care enough and check to make sure you're okay. It could help save someone's life and bring joy to the person you contact. Please take the time to care for your St. John Family.



Needed for the church kitchen are cookie sheets and jelly roll pans, used or new. Everyone always has to bring their pans from home to cook anything. Remember candy making is just around the corner and we need pans for that too. Thanks for your generosity!



MOPS

INVITING ALL MOTHERS WITH
CHILDREN CONCEPTION TO FIVE YEARS OF AGE

St. John's Mothers Of Preschoolers began its fifth year on **September 6th**. The meetings are on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 7:00-9:00 pm.

Come give us a "try"! You will be happy that you did. This year we will be exploring the **Find Your Fire** theme, as well as having honest, open-minded exchanges mom-to-mom. Have an enjoyable evening with fellow moms while your children (free childcare is provided) are given great care. We believe, **Better Moms Make a Better World**



FIND YOUR FIRE

Moms this year we will tend the fire in our hearts.

- When our homes feel cold, we'll light a fire.
- When a friend has lost her spark, we'll fan her flame.
- When the world seems dark, we will be an ember of hope.

In order to do this we will ...

LIVE EXPECTANTLY..SURRENDER DARINGLY..BREATHE FREELY

Please extend an invitation to family members, friends and neighbors who have young children from conception through kindergarten to try out this group.

For more information visit sjlc.org or email stjohnmops@yahoo.com
or contact **Pat Hudson** at hwaynepat@verizon.net

HOUSEHOLD MINISTRY



Household ministry uses Vibrant Faith’s Milestones as a faith formation program here at St John. It encourages couples, single persons, and families to include God in our daily lives; to share the love of Jesus Christ and to get involved in what God is doing in the world! Here is how it works:

Celebrating Milestones together – significant events in our lives – reminds us that God is with us every step of the way. Milestones are a kind of “team building” event, that helps bind us together, to “have each other’s back” in our faith walk together through life, regardless of gender, generation, worship preference, or any other differences we may have.

“The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.”

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.”

- *Martin Luther*

Martin Luther saw prayer and reading our Bible as “crucial to human life, a life created by the relationship to God”. To help keep this relationship strong, we encourage the use of a daily devotional like “**Taking Faith Home**” to help us remember to read a short Bible passage and to pray each day. “Taking Faith Home” is sent out by email each week, and is available in print in the Narthex.

The next step is getting involved in what God is doing in the world! There are a number of Outreach opportunities available throughout the year. One of them is our **partnership with St John Lutheran Church in Pimlico**. Last year we joined together for “Cornhole on the Corner” here in Linthicum, and a spirit filled worship service and picnic in Druid Hill Park. We look forward to working together to help the people in our communities, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Our Next Milestone - Sunday 2/10/19: Placing Scripture in Hands and Homes – Parents and Grandparents of all 2nd grade children are invited to participate with their kids in this special milestone during Sunday School at 9:15am. All 2nd grade children will receive a Bible, placed in their hands by their parents, as a gift from our congregation. On Sunday 2/24/19, all those who participated will be recognized and prayed for at the 9:15 am service. Special Bible verses, selected by each family, will be printed in the bulletin.



MUSIC & WORSHIP

If you would like to join in the merriment, here are the contacts and rehearsal times:

CrossSing – Contemporary Band – singers and instrumentalists

Practice Tuesday, 7 p.m.

Sing Sundays at 9:15 service

Contact: Dana Morse dmorse@sjlc.org

Youth Bells

Practice Wednesday, 5:45 p.m.

Perform five/six times a year at worship services

Contact: Jane Bowie jbowie@sjlc.org

Adult Bells

Practice Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

Ring **Second Sunday**, 11:00 service

Contact: Jane Bowie jbowie@sjlc.org

Men's Ensemble

Practice Alternate Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Sing **Third Sunday**, 11:00 service

Contact: Jane Bowie jbowie@sjlc.org

Adult Choir

Practice Alternate Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Sing **Fourth Sunday**, 11:00 service and major holidays

Contact: Jane Bowie jbowie@sjlc.org

We always welcome new people. Don't hide your light! This is a marvelous way to praise God.

Acolytes, lay assistants and Altar Guild members are needed.

Dates for upcoming services

February 24th will be Seminary Sunday

Ash Wednesday, March 6th services:

10:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Midweek in Lent - Thursday Evenings 6:30-7:30 pm. Soup supper at 6:30;

Evening Prayer at 7:00



NORTH COUNTY FOOD BAGS

1 John 3:17-18 ESV *“But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. “*

The congregation of St. John has faithfully helped those in need not just in talk but in their actions. Thank you for your support these past 6 years for this ministry. We pack for 4 weeks at a time and supplies get depleted quickly. **Items most needed are: Individual cups of vegetables, Individual servings of cereal, packets of oatmeal, Individual cups of pudding, Individual cups of fruit/applesauce, Granola Bars, Individual boxes of raisins, Packets of hot chocolate**

The following food items are used in our food bags for the students and are always needed: **Small or large cans of tuna and chicken breast, Individual packets of oatmeal, cream of rice, or grits, Individual boxes or cups of cereal, Spaghetti sauce packets, 6 oz. can tomato paste, pasta, Mac n' cheese, Ramen noodles, Packets of cocoa, Chef Boy ar Dee (can or microwave cups), Beanie Weanies, Knoor's Pasta or Rice Sides, Zatarains or Rice a Roni (also store brands), Boxes of beans and rice/jambalaya/gumbo Small jars of peanut butter, Snacks**

If you want to make a monetary donation, designate Weekend Food Bags on the memo line of your check or use an envelope in the pews. Donations of food items can be marked as Weekend Food and placed in the room across from the elevator if it is unlocked, or put by the door to that room.



FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE.

To Contact the office with general information matters (bulletins, announcement, Evangel, prayer list, service participant, etc.) email should be sent to stjohn@sjlc.org. To access the Administrative Assistant directly those emails should be sent to llester@sjlc.org or call **Linda Lester on 410-859-0020**.

In order to ensure our monthly calendar has the correct times and dates it would be greatly appreciated if all groups who use the church building notify the office by email **Linda Lester at llester@sjlc.org** or call **410-859-0020** of any calendar changes (i.e. change of date, time or cancelled meetings).

OUTREACH

Women and Children's Shelter

Join us the last Saturday in January as we serve at the women and children's shelter located at Christ Lutheran Church Inner Harbor. We meet at St. John around 4:14pm and car pool to the shelter returning around 7:30pm or if you prefer can meet us at the shelter. We are currently collecting laundry detergent, powder or liquid, to take to the shelter- Donations may be left on the shelving units located in the Adult Sunday School Room – Be sure to mark your donation for the shelter.

Coming in February ---- Dessert Auction

If you would like to get involved with Outreach or would just like to see what it is all about- we meet the second Monday of the month at 7:00pm in the Adult Sunday School room. All are welcome! Monetary donations can be made by using your pew envelope and marking it Outreach.

Save the Date

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church turns 100!

Be Sure to Mark **September 29, 2019** on Your Calendar!

It will be a day of worship and fellowship culminating in a luncheon and celebration

There will be lots of events and activities leading up to the celebration on the 29th! Special guests, a 100th anniversary cook book, a new congregational directory, special dinners and much more!

For the anniversary cook book, we are asking that as you pull out those tried and true recipes; your family's favorite cookies, cakes or confections, you share them in the anniversary cookbook. You can either write your recipe down and drop it in the recipe box in the All-Purpose room or e-mail your recipes to sjlccancook@gmail.com. In the upcoming months we will be requesting recipes for seafood, main dishes, appetizers, vegetables, meats, and much more. We're also looking for volunteers to help with this project. If you are interested in lending a hand with the cook book, please e-mail sjlccancook@gmail.com or contact **Tami Jones** or **MaryKay Grantland**.

LMS Clothes sorting takes place on the 3rd Thursday of the month - January through November, weather permitting, starting at 10 am in the Friendship Room.

PEER TO PRAYER MINISTRY



"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." Matthew 18: 19-20.

There are many ways to pray - alone, pastor led prayer during worship, and with a member of St. John's prayer team after you have received communion. Having a personal and confidential prayer led by another is offered every Sunday at each service. During the **9:15 am** service, there are teams waiting for you in the sacristy and the landing after you finish communion. Just enter through the door after putting your communion cup in the basket. During the **11:00 am**, only the area to the left (the landing) is available. The prayer team keeps your prayer request confidential. We do not share with others, not even other members of the prayer team. However, we will add your request to our personal prayers. Sharing our struggles, concern for others, and praise for our blessings with another can be a powerful and comforting experience.

Philippians 4:6-7 "do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

PRAYER LIST

If you have a prayer concern for anyone - friend or family - you can either contact **Carl Fuehrer, 301-725-5621** or the church office via phone call, 410-859-0020 or place a message in the Sunday offering plate. There is also a prayer board near the back entrance to the church. Please stop a moment to add your concern to that board, and pray for others in need.

PRAYER GROUP: St. John's Prayer Group meets on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 6 to 7 p.m.** You are welcome to join us as we pray for our church, our congregation, and our community. **Contact Carroll Paul, 410-859-0891.**

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We have such talented and loving women making the baptism blankets and prayer shawls. Thanks to all of you! It's difficult to give an accurate tally of the blankets since babies are baptized regularly (5 in September). Right now we have about 12, so we have blankets ready. This ministry has given comfort and love to those who have received a blanket, shawl, or prayer cloths. As a result of this ministry, there are at least 2-3 other churches that have started making the prayer cloths just as St. John has when a request was made from one of our church members who received a cloth when visiting another church. It is amazing how the love of Christ spreads in so many different ways! **Contact Pam Weammert at 410-766-4208 or pamweams@yahoo.com.**

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

A call for volunteers to support our Building Superintendent team.

Opportunities to use your time and talents: Drop in to help the Tuesday Work Group on Tuesday mornings. Come and help cut grass or shovel snow around the church if you are able. Help is always appreciated! For additional details, please contact Bill Everhart, baldreferee@yahoo.com, 410-274-3932.

Thank you to everyone who helps to keep St. John ready for events.

As a committee we need your help to keep us within compliance with the fire code. Door stops are not allowed on the doors. These doors are fire rated and the stops will eliminate the fire protection of the doors. If you have items to donate, please mark the items so that they get to the right place. Also, please place items where they do not block any hallway, walkway, or exit.

Projects - There is a form to use if you want to complete a project or if you have a request for a project. We need to monitor the changes to our building, so if you wish to see a project completed, this form needs to be completed. We will request that you come to one of our meetings to discuss the project.

Building Usage - If you are a leader or participant in a group that uses the building, we have a new Building Usage form. ALL leaders of groups must sign this document. We are working to keep our building and groups safe. Also, if you have a key to the building, please email **Beth Simonds** at bethms76@yahoo.com with your name, the activity you use the key for, and which door(s) you have key(s) for.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

An Invitation . . .

From the Roy Phippen Scholarship Committee

This will mark the fourteenth year a scholarship has been awarded to a deserving St. John student. For 2019, scholarship applications must be submitted no later than **April 1, 2019**, and the recipient will be recognized during a church service in May.

All students who regularly attend St. John Lutheran Church and plan to pursue post-secondary education in September 2019 are encouraged to apply. By February 1st, applications will be available online or they can be requested by calling the church office.

On **Sunday, February 10th**, an informational meeting will be held in the Counting Room (2nd floor behind the elevator) explaining the application process for *The Roy Phippen Scholarship*. Applicants, as well as a family member, are encouraged to attend this meeting where guidelines for completing the application will be shared. Students will leave the meeting with part of the application completed. In addition, all questions about the application and process will be addressed. It is the hope of *The Roy Phippen Scholarship* committee that all eligible students apply as many attributes of each student will be considered on the scholarship application.

Importantly, the scholarship committee is dedicated to supporting students throughout the application process. If assistance is needed, please call Donna Williman at 410-859-3311.





The GFWC Woman's Club of Linthicum Heights, Inc. will award six \$1500 scholarships to high school seniors. Four of the scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors living in zip code 21090 that attend either public or private schools. In addition, two scholarships will be awarded to North County High School seniors who demonstrate a financial need.

Applications will be available in mid-January from school counselors or by contacting Shirley Beck, Scholarship Chairman, at trinketssab@aol.com or 410-789-1577. Those applying for the financial need scholarships should complete as much information as possible within the designated box on the application. Mrs. Beck will be available throughout the school year to answer questions about the scholarships.

Applications must be mailed to Woman's Club of Linthicum Heights, P. O. Box 301, Linthicum, MD 21090-030 by April 1, 2019.

SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

We love SJLC Seniors! We love Lil! -- That's the theme of February's Senior Fellowship luncheon on Wednesday, February 6th, Noon in Fellowship Hall. Please plan to join the family of St. John seniors as they are celebrated for being our beloved sweethearts. AND there will be a festive celebration of Lillian Warnken's 100th birthday (official birthdate - February 12th)!! Warm fellowship and a delicious lunch of pot roast and birthday cake are on the menu. Come for the sweet surprises in store for everyone! All St. John seniors are invited to join the festivities. Won't you be a sweetheart and come out for a fun fellowship gathering!!

SEWING GROUP

The Sewing Group is scheduled to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday every month throughout the year. The meeting on the 2nd Monday is a Host meeting, so bring a sandwich to share (optional) and something to drink. The meeting on the 4th Monday is Bring Your Own Lunch day (BYOL). The meetings are held in the Friendship Room from 10am - 2pm. Plan to spend time enjoying fun, friendship, fellowship and assembling quilts - you do not need to know how to sew to be able to help. Come - you'll be glad you did!



STEPHEN MINISTRY --- CONFIDENTIAL!

That's what Stephen Ministry is. Confidentiality is a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry because it is absolutely essential for building safe, healing, caring relationships. Everything a person tells his or her Stephen Minister is held in strict confidence. People are often afraid that if they tell someone what is troubling them, word will get around and others will look down on them. But a Stephen Minister keeps everything a care receiver shares confidential, and through the sharing God works miracles of healing and peace.

Even if you are not a Stephen Minister, think about the importance of confidentiality in your day-to-day relationships. Consider how you can improve relationships and help people's personal healing by maintaining confidentiality when something is told to you.

You also can play a part in helping our Stephen Ministry remain confidential. Refrain from asking a Stephen Minister about the caring relationship or from making comments or observations about someone you suspect is a care receiver. It puts a Stephen Minister in a very difficult spot when someone asks about a care receiver. If you have questions about how a possible care receiver is doing ask that person. A personal expression of concern from you would make that person feel good because it would show that someone else really cared.

Confidentiality is a standard of conduct all of us need to live by – not just those involved in our Stephen Ministry. Confidentiality promotes trust, builds one another up, and encourages healing in a Christian community. As Solomon says in Proverbs 12:18, "Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing."

If you would like more information about this ministry please contact one of the Stephen Leaders: Marjie 410-969-6059, Bill 410-274-3921 or Sandy 410-456-3019. Please keep our Stephen Ministry team and their care receivers in your prayers.

TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S WORK GROUP

The Tuesday Workgroup is asking for volunteers to provide snacks for their group (can be homemade or a purchased snack). We have lost some of our volunteers who provided snacks due to loss or moving out of the area. If you are interested in helping out please leave your information with the church office and they will forward to Dale Weammert. Also, if you are interested in joining our group, please come any Tuesday, we are there from 9:00 am to 11:30 am (snack is usually around 10:30 am). All volunteers are welcome.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

WELCA Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, FEBRUARY 9, 2019, starting at 10am in the Friendship Room. This is a regular meeting and will start with a Prayer, Grace and Brunch Devotion, followed by the business portion of the meeting. All women of St. John are encouraged to attend. Remember to bring your pennies and offering.

SEAFARERS SHOEBOXES - WELCA continues collecting donations of men's crew socks, men's gloves and men's knit hats for the sailors. Please put your donations in the blue box on WELCA's table in the All Purpose Room. Shoeboxes (no boot or sandal boxes, please) will be accepted throughout the year. Completed shoeboxes will be delivered in November 2019. Many thanks to everyone who donated items for this wonderful ministry during 2018.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

The Youth Group is up and running for all 6-12 graders. Your leaders are Johanna Porter and Abby Hood.

The Youth Group will be meeting on the 2nd Sunday and the 4th Thursdays in the youth room. The dates for February are:

Sunday February 10

Thursday February 28

We will be meeting from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on those days. If anyone has questions please contact the youth group at

stjohnlinthicum.youthgroup@gmail.com



THANK YOU NOTES

Church Office,

May peace and joy be yours this holiday season and throughout the New Year.

Thanks for sending the monthly news to me. I very much appreciate the church news and humor.

Carolyn Sacker

GIFTS TO ST. JOHN

General Fund

Christmas wishes and God's Blessings to all by Shirley Palmer



FROM ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

VALENTINE FROM GOD TO YOU

*For God so lo**V**ed the world*

*That He g**A**ve*

*His on**L**y*

*Begott**E**n*

*so**N***

That whosoever

*Believeth **I**n Him*

*Should **N**ot parish*

*But have **E**verlasting life*



1 Corinthians 13 vs 4-7 and vs 13

Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to them no matter what the cost. You will always believe in them, and always stand your ground in defending them.

There are three things that remain—faith, hope, and love—and the greatest of these is **love**.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. JOHN

Mark Your Calendars:



Winter Fun Fest

It's winter but, St. John members, neighbors and friends are invited to an afternoon/early evening of fun, games and a chocolate dessert auction in the fellowship hall.

Saturday February 9th

3:00-6:30pm

Come have some fun at family game night with a \$5.00 meal deal, plus a chocolate dessert auction theme to benefit Outreach and Our Youth. Bring the family & friends with a game to share. Some games will be there but, more are needed/welcomed. Please donate a chocolate dessert for the auction and remember to include the recipe for the church centennial cook book. Dessert auction will start @ 5:30pm sharp.

Be Prepared To Have Fun!

Any questions contact: Ursula Yeo syeo@verizon.net; Tami Jones Tamij@comm-tronics.net; Abby Hood 8bobbert88@gmail.com; Kim Porter LxandKim@gmail.com; and Mary Kay Grantland @ 410-789-5065

Event sponsored by outreach, fellowship & youth and family.



Crazy Sock Hop

Remember the young Happy Days, where you went to the soda shop, Al's/Howard's to meet with friends over a soda/ice cream/pizza and enjoyed music on the jukebox with dancing!

Well It's Back !

Come one and all to the St. John Crazy Sock Hop in the fellowship hall and bring a friend. You're never too young or too senior to enjoy the fun!

May 4th from 3-7pm

DJ; Dancing; Food; Contest with prizes!!!

Wear some crazy socks, if you want to. Dress-up in the era from when you were a teenager; the era you fell in love with ; or come in casual clothes. Just come! You don't want to miss this.

Don't forget those Dancing Shoes!!!

Tickets will be sold in March and April. Any questions about event contact Tami Jones; Jeanne Alker and Mary Kay Grantland.





SNOW CLOSING POLICY

If bad weather makes travel to St. John treacherous (snow, ice) a decision on whether or not to cancel Sunday services will be made by 6:45 a.m.

The cancellation will be posted immediately on as many media sites as possible, including local TV stations, and radio stations WBAL 1090 AM, and WRBS 1230 AM. Our Webmaster will also post cancellation news on the church website: www.sjlc.org. An email will be sent to congregation members who have provided an email address. You can also call the church office, 410-859-0020, where a message will be placed advising of the cancellation.

Our standing policy for weekday or weeknight activities is as follows: if school is cancelled in Anne Arundel County, all daytime and evening activities are cancelled.

In rare instances, a storm may cause a power outage at St. John, meaning no heat/AC or lights. In those circumstances, if you call the church office, 410-859-0020, and the answering machine **does not come on**, then the church has no power and church activities are cancelled

The Rev. G. Edward Whetstone, Bridge Interim Pastor
The Rev. William F.R. Gilroy D. Min., Pastor Emeritus
300 West Maple Road
Linthicum Heights, MD 21090-243

410-859-0020 www.sjlc.org

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