



# THE EVANGELIST

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A monthly publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Ridge Valley  
 St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ridge Valley, 910 Allentown Road, Sellersville, PA 18960  
 Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 2pm  
 Pastor—Rev. Amy Hotter    Administrative Assistant—Jennifer Nyce  
 Phone: 215-257-9643                      E-Mail: [stjohnsridgevalley@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnsridgevalley@verizon.net)  
 Website: [www.stjohns-ridgevalley.com](http://www.stjohns-ridgevalley.com)                      Facebook: <https://facebook.com/stjohnsridgevalley>  
 Sunday Worship Schedule: 8:30 am—Traditional; Sunday School-9:30 am (no summer); 10:15 am—Praise

Issue 1    *A Word from the Pastor...*

January 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

As the New Year is upon us, we have a new opportunity to re-evaluate if we are "living the dream". How are we doing? Is there Joy? Excitement? Peace? Did you get the presents or the "stuff" you wanted from Christmas? Does it give you comfort overall? As for the New Year, most of us will at least consider resolutions to better ourselves, however I suggest we stop and ponder the bigger picture. Again, most of us talk about losing weight, adding an exercise regime, and saving some money, which is all about "me". The bigger picture is about our relationship with Jesus. For when we walk in His light, we love and care for others.

Our God is called Emmanuel for He comes in the flesh to bridge heaven and earth. He is our Savior, Jesus Christ. He is our all and all. It is only through our God, we find what we need. Therefore, consider spending more time visiting the sick, helping others and having deeper conversations.

### "A Simple Equation"

Jesus says, "If you want to find your life, then lose it. But if you want to lose your life, then try to save it." If we put this down as a

simple equation, we get this: Seek to SAVE your life = LOSE it. LOSE your life in Christ = SAVE (i.e., find) it.

This is the opposite of how human nature thinks. We think that to gain our lives we must save them. We think that if we let go of our lives that we will surely lose them. This is natural and understandable. But it is wrong. . .

Simply put, Jesus is talking about self-ownership. He is telling us that we must lose our ownership of ourselves. We must lose control of our lives. All of that must die. It must be unconditionally surrendered into the hands of God. If we do surrender, then we will experience what real life in Christ is all about. We'll actually experience resurrection in Jesus." May we live our dreams by the .gift of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

<http://www.goodnewsarticles.com/Mar99-1.htm>

Have a Blessed and Happy New Year

Pastor Amy

## January Scripture Schedule

Date	Principal Festivals	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Jan 3, '16	2 Christmas	Jer 31:7-14 or Sir 24:1-12	Ps 147:12-20 or Wis 10:15-21	Eph 1:3-14	John 1:[1-9] 10-18
Jan 6	Epiphany of Our Lord	Isa 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7, 10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Matt 2:1-12
Jan 10	Baptism of Our Lord	Isa 43:1-7	Ps 29	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan 17	2 Epiphany	Isa 62:1-5	Ps 36:5-10	1 Cor 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan 24	3 Epiphany	Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Ps 19	1 Cor 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Jan 31	4 Epiphany	Jer 1:4-10	Ps 71:1-6	1 Cor 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30



# January

- 1 Office Closed for New Years Day
- 6 Inclusions due for Council Agenda
- 11 Council Meeting
- 18 Martin Luther King Day
- 20 Articles due for Newsletter
- 28 Blood Drive 2-7pm

### LOOKAHEAD:ING

**February 14th—  
Annual Congregational Meeting**

### Read the Bible in a year! Go to:

<http://www.ewordtoday.com/year/msg/cjan01.htm> and follow along with their suggested readings for each day or see below. You'll be on your way to reading the Bible as it's events occurred in real time!

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jan 1: Gen 1-3    | Jan 16: Gen 12-15 |
| Jan 2: Gen 4-7    | Jan 17: Gen 16-18 |
| Jan 3: Gen 8-11   | Jan 18: Gen 19-21 |
| Jan 4: Job 1-5    | Jan 19: Gen 22-24 |
| Jan 5: Job 6-9    | Jan 20: Gen 25-26 |
| Jan 6: Job 10-13  | Jan 21: Gen 27-29 |
| Jan 7: Job 14-16  | Jan 22: Gen 30-31 |
| Jan 8: Job 17-20  | Jan 23: Gen 32-34 |
| Jan 9: Job 21-23  | Jan 24: Gen 35-37 |
| Jan 10: Job 24-28 | Jan 25: Gen 38-40 |
| Jan 11: Job 29-31 | Jan 26: Gen 41-42 |
| Jan 12: Job 32-34 | Jan 27: Gen 43-45 |
| Jan 13: Job 35-37 | Jan 28: Gen 46-47 |
| Jan 14: Job 38-39 | Jan 29: Gen 48-50 |
| Jan 15: Job 40-42 | Jan 30: Ex 1-3    |
|                   | Jan 31: Ex 4-6    |



# Family



## Altar Flowers

- *Please sponsor a loved one.*

## Bulletin Sponsors

- *Please sponsor a loved one.*

## Candle Memorial

- *Please sponsor a loved one.*

## Memorials for January

Memorials were received in loving memory of Roy Haf-ler from

Margaret Fry

Margie Kulp

A memorial was received in loving memory of Richard & Barbara Warmkessel from

Richard & Doris Scott

A memorial was received in lov- ing memory of Barbara Warmkes- sel from

Thomas & Joan Scott

A memorial was received in lov- ing memory of Walter Nase from

Asher & Nancy Nase



## PRAYER REQUESTS

We are here to pray for you!



### Our Members:

- Gene Davidheiser
- Linda Marcinko
- Steve Shutt
- Neala Hopkins
- Lynn Damm Wim-mer
- Lindsay Hopkins
- Mark Trouger

### Our Grieving Family:

- The Warmkessel/Kehoe Family
- The Fallows Family
- The Clark Family
- The Hafler Family
- The Nase Family

### Our Friends:

- Elizabeth Schmitt
- Darline Dotter
- Dorothy Troxel
- Sandy Driscoll
- Mary King

### Our Homebound:

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Francis Allem           | Heacock                     |
| • Doris Barndt            | • Bob Kulp                  |
| • Claude & Dorothy Barndt | • Charles Marx              |
| • Edna Barndt             | • Tom & Blanche Matczak     |
| • Pauline Berndt          | • Elaine Turner             |
| • Helen Brensinger        | • Paul & Pauline Brensinger |
| • Lucille Caruso          | • Harold & Gert Benner      |
| • Ed Geiger               | • Romaine Croisette         |
| • James Gotthardt         | • William Turner            |
| • Willis & Lorraine       |                             |

## Unemployment Support Group

Every Tuesday night at 7pm

St John's Lutheran Church

Ridge Valley

215.257.9643



## Christmas Caroling



when  
you  
Choose  
joy

You feel good  
& when you feel  
good, YOU do good  
& when YOU do good  
it Reminds others  
of what joy feels like

& it just♥  
might inspire  
them to do  
the same.

## FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS

We recognize that many of the members of our congregation as well as friends of St. John's own, operate or are affiliated with a family business venture, and this can include baby sitting, dog walking, sitting, mowing of grass, etc.. Please feel free to post your business card, or a little memo with regard to what might be of interest to our congregation. "We are Family...Our Congregation and Me."



## Blood Drive

January 28th here at St. John's!  
Please bring family, friends, and  
neighbors to participate.

# STEWARDSHIP AND CHRISTIAN GIVING

## A Biblical and Theological Perspective



### Responsibly

Central to Christian giving is the affirmation that God abundantly supplies the resources necessary to enable his people to fulfill the tasks given to them. God's people should be encouraged to support the mission and ministry of their congregation and the larger church primarily through the Christian giving of their own membership.

The desire of many Christians to use their time and talents creatively in the service of the congregation and the wider church should be encouraged and commended. The life and work of the church depends greatly on the dedicated volunteer service of its members.

When, on the other hand, congregations or groups of Christians seek to provide financial support for the work of the church through various undertakings and enterprises, it is important to answer candidly and honestly questions such as the following: Does the undertaking inhibit our basic commitment to Christian giving? Does it represent a shift, subtle or blatant, of the responsibility for giving from ourselves to someone else? Is there an attempt to circumvent or avoid the necessity for growth in our own commitment to Christian giving? Is this activity inconsistent with the "Statement on Commercialism" adopted by the LCA at its 1964 convention? (LCA Minutes, pp. 597-598)

If the answer to any of these questions is affirmative, it may well be that this venture is not the best way to exercise Christian responsibility.





**YOUR CAR.....YOUR MARRIAGE  
BOTH RUN SMOOTHER WITH A TUNE UP!**

**Attention Married Couples:** So you've done maintenance for your car—how about your marriage? Make 2016 the year you decide to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union.

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday around 4 PM and have been enriching marriages of couples of all ages for 40 years! In addition to the \$100 per couple registration fee, you will be given an opportunity near the end of the weekend to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward the continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included.

**The 2016 Pennsylvania Weekends are:**

- **April 8-10, 2016** in Lancaster, PA, at the all newly-renovated Heritage Hotel Lancaster, home of the unique tree-house-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's"
- **April 22-24, 2016** at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA, Happy Valley's premier conference center located on a quiet hillside with views of Nittany Mountain
- **September 16-18, 2016** at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA, a new, hotel-style facility on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Pocono Mountains – an hour north of Allentown

**October 21-23, 2016** at Olmsted Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA, a stunning, hotel-style retreat center adjacent to the Olmsted Mansion situated on a hillside in the Allegheny National Forest, an hour north of DuBois

**Registrations are limited, so act today to ensure that you can attend the Weekend of your choice.** To sign up online, go to: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and pay the registration fee using your credit card, or mark the option to mail in a check. For questions, or if you would like a brochure mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).



## **ATTITUDE**

**By**

**Charles Swindoll**

“The longer I live, the more I realize the  
impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more  
important than facts.

It is more important than the past,  
than education, than money, than  
circumstances, than failures,  
than successes, than what other  
people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance,  
giftedness or skill. The remarkable  
thing is we have a choice everyday  
regarding the attitude we will  
embrace that day.

We cannot change the fact that  
people will act in a certain way.

We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the  
string we have and that is our attitude...

I am convinced that life is 10% of what  
happens to me and 90% is how I react to it.”



## SILVER SPRINGS – MARTIN LUTHER SCHOOL

The North Penn Auxiliary of Silver Springs gathered at St. Michael's in Sellersville on December 1<sup>st</sup>. I delivered 83 gifts and stocking stuffers that were transferred to the school to be distributed to the children on Christmas Eve and Christmas day.

At present, Silver Springs has 70 residential children which means they are at full capacity. There are a record number of children at the facility without any family resources so these gifts mean a lot to the children and staff.

Robyn Alderfer who is President of the auxiliary and works at the school told us Silver Springs held their largest fundraiser recently and they netted a profit of \$140,000.00. All of this money goes directly to the school. They are still suffering with the state budget not being passed so this money is a great thing. She also reported that "career week" was a huge success. As a nurse she taught the children to take a person's pulse and told them about nursing as a profession. She said for a full week the children were running around taking each other's pulses! The purpose of the career week is for the children to know what they can do with their lives after they graduate from school. At present the staff is working hard to help them overcome their various situations and problems. This school gives the children HOPE for a bright future.

The free will offering collected \$195.00 and we voted to donate the money to the clothing fund. It costs the school about \$800.00 per child to clothe them for a year with basic clothing. That brought up some discussion on the "Undie Sunday" program St. John's had several years ago. I mentioned that we have wanted to do that again and several other representatives of other Lutheran churches said they will do the same thing. We will be collect new-in-package or with a tag children's underwear and socks. We will collect a size range of small (6-8) up to adult sizes. These children range in age from 6 to 14. We will collect during the month of January with the last date to collect being Sunday, January 31, 2016.

On Tuesday, April 5, 2016 St. John's – Ridge Valley

will host the Pie Day meeting for the school. So please be prepared to come out and learn more about the school. Also, bring a baked item that will be transported to the school for the children to eat after their evening meal. Pie Day is a huge fun day for the children as they get to choose their own dessert! We will send the undies we collect in January along back to Silver Springs with the staff members. Everyone seemed really excited to sponsor an Undie Sunday that their own church. The staff was pretty excited too. They keep basic clothing items in case they get a child that comes to the facility with immediate needs. The other churches that support the school are really excited to visit St. John's as they have never been here. Please plan to come out that day.

Marianne Yeakel

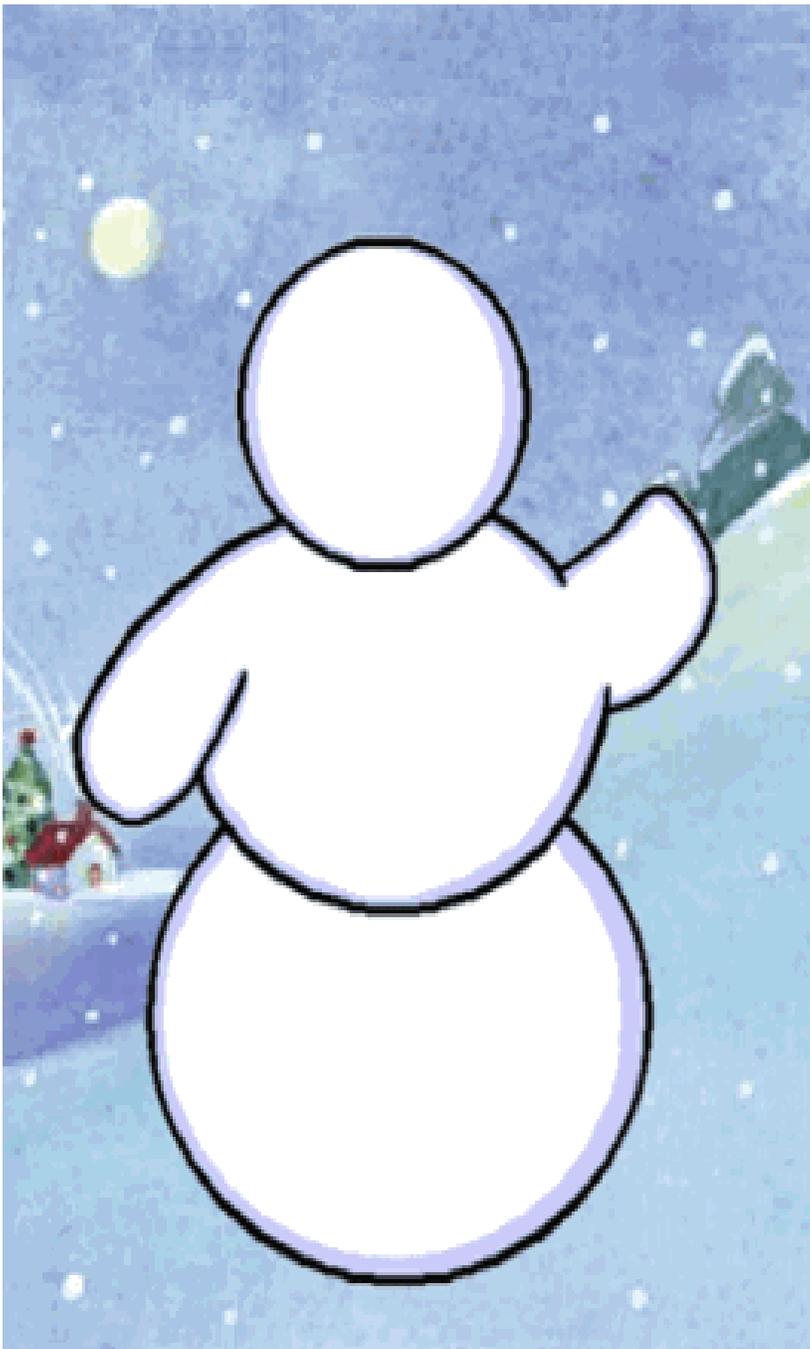
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## THE RETURN OF UNDIE SUNDAY!

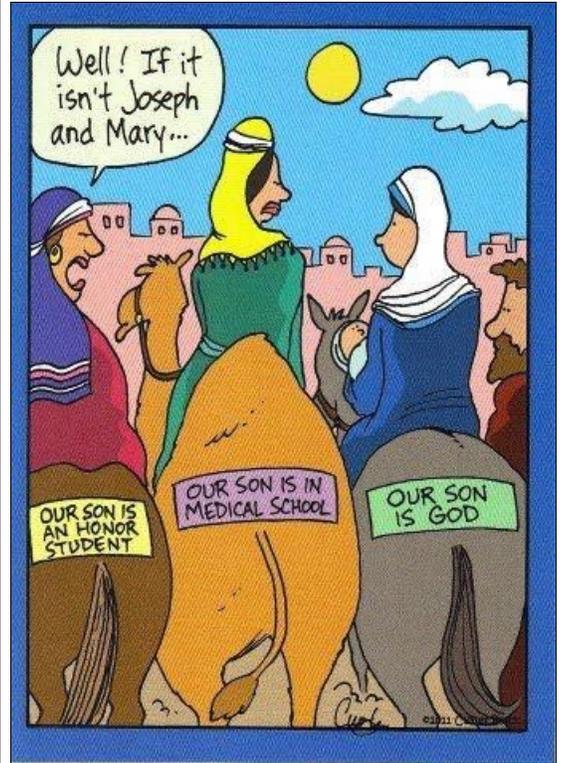
We will collect **new in package or with a tag** children's underwear and socks for Silver Springs – Martin Luther School during the month of January, 2016. The final Undie Sunday will be Sunday, January 31, 2016. Size range will be size 6-8 up to adult size. The children at the school are aged 6 – 14. We will collect both boys and girls underwear. So keep an eye out for sales and help the school help these children. Please bring the undies to our Coffee Fellowship Area and place them in the box. We will deliver them to school representatives on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> when we host Pie Day for Silver Springs.

# Kids Corner

Kids! Draw a face and decorate the snowman!



# Comics



St. John's Lutheran Church  
910 Allentown Road  
Sellersville, PA 18960

Place  
Label  
Here

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Website: [stjohns-ridgevalley.com](http://stjohns-ridgevalley.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsridgevalley>

Worship Schedule: 8:30 am - Traditional Service; 9:30 am - Sunday School;  
10:15 am - Praise Service

**St. Johns Staff:**

**The Rev. Amy Hotter, Pastor**

Mark Gottesfeld, Organist & Music Director

Jennifer Nyce, Administrative Assistant

Christine Nyce, Rick Rogers, Sextons



St. John's Council Members:

Don Graham

Roy Hafler, Congregation/Council Vice President

Barbara Klinger, Financial Secretary

Dan Traynor, Treasurer

Brenda Wall

Nancy Esposito

Cornell Hopkins, Congregation/Council Secretary

Marianne Yeakel, Congregation/Council President

Megan Yoder

