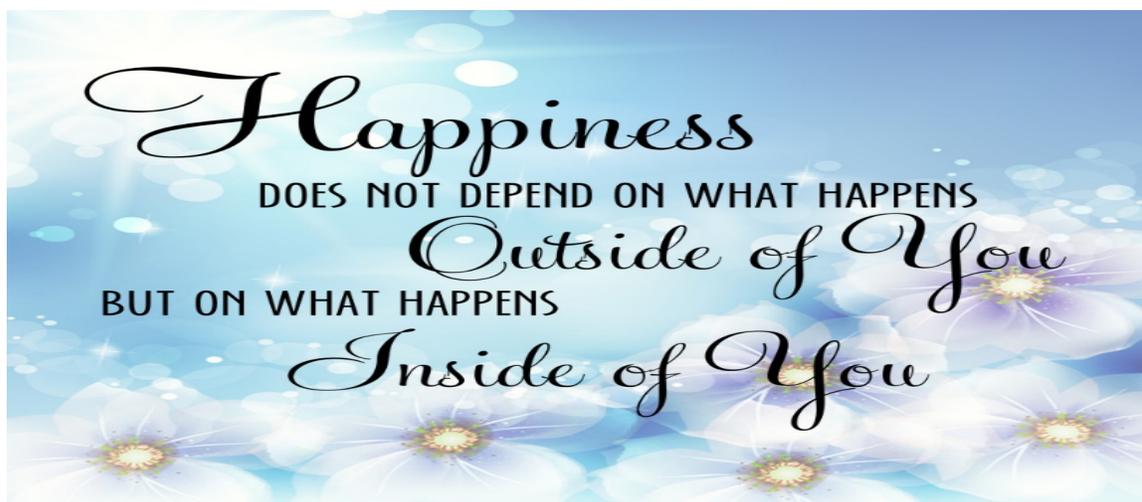


ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
RIDGE VALLEY
EVANGELIST NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2021



*St John's is a strong community.
We will weather this together.
Don't give up hope and keep the
faith!*



Message from our Bridge Pastor

Dear Friends,

We are now well into the new year and preparing for the coming seasons. In the midst of the cold and precipitation, we can't wait for the warmth and flowers of spring to get here. However, for us Christians, there is another season that begins in February that is a harbinger of spring: the Lenten season. This is a time for reflection and preparation for the Good News of Easter. Traditionally it has been one of the busiest seasons of the Church year.

Can we be busy this year, in the midst of COVID-19, during the Lenten season? I think so, if we mean busy in a good way and not in a busy-work kind of way. We can take the time to reflect on our faith and our God, to consider what it all means to us. We want to reflect upon our fears and doubts in the midst of things we cannot explain or control. It is a good time to think about the ways in which God has blessed us already and all the ways in which God blesses us now.

We continue to meet in worship virtually, with a small number of people meeting at 10:15 each week to live-stream and record the worship services. This is a system that has proven to work well and is constantly under review for improvements. The difficulty is that it is not available to those who do not have computer capability to engage in that form of worship. For our Lenten midweek services I am proposing that we attempt something similar but with the addition of paper copies being mailed to our members who would not otherwise be able to participate.

Our midweek 'services' will consist in short meditations that I will pre-record and will be attached to Facebook and our website. These will have additional questions or thought starters that will help you think about your faith. My theme for Lent 2021 will be: 'The Fruit of the Spirit'. Based on Galatians 5: 1 – 25, we will consider how our lives are changed from our natural negative inclinations toward positive and God-blessed ways of living.

We go into a new season. We are hopeful that we will experience new and better living, with peace in our hearts. May God bless you in this season with an expectant vision for tomorrow.

Your partner in Ministry,

Pastor Paul

P.S. The Call Committee has been hard at work looking for the next pastor for St. John's. So far they have not identified the perfect candidate. From our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod they should be receiving, in the next few days, a new set of names for consideration after previous efforts did not lead to a call.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT:



Good Morning, Good Afternoon, Good Evening; guess it depends on when you are reading this and your perspective of the day. Well, today I decided to have some Perspective for breakfast. I will break my fast with a cup of Hope, a slice of Joy- smothered in Peace, and a healthy serving of Love. Respect will fall in line when needed. So, let's start our day on the right foot (unless of course you're like me and you are left footed), small baby steps towards feeling full with our Lord. At breakfast, ask in prayer for our Savior to heap a hopeful, joyous, peaceful, and loving day upon you. Let that feeling be with you all day so you can share it with others. You never know what other people are going through and a simple smile could turn their day around and they will have hope and maybe a smidge of peace. I wish you all many perfect days of perspective.

Be a light in someone's day

Vicki Dixon

St. John's Church Council President

A message from your Financial Secretary

Thank you for your support in 2020. Through your contributions, we are able to continue our mission to do Gods work and share our message, giving people strength and compassion needed to make it through difficult times like these. We hope you will continue to support St. Johns in 2021.

For your convenience, our eGiving service, Vanco, provides tools to make giving simple even when you're unable to attend church. Their eGiving is safe and secure and can be accessed on your phone by downloading the GivePlus Mobile App on the App Store or on Google Play. Enter the zip code for our church [18960] and give. You can also easily enter your donation from our church website.

Thank you again for supporting St. John's and the church we've all worked so hard to nurture.

Barb Berberich

Contributions



transitions

team updates

The Five Focus Points of Transition

time. They are:

- 1) Heritage: *reviewing how the congregation has been shaped and formed.*
- 2) Leadership: *reviewing the membership needs and its ways of organizing and developing new and effective leadership.*
- 3) Mission: *defining and redefining sense of purpose and direction.*
- 4) Connections: *discovering all the relationships a faith community builds outside of itself.*
- 5) Future: *developing congregational and pastoral profiles*

Call Committee Update

Call Committee members are:

Denise Rogers, Don Graham, Elsie Bartram, Sue Crouthamel, Kayla Ackerman, and Zack McLane.



Outdoor Property - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for someone to spearhead the Outdoor Property committee and find volunteers to complete the many tasks that Chris Wall performed over the years.



For those who have Thrivent cards and have not used them yet; Chris Wall will be attempting to make soup again and needs some financial help to get them started. We are also discussing having other fundraisers in the future and the Thrivent cards can be used for that as well. Thank you. Denise Rogers [215-257-9635](tel:215-257-9635) is our liaison for Thrivent002Edcfg

Newsletter DEADLINE

Please note that the deadline for Submissions for St. John's **March 2021 Newsletter** must be submitted by **NO LATER than 12 noon Monday, February 22, 2021.**

Submissions can be dropped off at the church office or emailed to: stjohnsridgevalley910@gmail.com. Thank you!



HELP US GROW THROUGH eGIVING

We appreciate your giving. As we alter the way we operate, please consider making a gift via eGiving. Our eGiving service, Vanco, provides tools to make giving simple even when you're unable to attend church. Their eGiving is safe and secure, and it allows you to designate your contribution to the church funds you're most passionate about. Giving online is fast, easy and secure. You can even set up recurring payments, so your donations continue even when you forget.

Visit our church website and locate the GivePlus online button and donate! You also have the option of donating using your smartphone with the GivePlus app or directly from our church Facebook page. To learn more about giving online, contact Barb Berberich at 215-258-0282.

"Help the life of one person and you can help the community."

Food Drive Benefitting Pennridge FISH

Drop off your donations at St John's on Sunday mornings before or after the service. For a list of current needs visit www.pennridgefish.org

FISH giving: 2020: 295 pounds (as of 11/23/2020)

Quakertown Food Pantry maintains an Amazon wish list with its most needed items. Simply purchase the items and they'll be automatically shipped to their designated address. Visit www.quakertownfoodpantry.org for more information

Do You Shop on Amazon.com?



If so, please choose St. John's Lutheran Evangelical Church in Sellersville, PA through your AmazonSmile account. There is no cost to you and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St.

John's. Just go to smileamazon.com, search for **St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church (in Sellersville, PA)** and then click on "select". If you have questions, please contact the church office. This is a great way to support our ministry with no extra cost to you. Thank you for your support! Visit www.smile.amazon.com to register your account.



A Memorial was received in Loving Memory of

Charlie Guenst from:

*Phyllis Kogel, Jim & Ada Miller,
Barry & Cam Thomas, Bruce & Linda Savitz, Mary Myers,
Betty Hentz, Paulette Wimmer, LaRue Hinkle & Tina Hotter,
James & Lois Piano, Penny Markley, Women's Club of Perkasio,
Marguerite 'Peggy' Rohl, Penny Petro, Richard & Denise Rogers.*

A Memorial was received in Loving Memory of

Richard Baxter from:

*Harry & Joan Gacad, Joseph & Mary Lou Paskill,
Mary Ann Woosnam, Penny Markley, Vicki Dixon, Brian Whippy,
John Grasch, Richard & Denise Rogers.*

A Memorial was received in Loving Memory of

Ralph Heffendrager from:

*James & Barbara Stoneback, John & Nadine Nagurny, Joellen
Bauman, Timothy & Rosemarie Rohl, Terry Halteman,
Penny Markley, Vicki Dixon, Marguerite 'Peggy' Rohl,
Sara & Douglas Fraley,*

A Memorial was received in Loving Memory of

Margie Kulp from:

*Penny Markley, Vicki Dixon, Rev. & Mrs. Donald Simmons,
Richard & Denise Rogers.*

A Memorial was received in Loving Memory of

Richard Croisette, Sr. from Richard & Denise Rogers.

A Memorial was received in Loving Memory of

Linda Marcinko from Richard & Denise Rogers.



"Sincere thank you to everyone at St. John's for all the prayers, cards and expressions of sympathy extended in the passing of my husband and father, Richard Baxter. It is through the love and support shown by everyone that we can feel at peace. May God bless you with love and good health."

Carol Baxter and Family



When we pray together, we storm the gates of heaven. Please pray with one another for healing and the well-being of:

Please pray for a speedy recovery for the following people:

Vicki Dixon, Rick Dunkle (Vicki Dixon's boyfriend), Ed Galgon, Michael McIntyre (Kim O'Riordan's son), and Linda Trauger & Family (recovering from pneumonia & COVID-19).

Please pray for the family of Ralph Heffendrager.

Please pray for the family of Margie Kulp.

Please pray for the family of Lucille Fox Caruso.

Please keep our homebound members in your prayers - Francis Allem, Edna Barndt, Pauline Brensinger, William Clayton, Stella Crouthamel, Nancy Esposito, Carolyn Hafler, Bob Kulp, Blanche Matczak, Naomi Nase, Shirley Nase, Myrna Reppert, Fred Schirk, Mark Trauger, Elaine Turner, and Harriet Woehr.

Prayers for our Military – Jacob Baxter, Luke Dixon (deployed), Bryanne Kelly, and Steven Walter.

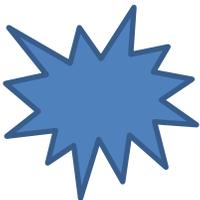
If you know of someone that needs to be added to the prayer list please call the church office 215-257-9643 or email the office stjohnsridgevalley910@gmail.com .



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY LIST:

- 1 *Lee Felbinger*
- 2 *Phyllis Kogel*
- 3 *Kim O’Riordan*
- 5 *Del Snyder*
- 6 *Matthew Remick*
- 8 *Sean Kehoe*
- 16 *Ken Yeakel, Jr. & Eric Woehr*
- 19 *Allyson Gilton & Janet Brown*
- 24 *Alyssa Marshal*
- 26 *Amanda Remick & Janet Kukowski*
- 28 *Amiee Beck*
- 30 *Lori Barndt*

Did we miss anyone else? Please let the church office know if we missed someone’s birthday.



The new sign-up calendars for Flowers, Bulletins and Candles for 2021 are available in the Fellowship Coffee Area once the church is allowed to open its doors again. We are going to use the green potted plants on the altar instead of flowers during our virtual worship services. If anyone wishes to sign up for flowers bulletins and candles, contact the church office or email stjohnsridgevalley910@gmail.com.

A notice will then be put in the bulletin stating that the Virtual flowers were donated by _____ in memory or honor of _____.

This change will be beneficial in that no one has to go out and get flowers and not have to worry about how to disburse of the flowers after the service until the church is allowed to open for physical indoor worship services.

Scripture Readings for February 2021

February 7th – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Second Reading: 1Corinthians 9:1-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

February 14th – Transfiguration of Our Lord

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalm: Psalm 50:1-6

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

February 17th – Ash Wednesday

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalm: Psalm 51:1-17

Second Reading: 2Corinthians 5:20b, 6:10

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 21st – First Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

February 28th – Second Sunday in Lent

First Reading: Genesis 17:1-7

Psalm: 22:23-31

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Gospel: Mark 8:31-38



On Ash Wednesday, February 17th, we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Of course Jesus does not tell us to refrain from all acts of public piety. What Jesus seems concerned with is the *why*, not the *what*. Why do you pray in public? Why do you give alms? Why do you fast? If appearing faithful is a way to build yourself up before others, then it is not faithfulness but hypocrisy. On the other hand, if praying over a meal in a restaurant is something you do because praying at meals is part of your faith, by all means bow your head and pray.

As the season of Lent begins each year, God’s people are invited to take on three great disciplines: prayer, fasting, and alms-giving. You hear the invitation to prayer, fasting, and alms-giving in the reading from Joel. Jesus’ words in the gospel remind us that our acts of faithfulness always come as a response to God’s gifts. Remembering this gives a note of humility to all we do. Piety is not something to brag about. Piety is not something to be proud of. Piety is but acknowledgment of the one who first gave us everything.

Finally, Paul makes it clear, as if there were ever any question: we only become righteous in Jesus. We know grace only because Jesus becomes our sin. This is the grounding for everything we do throughout the holy days of Lent.

Join the Card Shower

Simply pick up a “get well” or “encouragement” card or write a note, and send it to any or all of the folks listed below. They would love to receive your thoughts and prayers, and we know it would help to brighten up their day. Thank you for your time and care!

Frances Allem
2030 Old Bethlehem Pike
Sellersville, PA 18960

Edna Barndt
Parker at Stonegate
443 River Road, Apt. 313 Highland
Park, NJ 08904

Elaine Turner
P.O. Box 254
Tylersport, PA 18971

Pauline Brensinger
12 Lutheran Home Drive
Room 402 – Healthcare Pavilion
Telford, PA 18969

Carolyn Hafler
12 Lutheran Home Drive
Personal Care Room 101
Telford, PA 18969

Marguerite (Peggy) Rohl
3250 State Rd.
RL# 391, Apt 4
Sellersville, PA 18960

Blanche Matczak
205 Cleveland St
Mullins, SC 29574

William Clayton
#133 Sacred Heart Senior Living 4851
Saucon Creek Rd
Center Valley, PA 18034

Myrna Reppert
1621 South Shore Rd.
Lot# 83
Ocean View, NJ 08230

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Trauger & Family
242 Telford Pike
Telford, PA 18969

Naomi Nase
2077 Hendricks Station Rd
Harleysville, PA 19438

Harriet Woehr
1504 Ridge Rd
Sellersville PA 18960

Stella Crouthamel
2849 Big Road APT 3113
Zieglerville, PA 19492

Ruth Marx
56 South 14th Street
Quakertown, PA 18951

Shirley Nase
12 Lutheran Home Dr.
Telford, PA 18969

**FEBRUARY 2021 WORSHIP ASSISTANT LIST
10:15 AM VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE**

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
ACOLYTE	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
ALTAR GUILD	Marge Fitzgerald Barb Berberich Kathy Weirback			
BELL RINGER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER	VOLUNTEER
**LECTOR/ WORSHIP ASSISTANT	Cornell Hopkins	Denise Rogers	Lynne Kelly	Penny Markley
TELLERS (*Council Member)	*Vicki Dixon Rick Croisette David Schirk	Penny Markley Don Graham Cheryl Fuhrman	*Chris Wall Brenda Wall Sue Crouthamel	*Phyllis Kogel Denise Rogers Greg Gilton

****The assigned Lector will also act as Worship Assistant and read the prayers. If you prefer, you may request the Pastor to do the prayers.**

If you are unable to serve on the day you are scheduled, please arrange to switch with another person on the schedule, then contact the Church Office or Brenda Wall or Sue Crouthamel by the Wednesday of the week you had been scheduled. Thank you. Anyone wishing to volunteer for Worship Assistants for either service, please contact Brenda Wall or Sue Crouthamel. Thank You!

***Tellers – please use the Sunday School room across the hall from the Pastor’s office to count the offerings. Thank you!**

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



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church ~ Ridge Valley
910 Allentown Road, Sellersville PA 18960

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Office Phone: 215-257-9643

Email: stjohnsridgevalley910@gmail.com

Web: www.stjohnsridgevalley.com



www.facebook.com/stjohnsridgevalley



St. John's Council Members:

Vicki Dixon – Council President

Chris Wall – Council Vice President

Emily Dixon – Council Secretary

Kathy Weirback – Treasurer

Barbara Berberich – Financial Secretary

Phyllis Kogel

Lynn Crouthamel

Zack McLane

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Bridge Pastor: Pastor Paul Townsend

Bridge Secretary: Kim O'Riordan

Organist & Music Director: Mark Gottesfeld

Sexton – Christine Nyce

