

April/May 2024
VOLUME 50 NO. 2



St. John's Lutheran Church

Grow in Faith. Share God's Love. Serve Others.

April/May Newsletter

Join us for worship!

Lead Pastor—The Rev. Sarah Keilholtz
Associate Pastor—The Rev. Elizabeth Eckman
Director of Children and Youth—Grace Roux
Minister of Music—Thomas A. Notestine
Office Manager—Deanna Kendall

Office Phone (717) 761-5121
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Office Hours: 9 am—1 pm (Monday—Thursday)

Lead Pastor's Page - Pastor Sarah Keilholtz

Psalm 46: 1 – 3 (Pastor Sarah's Translation)

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore we will not fear, though the narthex and sanctuary should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,

3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Change is coming! Does that phrase strike a little fear and trembling? It might, because change is never easy and change is not usually how we like to do things. But change is coming to St. John's, and in a lot of ways, it is very exciting!

We are well on our way in the renovation process! (Be sure to read Gareth P's detailed update!) Lots of things have been done that we can't see, but each step that we take brings us closer to much bigger, visible changes. And I'll be honest, I can't wait!

But that doesn't make change any easier to see. We all have memories that are tied to places in our buildings and we might not be excited to change those areas – but imagine the new memories we will make together in a beautiful, cleaned up space that is better able to serve our neighbors and one another. I can't wait!

There is still a lot of work to do before we begin demolition and see those visible changes. We will be doing a lot of cleaning out – watch for information on how you can help! We will also be talking about fundraising and how we can be supporting the project as individuals and as a congregation. (Have you committed to giving to the building fund? Are you able to give to help us meet our expenses and goals?)

I think that two important things we will have to be in the coming months are flexible and patient. We are all aware that projects like this sometimes have snags and delays – so we have to be patient and know that it will get done. We also have to be flexible with where we are worshipping and what is happening in our life together. Things might not go as planned and we have to be ready for that, knowing that worship will happen and the work will get done.

Please continue to pray for our church and those who are doing the work of this project. We have a wonderful future ahead of us and like I said, I can't wait to see what is to come. Be sure to watch for more updates and information to come!

Renovation update and property work day

Renovation Team Update: March 2024

The renovation team continues to make progress with the design and planning work behind the scenes:

- On March 20, we met with Pyramid (General Contractor) and KD3 (Architects) to review and select options for flooring, paint colors, countertop surfaces, hardware, ceiling tiles, and more. The samples will be available to see in the Parlor if you would like to take a look. We will have all new commercial-grade carpet squares installed in the new narthex as well as the sanctuary. We selected a vinyl plank tile option for the new bathroom and kitchen areas. All the new finishes will look great and totally transform the space!
- We will be meeting again with the design team to review the final mechanical and electrical drawings so Pyramid can put this out to bid to its subcontractors. We can also then move forward with permit applications to Shiremanstown Borough. As a reminder, the construction budget for Pyramid is \$660,000.
- We submitted zoning variance requests to Shiremanstown Borough for the new exit and exterior stairs to be built in the alley.
- We signed a contract with Susquehanna Organ for the new digital organ and pipe interface and connection to our current pipework. The total cost will be \$245,000, and we paid the initial 1/3 installment to get the work started. This will include a 10-year warranty. You can read more about the Allen Organ Model RL90 at www.allenorgan.com. Located in Macungie, PA, Allen is the largest organ builder in the world.

How can you help?

- **On Saturday, April 13 at 10am, we will have a property work day to focus on cleaning out the present nursery, choir room, parlor and storage areas. We will need to completely move out of the spaces before the summer, and we need your help to sort through everything and decide what will stay in temporary storage to keep for the new spaces. Please join us! Lunch will be provided.**
- Please pray for the work of the renovation team.
- Please continue to prayerfully consider giving to the Building Fund to help build the future of our church. Every dollar we can contribute to the Building Fund is one dollar that won't need to be borrowed and paid back with interest.

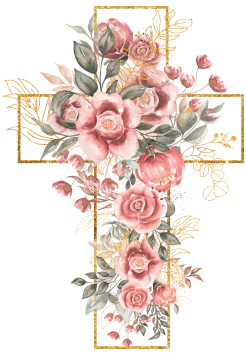
Lunch will be provided!

PROPERTY WORK DAY

**SATURDAY APRIL 13TH AT
10AM**

Help us clean out the
nursery, choir room, parlor,
and storage areas for our
renovation!





First Communion Sunday

May 5th

Join us for our First Communion Sunday and support those (who have completed the second grade) to receive the LORD's Supper for the first time.

Our First Communion Class teaches our children about Holy Communion and how to receive it. All who are baptized are welcome to commune at any age. This class is an opportunity as well as a milestone for our children to grow and learn about their faith.

This year's First Communion instruction is on April 7th & 14th at 9:15am and then we will celebrate on **May 5th**

Confirmation

Pentecost Sunday

May 19th at 10:45am

Join us on Pentecost as we celebrate our students who have engaged in three years of confirmation classes to learn about their faith and affirm their baptism.



Upcoming Events for Children!

April 14th and May 5th

Join us from 2:30 - 4 p.m. in St. John's Youth room for songs, games, a bible story, and crafts. Grades k - 5 are welcome! A time to learn about Jesus and form community. Parents are required to stay and participate with their children!





SAVE THE DATE FOR

SCUBA VBS

**JULY 8TH - 12TH
FROM 9 AM TO NOON**

DONATE TO VBS PROJECTS!

Items needed:

- blunt scissors (Rounded tip only)
- 70 page bound notebooks or 200-210 page bound notebooks
- 12" Rulers
- Hand-held small pencil sharpeners
- Large erasers (no cap erasers)
- Unsharpened pencils
- 24 pack of crayons



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 8 - 12

9 AM - NOON

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING AT VBS
THIS YEAR PLEASE SIGN UP WITH THIS QR CODE OR
EMAIL GRACE AT GROUX@STJOHNS1787.ORG

ALL VOLUNTEERS MUST HAVE UPDATED
CLEARANCES ON FILE



Upcoming Events for Youth!



April 14th

Youth Group Meeting in St. John's Youth Room. We will play games, eat food, and learn about our theme!

Middle School 4-5 pm

All youth dinner 5-6 pm

High School 6-7 pm

April 20th

10 am - 2 pm

Come and help at the Children's Garden Art show! We will be preparing and serving food as a youth group fundraiser! We will need all hands on deck for this event. Parents are needed to help!



April 28th

Youth Group Meeting in St. John's Youth Room. We will play games, eat food, and learn about our theme!

Middle School 4-5 pm

All youth dinner 5-6 pm

High School 6-7 pm



May 5th

Youth Group Meeting in St. John's Youth Room. We will play games, eat food, and learn about our theme!

Middle School 4-5 pm

All youth dinner 5-6 pm

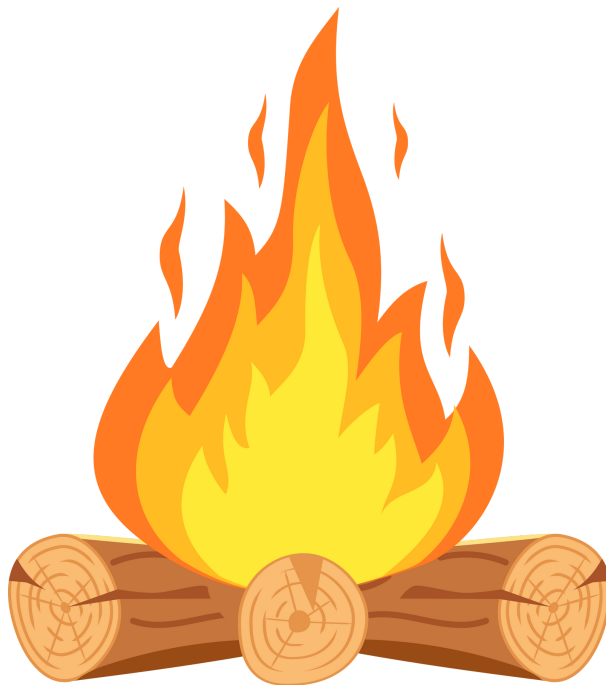
High School 6-7 pm



May 19th

Final youth group meeting

We will meet all together from 5 pm - 7pm for our final youth group meeting of the year. We will share food, play games, and send off our seniors!



ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP

KRISPY KREME FUNDRAISER

**ORDER
COLLECTION
MARCH 31ST
- APRIL 14TH**

**ORDER PICK-UP
ON APRIL
20TH, 10 AM -
2 PM IN THE
GRASSY AREA**

**SEE A YOUTH
MEMBER TO
ORDER**



St. John's

**The Children's Garden
Art Show**

April 20th,

2024

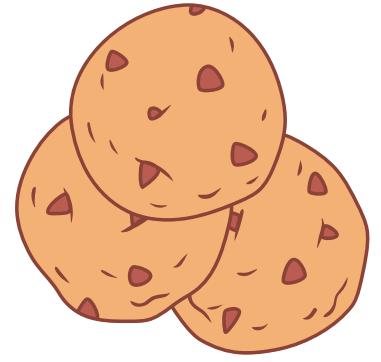
10 am - 2pm

**Come to see our
students' creativity and
imagination at our annual
Preschool Art Show!**

**Also, support St. John's
youth group and come
enjoy hot dogs, burgers,
walking tacos, donuts, or
drinks!**



Word of life Wednesdays



Join us in the Multipurpose room for dinner.

Dinner 5-6 pm (Multipurpose Room)

3rd year Confirmation 6:15-7:30 pm (Parlor)

Bells 6:15-7 pm (Church)

Choir 7-8 pm (Church)

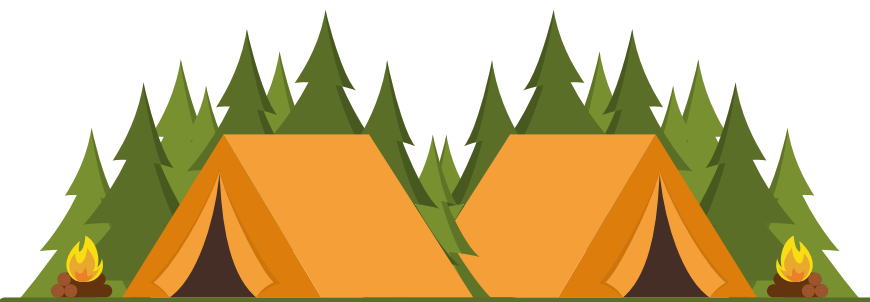
Open House

Nawakwa and Kirchenwald

April 14th

from 2-4:30 pm

Visit either camp and learn about the summer!



See Grace or Alison Zeigler with any questions!

Deaths



IN THE CHURCH FAMILY

Gloria Johnson February 24, 2024

UPDATE

Please contact the Office if you have any changes/updates to your:

- 1. Mailing Address**
- 2. Cell/Home Phone Number (s)**
- 3. Life Events**
- 4. Children going to college (Address!)**
- 5. Adult children information!**
- 6. Births/ Baptism requests**
- 7. Emails**

THANK
YOU

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and to Kurt Minnich for delivering them.

Sincerely,

Deanna Erdman

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers. It was a huge arrangement and admired by all.

God Bless,

Nancy Whitman

Dear St. John's

Thank you for the bulletins and flowers. I miss you all.

Ruth Zimmerman

February 2024 – Financial Report

		Beginning Balance	Income	Disbursements	Ending Balance
CURRENT		-22,323.61	37,921.05	32386.91	-16,789.47
BENEVOLENCE	Benevolence	0.00	1,443.00	1,143.00	0.00
	World Hunger	0.00	1,047.00	1,047.00	0.00
	Organ Fund	4,967.00	50,115.00	0.00	55,082.00
BUILDING		104,391.64	104,832.18	83,550.00	125,673.82
MEMORIAL		24,947.50	610.00	0.00	25,557.50
Trust and Endowment		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Youth Ministry		5,234.33	0.00	0.00	5,234.33
TOTALS		117,216.86	195,668.23	118,126.91	194,758.18

ST. JOHN'S QR CODE

The QR code displayed here will take you to St. John's secure eGiving web page. Once there, you'll see several options to donate to St. Johns.





June 16-22: Confirmation Camp
July 8-12: Vacation Bible School
Sept 8: Rally Day

Summer Worship Hours.

June -Sept/Oct

Sat (indoors) 6pm

Sun (outdoors) 10am

Sunday Church Lunch at 11am on
June 9th, July 7th, and August 11th.



The Church office will be closed on the
following dates:

Monday, April 1, 2024

Monday, May 27, 2024

Regular office hours are
Monday - Thursday 9am - 1pm