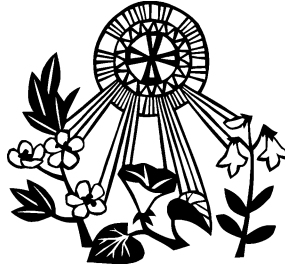


Pastor Carl's Castings



Wanting EASTER to be more than just One Day

It is so easy to let Easter be just April 4th, a day on the calendar. We do that with Christmas, rather than letting it be a season of new hope in the newly born Jesus. Why should Easter be more than one day?

First, biblically, Easter is like your computer's home screen—it comes up behind everything we begin, work on, and end on our computer. Easter IS a way of living, as Christ does, brought back to life by our forgiving, ever loving God. Begun when Jesus himself was raised 2000 years ago, our own resurrection was begun that day and can be renewed daily through our faith's relationship with the risen Jesus being made new.

Every Sunday IS an Easter celebration of the resurrection, secondly. This helps us learn to let our faith's new love for life today, with the risen Lord Jesus Christ, be a hunger that welcomes Jesus to come to us, to walk with us all day, and lead us into God's saving life's work each and every day.

Martin Luther invites us to begin and end each day using the sign of the cross (traced on our foreheads in Holy Baptism) to remember that our new, resurrection lives began when we received Christ's new life as our own in Baptism.

Come, join the happiest celebration the world has ever known, April 4th, this Easter day. Then learn with us as our Lord teaches us how to live every day in God's forgiveness and, raised WITH Jesus, to love a new life not bound by our sin nor enslaved by our world anymore. We are FREE, and have Easter life abundantly, eternally, as we live and move and have our being daily in and with our risen Lord, Jesus.

Christ is Risen!! (he is risen, indeed)

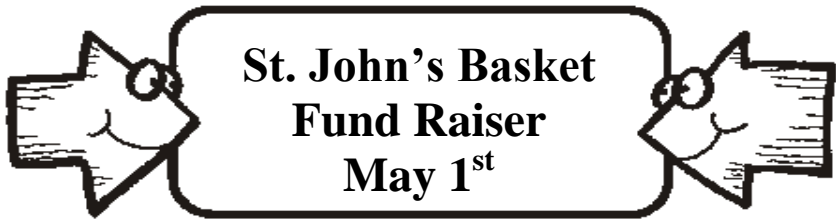
Pastor Carl

Make a Joyful Noise

Are you interested in (re)affirming your faith, in becoming a MEMBER of St. John's? Please email, call or speak to Pastor Wenzel ASAP, and join our conversation in preparation for your Affirmation of Faith on Sunday, April 25th. Our time together, called Make a Joyful Noise, will be from 9:15-10:15 am on Sunday mornings of April 11 and 18th. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Please speak your interest even if these dates don't match your schedule. We rejoice in seeing how God is adding gifts and new ministries to our life together through each one God brings to share our life in Christ.

A PASTORAL NOTE

Please call the church office or Pastor Wenzel if you would like to schedule a home visit or receive communion at home. If you need to contact him in the event of an emergency, Pastor Wenzel's cell phone number is 610-223-6555, (please note: he will not be able to answer the cell phone when visiting in the hospital).



**St. John's Basket
Fund Raiser
May 1st**

**Doors will open at 4:30 PM
Meal served at 5:30 PM - Start time 7 PM
Tickets \$10.00 Adults 13 & Up,
\$5.00 Ages 5 to 12, and under 5 no charge.**

The adult price will include your meal and 10 strip tickets for the **Chinese Basket Drawing**. We will have additional strip tickets available for sale the night of the event.

For the Chinese style auction we will have 20 to 30 baskets with a variety of items valued at least \$15.00 each featuring baskets filled with items for the kitchen, bath, sewing, car, summer, romantic, snacks, coffee and tea, movie, entertainment, etc.

Grand Prize Drawing will be a quilt made by the Quilters of St. John's. Raffle tickets for the quilt are available at a cost of \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00.

Children are not eligible for raffles.

Our menu for the evening will be buffet style - Tossed salad, Baked Ziti, Meatballs in sauce, Ratatouille, French fries, Rolls Assorted Desserts, and Beverages. For special dietary needs, call Barb Smith at 610-683-7742. We will try and make sure they can be included in this fund raising opportunity.

We will send each family a pack of tickets to try and sell. Please come and bring your friends. We plan to have a fun time! If we have any young folks out there who would like to help with musical entertainment that evening we would love to have you! Please call Barb, or any Social Activities member.

We pray everyone will take an interest, come out and have a wonderful time with our St. John's family!

President's Message

Hello everyone. I hope that all is well with you and your loved ones. Although it was one of the worst winters we have had in a while, we were still spared the brunt of this East Coast winter. It's funny how the storm went this way and that way and over all we got what I would call a typical winter. I think we should all thank the Lord for giving us the beauty of winter, but not all of its furry.

Our recent All Committee Meeting was a big success. We all had a good time discussing the future of St. John's and it appears all is going quite well. We still have a couple of areas that need work, but over all I would say the status of St. John's is good. We are still looking for someone to take over the position of Sunday School Superintendent. At our next All Committee Meeting, we would all like to bring one person with us that was not there the last time. Come and find out what all the committees are doing. I think you will be surprised.

Can you believe it, yet another earthquake? It appears that Chile is a lot more organized and is able to handle the situation. I suppose in the olden days these types of events occurred all the time but no one really knew about them. Now, no matter where in the world something happens, we all seem to know about it instantaneously. This certainly makes it easier for all of us to help out when help is needed.

You know, lately I have been really listening to the message of the sermons and to my surprise I have actually been learning something. A few Sundays ago on "The Simpsons" the church sign reads "Free Wi-Fi during Sermons", which sums up the way a lot of people think about Sermons. I believe the Sermon is the most important part of the church Service. A good Sermon should give you a fresh perspective on life, make you think, and renew your spirit I found it interesting and timely when Pastor Landis's sermon used the

passage from Luke 13 which talks about how it is human nature to think that somehow God is punishing people for their sins when bad things happen like earthquakes. Jesus states in Luke 13:4 that this not the case. I was intrigued by Pat Robertson's comments on Haiti and his suggestion that all of Haiti's problems were created by a supposed Pact with the Devil. I did a little research and it didn't take long to find a website which explained it from a historical perspective. The following passage is supposed to be what was really said by the Haitian revolutionary Boukman Dutty in 1791

The god who created the sun which gives us light, who rouses the waves and rules the storm, though hidden in the clouds, he watches us. He sees all that the white man does. The god of the white man inspires him with crime, but our god calls upon us to do good works. Our god who is good to us orders us to revenge our wrongs. He will direct our arms and aid us. Throw away the symbol of the god of the whites who has so often caused us to weep, and listen to the voice of liberty, which speaks in the hearts of us all.

It is easy to understand a comment like this in today's terms. Can you imagine what it must have been like being a slave in 1791. I hope that we as Christians are always able to distinguish between what is good and what is evil, no matter what the popular belief of the day is.

May God bless you and your family during this Easter season.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Qualio
St. John's Congregational
Council President

Applying Bible Principles

“ . . . if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away . . . everything has become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). Christians should have a different outlook on life, including money and material possessions. They realize that they own nothing, that everything they have belongs to God, and that they are only managers and stewards of what God has entrusted to them. Because of that, Christians should have a different attitude towards “things.”

That attitude demonstrates itself in many different ways. For example, Christians show mercy and give, in contrast to the those who borrow and do not repay (Psalm 37:21). Christians should hold possessions with an open hand, and “refresh” others with their bounty (Proverbs 11:24-25). They are honest and demonstrate their faith by their work and integrity (1 Thes. 4:11-12). They give to those in need and thereby demonstrate to a watching world the love of God (1 John 3:17).

When this kind of lifestyle is present in our lives, Jesus said that people will see our good works — our different attitude and perspective — and will glorify our heavenly Father (Matt. 5:16). And as we seek His kingdom first and foremost, we have His promise that He will provide what we need (Matt. 6:33).

As others observe you and your lifestyle, do they see any difference because of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? As they observe your relationship to “things,” especially to money, do they realize you are a manager, a steward, and not an owner? Or stated another way, is the manner in which you handle money and material possessions a testimony to your faith in Christ?



Daycare Highlights

Thankfully, March came in like a lion and allowed us to slowly move into a busy two holiday month.

We celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday by eating green eggs and ham.

We dedicated a day to Children's author Eric Carte.

As we covered our letters and numbers we experimented with wind and rainbows, decorated our halls with many shades of green, and celebrated the coming of Spring.

One week we hunted for the leprechaun, who left us some gold, and the next week we hunted for candy filled eggs. Sadly, we did not find the leprechaun, but we did find lots of eggs!

We ended the month with an Easter bonnet parade.

We want to thank everyone for making our Book Fair a success. We appreciate your kindness.

Happy Spring!

Daycare Staff

610-683-5402

Preschool News

Mrs. Leibensperger's 4 Year Old Class

Spring is finally here. It's hard to believe that we're just about in April. The Easter bunny is soon on his way! We had a very busy month!

Our color was green, the letters were R, S, T, V number 7.

Some of our themes this month were: Windy Weather, Green Day (yellow and blue make green), Library, bunny info, All about Spring, and many more.

We had 2 parties in March. The first was St. Patrick's party. We searched high and low to find a leprechaun, but all we found was one of his shoes that he slipped out of. We didn't catch him, but . . . we did find his pot of gold!

Our Easter party was lots of fun. We had games, good snack food and an egg hunt. The bunny hid Easter buckets filled with goodies for the children.

Our candy sale went well as did our book fair. Thank you to everyone!

Preschool open house



Next Meeting April 8th
"The Story of the Kutztown Train Station"
(Meeting will be held AT the
Train Station on Railroad Street)
Richard J. Diehm
7 PM Fellowship prior to 7:30 PM

From "Recipes from the Flock" St. John's cookbook

Thank You Notes

Dear St. John's Lutheran Church

Thank you for all the things I have received from St. John's and for all the visitations and kindnesses shown to me over the years. I really have appreciated all of them. Thank you, too, to Pastor Wenzel and to Pastor Landis for their visits and prayers.

Sincerely,
Mary Arnold

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for all the caring things you do. The gift bags with all the goodies are very nice. The little Valentine man is on my door. I wish I could be with you.

With Love,
Lillian Baldwin

Dear Women of the ELCA,

I would like to thank the Women of the ELCA for the Valentine Goodie Bag. It was a very pleasant surprise and greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,
Joan M. Hill

Dear Women of the ELCA,

Your thoughtful gift brought a smile to my face. Thank you.

Hilda Fink

Dear Women of the ELCA,

Thank you so much for the big bag of goodies delivered to me. I do appreciate your kindness and do enjoy every piece.

Fern Fulton

Dear Women of the ELCA,

Thank you for the Valentine Gift Bag and favor. Your thoughtfulness is appreciated.

Sincerely,
Ruth Reitz

Memorial Contributions Received

In Memory of Doris Eck

Kenneth and Anna Herman
Tim and Rachael Gladden
Althea Kuhns/
Kutztown Area High School Class of 1942
Lisa Ladd-Kidder
Randolph and Joyce Leibensperger
Alan and Rita Robertson

HOSPITALIZED

Here are the appropriate codes assigned to us by the respective hospitals in Allentown and Reading. Lehigh Valley Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital – 282; Reading Hospital – 512; St. Joseph's Hospital – LU 60. You can use these codes if you are undergoing elective surgery or you can call the chaplain's office at each hospital and ask them to list you under our congregation's code for that institution.

Quilt Raffle May 1st

"Hearts and Spring Flowers"

Grand Prize Drawing Raffle tickets for the quilt are available at a cost of \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00. Children are not eligible for raffles.

THANK YOU TO EAGLE SCOUTS!

It is with deep appreciation that we acknowledge the fine job you have done in improving appearances at St. John's. We are happy that you have chosen St. John's as your project in which to earn your Eagle Scout award.

Thank you for your generosity of time and your interest in the future of St. John's Lutheran Church.

Brent Beck painted the Council Room.

Joshua Hartman painted the 5th and 6th grade Sunday School rooms.

Both Scouts are members of Troop 133 sponsored by Richmond Township.

Also Bill Collier, Troop 101, for Rec Hall renovation work.

Congratulations to St. John's Youth!

Please congratulate our youth for their achievements.

Kristin Hartman made Jr. County Band.

Joshua Hartman made Sr. County Band.

They are active in the music program at Fleetwood Area High School, playing in the Jazz Band, Marching Band, and the Symphonic Band.

Adam Rabenold and Jesse Miller made Regional Chorus.

Baylee Zimmerman made Jr. County Chorus.

Chris Collier made Jr. County Band.

Jesse Miller made State Chorus.

It's Spring and Time to Sing!

The **Kutztown Community Choir** will begin the spring concert season with its **forty-third** annual **Serenade to Spring** choral concert on **Sunday, May 2, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.** at **Trinity Lutheran Church,**
357 West Main Street, Kutztown.

Opening the program will be an old favorite, "When the Red, Red Robin Comes Bob, Bob, Bobbin' Along." A variety of choral music will be included in the program, from folk songs of the British Isles to music of Cole Porter, George Gershwin, and Irving Berlin. Also on the program will be "An Americana Songbook," a medley of tunes from the early days of our country, as arranged by Douglas Wagner. Stephen Foster's "I Dream of Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair" and Hoagy Carmichael's "Stardust" will share time on the program with "Anthem" from the contemporary musical, "Chess," and "Down to the Water to Pray" from the film "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" Representing the classics will be pieces by Gabriel Faure and G. F. Handel. The program will close with a medley of tunes by Irving Berlin, with "God Bless America" as the finale. All vocal soloists are members of the choir. Flute and oboe will be included in addition to piano accompaniment and rhythm instruments.

As in recent years, an art show by members of **Art in the Afternoon** will be on display in the entrance hallway. There is no admission charge, but an offering will be received for the benefit of the choir's music fund.

The **thirty-fifth** annual **Flag Day concert** in the **Kutztown Park bandshell** is being planned for **Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.** Details of the program will be announced next month. For information about these programs, please call 610-683-3437.



Spring Fling Dinner

**To honor members 70 and over
Date: April 11th 2010
after the late service**

All Church members are welcome, those 70 and over, and 50 yr. confirmands will have their meal without cost, all others will be charged a nominal fee.

The menu for the event is as follows:

Homemade chicken pot pie, pepper cabbage, apple sauce, homemade bread, with apple butter. Dessert will be an array of assorted cupcakes, coffee, tea and punch

We will have some very enjoyable entertainment

The cost to those not 70 and over will be \$10.00 for adults, and children under 12 will be \$5.00

Please come out and help honor our senior members, you will have an enjoyable meal and the company of your St. John's Family.

Holy Week & Easter Schedule



Palm Sunday, 3/28

8 & 10:30 AM, Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, 4/1

7:30 PM, Holy Communion

Good Friday, 4/2

7:30 PM

Easter, 4/4

8 & 10:30 AM, Holy Communion

WEDDING PLANS?

ATTEND THE

MARRIAGE PREPARATION SEMINAR

Are you planning your wedding? Please contact Pastor Wenzel to become part of the Marriage Preparation Seminar to be held Sunday, April 25, 2010, from 3:30-5 PM in St. John's Fellowship Hall.

**HELP Support
Friend, Inc. Pantry and Services!!**

**ST. JOHN'S NEEDS A TEAM CAPTAIN
Please call the church office at 610-683-3140
if you are interested in coordinating this
important project!**

The Kutztown Ministerial Association is sponsoring a "Walk for Friend, Inc." on Sunday, April 11, 2010 from 2-3:30 PM. Let us share God's Resurrection glory by supporting our fellow men, women, and children in overcoming hunger and poverty. Register and gather financial sponsors to show your support for this worthy local outreach agency.

May 2, 2010

Following 10:30 AM Service

Witness Team Proposal

From Christ to Building Partnership

Focus All Committee

Events

of St. John's

FACE

of St. John's

Purpose: From each to ALL

- Planning & development for congregational needs.
- Encourage all groups to plan in 3-4 month blocks.
- Better communicate plans so all may contribute.
- Sharing the focus and dates of special events, celebrations & yearly calendar.
- Long term planning and goals.
- Be open to new ideas.



St. John's Lutheran Kutztown Website Update

NEW PHOTOS ADDED TO OUR WEBSITE GALLERY!

- **“Jesus Loves You “Snow Much” Winter Party**
- **“Christmas Breakfast 2009”**

We have had many positive responses to the look and accessibility of our new website! We are very excited about this new step in St. John's outreach and look forward to adding more news of our events to the website.

You may email digital photos to Stjohns@hometownu.com

So go online and take a look!

<http://www.stjohnslutherankutztown.org>



April Sponsorships

The following people are scheduled to sponsor bulletins, candles and flowers during March:

BULLETINS

- 4-4 Ruth Geiger
- 4-11 Hilda Mertz
- 4-18 Open
- 4-25 Tim Fenstermacher famiy

CANDLES

- 4-4 Crystal Johnson
- 4-11 Lester Kerchner
- 4-18 Donna Jones
- 4-25 Mary Alice Heffner

FLOWERS

- 4-4 Catherine Bieber
- 4-11 Karla Rosenbusch
- 4-18 Lee and Betty Trout
- 4-25 Diane Piscitelli

Please complete the sponsorship form and submit it along with your payment to the office at least one week before the date of your sponsorship. To ensure proper credit on your giving statement, please submit a form to the office.

St. John's April Birthdays

April 1	Stanley Koller Kevin Leiby Morgan Wessner	April 18	Joan Wentzel Rebecca Koenig
April 2	Joseph Kressley	April 19	Lizabeth Bardach
April 3	Jason Jones	April 20	Leroy Biehl Joyce Biltcliff Douglas Frederick
April 4	Barbara Green	April 21	Katherine Mest Bruce Carr
April 5	Jean Boyer Barbara Nester Zachary Zornek	April 22	Jessie Hess
April 6	Phyllis Boyer Taylor Green Lauryn Teti	April 23	Joshua Gieringer
April 7	William Gyles III	April 24	Diane Haring Jennifer Malik Sabine Malik
April 10	Thomas Haring	April 25	Linda Becker Tara Haring
April 12	Earl Leiby Steven Rohrbach	April 26	Deborah Clauss Jesse Miller
April 13	Althea Snyder Rachel Delp	April 28	Lucille Bieber Natasha Steltz
April 15	Pamela Schappell Kenneth Smith Erik Sperber Calvin Spohn	April 29	Victoria Fenstermacher
April 16	Adam Watt Nickalaus Hart	April 30	Lisabeth Gernert

If you notice that your birthday or the birthday of someone you know is not listed among those in The Spire, which means that the birthday information is not entered in the church's computer. Please contact the church office and let us know of anyone missing from the birthday list. We want everyone to be included.