

Pastor Carl's Castings



As summer brings newness and changes of pace, August is a great month to live as Ephesians 5:18b-20 invites: “but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making

melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (NRSV). Such giving of thanks becomes the fuel for faith’s thriving better than food for our bodies can.

We Wenzels overflow with thanks to you, our sisters and brothers, for our daughter and son-in-law’s beautiful wedding and start in life. How can we thank you enough for hosting their beginning in an inspiring thank-filled worship? The quilt quietly made by the quilters and given as a surprise gift was magnificent, and offers lifelong prayers for their faithfulness to God’s will and thank filled living.

As I write, super hot days that show our Day Care’s staff’s faithfulness and care for their precious children and ministry have not stopped the ground from giving to the greater Reading Food Bank our first harvest of good potatoes. Nor did it keep us from

having a joyful annual picnic and worship in the Park. God turned up the air conditioning and we stayed for wonderful fellowship. A tally of you said let’s use this same tennis court pavilion next year, and for each worship experience. Nice times were ours, and supported by many persons extra efforts to set up, etc. Thank you, one and all. Thank you, Lord.





Thank you for our vacation time away and its refreshment. We all need that. Rather than time off, our church council is finding refreshment in developing plans and goals. As 'the Fed' wrestles with an unbalanced budget, debt ceiling, and more, let us do so

here with sure confidence that our God who calls us supplies all needed to be faithful in bringing the kingdom with us to the world. Thanks, Lord!

May we be refreshed and prepare for God's great fall ministries among and through us with prayerful thanksgiving, reflection on God's faithfulness, and how we may seek and find the Lord at work, perhaps joining the "Do What Matters" team, or some other ministry God is leading us into.

Shalom (= 'peace'+),

Pastor Carl

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.

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).

Applying Bible Principles

How rich are you? Most of us would respond to that question with a recitation of our material possessions. We would list bank accounts and their contents, stocks, bonds, houses, vehicles, and other so-called assets as tangible evidence of our wealth.

But is that how rich we are? Not really. Adrian Rogers said this, “If you want to know how rich you are, add up everything you have that money can’t buy and what you’ve sent on to heaven. That’s how rich you really are.”

There are two ways to send money on to heaven, or as the Bible phrases it, to “lay up treasures in heaven.” One is to give to the work of the Lord. As we do that, particularly through giving our tithes and offerings here at St. John’s Lutheran Church, we make deposits in what one writer described as the “Bank of Heaven.” Another way to accomplish that goal is to give to meet the needs of other people. That’s the admonition provided by the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 6:17-19 when he instructed Timothy, “As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God. . . .They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share.”

Compared to many people in the world, all of us — to one degree or another — have been richly blessed by God. That’s why we need to apply Paul’s counsel to our lives. As we follow his instruction, giving in the name of the Lord Jesus to meet the needs of others, we “lay up treasures” for the coming age.

One of the primary reasons God provides material blessings to us, His children, is that we might through those material provisions minister in His name to other people. According to Matthew 25:40, when we do that, even to what Jesus described as the “least” of His brethren, it is as though we have done it unto Him.

As one writer expressed it so well, “Investing in the lives of others and growing in our relationship with God are spiritual treasures. They are not subject to destruction or thievery. They are fully protected. Their value never diminishes.” Or as an anonymous poet wrote, “Shall the great Judge say, when my task is through, that my soul had gathered some riches, too? Or shall at the last it be mine to find that all I had worked for was left behind?”

As you consider your true wealth and what really counts for eternity, think about this: How much better to be a poor person who is spiritually rich than a rich person who is spiritually poor.

How rich are you?

Stewardship Committee

Redner’s Save-A-Tape Program

St. John’s participates in the Redner’s Save-A-Tape Program. By collecting receipts and sending them to Redner’s Corporate office, we can earn 1% of the totals. Each person should stop by the store office or Customer Service area to get a Save-A-Tape card. Each time you shop at Redner’s with your card, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape receipt. Please place receipts in the box in the coat area. We appreciate the funds raised through your efforts in saving your Redner’s receipts!

HELP WANTED

St. John’s is in need of a volunteer to fill the position of FINANCIAL SECRETARY. Please let the church office know if you are interested. Call 610-683-3140.

Thank You!

To St. John's Lutheran Church,

I wish to thank everyone who delivered the Easter lily and the altar flowers to me. They were very beautiful and were most appreciated.

Mrs. Joan Hill

Dear Members of St. John's,

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers delivered by Anna Herman, also to Lucy Miller and family.

Catherine Kramer

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and flowers I received while recuperating from knee surgery. Also, Thank you to Pastor Carl for his visits and prayers. It's so nice to be remembered.

Ruth Rohrbach

Everyone Loves a Wedding!

We want to feature your wedding picture! The Archives Committee is planning to fill the showcases in the overflow area with the wedding pictures of our members. Drop your picture (no larger than 8x10) at the church office or give it to an Archives member by August 14, 2011. Include your names, your wedding date, and where you were married. The wedding does not need to have been held at St. John's. The committee would appreciate if the picture is framed. The photographs will be returned to you in October. Please contact any committee member if you have questions. Looking forward to seeing lots of beautiful wedding pictures. **The Archives Committee**
Cass Bieber, Merrily DeTurk, Diane Haring, Audrey Miller

Hunger Lock-In!

On **July 16 and 17, over 125** youth and adults gathered at 8 different locations across the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod for a hunger lock-in. During the lock-in, participants raised money for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal, put together personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief, packaged food for a local food bank, participated in Bible study, played games, and - a highpoint of the event - Skyped with **Amanda Tompkins**, a Young Adult in Global Mission serving in South Africa, and **David Creech** of ELCA World Hunger. With five of the groups reporting in, so far we have raised **over \$6,500** for world hunger and assembled **more than 250 kits**.

QUILTS FOR CAMP NOAH

Women of the ELCA are making quilts for Camp Noah. We need quilt squares 4” by 4 “ which we will assemble and knot at our October meeting. Camp Noah is a week-long camp for children 1st thru 6th grade who have experienced disaster. We will also accept money for shipping costs.

Living With Loss Grief Support Group

When someone we love dies, we often feel overwhelmed, frightened and lonely. Sharing our thoughts and feelings with others who have experienced a loss can alleviate our sense of aloneness and can give us much-needed encouragement.

On Monday evenings, October 17th through November 21st, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM, a six-week grief support group will meet at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Kutztown, PA. Led by a counseling professional, the group will share experiences and coping strategies. This group is sponsored by Ludwick Funeral Homes and is free to participants. Advanced registration is required. For more information or to register, please call Diakon Family Life Services at 610-682-1337 or 1-888-499-2699 (toll free).



Find us on
Facebook

“Like” us at
St John’s Lutheran Kutztown
on Facebook!

We're *excited* about our new
Facebook page

AND our new project:
Looking for GOD in Kutztown
also on Facebook.

Join in for the GOD SIGHTINGS!



NOTICE

INCREDIBLE SUPER BIBLE HEROS

Kids - Youth – Young at Heart

Help build the BIBLE HERO FLOAT

Beginning June 26th and each Sunday after worship services we will plan-design and create a float for the Topton Halloween Parade (October 8th, 2011.)



Join us to plan – build – decorate.

Choose your own Bible hero costume.

Fun & creative...We are giving out MORE “Treats” this year at the parade.



**Adults welcome
Witness Team**

CATECHETICS CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

The first 7th & 8th grade Catechetics class will be held on Sunday August 28th at 6:30 PM. All new students and their parents should attend. Meeting is in the Fellowship Hall.

High school students enrolled in the expanded Catechetics program will have their first meeting on Sunday August 28th at 5:30PM. Students and their parents should attend this session. Meeting is in the Fellowship Hall.

All adults interested in working with Catechetics youth and/or interested in revisiting the basic documents of our faith will meet at 7:30PM on Sunday August 28th in the Fellowship Hall.

A New Curriculum

Dove of peace spreading God's Love and Spreading God's Word

Dove can spread its wings to encompass all
Dove can be shown with olive branch
Dove can be humbled by the word of God

Banner Ribbon's connect the stories of the Bible that the program will focus upon

Creation, Heroes of the Bible, Abraham
Noah, Moses, etc.

Events where the Dove plays an important part

Conflicts/God's intervention
Faithful followers
Events leading to Christ's Birth, Life, Death

Dove shows us how Christianity Spread

Dove soaring

Dove covering the world



Quilting at St. John's

The Quilters had a very busy 10 days at the Kutztown Folk Festival but the work was filled with fun and fellowship. In addition, we made a big profit of \$1,262.50. We sold 4 baby quilts (embroidered by Hilda Fink), and the demonstration Lone Star Quilt was sold at the auction.

The demo quilt had 218 hours of quilting, 31 women participated in accomplishing that task. The proceeds from that week will be given to St. John's to help pay for fuel oil.

As always, we are seeking new helpers to our quilting ministry. No experience is necessary, as we are willing to teach beginners. Come join us for fun and fellowship on Wednesday morning starting September 7 at 8 Am.

Faye Leiby

FRIEND INC. NEWS



SAVE THE DATE!

*Brake the Cycle of
Poverty* benefit ride is

August 13, 2011!

Registration starts at 7:30 AM (staggered rides start at 9 AM) in the KUTZTOWN PARK. Rides range from 1 mile child ride, 10 miles (easy), 25 miles (flat—this time we mean it), 33 miles (this is a really TOUGH ride, very hilly). *All riders have to register and wear helmets.* There will be 3 rest stops total, and lunch is scheduled for 11 AM back at the park. We are raffling off a **\$500 gift card to SKYLINE BIKES** in Reading, PA for only \$5! Check out their website now to see what goodies they have and awesome bikes they sell!

<http://www.skylinebike.com> . Registration is \$25 per person in advance, and \$35 at the door and children under 12 are free with a registered adult. Raise extra money and win extra prizes! Please check out our website for more info and register at www.friendinc.org. **RIDE AT YOUR OWN RISK!!** Contact Erica if you want to be recognized as a sponsor!

11.11.11

This is a very important date for many people, but for FRIEND, it is important because we are thinking “**Turkey Takeover!**” Join us in celebrating this once-in-a-life-time-date, by donating a gift card for a turkey! **Join Friend, Inc. Community Services for the first annual “Turkey Takeover” where we are organizing a TURKEY DRIVE for Thanksgiving and/or Christmas on 11/11/11.**



We are looking for **WEIS GIFT CARDS** for us to purchase the **turkeys** for the holidays, and then families in need will be able to use the gift cards for their turkey dinner for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are looking for you to donate a gift card or pledge money for a turkey.

Unfortunately, we don't have space to hold all of these turkeys at once, so the gift card will be very helpful. We are also looking for a facility to “store” the turkeys we do receive for the holiday months, and if you are interested in donating some freezer space (commercial size), please email me at erica@friendinc.org. Although Friend, Inc. Community Services is not directly affiliated with the UCC, this endeavor is very worthy. For more information on the national level of this project, please visit: <http://www.ucc.org/mission1/>. Questions? Call me at (610) 683-9011.

Thank you for reading, I hope you are thankful for what you have, and willing to give back to those in need!

The Potato Project – Work Update 7/22

Lilienthal Plot – First Harvest.

It was HOT Friday! Managed to delivered 307#s to Greater Berks Food Bank Friday afternoon. 2.3 Rows at the Paul Lilienthal Plot has produced 347#s of nice spuds. I mowed some rows with the Cub Mott Mower (Flail). Attached the older manual drive potato digger (Glenn Hain's) to Paul Lilienthal's John Deere 850 (JD) for the dig. Linda and I bucketed the potatoes, dumped them into the JD Loader in the field, and then poured them into a bin on pallet, on my trailer. Did I say, "It was HOT!"? By 10AM, that was all we could do this day.

Total planted into Paul's Plot was 420 pounds of seed potatoes. So, one more row of harvest is payback.

As we harvest up the hill and closer to the trees, the size of the potatoes will get smaller and fewer but we'll do all right in the Lilienthal Plot – which was the first planted in the middle of April. I was surprised at the nice average size of the potatoes, for the drought and excessive heat we've been having of late.

Next Friday 7/29, 7AM: Adhoc Harvest Group picking potatoes @ The Lilienthal Plot, come join me if you can, for our neighbors in-need.

- *Walt Zawaski*

Friend IHartHarvest on Facebook, and watch what's happening... And, spread the word - SPREAD IT! Google: IHartHarvest.

Remember to "Feed My Sheep"

Donations of non perishable food items and canned goods may be placed on the shelves of our "Hunger Market" display in the coat area. All food items will be donated to Friend, Inc.



**Northeastern
Pennsylvania Lutheran
Center**

New location of the
Northeastern Pennsylvania
Synod ELCA
2354 Grove Road
Allentown PA 18109-3044
Telephone: 610-266-5101
Fax: 610-266-5106
info@nepsynod.org

Youth Encounter Groups

Christ (Mertz) Lutheran Church in Dryville has arranged for one of the Youth Encounter Groups, Cross Fire, to come for a multicultural/musical event on November 12 at 7:30 p.m. You can find out more about the group at <http://www.youthencounter.org/Default.aspx?tabid=580>. They spend part of the year in Ghana and Nigeria, and then the rest in the States. This is an acoustic group. No admission fee...just a can of food, and there will be a free will offering. Cross Fire also will be leading worship here in Dryville the next morning at 9:00 a.m.

August Sponsorships

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

BULLETINS (\$17)

8-7	Karen Hartman
8-14	Diane Haring
8-21	Clifford & Judy Hilberg
8-28	Charles and Mary Beck

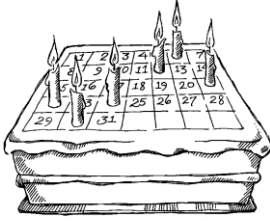
CANDLES (\$10)

8-7	Valerie Miller
8-14	Hilda Mertz
8-21	Deborah Barrell
8-28	Charles and Mary Beck

FLOWERS (\$32)

8-7	Ron and Linda Schappell
8-14	Elmer High
8-21	Sue Parkes
8-28	Sue Parkes

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.



August Birthdays

Aug. 1	Maxwell Johnson Susan Krause Gale Wiltrout	Aug. 15	Frederick Collier William Collier Sue Parkes
Aug. 2	Randall Rentschler Joyce Romig Jarrod Weida	Aug. 17	Eric Diehl
Aug. 3	Judy Hottenstein	Aug. 19	Paul Unger
Aug. 4	Amber Crespo Carl Mest	Aug. 20	Janice Koller Keith Mertz Jessica Parkes
Aug. 5	Debra Johnson Elaine Kistler Sally Snyder	Aug. 21	George Barrell Brittany Beck
Aug. 6	Thomas Hottenstein Darryl Wiltrout	Aug. 22	Valerie Rutherford Daniel Coleman Karin Swan
Aug. 7	Helen Barrell Craig Koller	Aug. 23	Amanda Hess
Aug. 8	Jessica Gilbert Marvin Miller	Aug. 24	Devin Arce James Oswald
Aug. 10	Darlene Arndt	Aug. 25	Audrey Boyer
Aug. 12	Taylor Haring	Aug. 26	Eleanor Berger Kim Smith
Aug. 13	Mace Arndt John Dreibelbis Owen Swan	Aug. 27	Ryan Coleman Richard Parkes
Aug. 14	Hilda Mertz	Aug. 29	Tyler Wolfinger
		Aug. 30	Kennedi Cavalier
		Aug. 31	Kenneth Mertz

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.