

# Pastor Carl's Castings

Graduations, new beginnings, going home or leaving home—these times at church are also about homecomings--ours, with God. This is the beginning of PENTECOST, when, as John's Gospel's reveals God's hopes and promises, we who are baptized recall that we have received God's Spirit and dwell within the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are those embraced by all three as they work in our world together, for its redemption (coming back to life with God).



This is the time of beginning summer activities, often taking us out into the community more deeply, or broadly, in new ways. Perfect! Now we at St John's and in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod are beginning to go with God's eyes, by asking in all things: "what is God (already) up to...and how can we help?" The timing is as exciting as the opportunities to go out and catch God in the act. Any age can enjoy this "hide and seek". Who could be disappointed, or 'bored', or not caught up in new hope, joy, and the fresh new start feeling of our Lord's resurrection changing our world right now, right here!

Want to know more about the action God is bringing to us? Feel free to ask us in the office, on church council, those on the "A Renewal Enterprise" (ARE) workgroup. We are all invited to see, ask, or join in the fun and freshness of being the Body of Christ.





The fun will be all around us at the July 24<sup>th</sup> annual picnic. Hope you will be at the park for worship and all the other joys we will be sharing.

We hope to recognize graduates of both high school and colleges or universities at the 9 am service, June 19<sup>th</sup>, Father's Day. Bring your dad to the brunch here that day.



Wait, there's more! Check out the summer learning possibilities on a display table at the back of the sanctuary in the Overflow area. We hope to have all ages in fellowship sharing discussion of videos, or books, maybe ARE work sessions, the way of reading the Bible passages

multiple times to better hear God talking to each one of us, or a weekly bible lesson study to prepare for the next Sunday's readings at worship. In fact, while at the table please ask questions or fill out a form to tell us your interests. After the June 19<sup>th</sup> service, (at the Father's Day Brunch), we hope to meet for 15 minutes to talk about all these possibilities and make some informal easy plans for a "come-as-you-can" times together following the 9AM summer service in the Fellowship Hall.



One more joy—come share the special worship and joy of our daughter Anne's wedding to Andrew Payne on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, at noon. Everyone's invited to the service and light reception in the overflow area that follows, as pictures are taken. Your presence and/or prayers are your best (and only, please) gift.



Pentecost—it's a wonderful time. We could get used to its wonder-filled time almost like young folks like water and amusement parks at this time of year. Is that part of what God is sharing with us?

May peace, love for God, each other, and Easter's joy only be increasing as we live these days of grace.

*Pastor Carl*



Pastor Wenzel will be on vacation June 24<sup>th</sup> thru July 15<sup>th</sup>. Please call the church office (610) 683-3140 in case of emergency, or if you would like to schedule a home visit or receive communion at home. Pastoral coverage will be provided by Pastor Landis (610) 682-7614.

**SERVICE TEAM THANK YOU**

The Service Team would like to thank the congregation for the donations that were given to the Lenten Angel Baskets. They were delivered to Opportunity House and were very much appreciated.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN  
FATHER'S DAY BRUNCH  
Sun. June 19<sup>th</sup> after the service  
**\$4.00 Adults/\$2.00 children****

## Applying Bible Principles

“ . . . ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you” (Luke 11:9).

God has a wonderful “system” by which we as His children are to get our needs met. It’s a very simple “system,” but somehow, we fail to utilize it as we should. Here’s the plan: God says we are to ask Him. Is that simple or what? We are to call unto Him, to cry out our needs before Him, to bring our petitions before His throne. But somehow, we must think His plan is too complex, for with most of us, asking God is the last thing we do when we have needs.

Oh, we’ll tell our friends. We’ll discuss our needs with any and all who have the patience and courtesy to listen. We’ll frequently complain about our problems, even to the extent of sometimes holding God responsible for His seeming failure to provide for us. But ask God? Usually we’ll do that only as a last resort.

The result is a sad state of affairs among Christians. “You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures” (James 4:2-3). So our needs go unmet because either we do not ask or we ask with wrong motives.

J. Irvin Overholtzer was a pastor who was greatly used by God as the founder of Child Evangelism Fellowship. His philosophy of providing for the financial needs of this world-wide organization was this: “Ask God . . . and tell His people.” Yes, we need to share our needs with others. We ought to make others aware of opportunities for them to get involved in being used of God to meet those needs. But the *first* step in the entire process is this: “Ask God.”

And when we do, we can claim His promise stated so clearly in Jeremiah 33:3 — “Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

Say, do you have needs in your life today? Why not “ask God”? Why not come boldly to His throne? Why not take Him at His

Word and “call” unto Him? That’s God’s plan for His children: “. . . ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you” (Luke 11:9).

Or as Eliza Hickock wrote a century ago, “I know not by what methods rare, but this I know: God answers prayer!”

*Stewardship Committee*

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**“Come-as-you-can” times together**

Check out the summer learning possibilities on a display table at the back of the sanctuary in the Overflow area. We hope to have all ages in fellowship sharing discussion of videos, or books, maybe ARE work sessions, the way of reading the Bible passages multiple times to better hear God talking to each one of us, or a weekly bible lesson study to prepare for the next Sunday’s readings at worship. In fact, while at the table please ask questions or fill out a form to tell us your interests. After the June 19<sup>th</sup> service, (at the Father’s Day Brunch), we hope to meet for 15 minutes to talk about all these possibilities and make some informal easy plans for a “come-as-you-can” times together following the 9AM summer service in the Fellowship Hall.

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**PANDA MANIA**

**Vacation Bible School**

**August 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 - 6-8 PM**

**Look for more info in next Spire or call 610-683-3140**

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**Summer Reading Program for Friend, Inc.**

The **Service Team** will be collecting new and gently used children’s and youth books during the month from May thru Mid-June. These books will be given to the children of clients at Friend, Inc.



# Day Care Highlights

May was our last full month of Preschool and our busiest. We completed our learning of the alphabet by covering letters X, Y, and Z. We spent a lot of time learning about how plants and butterflies grow. We even raised and released our own butterflies!

We had our monthly worship with Pastor Wenzel, a visit from Storyteller Vicki Town, and three field trips. Our children took a tour of the Kutztown Police Station. Each class took a fun filled trip to the Breinigsville Park, and a trip to the Dairy Farm of Luther and Theresa Davis. The children had a first hand experience at making butter and milking cows.

On May 24<sup>th</sup> Dianne McGonigle's 4 year old Pre-K class proudly graduated from Preschool. The boys and girls put on a wonderful performance for family and friends and are ready to begin their Kindergarten adventure!

Our Preschool year will end with a picnic at the Kutztown Park on Wed., June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The fun however, does not end. Our school year program officially ends June 10<sup>th</sup> and St. John's Daycare's Summer Program begins June 13<sup>th</sup>! We are planning a fun-filled summer here at St. John's. Arts, crafts, games, trips to the pool, park and more!

Have a happy, safe summer!

*St. John's Daycare*



# Preschool News

Mrs. Leibensperger's

4 Year Old Class

It's hard to believe we just graduated 16 children from Preschool. It seems like it was just yesterday when they started school. And how they have grown! Not only in height, but in wisdom. Pre-schoolers are like sponges, they absorb everything (sometimes bad things) but mostly skills that will enable them to be good confident students in Kindergarten. I will certainly miss this group of children!

A recap of the month. Our letters were Y and Z. Our special color was purple. Our special days were Butterfly days (we watched as our caterpillars turned into butterflies), breakfast at the Airport Diner, a field trip to the Post Office, lunch at the Kutztown Park, plus many more fun things.

We ended our school year by having a picnic at the home of Samantha Furst.

If anyone is interested in Preschool for the next school year 2011-2012, please call me, Jane, at 610-683-5402 for information!

Have a great summer, and be safe!  
*Jane Leibensperger*

### Mrs. Lenich's 3 Year Old's

What a wonderful year I have had with the 3 year old preschool. They have learned so much. In the beginning of the year most of them could not read their own name, now they can not only read and write their name they can read all of their classmates names. They have matured beyond my expectations.

May was a busy month. The children made gifts for their mothers and presented them to their mothers at a "Mother's Day Tea", where they sang songs and danced on the stage. They had so much fun.

We walked to the Kutztown Park and had a picnic lunch. The last two weeks of school were spent reviewing all the things they had learned throughout the year. It was amazing to see the amount of knowledge they had acquired.

I will miss the children this summer and it is sad to see the school year end. I'm already looking forward to September when they come back as 4 year olds to see how much they have grown. Thank you for allowing me to touch these wonderful children's lives.

*Jan Lenich*

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**Next Meeting June 8, 2011**

**Out to eat – Janelle's – Leave parking lot at 5:30 PM  
Family style. (Beef, turkey \$15).**

**Dessert in Fellowship Hall 7 PM afterward, bring  
wrapped prizes for games!**

# 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.

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## In Memory of Shirley Eidle

Spotts, Stevens, McCoy, Inc.

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*Thank You!*

**Dear St. John's,**

I want to thank Pastor Wenzel for his visit and calls to my home. Also a thank you to Anna Herman for delivering the lovely altar flowers.

**Tom Biltcliff**

**Dear Members of St. John's,**

Thank you for the altar flowers brought to me by Shirley Herring. They were beautiful. Also, my thanks to the Women of the ELCA for the goodies delivered to me by Susie DeTurk. My sincere appreciation to everyone.

**Paul Leimbach**

## 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.

## **Graduating?**

If you or someone you know has graduated since last June or graduated this spring, please contact the church office (610-683-3140). For college graduates, please include the name of their major along with their name and school. **We don't want anyone left out, so please send Janice the information and she will list this in the July Spire. Thank you!**

Congratulations **Eric Leibensperger**, son of Marlowe and Jane Leibensperger, on graduating May 26<sup>th</sup> with a PHD in Environmental Chemical Engineering at Harvard University, Boston, MA. He will further his education at MIT, Boston, MA, doing post doctorate work.

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## **Graduation Recognition Service**

There will be a Graduation Recognition Service on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.

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## **Confirmation Sunday**

The following students will be confirmed on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>:

Danielle Lynn Kauffman

Peyton Loris Kauffman

Brock Andrew Rabenold

They have all met their requirements for church membership as outlined in the directives established for them as part of their Catechetics instruction.

## **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.

# WORSHIP IN THE KUTZTOWN PARK & CONGREGATIONAL PICNIC

**Sunday, July 24<sup>th</sup> – 9 AM**  
**Worship & Picnic following service**

DOWN AT THE TENNIS COURTS

Join us for food, games and fellowship!

Hotdogs, BBQ, rolls, condiments, drinks  
and paper products will be provided.

If your last name begins with A-P,  
Please bring a side dish to share

If your last name begins with Q-Z,  
Please bring a dessert to share

In addition, please fill out the reservation form below so that adequate preparations can be made for everyone. Either drop into the box in the overflow or return to the church office by July 10<sup>th</sup>

We hope you and your family will make plans to attend!!

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## Congregational Picnic

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # attending \_\_\_\_\_

I/We will bring \_\_\_\_\_ to share

I/We would like to help. Please call me/us at \_\_\_\_\_

**(Please return by Sun., July 10<sup>th</sup>)**

## **Thanks to All from Social Activities**

Many thanks to the Social Activities team members who helped with the Spring Fling dinner and the Church members who lent a hand with serving etc, you are very much appreciated. To everyone who attended the dinner to show appreciation to our Seventy & over members. To Adam Rabennold for the enjoyable music, all in attendance had a great day.

Thanks also to the men of St. John's who helped with the Mothers Day breakfast. You all did a fine job & everything was yummy. We might just let you do it next year! Thank you to all the members who attended & supported their efforts, I know they appreciated it. They made a profit after all the bills were paid. ( Good Job).

A Special Thank you to everyone who supported the Chinese Basket Auction fundraiser. We made a nice profit after all the bills were paid, the quilt brought in over \$660 dollars. The winner of this year's quilt raffle was Mac Eidle. He was with us that evening so it was very special having the winner in attendance. We had a total of 24 Basket to give away including basket donations of Jewelry, a lovely picnic, and a snack & household, breakfast, and wine. Thanks to Adam Rabennold who treated us to his special music.

To those of you who pitched in to help, you are the best, Lucy & family, Karla, The Haring family, Smitty & the girls. I love all of you folks so much! You're a great support system for the Church. Hopefully we can do this again next year.

I want to send special prayers to Ruth Rohrbach, & Lucy Miller two Committee members who have undergone surgery recently. The Social Activities Committee has been kind of beat up lately hopefully we can get some young folks to help us out. This getting old is a bummer!

Once again thank you all members & friends for supporting what we do, you are very much appreciated & loved

*Social activities Committee, Chair, Barb Smith*

## **36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FLAG DAY CELEBRATION IN KUTZTOWN PARK BANDSHELL**

The annual Flag Day celebration in Kutztown will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 with a traditional patriotic opening. A welcome by Stephen Hoare, commander of the Kutztown American Legion post will be followed by the presentation of the colors by the color guard of Ray A. Master Post 217 American Legion of Topton. After the pledge of allegiance to the flag and singing of the Star Spangled Banner by the audience, Richard Kelchner, well-known local vexilologist, will discuss the thirty-six star flags. The audience will be invited to join in a brief sing-a-long.

*THE PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN SYMPHONETTE*, conducted by Dr. Willis M. Rapp, chair of the music department of Kutztown University, will play selections from popular and light classical music. The orchestra also will accompany three talented Kutztown Area High School seniors as soloists. Derek Rock will play “Autumn in New York” on alto saxophone, David Quarmlay, trumpeter, will play “Trumpeter’s Lullaby,” and Adam Rabenold’s xylophone solo will be “Comedians Galop.” The Kutztown Community Choir, under the direction of J. Richard Wagner, will sing music from Broadway, pop, and jazz, accompanied by piano, guitar, string bass, and percussion. The orchestra and choir will combine to present “Armed Forces Salute” with veterans of the armed services recognized during this selection. The combined orchestra and choir will also present “Let There Be Peace on Earth” by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson in an arrangement by Mark Hayes. John Philip Sousa’s stirring “Stars and Stripes Forever,” as arranged by Harry Simeone, will be the concert finale.

This concert is made possible by the support of local benefactors and contributions from the members of the audience.

The support of Kutztown University and its Music Department, the Kutztown Publishing Company, the Kutztown Rotary Club, and the Borough of Kutztown is also acknowledged with grateful appreciation. The concert will be held rain or shine. For additional information call 610-683-3437.

## **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**

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### **Installation of Rev. June Bair**

Sunday, June 12 - 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church 300 West High Street, Womelsdorf PA

Come and join us for worship and celebration as Pastor June E. Bair is installed as Pastor. A time of fellowship and celebration will follow! Interested in car pooling, call the church office at 610-683-3140.

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### **St. John's Worship at the Kutztown Folk Festival**

Folk Festival church service on July 3 at 10:30 AM.

No service at St. Johns that day.

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### **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 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade who have experienced disaster. We will also accept money for shipping costs.

# June Sponsorships

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

## **BULLETINS**

6-5	Carol Diehl
6-12	Shirely Freeby
6-19	Open
6-26	Carl and Lois Wenzel

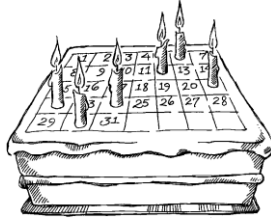
## **CANDLES**

6-5	Pam Heid
6-12	Carol Diehl
6-19	Open
6-26	Fenstermacher family

## **FLOWERS**

6-5	Carol Diehl
6-12	Sue Parkes
6-19	Barbara Green
6-26	Valerie Miller

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.



## June Birthdays

June 1	Baylee Zimmerman	Evan Steigerwalt
June 2	Carl Wessner	Brock Rabenold
	Annabella Genta	June 17 Ernest Mertz
	Carter Diehl	Feryl Stein
June 4	Richard Applegate	June 18 Helen Carr
June 5	Merrily DeTurk	June 20 Mary Williams
	Carol Diehl	June 22 Austin Smith
	Barbara Weber	June 24 Joan Rentschler
June 6	Zachary Cutlip	Kain Cavalier
June 7	Richard Baldwin	June 25 Hunter Kennedy
June 8	Marlowe Leibensperger	June 27 Rudolph Leimbach
June 10	Allison Reitenauer	Nicholas Guerra
June 11	Judith Hilberg	June 28 Clifford Hilberg
	Julie Bortz	Chantel Cavalier
	Jarod Lentz	Caroline Fenstermacher
	Alisha Derr	June 29 Arline Mertz
June 12	Elizabeth Diehl	Gerald Koenig
June 13	Paula Kutz	Ivan Cronrath
June 14	Donald Sechler	Matthew Becker
	Jared Diehl	June 30 Mark Qualio
June 15	Nancy Readinger	James Lerch
	Kayley Derr	
June 16	Anna Warmkessel	

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.