

Pastor Carl's Castings

Hopefully, you find what is written in these pages both information sharing AND inspirational. We have more unity as we catch more fully the joyful experience of sharing our Lord's life and work among us.

This month of May is momentous. We begin in an **Easter** celebration *every day*, because we are an Easter people. Where we go by the Lord's leading, we have participation in God's raising up from death to life people and all creation. It's hard to not smile, be joyous, even happy, and certainly more hopeful than before.



Then we enter **Pentecost**, and recall how the gift of God's whole being poured into first the Disciples, then into us at our baptism, has changed us, and all of the life we now live.

Even though many are away for the Summer, we find that their stories of God's life elsewhere inspire us even as we experience new chapters that almost extend the Bible's testimony of God's continuing to create all things new (II Corinthians and Revelation).

Confirmation comes NOT as a human achievement but a clear affirmation that God is *faithful* both in and through us. So each one's confirmation is a *Call UP*, rather than a call, from



God, to stand down. God has brought each one of these young persons this far by faith *so that* from here we may more fully partner with you in God's amazing works and life, both among us, and through us anywhere. So confirmation really shows the power God has through Holy Baptism to shape not just us, but everyone.

May begins the parade of such personal celebrations as college **graduations**, such as our daughter Anne's from Messiah College, May 15th. Such monumental accomplishments give us all pause...to gratefully recall that God authored such joy and success, with greater ingenuity and faithfulness than we can apply. Such celebrations can make us all more happy and alive in Christ's continuing life with us. Soon others of our high school seniors will be graduating, so May is a month to make solid connections to their challenges, fears, and joyful anticipation. Then we may move with them into the next chapter of their lives that God is authoring. This is also true of our newest members received as God's gifts to us on April 25th. Make sure to meet them so they can become your gift, too, and you a gift to them!!



Want to be more in-SPIRED? Be sure to read the Church council minutes posted in the overflow area each month. And *read on*. These pages say lots, and invite you to let the Holy Spirit use you to speak and or shape our life together in these coming months. Welcome to May and to God's Great(er) Adventure!

To God be the Glory! (soli deo gloria)
Pastor Carl Wenzel

To know is to be in-SPIRED...

The Christian Church, and especially Lutherans, have understood all our ministry to have the same five characteristics as our Lord's: **worship, learning, witness, service, and support**. What follows are some updates (NOT all inclusive) of some things God is doing among us and worthy of our thanks giving.



WORSHIP: with big festival celebrations in May and then in June, beginning one service a week schedule for the Summer months, we have much that in-SPIREs, that calls us to worship—which simply put—is not about what I get out of being here, but what praise and more we put into being with our God during our worship experiences. The worship team is working also to build broader opportunities for those who would like to assist with part of worship: acolyting and ushering, greeting, reading, assisting in leading worship or distribution of the Holy Communion. Worship is the primary way that we experience Jesus’ full and continuing presence with us as if we were on a hillside with him, or at synagogue.

LEARNING: Mother’s Day and more bring special opportunities among the weekly learning. The team is happy to celebrate on June 6th the finish of another school year of Sunday Church School. Come that day to celebrate the regular and faithful teaching given by so many to our different age groups. We will also give thanks for Melissa Miller’s service as Sunday Church School Superintendent. Because she has done much to organize her work and our SCS, she is now able to show our new Sunday Church School Superintendent, Diane Fenstermacher, how to take the reins, uh, reins.



Sunday School Planning



WITNESS: From ducks to help find water supply in Africa, to helping receive new members more deeply over the coming year into our fellowship in service of our Lord, to sponsoring the newly baptized in similar ways of growing our expression of faith through word and action, witness is busy right now. Other plans over the Summer to increase communication will possibly lead to

entrance area flat screen to show activities, direct anyone entering the building any day of the week, informing anyone what's up where, and more. Helping us all to pray as easily and regularly as we breathe is a goal of this team, too.



SERVICE: lots is happening and being planned. Visitation to homebound and flower deliveries, etc, occur monthly and more. St. John's will serve at the Opportunity House in Reading this month, went on a Walk for Friend, Inc., the team helped Council allocate benevolence monies set aside in bequest for that purpose. Additionally (see other article that follows), more visitation options are being considered, such as delivering the Lord's Supper right from Church like we receive it from a communion assistant at the railing. This includes those unable to come as if they, also, were with us at the railing. It also offers those who wish it more opportunities to receive Holy Communion.

SUPPORT: Property works hard to balance budget costs that change while demands for upkeep and improvements need attention; Finance is leading our celebrating how in these economically difficult times, we have continued to offer very full ministries to the community, as far reaching as the whole world, because of our continuing faithfulness in sharing our riches. Additionally, where it would be easier and less costly in time, we will be taking our Lord's lead (as in John 21) to try to reestablish contact with those whose activity has dropped off or become absent. Our new financial treasurer Tim Fenstermacher is instrumental in more quickly and fully tracking markers of activity that we can celebrate our God's life with us and more graciously, and quickly, extend it specifically to those who seem to be missing the action. This is part of stewardship's move



to year round education and celebration of our life's and resources' ability to be multiplied in effect as we, by God's invitation, share what we do with the world. Social Activities, because of Lutheran's love for food, is always bringing new gathering and celebrations together, and we are finding lots to celebrate these days!

Nowhere have we mentioned many groups' ongoing and faithful works in the congregation and world. Nor have we mentioned the Church Council as we will below. We ought to save something for another in-SPIREing write up. Besides, who can count all of God's blessings here, among us?



Church Council has been trying to help every group be founded as Council is, in prayer, Scripture reading and belief that this being God's church, we want to ask God to lead and supply all needed for what God calls us to be faithful about. And we are finding God is so much more faithful than we imagined—because we are only depending on God more fully, now, through using The Twelve Dynamic Shifts of a Transforming Congregation, by E. Stanley Ott. Perhaps next Fall we will, as Trinity Lutheran Church, Kutztown, is now doing, and enter a prayerful Goal finding study of God's will for us and the community.

F.A.C.E.

At our next **FACE** (Focus All Committee Event) meeting May 2nd, following the second worship service and a pizza lunch, we will concentrate on how to answer our many ministries' needs for more help, and our member's needs to work with God in some small group and some simple part of one ministry. This provides not only belonging where we are missed more quickly when life changes

occur, but more meaningful partnership in truly life and world changing work in our Lord's name and presence. We also are working on improving communication and inclusion of all our ministers (the baptized).

Assemblies

Council has gotten us through annual meetings, and now is sending representatives to our Mission District's Spring and our Synod's Annual Assemblies. Council members continually read to learn more about how to be church and minister in today's environment. Much more happens that you can ask or read about, or attend our meetings the third Tuesday of each month, except July, usually.

Did you know...

Homebound members are visited by lots of folks, uh, ministers (including all the baptized), and we are considering adding more. Among those ways we can count and count on: many members visit on their own, out of love and/or friendship or 'relation'.

Pastors Landis and Wenzel visit every two months with Holy Communion. Flowers are delivered often, and sometimes cards or other special items. Our Service Team sends teams of two to visit each homebound member every month. More happens, but this alone adds up to visits about 2-3 times a month. But we want to be able to offer the Lord's Supper more often, in a way that is very special. To those homebound persons who wish, a visiting team willing to act as communion assistants as if at our altar railing, will take the bread and wine FROM OUR ALTAR, after worship, and bring it to share with the homebound as if they were right next to us at this railing. It gives those willing to receive and those willing to share the meal on our behalf, a sure and wonderful sense of still being one with the worshipping sisters and brothers they love and miss so much. Would you like to learn more, or participate? Let Connie or a Service Team or visitor know, or call or email the Church office or Pastor Wenzel. Hopefully training for such communion deliverers can occur as early as June.

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).

Book of Faith Travel Seminar to Turkey

Inspired by the ELCA's Book of Faith Initiative, this travel opportunity offers an encounter with scripture in the lands where the Word first dwelled. This comprehensive travel seminar includes airfare, a carefully planned and paced schedule of sites, accommodations, most meals, activities and educational programming. A Lutheran theologian, Lutheran host and experienced local guide accompanies the group. Turkey: Crossroads of Our Faith, October 11-23, 2010 specifically explores the missionary journeys of Apostle Paul and the early years of Christianity. Contact Linda Staats, A Book of Faith Champion, lstaats@rmselca.org or CrossingBorders, 952-995-9585/800-990-6811 for a brochure.

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!



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

The other night I was watching the PBS science program Nova. The subject was basically what we have learned about the universe in the last century through the use of telescopes. It is almost incomprehensible to believe that less than a century ago we didn't even know if there was anything past our own Milky Way Galaxy. What was even wilder was that, using the Hubble telescope and looking at an area of the sky that seemed to contain nothing, it actually contained hundreds more galaxies. Some times in our daily lives I think we forget just how amazing the universe in which we live is. The fact that the sun comes up every day should be enough of a miracle for all of us to thank God for everything he has given us. Remember to Thank God today.

The expression, stop and smell the roses, came to mind the other day when I was preparing to write this article. Have you ever noticed that mankind always seems to be in some like of predicament? The latest chapter is Tea-Party vs. Anti-Tea Party. Or as I like to call it, If you're for it, I'm against it. I found an interesting video of a young woman who was trying to spread the message of peace, love and tolerance. Ah, to return to that simpler less complex time. The issues are simple, but the solutions are evasive. I found her innocence refreshing. Right vs. Left, Good vs. Evil, the age old question, How to get along?

Another Easter has come and gone and Jesus still has not returned. Darn! Every Easter I pray and hope that Jesus will return. I think that's my, I need a real miracle. You know then I thought about it and maybe we don't give ourselves enough credit for what all of us do every day. We need to stop focusing so much on what I didn't do but what I did do. I don't know about you but I'm ready for Jesus to return. Oh Well. Maybe next year.

Speaking of famous sayings, I also saw another good one. The other day I heard that famous expression "Stop the World I Want to Get Off" I decided to investigate the origins of that famous expression. It turns out it was a play about a man's discontent and all the things he

tried, to eliminate that discontent, not all of them sinless, only to learn in the twilight of his years that the love of his wife was all that he needed to sustain him. Epic Stuff. Let's all tell our spouses how much we love them every day. And if they are already gone, remember them in your prayers.

On the home front everything seems to be going well. There are no major issues to report. I hope you have a wonderful spring and remember to feed the poor and love one another. I know this is what God really wants us to do.

Sincerely,

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

Calling All Seed Potato Cutters.

Your help Is Needed

70, 50# Bags of Seed Potatoes need to be cut - 3,500 #s.

Bring your own steak knife. We'll cut what we can.

Rain or shine session: Saturday May 1st @ 1 PM in the afternoon.

At Zion Moselem Lutheran Church, 340 Moselem Church Road, Kutztown, Rural Kutztown, in their old school house. For more information: (610) 683-6853

It only takes an hour of your time (more if you wish) and nearly anyone can help the Potato Project succeed.

NEEDED RIGHT NOW-- seed potatoes must be cut up into ready to plant sections. Spend an hour, and feed literally many thousands later this Fall.

Applying Bible Principles

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Tim. 6:10).

How would people describe you? Are you one who “loves” money? Is your life marked by a continual inordinate concern about and striving for money? If so, then perhaps you are one who truly “loves” money.

Money is neutral. It is neither good nor bad. What matters is our attitude towards it. If we view it as a means to an end, a means of exchange, and something God can use in our lives to bring glory to Himself, then we probably do not love money. On the other hand, if we are always wanting more and more money, if we will do just about anything to obtain it, and if we think about money more than anything or anyone else, we likely are guilty of loving money. In that situation, it has become a “god” to us, and we bow at its altar in continuing service in order to obtain more of it.

If you are determined to get rich, no matter what, before you continue that lifestyle, read Paul’s admonition to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:9-10. Consider Solomon’s counsel in Proverbs 11:28 and Ecclesiastes 5:10-11. And think about the words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew 6:24, who said, “No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.” Or as Jesus would say, “Let anyone with ears listen.”

Opportunities for Service and Growth!

Are you looking for new ways to serve at St. John’s? We have opportunities in our stewardship activities including presenting temple talks, as a committee member planning and completing activities throughout the year or helping with specific projects such as the fall stewardship campaign. Please contact me if you would like to learn more about our stewardship program and our opportunities for service and growth.

Larry Schappell
larry@schappell.com

Camp Evergreen

Diakon's annual Camp Evergreen, a children's bereavement program, will be held **July 30 to Aug. 1**.

This special camp for children and teens who have experienced a death of a loved one is **free of charge** for all participants. The camp is an opportunity for **youth ages 8 to 16** to learn they are not alone in their feelings of confusion, loss, and grief.

For more information about this Diakon Hospice Saint John-sponsored program, please see Diakon's April Mission District Report, found at www.diakon.org/ChurchProfessionals/NEPA.asp.



5370 Allentown Pike Temple, PA 19560

Reading-Berks Habitat for Humanity is very proud to announce the opening of the new, bigger and better ReStore in the North Reading Shopping Plaza! (Between Sam's and Wal-Mart in Temple) The ReStore sells donated Appliances, Building Materials and Furniture, and uses the proceeds from the sales to build more Habitat Homes in Berks County. We're now on Facebook! Search **Berks ReStore** and become a "Fan" for the latest news, sales and specials.

Please call the ReStore at **610-921-1315** or email to restore@rbhabitat.org if you have items to donate. You can drop your items off when you come to shop or schedule a time for us to come and pick up your larger items. A complete list of items accepted for donation can be found at www.rbhabitat.org.

Berks ReStore is currently looking for volunteers with pickup trucks or box trucks to help with donation pickups on Saturdays. Email or call the store for more information.

Meet Elwood



World Hunger will be the service focus throughout the year. Envelopes will be placed in *The Spire* this month, *and* in the bulletins *May 16th*, also in the overflow area. We encourage you to share your blessings with those most unfortunate. Both food and water are in scarce supply. Existing waters (when not in drought) are often contaminated to the distribution of food and water, but assist in improving water sources and food production

through agricultural technician trainers.

Remember – hunger exists daily throughout the world, not only at the time we share our gifts.

Thank you, Service Team



Set to Sail

Camp Noah Teams will weigh anchor July 17 & return July 24

Destination: As yet unknown. (Camp Noah is always an adventure!)

Once again, we in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, are recruiting volunteers to serve in a Camp Noah, a full-day, week-long Vacation Bible School type ministry designed and run by Lutheran Social Services Minnesota for children impacted by disaster. While we have chosen our dates, we have not yet been assigned a location(s).

Volunteers and Funds Needed to Help Float the Boat

Our biggest expense is for transportation. Contributions can be made out and sent to Lutheran Congregational Services. Please mark the memo: "Camp Noah."

Information about various positions and application forms found at www.lutherancongregationalservices.org. Look under upcoming events or choose "Camp Noah" on left hand column. You can also contact Ruth Doty at 484.553.1162 cell or ruth@lutherancongregationalservices.org.

Applications due April 15.

Initial Training for Crew Members: Saturday, May 1, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Trexlertown. Following this full day training by Kara VerHage from the national Camp Noah office, team members will meet for three additional 90 minute planning sessions, dates to be determined.

Tying Up Loose Ends

Just a reminder that **quilts for Camp Noah** are **due in the LCS office by May 15** so that we can get them shipped to their destinations. We have received almost 140 so far. Can we reach 500?

Quilts can be made of cloth, knit or crocheted and need to be washable and light weight. They should be sized and in appropriate patterns for a child grade K through 6 (3 ½ x 4 ½ to twin size).

Don't forget to record and send with the quilts the names of those who have helped in the project, the number of hours put in by each which includes purchasing the material, transporting the finished quilts, etc. and which contributors are Thrivent members. This info helps us with matching funds from Thrivent chapters.

Contributions to defray shipping costs will help tremendously. In 2009, the cost of shipping averaged \$2.50 per quilt.

If you have any questions, please email ruth@lutherancongregationalservices.org or call 610.770.9205



Gifts to ELCA International Disaster Response help us to provide immediate and effective support to communities which are in need. Please consider giving to support the needs of this response and others like it.

100% of your gift will be used in full to bring life sustaining support to this crisis. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Check or money orders sent to:
ELCA Disaster Response
39330 Treasury Center
Chicago, IL 60694-9300

write "Haiti Earthquake Relief" on your check's memo line.



Daycare Highlights

The staff and children here at St. John's Day Care have had a very fun and busy April. We covered letters V, W and X, the color yellow, and learned number 8.

On April 13th each class had a Book Cook – Mrs. McGonigle's class made pizzas and Mrs. R's class made dirt pudding - yum yum!

We also covered pond life, transportation, and learned how to celebrate and take care of "our" Earth.

Mrs. McGonigle's class is practicing for their graduation May 25th, these boys and girls are soon ready for Kindergarten.

We want to thank all the KU students who came and worked with our students, their projects are beautiful!

April ended with a spring walk, April Showers do bring May flowers!

Daycare Staff

610-683-5402





Preschool News

Mrs. Leibensperger's 4 Year Old Class

April did bring lots of showers! Even our walls were decorated with umbrellas, puddles, boats and rainbows!

Our special topics and days this month were April Showers, Rainbows, Library Day, Earth Day Celebration, Planting a Garden, and Butterflies. Our color this month was yellow. Our numbers were 8 and 9, and our letters were W, X, and Y.

Our Open House was successful, but we still have openings in both the 3 and 4 year old classes. Please call me, Jane, at 610-683-3050 if you're interested.

Hopefully April's showers will bring beautiful May flowers and our caterpillars in our room will turn into butterflies!



To a fresh start for all.

Mrs. Leibensperger



Next Meeting May 13th

"A Bible Study - More Flower Power"

Connie Lichtenwalner

(Also Ingathering for "TEAMS", Jamaica)

Items needed are Paper lunch bags, Gallon Ziploc bags, Selsun Blue Shampoo, and Hand sanitizer pump bottles

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

I would like to thank Pastor Wenzel and Joe Piscitelli for their visits and prayers while I was in the hospital. Also thank you to Anna Herman for delivering the beautiful flowers from the church.

Betty Trout

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the visit and the Easter lily. It was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Catherine Kramer

Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much for the lovely Easter flower delivered to me. It is so beautiful and I do enjoy looking at it.

Fern Fulton

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the lovely Easter lily and for thinking of me. I appreciate your kindness.

Sincerely,
Ruth Reitz

Dear St. John's,

Thank you Pastor Wenzel for your visit. I really enjoyed your company. Also, thank you Joe Piscitelli for your visit in the hospital. I appreciate all your thoughts and prayers and thanks for the beautiful flower bouquet. Thank you so much for thinking of me.

Carlene Reinhard



*Memorial
Contributions Received*

In Memory of Doris Eck

Walter Eck

In Memory of Pearl Schaeffer

Walter and Lynndyl Alsegg
Lawrence and Barbara Balsbough
Larry and Jayne Christman
Robert Fink and family
Kutztown Fire Co. Ladies Auxiliary
David and Donna Gephart
Kenneth and Anna Herman
Charles and Roseann Leibensperger
Louis and Diane Pondo
Gerald Schaeffer
Joseph and Patricia Stevenson
Katie Walter

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.

Congratulations to St. John's Youth!

*Please congratulate our youth for their achievements.
Please let the church office know if there are
achievements that you would like included in The Spire.*

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.

Katelyn Remp made Sr. County Band

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.

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.

St. John's Parish Record for April

**St. John's Celebrates the Baptisms of
ANNABELL ELIZABETH CLAUSS and
MAKENZIE MARIE DIAZ.**

*Welcome to God's cleansing Grace and the family of
God.*

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

We rejoice with God, to receive our newest members:

Robert Kuhns

Brian Miller

Dennis and Deborah Jordan

DEATHS

We note with sorrow the passing of:

PEARL SCHAEFFER on March 22, 2010

Portable CD Players Needed

Donations of portable CD players are needed for our shut-ins to listen to recorded services. We plan on providing CDs in the near future. For more information please call the church office at 610-683-3140.

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.



Summer Reading Program for Friend, Inc.

The **Service Team** will be collecting new or gently used children's and youth books during the month of May. The books will be given to Friend, Inc. for their **SUMMER READING PROGRAM**. Help us fill the bookcase located in the Narthex.

Thank you to everyone for all the donations for the Hunger Market. Keep up the good work of caring for our neighbors in need!

FLAG DAY KUTZTOWN PARK JUNE 14TH



Looking ahead, the 35th annual Flag Day Concert in the Kutztown Park bandshell is scheduled for Monday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m. Please note that the date has been changed from the traditional Tuesday nearest Flag Day so as not to conflict with the Kutztown Area High School commencement exercises. As in recent years, musically talented KAHS seniors will be featured with the orchestra, the choir will present a group of choral selections, and the orchestra and choir will combine to salute veterans in the audience and to provide the concert finale. More information will be made available next month.



Hello Friends!

FRIENDFEST 2010 was a great success! We raised about \$10,000 for the event. The day could not have been better. Thank you so much for the great pairing events, the music, and all of the wonderful people! I am grateful for all of the vendors, volunteers, staff, Board of Directors and wonderful guests! Thank you to everyone who made that event possible and successful! Please visit us on FACEBOOK for more pictures!

Friend, Inc. Community Services has been around for over 30 years promoting the wellbeing of families, individuals, and communities in rural Northeastern Berks County. Through programs including case management, parenting classes, a monthly food pantry, career link, money management, emergency cash assistance, and more, Friend Inc. has been providing that extra helping hand for thousands of residents that need it. Our case managers act as guides and help families navigate through the sometimes murky water of the social service system.

Our annual Benefit Auction is right around the corner and we are looking for items from you to auction off! Please also consider joining us for the event! Tickets are \$30 and will include hundreds of items to bid on, live music, and a wonderful catered buffet style dinner (with a vegetarian option too). **Please consider making a tax deductible donation for our 21st annual benefit auction on April 24th, 2010 starting at 5:30 PM-9 PM at Beltzner Hall in Kutztown.** Donations are due by the 16th of April. Please give us a call at (610) 683-7790 for more information or visit us at www.friendinc.org. Community + Compassion = Commitment - ours and yours.

Stay tuned for information about a “Bike over Poverty” bike race fundraiser! A summer date will be announced shortly! If you are interested in volunteering, or have donations, please contact me at (610) 683-9011. Erica Hesselton, MSW



<http://www.stjohnslutherankutztown.org>

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

COMMUNION SERVICES: 8 AM & 10:30 AM

May 2: 5th Sunday of Easter

May 23: Day of Pentecost (Confirmation 10:30 AM)

May 30: The Holy Trinity

BIBLE STUDY:

Thursday morning Bible Study Group – 9:30 AM

FLOWER CHAIRPERSON: Anna Herman

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Articles for The Spire should be submitted to the office by Tuesday, May 18. We will assemble the newsletter Thursday, May 27. Volunteers always needed. Please call the office if interested.



May Sponsorships

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

BULLETINS

- 5-2 Wolfinger family
- 5-9 Open
- 5-16 Open
- 5-23 Feryl Stein family
- 5-30 Open

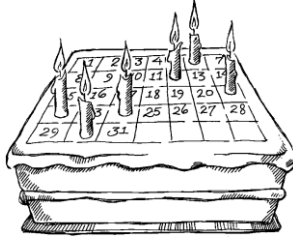
CANDLES

- 5-2 Open
- 5-9 Barbara Green
- 5-16 Open
- 5-23 Open
- 5-30 Crystal Johnson

FLOWERS

- 5-2 Jane Leibensperger
- 5-9 Mark Weida
- 5-16 Daniel and Ruth Rohrbach
- 5-23 Feryl Stein family
- 5-30 Karla Rosenbusch

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 May Birthdays

May 1	Charles Beck, Jr.	May 18	Glenn Berger
May 2	Philip Moyer	May 20	Bailey Shade
May 3	Cale Hottenstein Martin Wolfinger	May 21	James Baldwin Susan Sperber
May 4	Michelle Sperber	May 23	Travis Boyer Karen Burkey Kathy Reitenauer Anna Stitzel
May 6	Wanda Cronrath Carol Wolfinger	May 24	Betty Trout
May 7	Karissa Weida	May 26	Jennifer Coburn Sara Fowler
May 8	Brandon Green Larry Guinther	May 27	Vanessa Eisenhower Diane Thomas
May 10	Mary Shankweiller David Steigerwalt Oliva Stump	May 29	Walter Eck Miranda Lentz
May 13	Alexander Clauss	May 30	Hilda Fink Kraig Leiby
May 14	Nina Bailey Nicholas Drey		
May 15	Sarah Haas Christine Sperber		

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.