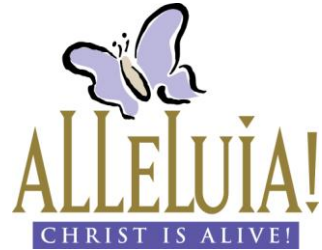


Pastor Carl's Castings

“For God so loved...”(John 3:16-NRSV). Easter is the day that the world, God’s creation, came to life and light! There is not greater or more important and needed news than that “Christ is risen, alleluia!”



May’s Easter season gives us the opportunity to let Easter’s good news live in us and last more than one day. In worship we come home to God among us, fuller known than to and through any one of us alone. In Easter we rejoice and practice living all that Jesus’ death and resurrection has changed. This is so that the world may join us and amplify God’s and our joy.

Easter is the way God can change our sorrows and any bitterness to new and everlasting joy. Our disappointments, broken trusts, injured relationships are all under the power of the Lord and his resurrection. In the church this good news comes to life for the sake of the world. Oh, not perfectly, and only when we are willing to submit to God’s new way with us and creation.



But you and I are *called*...to be alive in a worried, confusing, topsy turvy world. For our Lord’s gift in the resurrection is to share God’s ministry of reconciliation (II Corinthians 5). Through us, the world, our own fellowship as sisters and brothers in Christ, is FREE, and being made new, by God. “From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view...” We have a new passion from God to see the world come to life. This is Easter coming alive in us.

a TIME of HOPE

As the team of attendees, and later we, seek to use the “Do what matters” workshop and approach to understanding God’s will for and with us better, we will know the power of the resurrection. How can I say that so confidently? Because God has promised, and, because we will find any changes in who does what around here to be, uh, changes...filled with blessing, life, purposefulness and giving hope.



May God help us each participate *with God* in playful, exploring ways, so we may learn how to more readily and frequently listen to God and respond, each of us yet as one community in Christ. We begin with the question that centers our work and existence in God’s living presence: “What is God up to, and how can we help (or participate)?”

In your prayers please keep the Council, “Do what matters” team, and all of our family at St. John’s . With God’s help we expect to have abundant new and vital life and ministry. Are you ready? *All aboard!*

Weddings are a celebration of God’s love in our community and a faithful declaring that God has chosen and bound two together. Please pray for two couples preparing and soon entering into the marriage covenant. On May 7th, in Reading, Chelsea DiPietro and Jason Boyer. Then on June 25th at noon, here, (Pastor Carl and Lois’ daughter) Anne Wenzel and Andrew Payne marry. The second is a church wedding and therefore all are invited to share the worship and joy.



Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Carl Wenzel



MAY THEOLOGY WITH A
TWIST IS CANCELED.
CONSTRUCTION at the Tavern

SPiRiT on TAP Reading

SOT Reading is a group of adults
(college age and up) who gather
for faith and theological
exploration, exploring

contemporary issues of spirituality and much, much more. We
gather in Goodnites Lounge at the Reading Crowne Plaza Hotel for
discussion, fellowship, and growth! Open to all! Free of charge!
Reading Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1741 Papermill Road, Wyomissing, PA

*ALL SOT Reading Gatherings, 7:00 PM
Reading Crowne Plaza Hotel, Goodnight's Lounge.

Tuesday, May 26th, 7:00 p.m.

Where is the Love? - Jesus, the Early Church and Inclusivity
Jennifer Glass

What might we learn from Jesus and the early church about
openness, welcome, and affirmation as our faith communities seek
to be inclusive of all people on the spiritual journey? Rev. Glass
will reflect on various examples of inclusivity from the stories
about Jesus and the early church and consider what that might
mean for including all persons in the 21st century church.



Applying Bible Principles

God's Word has more to say about money and material possessions than about heaven and hell combined. Obviously, how we as His children handle what God has entrusted to us is a very important subject to Him.

Money is also the only subject about which God says, in essence, "Prove Me. Trust Me. Try Me." He does not issue that challenge concerning any other aspect of our Christian walk of faith. Not about prayer; not about sharing our faith; not even about salvation. Just money.

God said to Malachi, the prophet, "Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test . . . see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

Some promises in the Bible are unconditional in nature. They are going to be fulfilled, regardless of what we might or might not do. Others could be described as "if . . . then" promises. *If* we will do our part, *then* God will do His part. This passage from Malachi 3:10 is one of the latter. If we will bring our tithes to God's storehouse, then He will open for us the windows of heaven and pour out for us such a blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.

The question is whether we really believe God when He makes a promise like this. If we do, we will take Him at His Word. We will accept His challenge and "test" Him by giving to Him as He directs. And *if* we do that by faith, *then* we can be confident that God will meet that "test" by providing all we need — and more.

Stewardship Committee



Day Care Highlights

St. John's Daycare is hopping right along into Spring. Even though April brought us a number of showers, we sure had a lot of fun.

Our school year is winding down. We talked about things that begin with the letters V, W, and X. Wow, we also made and played with tons of "Eggcellent" ovals.

April was also full of bunnies, chicks and all creatures that live by a pond.

The Book-A-Saurus visited us twice making April more special.

The children had their monthly visit with Pastor Wenzel.

Of course, the highlight of April was our egg hunt here at St. John's and our Easter Party full of goodies.

We want to thank everyone who purchased candy from our Hershey Candy Sale. If you are interested in purchasing candy let us know.

As the weather gets warmer please watch as our hallways bloom with May flowers!

St. John's Daycare





Preschool News

Mrs. Leibensperger's

4 Year Old Class

April was a very busy month in Preschool. Our hallway and windows are filled with the children's beautiful seasonal artwork. We certainly had our share of April showers!

Our special color for the month was yellow. The letters were W and X, and our number was 8.

Our themes for April were bunnies, rainbows, baby animals, and pond animals. We celebrated Earth Day by learning how to keep the earth clean and green.

We visited the Kutztown Police Station and Chief Summers gave us a very interesting tour.

We had a fun time at our Easter Party, especially finding the Easter baskets filled with all kinds of goodies.

Our Open House went well as did our Candy Sale. We still have a few openings in both classes. If you need info about Preschool, call me at 610-683-5402.



Sincerely,
Jane Leibensperger



We note with sorrow the passing of:
SHIRLEY EIDLE on March 25, 2011

In Memory of Shirley Eidle

Edgar Arters
Stanley & Theresa Grabowski
Mayor Sandra Green
Kenneth & Ruth Kern
Gabriel & Karen Khalife
Kutztown Borough Police Dept.
James and Merry Schlegel
Robert Toth, Jr.

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.

Friend Inc. Newsletter

FRIENDFEST 2011

First things first, we have exciting news: Friend will be participating in the **GROW INDIE** farm in Kutztown with Robyn Jasko and the gang! Check out the photos below! **We will have a plot to grow FRESH produce for our FOOD PANTRY!!!!** We really need some help with the maintenance of the plot, and potentially will need help transporting the food to the pantry. If you have a green thumb, or if you are just want to help, please contact me at (610) 683-9011 or erica@friendinc.org to discuss your involvement! This is a really fun way of getting involved, that is based on your availability. The commitment is only what you can do, when you can do it. It would consist of planting, watering, weeding, and watching our veggies grow! An important note: **FAMILY FRIENDLY!!!!**

FRIEND, INC. ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION MAY 14th, 2011

It is that time of year again! Please consider joining us for an awesome event! Tickets are \$30 and include a sit-down dinner and open bar. The Friend Auction is famous for the fabulous desserts! We have come up with a mission statement for this year's auction:

The Auction is a unique experience that you cannot get anywhere else. It's a piece of Americana, small town USA, apple pie (and Chevrolet) that embodies the best of our character: an enduring sense of community and neighborliness, a love of competition, a giddy sense of fun, and an appreciation for the out of the ordinary.

Join us as we bid on awesome bed and breakfast packages, wine tours, hot air balloon rides, art, antiques, household items, jewelry, and more! This year we are excited to announce more exciting new items, and an African Safari Trip is in the works! For more information, continue to visit our website, or contact Erica at erica@friendinc.org.

Erica



SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL
YEAR-END CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011
9:15AM TO 10:15AM

THE SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL WILL HOST A YEAR- END CELEBRATION EVENT TO INCLUDE A PICNIC STYLE BREAKFAST SNACKS COMPLETE WITH RED AND WHITE CHECKED TABLE CLOTHES.

SO DRESS CASUAL, APPLAUD YOUR CHILD'S ACHIEVEMENTS, LISTEN IN ON A CHILDREN'S CHAT, SEE WHO GUESSES THE NUMBER OF BIRTHDAY PENNIES AND FIND OUT ABOUT ST. JOHN'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.

INVITATIONS WILL BE SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

Sun. May 8th - Between the services

Buffet Featuring: Belgium Waffles
with fruit topping, ham, bacon,
fried potatoes, fresh fruit,
coffee, tea, juices.

Donation of \$4 adults
and \$2 children.

St. John's
Basket Fund
Raiser
May 14th



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 beautiful Basket Quilt with flowers 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 - Meatballs in sauce with pasta or as sandwich, Turkey BBQ, French fries, Tossed salad Assorted Desserts, and Beverages.

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!

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.



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.

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.



KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR DOES “MOSTLY BROADWAY” FOR SPRING

The sounds of Broadway will ring out when the Kutztown Community Choir presents its 44th annual Serenade to Spring on Sunday, May 15, 2011, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main Street, in Kutztown. The time is 7:00 p.m. and there is no admission charge. In addition to the concert there will be a mini art show by Art in the Afternoon in the hallway at the front entrance.

Three songs from Irving Berlin musicals will open the program, followed by a medley of tunes by Lerner and Loewe from *My Fair Lady*, *Camelot*, and *Paint Your Wagon*. Songs from *A Star Is Born*, *Annie*, and *Singin' in the Rain* will round out the Broadway part of the program. Other choral music will include Jay Althouse arrangements of *Dream a Little Dream of Me* and *An Ellington Jazz Trio*. Looking forward to the annual Flag Day concert in the Kutztown Park band shell, the concert will close with a recent patriotic piece by Douglas Wagner, *An American Tribute*.

As in recent programs, piano accompanist Greta (Luckenbill) Ertel will be joined by guitarist Carl Zeplin, string bassist Connor Mertz, and drummer Rick Kelchner to provide an instrumental jazz selection.

The fifty-four member choir is directed by J. Richard Wagner. All soloists are members of the choir.

The 36th annual Flag Day concert in Kutztown Park bandshell will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2011, with an orchestra to be conducted by Dr. Willis Rapp, chair of the Music Department at Kutztown University, and the Kutztown Community Choir. Other information about the program will be announced at a later date.

Synod E News

Register *Now* for Lutheran Day at the Capitol

Lutheran Day at the Capitol will be held on **Tuesday May 17, 2011**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The event will focus on hunger in Pennsylvania and strategies for Lutheran congregations and leaders to address it through direct action and advocacy. The keynote speaker is **David Beckmann**, President of **Bread for the World** and 2010 World Food Prize laureate. He is an economist, a Lutheran pastor and one of the foremost U.S. advocates for hungry people, in this country and worldwide.

Register online at [http: www.lutheranadvocacy.org](http://www.lutheranadvocacy.org)

Contact the LAMPa office at 717-545-3500. **Register now!**
Space is limited.

Nurses Needed at Bear Creek Camp

Are you a school nurse looking for a temporary position this summer? Are you an RN with some extra vacation days who loves to be in the outdoors? Are you a recent grad who has passed boards, but hasn't found a position yet? If you answered yes to any of these questions, Bear Creek Camp has an opportunity for YOU! If you know someone who would answer yes, please pass this along to them.

Bear Creek Camp is looking for RNs who are willing to serve as camp nurse. A stipend of \$200, room, board, and a beautiful backdrop of Creation are available to each camp nurse. Responsibilities include collection of medications at registration, distribution of medications, treatment of campers and staff, maintaining a safe and clean infirmary space, and other necessary duties to maintain a safe camp environment. Camp nurse positions are typically one week long (Sunday-Saturday), but persons who can offer shorter or longer times are also welcome. For more information contact Karen Gower, Environmental Programs Manager, at bcnc@bearcreekcamp.org or 570-472-3741.

May Sponsorships

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

BULLETINS

5-1	John & Perma Dreibelbis
5-8	Don and Carol Sechler
5-15	Connie Bailey
5-22	Marie Moyer
5-29	Open

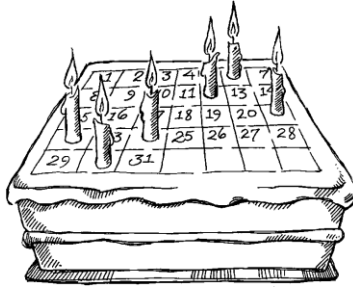
CANDLES

5-1	Open
5-8	Barbara Green
5-15	Open
5-22	Marie Moyer
5-29	Crystal Johnson

FLOWERS

5-1	Connie Bailey
5-8	Mark Weida
5-15	Daniel & Ruth Rohrbach
5-22	Feryl Stein
5-29	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.



May Birthdays

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

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.