

Pastor Carl's Castings

This September, in God's holy name **we are rallying** around Americans and the world as we remember ten years ago the devastation of 9-11 and the sorrows, fears, prejudices, even hatred born that day. With the Lord Jesus Christ leading, we bring healing to those we remember with, pray for, and continue to build a better world on behalf of. Join us for worship at either 8 or 10:30 am, September 11th, and invite our local uniformed safety, emergency and service personnel (police and fire and more). As signs of God's new life and future for us we distribute Bibles to members of our second grade Sunday School.



Between worship services, with our Sunday Church School for all ages, **we will rally around** children, youth and adults of our church and community who seek God as Source and Sustainer of life through learning together in study. EVERYONE is invited to join with friends or others to study and learn from God in our midst. Please encourage parents and others who leave while children are here in Sunday Church School to stay for their own sake, and as baptized who guide others by pointing to the Jesus we each come to know.

In September, let us continue to find fellowship **and rally around** the new “*Kairos Kafe*”, a refreshment station in the overflow area meant to help us know, enjoy, even join each other more wonderfully. Thank you, Daniel Rohrbach, for crafting such a key piece of furniture for our life together. We thank God in advance for those ordinary moments that God will create to bless and make shape our life in God's new kingdom all around us.





Church Council is leading us **to rally around** three new goals and a project for our life together. The goals include becoming even more welcoming of God and each other into a *sanctuary* (made of our flesh, not stone) from which we emerge more unified and grace filled for following Jesus into ministry in the world. We will be guided in *welcoming* members of our community and congregation into our life together more carefully. Such hospitality, like that of Abraham and Sarah, will engage us in more *celebration* of God's daily bringing us into our resurrection with Christ, in new life daily with him. The project is being developed as a way for every one of us to take one small part of making a huge difference together for someone else. More later.

Council members **invite us to rally with** them, this fall, by joining in faith groups of study and prayer. We will know both God and each other better as blessings flow from such fellowship. Books, videos, Bible or theme and topic studies will be offered beginning in October. Please visit the table in the overflow area to preview offerings. On the notepad please sign up for those that you would like to join others doing and give your preferred time(s) of week.

We are rallying around our own *good news stories*, like “wow, I did not know that your church was doing so much” (from a church savvy non member). Our members who helped on the Thrivent Builds project at the *Habitat for Humanity* jobsite in July came back with feel good stories. We are continuing to rally around those in need with picking for the *Potato Project* and other ways of feeding the hungry, among other fall projects. God always changes ALL the lives involved in such ministries. What blessings God is giving us to share with others. Got any good news to share? Let's rally around each story as God's gift and signs of the new kingdom all around us.

Pastor Carl

PASTOR NEW DAY OFF

Please note: Pastor Wenzel is moving his day off from Mondays to Fridays beginning September 1st. This may better suit some meetings, begin each week earlier (when others do) etc.

PREPARATION FOR PARTNERSHIP

Do you know anyone without a church home? Please invite them to speak to Pastor Wenzel. We will offer an orientation to basics of the Christian and Lutheran faith during October.

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).

SUNDAY BULLETIN COVERS

The Worship & Music Committee decided to have Janice design new bulletin covers instead of purchasing them quarterly through Augsburg Fortress. This change will occur the first Sunday in September.

Make It Simple

This year our congregation is participating in a stewardship program developed by the ELCA entitled “Make It Simple”. It will be a focus for our worship services from late September to mid-October. The concluding worship will include an opportunity for each household to bring forward to the altar their Commitment Card indicating their financial support intent to the ministry of our congregation for the coming year.

Different themes each week provide important opportunities for study, reflection, and discussion about the choices we make in our daily lives. The four themes are:

MAKE IT SIMPLE: Following Jesus

MAKE IT SIMPLE: Facing the Truth

MAKE IT SIMPLE: Acting Together

MAKE IT SIMPLE: Sharing Enough

The program is biblically centered to help us grow in faith as a disciple of Christ in our daily lives. It includes Bible studies, children activities, and themed worship. Look for more details in a letter to all households and church bulletins in early September.

If you would like to help with the program, please contact the church office or a committee member (Lydia Jones, Randy Rentschler and Larry Schappell). There are opportunities to plan the program, prepare mailings, lead Bible studies, present temple talks, etc.

- 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!

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.

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.

VBS PANDAMANIA A BIG SUCCESS!

"God is wild about us!" That was the theme of this year's Pandamania Vacation Bible School at St. John's. 30-35 students were involved in this year's Vacation Bible School. Seven students from the Daycare attended after invitations were extended. Lots of children, teen helpers and volunteers came together nightly from August 1st through the 5th to learn play and celebrate Bible teachings amid the bamboo forest habitat of the Giant Panda.

A big thanks to our directors, parent and church volunteers as well as youth guides.

Thank You!



Dear St. John's,

Thank you for all the cards, prayers and visits when I was in the hospital. Thanks to Pastor Carl for his visit in the hospital and at home, and for bring Abbie to visit!

Valerie Miller

Dear Church,

Thank you so much for the lovely altar flowers that my mother, Amy Seip, received. She is at Grand View Manor in Fleetwood (Assisted Living Community) and enjoys all the visits and flowers you bring to her. She will be 96 this coming November.

Amy's daughter/Kathleen Price

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers Anna Herman sent home for me. Thank you also for all the cards, notes, thoughts and prayers. They were all very much appreciated.

Joline Stein

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for all the beautiful flowers delivered by Anna Herman for Lee in the Manor. Also thank you to Pastor Carl for his visits and prayers for Lee's recovery.

Betty and Lee Trout

Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much for the beautiful altar flowers. They were very much enjoyed and appreciated. Also thank you for the birthday wishes.

Carl and Katherine Wessner



Veterans Day

Veterans showcase Pictures Needed

The Archives committee will again be honoring all veterans in our showcases in November. Please give any pictures of veterans (living or deceased) to Archives Committee members by October 17th or leave the pictures in the office, and they will be picked up. We want all pictures used in previous years and any that have never been shared.

Thank you for all the beautiful wedding pictures submitted for the showcases. We appreciate that you chose to share these precious memories with the congregation. All wedding pictures used in the showcases can be picked up at church on Sunday, October 30th in the overflow area. After that date, the pictures will be available in the office.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Archives Committee - Cass Bieber, Diane Haring,
Merrily Leibensperger, and Audrey Miller

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE MEAL SEPTEMBER 23RD

Service Team will be preparing a meal for Opportunity House on Sept. 23rd. Please help with a donation of money to cover the cost of the food. Bring a dessert to the church before 5 PM on Sept. 23rd. The shelter serves 65-75 people in warm months and up to 130 in the winter. Please volunteer to help make food or deliver it to Opportunity House. Thanks!

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE

Service Team and our partner church world service of the Lutheran Disaster Response unit will be collecting supplies for “Flood Buckets”. Many families can begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a disaster or flood on their own with the right materials. We have 5 buckets and a list of supplies needed for each bucket. Just check off your items on the list as you place them in the bucket. Maybe 5 buckets can turn into 10 buckets or more.

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.

Oktoberfest LDR

Did you know that the Third Annual Oktoberfest LDR is set for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Glenside, on Saturday, October 1, 2011? The congregation hosts a German themed festival in conjunction with other Lutheran congregations to support the ministry of Lutheran Disaster Response. Visit www.libertylutheran.org for information on tickets and/or how to volunteer. Please join us on October 1, 2011!

Women ^{of the} ELCA

Our September 8th meeting will begin with refreshments at 7 PM, followed by a short business meeting at 7:30 PM. We will assemble tray favors for Meals on Wheels.

Women of the ELCA meetings for the balance of 201 will be held on the second THURSDAY of each month.

Thank you for your support in the past and please plan to attend future events – spouses and friends are always welcome at any of our meetings!

Judy M. Hilberg, President W/ELCA



Cleanup Day at the Lutheran Center

Mark your calendar and plan to help out on **Saturday, October 1**, at **Lutheran Center Cleanup Day**. We'll be posting a list of jobs closer to the day of the cleanup. Tasks range from dusting pews and trimming bushes to stripping/waxing the basement floors and tarring parking-lot cracks. Watch for more information with details, but put the cleanup on your calendar for **October 1**.



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

**Each Sunday after worship services we
will be working on a float for the Tipton
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**

A COOLING THOUGHT FROM THE KUTZTOWN COMMUNITY CHOIR

Some stores have been celebrating recently with “Christmas in August” sales, but the Kutztown Community Choir is thinking of music for a Christmas concert in December and rehearsals beginning in September.

Yes, we can’t wait for the weather to cool down to begin planning for our annual Christmas concert. Rehearsals for the Christmas season are scheduled to start on Monday, September 12, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. in the music room at Trinity Lutheran Church, 357 W. Main Street, Kutztown. If you have been thinking about singing with the choir but never took the step to become part of this choral music group, now may be the time to step forward and “tune up” your vocal cords.

For its 2011 Christmas concert, the choir will be singing music from the sixteenth century thru today. Included on the program will be music by English composers ranging from Orlando Gibbons, thru Henry Purcell and Gustav Holst, to Michael Larkin and John Rutter, and including two texts by Christina Rossetti. Also on the program will be several French carols and a medley of “Carols of the Czech Republic.” The Czech carols will include participation by a children’s choir, which will also sing with the adult choir on “Christmas Is the Best Time of the Year.” Other familiar carols will include the Robert Shaw arrangement of “Angels We Have Heard on High” and Lloyd Larson’s setting of “Go, Tell It on the Mountain.” Rounding out the program will be “Irving Berlin’s Christmas” and a few other selections.

Interested? Please call choir director Dick Wagner at 610-683-3437 before September 1. No auditions are required, but members are expected to be able to read choral music.

Also, music is loaned to choir members and there is no cost if music is returned in good condition.

The Potato Project – Work Update

Subject: Potato Harvest Session - Trinity ELC

Location: Owens Plot

Date: Saturday, October 15, 2011

Time: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm (US/Eastern)

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

As you already know the Potato Project is up and running since mid-July, purposely planned for some early harvest. Did you know that August is the worst month for food pantries? Let's help our neighbors in need. This is a great opportunity for families. Pick potatoes, bag potatoes, or donate to this worthy cause.

It states in James 2:14 "What good is it, my brother, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?" (NIV).

Look for sign-up sheets in the overflow area. However, you can go anytime they are picking (as an individual or a group). Call or email Walt Zawaski for times and dates: 610-944-9316 or wzawaski@hotmail.com or IHartHarvest@gmail.com or call Connie Bailey at 610-562-3129.

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.

September Sponsorships

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

BULLETINS (\$17)

- 9-4 Open
- 9-11 Pam Heid
- 9-18 Sue Teti
- 9-25 Feryl Stein

CANDLES (\$10)

- 9-4 Paula Kutz
- 9-11 Mary Alice Heffner
- 9-18 Mark Weida
- 9-25 Carol Diehl

FLOWERS (\$32)

- 9-4 Myrtle Dietrich
- 9-11 Diane Haring
- 9-18 Linda Schwartz
- 9-25 Arline Mertz

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.



September Birthdays

<u>Sept. 1</u>	Robert Kuhns	Adam Rabenold
<u>Sept. 3</u>	Ramsi Ross	Tina Remp
<u>Sept. 4</u>	Gregory Ferguson	Timothy Smith
	Tarry Hilberg	<u>Sept. 19</u> Melvin Hartman
<u>Sept. 7</u>	Lisa Quier	<u>Sept. 21</u> Ronald Delp
	Nicole Tillery	Amanda Weida
<u>Sept. 8</u>	Faye Leiby	<u>Sept. 22</u> Elizabeth Diehl
	June Peters	Sarah Johnson
<u>Sept. 11</u>	Dana Boyer	David Merkel
	William Haring	Emme Sanders
	Jean Ohlinger	<u>Sept. 23</u> Joel Beck
<u>Sept. 13</u>	Dennis Bailey	<u>Sept. 28</u> Justin Diehl
<u>Sept. 14</u>	Kenneth Kern	Abigail Miller
<u>Sept. 15</u>	Tyler Reitenauer	Julie Rabenold
	Kevin Schaeffer	<u>Sept. 29</u> Matthew Barrell
<u>Sept. 16</u>	Jayda Rutherford	Kelsey Brey
<u>Sept. 17</u>	Dominic Genta	<u>Sept. 30</u> Cynthia Brey
<u>Sept. 18</u>	Dale Kramer	Alexandra Steigerwalt

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.