

# ***The Eagle***

*I carried you on eagle's wings and brought  
you to myself.*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
229 South Broad Street  
Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania 17740  
570-398-1676**

*Our Mission Statement:  
Called Together  
Sharing Christ  
Serving Others*

**February/March 2018**

Check out our congregation's webpage at [www.stjl.org](http://www.stjl.org). or St. John Lutheran on Facebook.

What is it that motivates us to serve the Lord? What is it that causes us to use our time, talents, and treasure here at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church? What is it that enables us to put Christ first in our lives?

Let's be honest: Sometimes we serve the Lord for the wrong reason, with the wrong motivation. Sometimes we do what we do for what Jesus called "the praise of men." Sometimes we give our time, talents, and treasure in order to be noticed and appreciated by other people.

A pastor in Connecticut, described a student in his congregation who always seemed to be so busy. Every time we approached him about something, he'd say, "Oh, excuse me, pastor, but I have no time. I'm studying and I'm also working eight hours a day. So you can imagine how I can't do anything more than that. I can make the meetings once a week, but the rest of the time, I'm occupied."

Then one day he fell in love. Suddenly he had time to visit his girlfriend three or four times a week. How did he do it? I don't know. Love did it.

The scripture is correct, you know, "We love because he [Christ] first loved us." (1 John 4:19). The scripture is also correct when it proclaims that the greatest gift is love. But how does that translate into practical reality of everyday living?

Here's how: What we love, we place importance upon. What we love, we take care of. What we love, we nurture and cultivate. What we love, we protect. What we love, we give out time and attention to. What we love (or really, whom we love) we obey.

In his book, *Love in Action*, Dr. David Jeremiah states, Love insists we do something. Feelings follow action. Feelings are the fruit, not the root, of love. If you give your enemy something to eat or drink, something happens to your feelings. When you invest yourself in someone, you begin to feel differently toward him or her.

You see, it's one thing to sing, "I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship You." It's entirely another to put that love into action by serving the Lord here at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. It's one thing to sing, "My Jesus, I Love Thee." It's entirely another to demonstrate that love through serving others in Christ's behalf. It's what one pastor described as "talking further down the road than we are walking."

What motivates you in your Christian service? If it's anything other than pure love for our Lord, why not ask God to create within you a heart that responds to the love shown for you on Calvary? And while you're at it, why not ask God to show you how you can serve here at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in a greater way in the year ahead?

*Yours in Christ, Pastor Aucker*

*Marilyn Sharpe shared the following:*

## **WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?**

The consequences of not teaching children that "no means no" are now in the news every single day. Adult men have used power and position to use and abuse others. Women have stepped out of their pain- and shame-induced silence to declare "Me, too!" What can we, as adults who care deeply about the wellbeing of children and the youth and adults they will become, do differently now so that their future is better?

## **STARTING EARLY**

We have all observed it: A preschooler, thwarted by a parent's refusal of a desired product, activity, food, or toy, begins the process of erosion. "But I W-A-N-T it!" the child wails. Delivered with increased volume and intensity, the parent looks around and notes that everyone is watching. The parent, cornered by the child's persistence and the adult audience's perceived judgment, does one of two things. Either the parent relents and caves in, buys the gimcrack or stays at the park or gives the child the candy bar OR the parent grabs the child by the upper arm, pinches hard, snarls at the child, and drags them out of view.

### **Let's unpack this:**

What is going on here? This will be no surprise to any of us. We were once kids and someone said, "no" when we really, really, really wanted something. The desire for something we cannot or should not have is not the problem, nor is it something new to the human family. Kids want what they want when they want it.

## **WHAT IS AT STAKE?**

The adult response is often the problem ... and always teaches a lesson.

- If the adult, embarrassed in public or at an extended family gathering, gives in to quiet the child, appear to be kind, or buy a few minutes of peace and quiet, the child learns to persevere in order to get what they want.
- If the parent ignores the child's request (and the child herself), the

child learns she doesn't matter, no one hears her, no one cares.

- If the child is grabbed, snarled at, and dragged off, he learns that big and strong wins.
- What is the message that you want to send, the lesson you want to teach?

## **DOING "NO" DIFFERENTLY**

- With very young children, redirecting is more effective than the word "no."
- As children grow in age and cognitive ability, use "no" judiciously. Consider what is really a "no," one that makes a difference, and one you are willing and able to enforce.
- Then, enforce it! Make it stick. Be consistent.
- For safety's sake, kids need to recognize that no means no. They need to stop whatever they were doing and pay attention to you.
- Explain why your answer is no. Keep it brief, clear, and age appropriate. This stocks your child's internal library and will let them learn the reasons, helping them anticipate what else might not be allowed. Avoid the temptation to over-talk it, to go on at length or re-explain.
- Use a kind and respectful, but firm voice. Don't shame your child. Try not to do it in front of an audience.
- If you made a mistake, were arbitrary, or just plain wrong, please tell your child and apologize. (Trust me, this does not erode their respect for you, but grows it.)
- Listen to their feelings and help them articulate those feelings, even and especially when the answer is no. Teach them that they have every right to their emotions and that you understand that they are disappointed and frustrated. Denying their feelings or not expressing them doesn't get rid of them. Instead, bottled up emotions often boil over like a volcano, seemingly inappropriate and out of proportion to whatever precipitated them. Instead, help kids release their emotions in smaller, more appropriate expressions.

## HELPING KIDS LEARN TO SAY "NO"

It is absolutely imperative that we also teach our kids to say "no" and mean it. Trust me, at age 15, we want them to say no to drugs, alcohol, bullying, unwanted sexual advances, stealing cars, and countless other risky behaviors.

### How do we begin?

- Spend time with your children and their friends. Give them safe, supervised places to hang out.
- Be available to your children and willing to listen as they work through the issues of their lives.
- Talk about your values and what you believe about how people deserve to be treated.
- Let them know that they have a right to say no to any unwanted touch, yes, even from a loving grandmother!
- Challenge examples of behavior that violates your values.
- Point out examples in movies, the news, song lyrics, video games of ways in which people don't deserve to be treated. Talk about ways to confront mistreatment and where to find help.
- Be a role model of both respect and self-respect.
- Teach your kids to problem solve and walk alongside them as they do dress rehearsals of the challenging conversations and confrontations.
- Let each child know that he or she is beloved, made in the image of God, and richly deserving of respect, love, and care from others.

### Baptism

We celebrated with joy the Baptism of Theresa Doris Hollick, daughter of Stephanie and Nathaniel Hollick, on Sunday, November 26, 2017.

We celebrated with joy the Baptism of Cora June Pelletier, daughter of Brittany Bowes and Alex Pelletier, on Sunday, December 24, 2017.



## **Celebration of 25 Years**

**There will be ONE service, Sunday, February 11 at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Pastor Aucker into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Bishop Collins will be preaching and a reception will follow. We hope that everyone can attend February 11 as we honor our Pastor and his 25 years of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

### **Sanctuary Candle**

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of February by Jim and Donna Martin in memory of loved ones.

The Sanctuary Candle is sponsored during the month of March by Jim and Donna Martin in memory of loved ones.



### **Bible Study**

Bible Study at St. John will be held Monday, February 5, 12, 19, 26, at 10:00 a.m. In March classes will be held March 5, 12, 19. None Holy Week.

### **Distribution of Food**

The New Love Center Food Pantry will host the Food Distribution from 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. on February 9. and 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on February 23. In March Food Distribution will be from 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. on March 9 and 9:00 a.m. – noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on March 23. The New Love Center Food Pantry served 464 families in the month of November distributing food to 1146 local people. Boxes are packed the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.; February and March 8. Please speak to Betty Allen if you can volunteer. We will be collecting Boxed Chicken Noodle Soup for February and Egg Noodles (1 lb. bag) for March.

### **Fastnacht**

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> our youth will be cooking a dinner of Pancakes, French toast and Sausage. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. Youth are asked to meet in the kitchen at 5:00 p.m.

### **Fellowship Time**

You are invited to join us on the third Wednesday of each month at the Restless Oaks for a time of fellowship. No reservations needed. Just show up at 11:30 a.m. in the back room and order from the menu. The next Fellowship Time is on Wednesday, February 21 and March 21.

**Contribution Statements for 2017 are in the tower.**

**Offering Envelopes for 2018 are on the pew in the tower.**

**We will not be mailing out envelopes or statements this year.**

*We extend our sympathies to the family of Fred Bauman who died on Sunday, January 21, 2018*

### **Lent/Easter Schedule 2018**

Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday Services, 6:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 7:00 p.m. in the Nave at St. John.  
The Theme this year for Lent: "Were you there?"

Feb. 21, Lent 1, 6:30 p.m. Soup and sandwiches and worship at Garman Lutheran.

Feb. 28, Lent 2, 6:30 p.m. Soup and sandwiches and worship at St. John Lutheran.

March 7, Lent 3, 6:30 p.m. Soup and sandwiches and worship at Grace Lutheran.

March 14, Lent 4, 6:30 p.m. Soup and sandwiches and worship at St. John Lutheran.

March 21, Lent 5, 6:30 p.m. Soup and sandwiches and worship at Garman Lutheran.

March 28, Stations of the Cross, 7:00 p.m. at St. James Lutheran.

March 29, Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 p.m. at Garman Lutheran.

March 30, Good Friday Service, 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran.

April 1, Easter Resurrection Sunday, 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. at St. John Lutheran with breakfast after 6:00 am.

April 8, Holy Humor Sunday.

### **Communions at Manor Care**

Pastor will be offering the Sacrament of Holy Communion to the residents of Manor Care on Tuesday, March 6 at 2:00 p.m. Let him know if you can attend and assist in the distribution of the elements or if you wish to offer your gifts of music and readings.

### **Spring Ahead!**

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 10.

### **Meal Packaging Event**

St. Mark's Lutheran (by the bridge) in Williamsport will be hosting a meal packaging event on Saturday, April 21. Volunteers are needed and one can volunteer by calling St. Marks at 570.323.4619. We don't know the exact times yet but expect it to begin around 9:00 a.m. 12,000 of the 20,000 meals packaged will come back here to The New Love Center for distribution locally. Volunteers will be needed to pick up the meals and bring them back to St. John Lutheran.

### **Update on the Rising Anew Campaign**

We continue to pay on the loan from the ELCA Mission Investment Fund. Currently our loan is down to \$238,361. Recently the Mission Investment Fund dropped our interest rate from 5.375% down to 4.375% saving us money on interest. Thank you everyone for your support in paying down the loan and your continued commitment to the ministries of St. John Lutheran Church. For those who wish to contribute to the Rising Anew Campaign, please write your check to: St. John Lutheran, earmark on the memo line: "Rising Anew" and put it in an envelope with your name on the envelope and place it in the offering plate.

## **Results of Toys for Tots**

The Toys for Tots program hosted by Grace Lutheran served 118 families, 280 children, and gave 3,060 toys. Each child received 6-8 toys not counting what churches gave. Please no receipts with gifts so people don't return gifts for money. Next year family interviews will begin in October. Immaculate Conception in the valley sponsored 75 children, St. Luke's Catholic sponsored 50 children, and the next largest sponsoring church was St. John Lutheran. Thank you everyone.

## **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**

In 2017, St. John Lutheran has received \$1,204 through the Thrivent Choice program. I believe this is the largest amount received from Thrivent members since the program began. Thank you so much for supporting the ministries of St. John Lutheran. Just a reminder to Thrivent members you can apply for a Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 twice a year and initiate a community project that will benefit your neighbors. For additional information, check out Thrivent Action Team on the web site or contact Pastor Aucker on how you could benefit St. John and the community with free money.

*The Transformational Ministry Team prayer list. Each month we pray for members. We hope to pray for all members of St. John regularly.*

*For February:*

*Karina, Breylan, Braxten and Azlyn Guerrero*

*Joanne and Alicia Hall*

*Margaret Hampe*

*Ashley Hawkins and Vivian Shields*

*Ellen and Amy Heimbach and Madison Beasley*

*Deb, Matthew and Jack Heydrich*

*Bruce, Melissa, Jackson and Lincoln Hockenberry*

*Nate, Steph, Liz and Theresa Hollick*

*Sharon Haldeman*

*Peggy Hamm*

*Richard Hartman*

*Donald and Betty Jo Heim*

*Kyle, Samantha and Hank Henry*

*Leila Hiller*

*Dean and Barb Hoffman*

*Helen Hoppie*

*For March:*

*John and Kathie Horne*

*Mike and Stephanie Hoy*

*Richard and Madeline Hurd*

*Gary and Gina Johnson*

*Traci June, Jonathan and Mia Houtz*

*Pat and Eric Kamus*

*Mary Jane Keller*

*Bradley and Tabitha King*

*Karon Hower*

*Joyce Hudson*

*Sheri, Jimmy and Molly Hyland*

*Kay Johnson*

*Kevin, Amanda, Lucy and Molly Kalat*

*Jasen, Erica, Harlee, Rayce, Ryin Kastner*

*Mike and Calab Kilpatrick*

*Danielle Kisko*

## TRANSFORM JERSEY SHORE AREA 2018

### “A Night out in our Town”

Where--Trinity United Methodist Church

When—Saturday, February 10, 2018, 5:00 PM-6:30 PM. Movie to follow

What—Valentines Dinner, Silent Auction and a Movie

A Valentine’s Dinner -donation with people with a gift willing to share **their music** with our guests for 15 or 20 minutes each menu to include **varied pasta dishes**, volunteers donating crockpot or small roaster of their favorite pasta dish.

**salad** with greens, cranberries, nuts and dressing, **garlic bread**

**desserts a variety**—pretzel/crème cheese/jello, chocolate brownies with ice-cream and strawberry sauce **beverages**—coffee, tea and a red punch

A Silent Auction—**We are asking every one that is able, from our churches, our friends, to look around their homes and see what might be suitable for donating to the auction**

We want all donations at Trinity United Methodist Church by Jan 31 so we can make up the bidding sheets) Probably the best would be for each church to collect items and bring them at one time to Trinity. The Church is open 8 AM-1:30 PM, Mon-Fri.

Possibly a Movie - We are hoping to purchase an **old time romantic comedy** to show in the sanctuary after the dinner and auction making it truly “a Night out in our Town.”

**Thank you** in advance, for your help in continuing to make TJSA a vital ministry of our community, as we reach out to those in need, sharing the Love of Christ, in serving our neighbors. All proceeds would benefit TJSA.

### **Remember our Home bound members**

Richard Hurd (Jun 29)  
The Meadows Room 310  
2160 Warrensville Road  
Montoursville PA 17754

Mary Pepperman (July 23)  
1101 Michael Street  
Jersey Shore PA 17740  
570.398.2780.

Madeline Hurd (May 16)  
Hillside Assisted Living  
2725 Four Mile Drive  
Montoursville PA 17754  
570.322.4436

Mary Jane Keller (Jan 25)  
Epworth Manor  
Room 303  
951 Washington Ave  
Tyrone PA 16686

Bill Bierly (April 6)  
Williamsport Home, Room 306  
1900 Ravine Road  
Williamsport PA 17701  
570.323.8782

Grace Marks (Oct. 26)  
759 Rt. 287 Hwy  
Jersey Shore PA 17740

Virginia Osborne  
Manor Care, Jersey Shore  
1008 Thompson Street  
Jersey Shore PA 17740

Remember those serving in the military with your cards and prayers:

Sgt. Myers, Maddison  
16 Molen Place  
PO# K-1-10  
Ft. Bragg NC 28310

Blake Brewer, U.S. Marines  
Serving in the Marine Reserves

### **Remember our College Students in your prayers**

Harris Brewer, Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Julia Ely, Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Beatrice Ferguson, Princeton University  
Natasha Harkey, Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Dylan Lundy, Clark Summit University  
Evan Moore, Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Gabrielle Moore, Pennsylvania College of Technology  
Alexandra Waldman, Lock Haven University



### **Automate your regular offering**

Do you know that over \$2,600 per month is given electronically by members of St. John? St. John Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular offering. Electronic giving provides convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Getting started is easy. Authorization forms and additional information are available from the church office, 570-398-1676.

### **Giving Plus+**

St. John Lutheran is offering a new way to support the ministries of St. John. Now you can download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also on our web site and Facebook site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the

church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. About once a month we receive a request asking if someone can give electronically by debit/credit card. Now this feature is available. It is easy and convenient and benefits the ministries of your church. It is also available on our web site: [www.stjl.org](http://www.stjl.org). If you have any questions, contact Pastor or Scott Mitchell.



## **Weis Certificates**

As a special fundraiser for church projects we are selling Weis Markets gift certificates each Sunday after worship or during office hours during the weekdays. You can buy \$10, 20, 50, 100 certificates. You pay \$10, take them to the store and use them like cash to buy \$10 worth of groceries. The church earns 5% from Weis Markets. While that may not seem like much, if 100 families in the congregation spend \$100 per week on groceries that 5% would add up to \$26,000 per year with very little effort other than buying and reselling them. It is a great way to support the youth ministries of St. John. They are also available Tuesday-Thursday from Molly in the office.

## **Our on-going Needs**

Sponsors sheets are available by the Office for the Sanctuary Candle, Weekly Bulletins, Flowers, and Bread Donors. You can sponsor any of the above by placing your name on the sponsor sheets and they will be listed in the bulletin. Enclose in your offering envelope: Sanctuary candle \$6; Weekly bulletin \$17; Flowers are provided by Russell Florists (\$30) or you can provide your own. If you wish to provide your own, please contact Molly. Payment should be made to “St. John Lutheran Church.” Donate bread for Holy Communion: one pack of fresh pita bread will serve both services or two loafs of fresh bread. Volunteers are needed to prepare and clean up after Communion each week. If you can help, please see Karen Aucker.

### **AmazonSmile**

Thanks to some members, St. John Lutheran is now a recipient through AmazonSmile.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop at AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization (in this case, St. John Lutheran) selected by customers. Amazon charges no fees.

How does my charity receive the donations?

Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations by electronic fund transfer.

Donations are transferred approximately 45 days after the end of each calendar quarter. Last quarter we received \$36.12.

Please try it and help support the ministries of St. John Lutheran. Every small gift can make a big difference.

*“The average Lutheran invites a friend to worship once every 26 years.” Pat Keifert. Let’s break the average. Invite your neighbors and friends to worship and make our congregation grow! Encourage them to encounter the Holy Spirit among us in Word and Sacrament.*

## ***Youth and Family Ministry***

### **First Communion Classes**

Pastor will be conducting First Communion classes after the 10:30 worship services March 11 and 19. You must attend both sessions. Children who have not received instruction in the proper meaning and reception of the Sacrament of Holy Communion are asked to attend along with a parent.

### **“Grab-a-Tab”**

The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn't matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. “Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.



### **ELCA National Youth Gathering**

**June 27-July 1, 2018.** Keep those dates for they are the ELCA National Youth Gathering's next triennial gathering to be held in Houston, Texas. 30,000+ High School youth from Lutheran congregations all across the United States will descend upon Houston for four days of speakers, group gatherings, work projects, bands, dancing, worship, and educational experiences. It is Pastor's hope that “every” High School youth attends as it is an experience you will not forget. The ELCA National Youth Gathering is the largest Protestant youth gathering in the world. We have three youth and an adult going from St. John Lutheran. They will continue to be raising funds for this opportunity during the upcoming months.

### **“Souper Bowl Sunday” February 4**

Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food on Super Bowl Sunday. We will give 100% of donations to the New Love Center Food Pantry, teaming up with and changing the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring. The Scouts will be at the exits as you leave church collecting money and canned goods. The Youth and Scouts have been collecting together for Souper Bowl Sunday since 1998.

### **Scout Sunday**

The Scout Troop from St. John will be participating in the worship service on Sunday, February 4. We commend our scouts and their leaders in their endeavors here at St. John and in their travels.

## **GROW IN THE SNOW - FEBRUARY 9, 2018 - FEBRUARY 10, 2018**

This year's synod youth retreat at Camp Mount Luther will be held on February 9-10, 2018. All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend. The theme of this year's retreat is "Hello God, It's Me," dealing with prayer. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon. If you are a youth 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades and can go to Mt. Luther, contact Molly.

### **Cookies and Canvas**

Come out Saturday, February 10 from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and enjoy some fellowship and painting! Holly Dittmar is instructing. This event sponsors the youth attending the National Youth Gathering and cost is \$20.00 per participant. Deadline February 8.

### **Fastnacht**

Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> our Youth will be cooking a dinner of Pancakes, French toast and Sausage. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. Youth are asked to meet in the kitchen at 5:00 p.m.



### **Scholarship Applications Available**

The Trinity Lutheran, Avis, Scholarships applications are available from the church office. Students must have completed one semester of college with a C or better grade average and have a declared major. Applications must be completed and submitted before March 1. Students who are members or former members of Trinity Lutheran and St. John Lutheran are eligible to apply or a member of St. John (which includes all former Trinity members) may sponsor a student for a scholarship.



### **Pizza Hut Fundraiser**

We are asking everyone to enjoy some great dinner at Pizza Hut on Wednesday, February 21 from 4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. at 153 Hogan Blvd. Mill Hall location. 10% of your total bill will go directly to the youth of St. John that will be attending the National Youth Gathering in June. Don't forget the Sunday school students received a coupon card for Christmas! If anyone is interested in purchasing a Pizza Hut Coupon Card cost \$5.00 for a value \$30.00 please call the church office.

### **Washing of the Feet**

Practices will be held on Thursdays beginning March 8 during Lent from 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church. Any youth interested in participating in the Washing of the Feet is encouraged to attend. **We practice each Thursday and will perform on Maundy Thursday, March 29 at Garman Lutheran Church.**

## Summer Camp

Sign up for Summer Camp at Camp Mt. Luther. Registration forms and Camp Brochures can be found on the tables located near the Thompson St. doors. Our Christian Education Ministry encourages all our youth to attend camp and we will pay your registration fees so please get a camp registration today! Church camp is a great place to grow in your faith. Give registration forms to Molly by April 1 to save the church on registration fees.



## Meal Packaging Event

St. Mark's Lutheran (by the bridge) in Williamsport will be hosting a meal packaging event on Saturday, April 21. Volunteers are needed and one can volunteer by calling St. Marks at 570.323.4619. We don't know the exact times yet but expect it to begin around 9:00 a.m. 12,000 of the 20,000 meals packaged will come back here to The New Love Center for distribution locally. Volunteers will be needed to pick up the meals and bring them back to St. John Lutheran. We would like to take a group of twenty youth to St. Marks. Please contact Molly if you can go so we can arrange transportation.



## Annual Easter Egg hunt

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, March 31 at 11:00 a.m. for all children and grandchildren of St. John 12 years and under. We will begin promptly so please arrive at 10:45 a.m. and bring a basket with you. Middle and High school youth will meet in the church office at 9:30 a.m. to help.

## Congratulations

Max Ferguson was elected Region President for the upcoming year and will lead one of the largest FBLA Regions in Pennsylvania.

The Youth and Family Ministry committee meets the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. to plan future events. We need additional parents as well as High School age youth to participate in the planning. Depending upon what is happening we do not always meet. Check with Molly.

Remember the deadline for the April/May newsletter is March 15. Please submit your articles to Molly early.

God's Precious Children  
Mission letter # 1

Wednesday January 3, 2018

Happy (Belated) New Years from Bong County Liberia!

This is Andrew Hostetter. My wife Sarah and I have been blessed to join Deb and Gary Winters in Liberia for the last two years. I am writing you a bit later than usual because it has already been almost a week since we met in Deb and Gary's house to travel to Liberia. Let me catch you up on what has happened.

We arrived to Liberia on Friday December 29<sup>th</sup> in the evening. All of us were a little sleep deprived from the prolonged travel here and were ready to go to sleep but our plans got delayed. We found out as we landed that the winner of the Liberian Presidential Election had been announced, and for an hour we were in completely stopped traffic because we had unwittingly driven directly into a large party being held in the streets for the president-elect. Thankfully, both the election and the party were peaceful.

The next day we bought all of the food and other supplies we needed for the next two weeks, and then began the 3 - hour trek by road to Phebe where we spend most of our time. Upon our arrival to Phebe, we were quickly greeted by friends and served a delicious Liberian feast: fried plantains, chicken stew over rice, beef, and fresh pineapple, cucumber, and bananas. It was a great way to be welcomed back.

After a couple days of getting ourselves and our bodies re-oriented to being in Liberia, we started re-registering your kids into the tuition sponsorship program here in Phebe. Despite the school being closed, and many families being on holiday, we have had a pretty good turn out the last couple of days. Samuel, who is one of the boys we sponsored and someone we have written to you about, was the first person in line which made us smile. He has further blessed us by deciding to stick around and help us each day all day. It has been so fun working alongside him, and it has further convinced us of how wonderful he is.

I also have had the privilege to see God answer a prayer for a local church. Deb and Gary have been known to help not only with education, but local churches if they are able. A friend of theirs last year invited us to their church to see its need of funds to repair their church building. In such a remote part of the country we knew they would likely never be able to fund these repairs alone. We told them we would ask around to churches at home to see if they could sponsor them. I had reached out to a local branch of their denomination over the summer, and was surprised to hear them excited about the idea of helping this church. They were able to raise almost \$5,000 for them, which was slightly more than they needed. Just today I brought the money to them, and bought all the supplies they needed to fully repair their church. The pastor and church leaders were immensely grateful.

God has continued to show how he cares for these people and this community, and I am grateful to get to be a part of it. Thank you all so much for your prayers and support for these kids and families. You may never grasp how much of a difference you are making, but I have seen firsthand the impact God has made here through your help.

May God bless you in this New Year, Andrew Hostetter

		FEBRUARY	2018			
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					2 Pastor returns from Florida	3 9am – 2:30 p.m. Missional Church Meeting at St. Johr
4 <i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany</i> <i>Souper Bowl/Scout Sunday</i> <i>Gary Johnson Preaching</i>  8:00a.m. Chapel Worship Service 9:15a.m. Sunday School/Catechism 10:30a.m. Nave Worship Service 7:00 p.m. AA meeting	5 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:15 – 7:15 p.m. Healthy Starts SS Rm 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	6 8:00 am NLC Board 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers 7:00 p.m. N.A. & A.A. Meetings 7:00 p.m. Council <i>Pastor's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination</i>	7 6:30 p.m. Choir	8 12:00 noon Ministerium 4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes	9 9:00 – 12:00 noon Food Distribution 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Food Distribution Camp Mt. Luther "Grow in the Snow"	10  Camp Mt. Luther "Grow in the Snow"
11 <i>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</i> <b>NO</b> Chapel Service 9:15a.m. Sunday School/Catechism 10:30 am Nave Worship Service 11:30 Reception to celebrate 25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor's Ordination 7:00 p.m. AA meeting	12 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:15 – 7:15 p.m. Healthy Starts SS Rm 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	13 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> 9:30 a.m. Conference Clergy 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers 6:00 p.m. Fastnacht Dinner 7:00 p.m. N.A. & A.A. Meetings	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:00 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. Choir	15	16	17  Missional Church Snow Date
18 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i> 8:00a.m. Chapel Worship Service 9:15a.m. Sunday School/Catechism 10:30a.m. Nave Worship Service 7:00 p.m. AA meeting	19 8:15a.m. Music & Worship 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:15 p.m. Healthy Starts 6:00 p.m. Christian Ed 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Youth	20 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers 7:00 p.m. N.A. & A.A. Meetings	21 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time @ Restless Oaks 6:30 p.m. Lent 1 at Garman Lutheran 7:30 p.m. Choir	22	23 9:00 – 12:00 noon Food Distribution 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Food Distribution	24
25 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> 8:00a.m. Chapel Worship Service 9:15a.m. Sunday School/Catechism 10:30a.m. Nave Worship Service 7:00 p.m. AA meeting	26 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:15 – 7:15 p.m. Healthy Starts SS Rm 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts	27 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers 7:00 p.m. N.A. & A.A. Meetings	28 6:30 p.m. Lent 2 at St. John 7:30 p.m. Choir			

		MARCH	2018			
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
				1	2	3
<p>4 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>8:00a.m. Chapel Worship Service 9:15a.m. Sunday School/Catechism 10:30a.m. Nave Worship Service 7:00 p.m. AA meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:15 – 7:15 p.m. Healthy Starts SS Rm 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>6</p> <p>8:00 a.m. New Love Center meeting 2:00 p.m. Communion at Manor Car 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers 7:00 p.m. N.A. &amp; A.A. Meetings</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Lent 3 at Grace Lutheran 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>noon Ministerium 4:00 p.m. Pack Boxes</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 – 12:00 noon Food Distribution 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. Food Distribution</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Clocks Spring Ahead</p>
<p>11 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>8:00a.m. Chapel Worship Service 9:15a.m. Sunday School/Catechism 10:30a.m. Nave Worship Service 11:45 am First Communion Instruction 7:00 p.m. AA meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:15 – 7:15 p.m. Healthy Starts SS Rm 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Conference Clergy 5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers 7:00 p.m. N.A. &amp; A.A. Meetings</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Lent 4 at St. John 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Joint Council At Grace Lutheran</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i></p>
<p>19 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>8:00a.m. Chapel Worship Service 9:15a.m. Sunday School 10:30a.m. Nave Worship Service 11:45 am First Communion Instruction</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Bible Study 5:15 – 7:15 p.m. Healthy Starts SS Rm 6:00p.m. Christian Ed 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00 p.m. Youth</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers 7:00 p.m. N.A. &amp; A.A. Meetings</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:30 a.m. fellowship time at Restless Oaks 6:30 p.m. Lent 5 at Garman Lutheran 7:30 p.m. Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 – 12:00 noon Food Distribution 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Food Distribution</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 <i>Palm Sunday</i></p> <p>8:00a.m. Chapel Worship Service 9:15a.m. Sunday School/Catechism 10:30a.m. Nave Worship Service 7:00 p.m. AA meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>5:15 – 7:15 p.m. Healthy Starts SS Rm 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>27 <i>Chrism Mass</i></p> <p>5:15 p.m. Weight Watchers 7:00 p.m. N.A. &amp; A.A. Meetings</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross at St. James</p>	<p>29 <i>Maundy Thursday</i></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Garman Lutheran</p>	<p>30 <i>Good Friday</i></p> <p>7:00 p.m. Grace Lutheran</p>	<p>31</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Easter E Hunt</p>

## Baptisms

Vivian Rose Shields, daughter of Ashley Hawkins and Dylan Shields



Theresa Doris Hollick, daughter of Stephanie and Nathaniel Hollick



Cora June Pelletier, daughter of Brittany Bowes and Alex Pelletier





"Twins" Karen and Karon



Christmas 2017

