



THE MESSENGER

St. John's Lutheran Church



Volume 2012, Issue 1

February 2012

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Special points of interest:

- *Mardi Gras Party to benefit our youth going to the National Convention*
- *Time for Pancakes and Fastnachts*
- *Celebrate "Feast Day" at Feast of Justice*
- *Experience a Lutheran Marriage Encounter*

You're Invited to a Mardi Gras Party!

Come out and join us for a celebration of Mardi Gras on Sunday, February 19th from 12:30–3:00 P.M. in the Parish Hall. We will have New Orleans style food, games, face painting, mask making and much more. It's a great way to have fun prior to Lent. Cost of admission is \$5.00 for adults 14 and older and \$3.00 for children under 13. Proceeds will go towards sending eight of our youth and three coun-

selors to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering in July.

Looking for another way to support our youth? Check out the kiosk in the back of the church where you will find decorated envelopes with a number on them. Choose one with a number that will correspond to your donation and follow the directions that are included inside.

Watch the Messenger



Join us for a Mardi Gras celebration to benefit our youth.

and the What's Happening for future fundraisers to support our youth.

Please be Our Valentine

Looking for a place to spend your Valentine's Day? Come be our Valentine! A pot luck dinner/dessert Valentine's Day will be held on February 14th at 6:00 P.M. in Room A. Please

share your love of cooking with fellow members of St. John's. Bring a hot, cold or sweet food. We would LOVE to have you here!

There will also be a brief remembrance cele-

bration of the ones we lost presented by the bereavement group. Please join in the fellowship.



Pastor Lee's Letters

Volume IX, No. 1
February 2012

Winter. It hasn't been the snowiest (yet). It hasn't been the coldest (thankfully), but it is winter. The trees are bare, the sky is grey, and though it's too warm for snow, it just means the rain is bone chilling cold. Winter.

Sometimes winter can get into our hearts; our souls. Sometimes the cabin fever isn't only the stress of restricting the kids from outdoor access; but it's the cabin fever of our dreams, our hopes, our longings yearning for freedom.

When we are staggered by the chilly winds of adversity and battered by the raging storms of disappointment and when through our folly and sin we stray into some destructive far country and are frustrated because of a strange feeling of homesickness, we need to know that there is Someone who loves us, cares for us, understands us, and will give us another chance. When days grow dark and nights grow dreary, we can be thankful that our God combines in his nature a creative synthesis of love and justice which will lead us through life's dark valleys and into sunlit pathways of hope and fulfillment.

-The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., *Strength to Love*

I recently connected with someone who hadn't been in worship lately. Their response wasn't uncommon. "Pastor," they said, "I just haven't felt myself lately. I haven't felt like I've had anything to give, anything to offer." They weren't talking about money. "I've been down lately, and so, I don't want to drag the place down with me."

Precisely in the winter times and snow seasons of our lives, is the fellowship of the community of believers healing for the mind, body, and soul. In the midst of our winter wilderness, God comes, Christ walks, the Spirit leads.

Join us in community this month. Come back to worship; check out a Bible study, visit the cooking class, sing with the choir one night. We know there is Someone who loves us, cares for us, and understands us; and when we are together in community, formed as one, that Someone becomes very real. If you are physically unable to join us in communion, and you have not recently received a visit from a visiting minister, please contact the church office and we will bring the community to you!

In community we experience that God who is a "creative synthesis of love and justice."

Thanks be to God!!

Pastor
Lee

Congregation Council Notes

Dave Speece called the meeting to order on January 10, 2012. Pastor Tricia led devotions—Psalm 139:1-6, 12-18. She reminded us of our theme for this year - "Community."

The minutes were approved.

Don Jones presented the slate of council nominees for this year. They are: Don O'Grady, Joanne Hajoway, Kathy Madigan,

Nancy O'Connor and Barry Spindler. Four will be elected for a 3 year term and one for an unexpired term.

Plans were discussed and finalized for the Congregational Meeting.

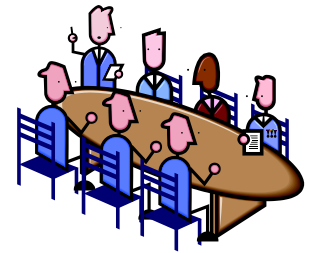
Pastor Tricia reported that things went well over Christmas with Feast of Justice and church services.

Council approved the

request from Finance to refinance our mortgage for a substantial savings. This will be brought before the congregation at the annual meeting for their approval.

The Council Retreat will be February 10-11, 2012.

Bette Pittman closed the meeting with a prayers.



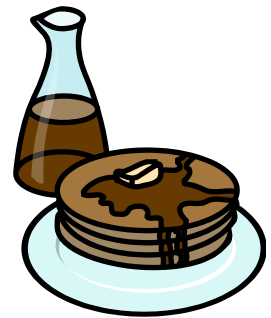
What's happening at the Congregational Council Meeting?

Annual Fastnacht Celebration

Lent is approaching. A time for solemn reflection and prayer. But, before we enter into that season, it's time for the Youth and Family team annual party: Fastnacht! We celebrate this liturgical

change of season with a crowd favorite—the annual pancake and fastnacht supper on February 21st. To accommodate more of you, we will be in the parish hall. Join us for a fun and festive time. We

gather together in celebration around food, fellowship, and casual worship beginning at 6:00pm. All are welcome. Freewill donations are accepted; fun and fellowship are required!



Don't miss the annual Pancake and Fastnacht Supper

Make it your New Year's Resolution to put a legacy to St. John's in your will.

Your Stewardship Team

Pre-School News

Our 5 Day Class

Welcome to February! We will celebrate Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and President's Day. We will also study all kinds of sea life as we have "Under the Sea" week and "Shark Week". Our fun trip to Adventure Aquarium is Feb. 17th. We party on Feb. 22nd when we have our "100 Days of School" party and we will talk about all of the "Miracles of Jesus" as He spread the Good News with His disciples.

Thank you all for participating in our Claire's Gourmet fundraiser, too. We love February!

Love,

Mrs. Coleen Long
Mrs. Maureen McCay

Our 3 Day Class

Our 3 Day class has many fun and educating activities planned for February. We'll begin by learning about Ground Hog's Day; we'll investigate shadows and make crafts. Our class will celebrate

St. Valentine's Day by exchanging cards, making gifts for our parents and having a party.

For Social Studies we will honor President's Day by teaching the children about our two most popular presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

We invited a special guest, Bridget, from Dr. Bressler's office to come to our school during our "healthy me" series to teach the children about the importance of dental hygiene. Bridget will visit our class to instruct the children in a fun and creative manner on how to care for their teeth.

The children will also continue to learn their letters, numbers and Bible Stories.

Happy St. Valentine's Day

Mrs. Elaine D'Angiolini
Mrs. Donna Hughes

Our 2 Day Class

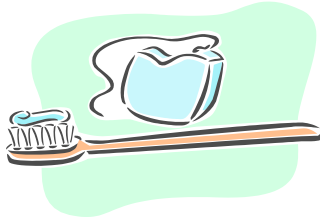
The school year is going

by so fast and we are busy, busy, busy in the 2-Day classroom. During the month of February the children will be concentrating on the letters P, Q, and R. The numbers they will be working with are 8 and 9.

This month is also Dental Hygiene month, so we will be learning about different ways we keep all of our bodies in good health, including our teeth.

We will celebrate the new friendships we have made by having a Valentine's Day party. The Preschoolers are also going to be having a fundraiser, please look for the flyers around church or call the office for further information, if interested. As a last note, we will be holding an Open House for perspective children and parents who may want to come and see what our program is like and take a first-hand look for themselves. Come see all we are doing!!

Mrs. Katie Gallen
Mrs. Megan Dunfee



The children will be learning good dental care this month and ...



have a Valentine's Day Party and ...



continue to learn their letters and numbers.

Feast Day

What is FEAST day? A “Feast day” is a remembrance or commemoration of something old, while experiencing something new. We are now celebrating Feast Day at Feast of Justice. A new meal that is offered. A time of sharing fellowship, resources, and faith. A time of being commu-

nity. A true FEAST—for both body and spirit.

Join us for this exciting new monthly event—a shared ministry between St. John’s and Feast of Justice. This takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:45 for a community presentation and

noon for the meal. Worship follows.

We are also looking for volunteers: cooks, servers, cleaners, worship leaders. If you’d like to participate, sign up in the Feast of Justice office.



Join Feast of Justice on the 3rd Tuesday for lunch or as a volunteer and lunch.

“Generous Givers … that’s who we are. God made us that way … it’s woven into our DNA.”
Your Stewardship Team

Interested in Becoming a Member of St. John’s?

Membership is not required to be a part of our St. John’s community. However, many who are members find that being “official” is life-giving. Are you considering member-

ship at St. John’s? Join us for a series of new members’ classes: Sunday, February 26 @ 12:30; Saturday, March 10 @ 6:15; Sunday, March 18 @12:30. Sign up with one of the pas-

tors or in the church office. New members will be welcomed during worship on the weekend of March 24-25.



Welcome to the New Member’s Class

We Receive Thanks

Dear Members of St. John's,

Just a note to express my thanks to the congregation for all the cards, visits, prayers and well wishes during our time of celebrating the life of my Peggy.

I and my kids, grandchildren and great grandchildren will gather on the 25th (December) and she'll be missed, but we'll celebrate her life with us.

God bless and keep you all.

Pastor John Barton

* * * *

Dear Friends and Members of St. John's,

Thank you for your cards, calls and most of all your prayers. I missed being in church.

Thanks to Pastor Lee and Pastor Tricia for their visits and prayers. I know you are very busy at this time of the year.

God bless you all,
Eleanor Rosiak

Dear Pastors & Members of St. John's,

Just a note of thanks to all of you who have remembered me with your thoughts and prayers and cards this "Holiday Season." It's so nice to be remembered especially this Christmas season by all my fellow friends at St. John's.

Thanks again.

Love,

Elaine Craig

* * * *

Dear Pastor Lee & Members of St. John's,

Thank you for your visit. Your kindness comes as a welcome touch of warmth and caring.

The prayer shawl is very much appreciated and will be used daily in prayer.

Also thank you for the Christmas cards that I received from St. John's members.

May love, hope, peace, and happiness be yours at Christmas and

throughout the New Year.

God bless everyone.

Sincerely,

Nancy Moritz

* * * *

Dear Pastors, Congregation and Staff,

Just a short note to say "Thank You" for the lovely poinsettia that you all gave me for Christmas. It is lovely and so big and beautiful. Also a thank you to Shirley and Ray Rassier for bringing it to me. We had a great visit.

Thanks to Pastor Tricia for her Christmas visit and for all the cards I received for my birthday and Christmas.

Thanks to all. I miss being able to come to church but I thank you for your visits.

Best wishes and may the Lord keep you all in His care.

Love,

Marie Weachter



Dear Pastors and Members of St. John's,

Thank you for all the prayers, thoughts, calls and cards on the death of our family pet, Princess. It was very thoughtful and kind of you and we will always remember that you cared.

Fondly,

The Evans Family

St. John's Benevolence Brings Thanks

Your Church Council at its' December meeting, in addition to sharing the Christmas spirit, shared, on your behalf, gifts toward other ministries. We were blessed this year to share budgeted benevolence to local and global partners, and in addition, to share a portion of a bequest we received this year. Recipients of these gifts included: Hopeworks'n Camden, The Philadelphia Protestant Home, Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower, & Rebuild (POWER), Kana Lutheran Parish, The Irente Children's Home and SECUCo University in Lushoto, Tanzania. Here are a few thank you notes for you!!

Dear Rev. Miller,

We have received a generous gift of \$500 from the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, which will be directed to the Adopt-a-Resident program of the Philadelphia Protestant Home. This program assists

those of our residents who rely on Benevolent Care and who no longer have sufficient personal funds to cover the kinds of expenses - such as haircuts, new socks, lotions and tissues—that bring comfort and dignity to life.

Please extend out sincere thanks to the members of your congregation for caring in this tangible, practical way.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Rhonda J. Cushman, Chaplain

Dear Rev. Miller,

I want to thank you for the very, very generous gift of \$500 your church recently gave to POWER. This unexpected contribution will go a long way in helping put our still new organization on solid footing for 2012. We greatly appreciate it.

As we continue to build an independent, faith filled and people led organization fighting for justice in our city,

we will be sustained by the support of our allies like St. John's. Again, we thank you and your congregation for our generous support and we look forward to exploring how we can work more closely with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dwayne Royster
Executive Director

Dear Pastor Lee,

Thanks to you and all the congregation for your support of the Mexico trip. Awesome!

Jeff Puthoff, SJ
Executive Director
Hopeworks'n Camden

Dear Brothers and Sisters at St. John's,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Rhawnhurst Turning Point, I want to thank you for your generous donation of \$500 to the mission and ministry of Turning Point. What a wonderful Christmas surprise!



The support of individuals and churches such as yourself are essential to the success of Turning Point, as we seek to meet the needs of youth and young adults in our community. What a wonderful Christmas surprise!

Sincerely,

Cheryl Ann Esposito
Director

Lenten Mid-Week Soup Supper



Join us for a Lenten Soup & Salad Dinner with your brothers and sisters from the N.E. Conference

Join with other members of the Northeast Conference each Wednesday during Lent for a dinner of Soup and Salad at 6:00 P.M. followed by a teaching time and worship at 7:15 P.M. The theme this year will be "Walking Wet" - Exploring our baptism through Word and sym-

bols. The schedule is as follows:

2/29— Host—Saints United Lutheran Church

3/7—Host—Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

3/14—Host—**St. John's Lutheran Church**

3/21—Host—St. Petri-Hope Lutheran Church

3/28—Host—Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Between dinner and worship will be a teaching time focused on our Baptism through the use of symbols. A craft will be available for the youngest of participants.



Soup makers needed!

Soup Makers Needed

St. John's will be hosting the soup and salad Lenten dinner on Wednesday, March

14th. We will need volunteers to donate soup, salad and desserts. Watch the "What's

Happening" for more information.



Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 22, 2012

12:00 Noon and 7:00 P.M.

Communion and Imposition of Ashes

St. John's Lutheran Church

Consider a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend



Bring your spouse to a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: Have you signed up for your spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend? NOW is the time to register for this opportunity to rekindle the romance and realize the full potential of your marriage with all the joy and beauty God intended. The spring 2012 Pennsylvania Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends are **March 16-18 at Tof-trees Resort and Conference Center, State College, PA** (peaceful resort located in the center of the state) and **April 20-22 at Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon, West Middlesex, PA** (a lovely hotel featuring king beds and in-room hot tubs—1 hour north

of Pittsburgh.) Weekends run from Friday night at 8PM to Sunday afternoon around 5 PM and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given the opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. If the spring weekends don't fit your schedule, the two Fall weekends are: September 14-16 at Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA—20 miles southeast of Warren, PA; and October 19-21 at The Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven,

PA—just off Interstate 80, two hours north of Philadelphia. Many say the Weekend was the most fantastic and moving experience of their lives. Registrations are limited, so sign up today to ensure your first choice. To sign up, simply go to the website: GodLovesMarriage.org and register online using your credit card. Or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at fjschamber@comcast.net or (724) 325-3166.



Flower Delivery for the Homebound

If you know of somebody that is sick or shut-in that you plan to visit on Sunday or Monday, please ask to take the altar flowers. We will

put them in a vase for you to deliver them. See the person listed for that week as the flower delivery person or Mary Jones if you wish to take

the flowers.

Calling All Young People Grades 7–12

Our Youth Nights for those in grades 7–12 will begin on Friday, February 3 at 6:30 P.M. with “Movie Night.” We will be meeting every 1st Friday and 3rd Sunday of the month with a varying schedule

of service, fun, and faith.

In addition to the scheduled Movie Night, other activities include:

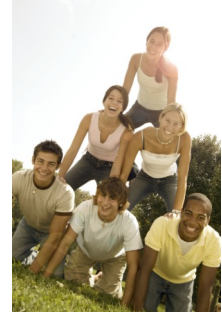
February 19—Sevice project at 6:00 P.M.

March 2—Mini golfing

at 6:30 P.M.

We meet in Room A.

Come and join us and bring a friend.



Looking for young people grades 7-12

Join the Discipleship Forum

The Discipleship Forum is starting a new 6 week series exploring together a faithful response to the immigration issue. Join us in the chapel at 9:30 A.M. on

Sundays.

Other Bible study opportunities are available on Monday evenings at 7:00 P.M in Room A, Wednesday mornings at

10:00 A.M. in Room A

and Sundays at 9:30

A.M. in the Conference Room.

All are welcome.



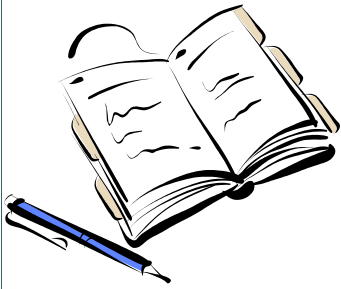
Pre School “Open House”

St. John’s Pre-School will have their annual “Open House” on Wednesday, February 1st from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. They offer classes for children who will be 3 or 4 by September 1st. The 3 year old chil-

dren attend half days on Tuesday or Thursday while the 4 year old children have a choice of 3 half days, 5 half days or 5 full days. If you miss the “Open House” you can call Terry for more informa-

tion on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday from 10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Remember that all St. John’s members receive a 10% discount on tuition.





Get out your address book.
Lots of changes this month!

Membership Changes as of December 31, 2011

Weddings

Timothy R. Chamberlain and Brandi M. Meredith were married at St. John's on 11/5/11. Their new address is:

117 Hooker St.
Riverside NJ 08075

Michael Gannon & Kathleen Perrott were married at St. John's on 11/6/11.

Funerals

Terry Sullivan died on 10/30/11. His funeral service was held at St. John's on 11/4/11. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

New Members Received on 12/4/11

Michael & Elaine Baker & children, Helen, Michael, Jr., Joshua & Rachel
6055 Charles Street
Philadelphia PA 19135

Greg Diaz, Sr.
6313 Jackson Street
Philadelphia PA 19135

John & Tina Maldonado & children, Alexis, Angelia & John
4139 Levick Street
Philadelphia PA 19135

Elizabeth Rybicki
8529 Rising Sun Ave.
Apt. #120
Philadelphia PA 19111

Donna Smolij & son, Matthew
8049 Pine Road
Apt. B12
Philadelphia PA 19111

Ella Mae Urbanski
4434 Strahle Street
Philadelphia PA 19136

Welcome to all our new members!

Change of Address

Marion Alkins
114 Hayes Mill Road
Apt. F206
Atco NJ 08004-2469

Nancy Houck (Turing)
9311 Walker Street
1st Floor
Philadelphia PA 19114

John & Katherine Pakyz

6505 Tabor Avenue
Apt. 2103 Lawndale
Philadelphia PA 19111

John & Beverly Hughes
717 Hartel Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19111



Congratulations to those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism this month.

Baptism Anniversaries

The following people are celebrating the anniversary of their baptism during February:

Michael Baker, Jr.
Susan Black
Carol Cornell
Brendan Crozier

Amy Engelfried
Elizabeth Ewing
Eileen Forrest
Cindy Guertse
Devon Guertse
Timothy McLaughlin
Lisa Moritz
Florence Moss

Andrew Neale
Merrill Pelczar
James Shoch
Elizabeth Wachtman
Kimberly Wattman
Laura Wilent

Congregation Council Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Telephone #</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Lisa Breen	921 Lansing Street Philadelphia PA 19111	(215) 342-1851	2013
*Joanne Hajoway	2681 Levick Street Philadelphia, PA 19149	(215) 743-1962	2015
Mary Jones	8016 Jeanes Street Philadelphia PA 19111	(215) 745-0992	2014
Marie Kinzler	7708 Fairfield Street Philadelphia PA 19152	(215) 332-4466	2014
Kathy Madigan	8529 Rising Sun Ave. Apt. #120 Philadelphia PA 19111	(215) 342-2740	2014
Nancy O'Connor	4559 Cottman Avenue Philadelphia PA 19135		2015
Don O'Grady	8262 New 2nd Street Elkins Park PA 19027	(215) 782-1510	2015
*Bette Pittman	7939 Brous Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19152	(215) 338-3519	2013
David Speece	4241 Stirling Street Philadelphia, PA 19135	(215) 338-4496	2014
Barry Spindler	2050 McKinley Street Philadelphia PA 19149	(215) 744-7642	2015
Connie Szczurek	2503 Green Avenue Bristol, PA 19007	(215) 785-3456	2013
*Jennifer Wilent	7348 Frankford Ave. 2nd Fl. Rear Philadelphia, PA 19136	(215) 338-3480	2013

* = Second term - cannot be re-elected.

Rev. Lee M. Miller, II 6356 Cottage Street (215) 284-2512 (Cell)
Philadelphia, PA 19135

Rev. Patricia Neale 1730 Fuller Street (215) 279-0269 (Cell)
Philadelphia, PA 19152

The Emergency Cell Phone Number for either pastor is (267) 414-4489. When the church office is closed you can reach the pastor in case of emergency at this number.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH

Your organization tag line here.

3101 Tyson Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19149

Phone: 215-624-5505

Fax: 215-624-2938

E-mail: stjohnsmayfair@verizon.net

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

EXAMPLE.COM

This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your

newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



**Caption describing picture
or graphic.**