



# THE MESSENGER

St. John's Lutheran Church



Volume 2018, Issue 5

June 2018

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### Special points of interest:

- *St. John's has a new Pastor. Welcome Pastor Daniel Eisenberg whose ministry will begin on July 9, 2018*
- *It may be Summer but volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School and the Reading Buddies Program. Look inside to see how you can help.*

## Welcome to Pastor Daniel Eisenberg

St. John's excited to welcome Pr. Daniel Eisenberg as our Pastor. Pastor Daniel, his wife Emily, and daughter Eve will be beginning his ministry at St. John's on July 9<sup>th</sup>. The congregation had special congregation meeting on April 28 & 29, 2018 at which time they unanimously voted to call Pr. Daniel Eisenberg as our Pastor. We are looking forward to sharing the ministry of St. John's with Pr. Daniel as St. John's moves forward and shares the good news of the gospel with all. I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope (Jeremiah 29:11 CEB). Daniel Eisenberg grew up in the small town of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. He then attended

Gordon College and earned a Bachelor of Arts in 2008 majoring in Biblical and Theological Studies. While attending Gordon College, Daniel had the opportunity to study abroad in Israel and Palestine. He also participated in the Boston Urban Semester where he had an internship at Roxbury Presbyterian Church and had the opportunity to attend meetings of the Black Ministerial Alliance of Boston and the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization. Daniel was married to Emily in 2009 and for the next year they lived in Pittsburgh, PA. While in Pittsburgh, Daniel waited tables, bartended, and did a bit of cooking at a local hotel. In 2010, Daniel moved to Philadelphia where

he attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary). He did his field education at Grace-Epiphany Episcopal Church and his chaplaincy training at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, PA. Daniel served as vicar at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Arlington, MA. Daniel graduated from LTSP in 2014.

Daniel served his first call at Saint Bartholomew Lutheran in Trenton, NJ. Within his first year, the congregation became a Redevelopment Congregation of the ELCA, meaning that they received extra training and support for three years with the goal of re-rooting in the community, raising up lay leaders, and achiev-

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Welcome Pastor Daniel and Family!

## Welcome Pastor Daniel Eisenberg (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

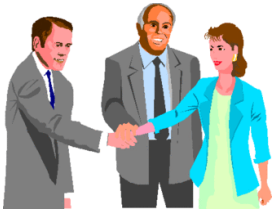
ing financial stability. During this time, Saint Bart grew in its worship offerings with new music, new liturgical settings, and new worship services. Daniel began a ministry called Stop for Prayer in which he and others from Saint Bart would go out to local bus stops offering coffee and prayer to those who were gathered. Daniel had the pleasure of serving as a field education

supervisor to two seminarians from Princeton Theological Seminary. Saint Bart established ministry partnerships with two other congregations as they share service, worship, education, and fellowship opportunities as well as financial support. Last Advent, Saint Bart held a bilingual dinner church worship service called Mesa de Esperanza/ Table of Hope. Daniel served as the secretary of the

United Mercer Interfaith Organization from 2015-2018.

In his free time, Daniel enjoys tabletop gaming, beer brewing, cooking, reading, and playing games with his daughter.

Join us in welcoming Pr. Daniel to St. John's, the NEW Conference, and the SEPA Synod.



Take this opportunity to meet our new Pastor and his family

## Meet and Greet with Pastor Daniel

**Saturday, June 2**

**1:00 P.M.**

Another Meet and Greet will be held for people to meet Pr. Daniel. This will be a time for members to

socialize with Pr. Daniel and get to know him as he is about to start his ministry at St. John's. If you were not able to make the Meet & Greet we had on April 28<sup>th</sup>, come out and have a

chat with Pr. Daniel and members of St. John's. Light refreshments will be shared.

## Preschool Summer Camp

St. John's Preschool is having their 5 week Summer Camp again this year for children ages 3 through 7. There will be outdoor activities, theme weeks, water play activities and possibly a field trip.

Summer Camp is available May 29th through June 29th and runs

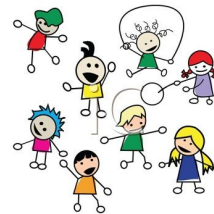
Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

Options available are 3 days a week (M-W-F) or 5 days a week. You can choose which weeks to attend and choose as many as you wish.

The cost is \$75 a week for 3 days and \$100 a

week for 5 days. There is a 10% discount for members and siblings

Our preschool also is continuing to register for September. If you have a child or know of one who will be 3 or 4 by September 1, check out our wonderful school. For info call 215 624-5505.



The children have so much fun at Summer Camp!

## Congregational Council Notes

St. John's Congregational Council met on Tuesday, May 8, 2018 and opened with a prayer by Bette Pittman.

Listed below are the highlights of the meeting:

- Approved the minutes from our meeting of April 10, 2018.
- Gina Hughes-Polychronakis, our Preschool Director, made a presentation of the past year (52 students) and also presented the budget for the upcoming year.
- Received and approved the Treasurer's report. We are \$8,000 behind in weekly envelope giving compared to the budget. The refund from GGLC's collaboration assessment was \$6,852.84. Also received a donation to the General Fund of \$5,000.
- Updates on the following: Call process - everything is on track for Pr. Eisenberg to begin in July, Synod Assembly - election of new bishop, Rev. Patricia A. Davenport, and Administrative Assistant replacement - interviews are being set-up.
- Received Team reports from Worship and Music and Finance. Approved the engagement letter from James A. Pirolli, CPA for the 2017 review of the financial statements.
- Discussed a new lease for the office copier.

Adjourned with a prayer.

# VBS 2018



Join us for a fun filled week of learning, worship, crafts, music, snacks, recreation, and fellowship.

We have classes for children from Pre-K through completion of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**Dates:** Monday, July 23 – Friday, July 27

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** St. John's Lutheran Church  
3101 Tyson Ave.

**Cost:** \$15 per child

**Deadline:** Register by July 9, 2018

Please return registrations to the church office along with the registration fee. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at (215) 624-5505.

If you can help or a family member can help please fill out the bottom of the Registration Form. Volunteers can be from 6<sup>th</sup> Grade up.



## VBS 2017 REGISTRATION JULY 23 - JULY 27, 2018

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Last Grade Completed in School \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Medical Information/Other:

\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: Home \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contacts:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of those who may pick up this child from VBS

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

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Can you or anyone in your household volunteer to help with VBS. Contact Doreen Kinzler at 215-514-6883 if you can help or give info. below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



## My Temporary Job

The time has come for me to leave this temporary job I signed on for 28 years ago. As a child, I always wanted to be a nurse. I fulfilled that dream by graduating from Abington School of Nursing in 1965 and began my nursing career at that same institution. Followed by positions at Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children, Frankford Hospital and eventually 10 years at Moss Rehabilitation Hospital working with stroke patients, I never saw myself as a church secretary. We always hear that old saying, "God works in mysterious ways" and I am a strong believer in that. Raising my daughter as a single Mom after my husband passed away I enjoyed volunteering at her school and at St. John's where I had come from the age of 6. When an ad appeared in the Sunday bulletin in the winter of 1990, I said to my Dad that these would be perfect hours and location for me but I have no secretarial experience. He encouraged me to apply anyway but I really thought this was a crazy idea. Oddly enough I was called for an interview and asked to demonstrate my typing skills. I was given this strange typewriter that wouldn't work until Pastor Barton told me I had to push the switch and turn it on. I was only familiar with a non-electric variety. I returned home and told my family there was no way I was being hired for this job but I was wrong. When I was called and told the job was mine I had to ask if anyone else had actually applied because they surely must be desperate to hire this former nurse with no experience to take on this position. Pastor Petry told me he was impressed that I knew how to spell Thessalonians. It was agreed that I would probably only be here a couple of years and then return to my nursing career. Clearly, that did not happen.

In the early going I was blessed with two wonderful volunteers, Betty Haines and Eleanor Rosiak, who took me under their wing and showed me the basics of secretarial work. The bulletins were done on a typewriter and printed on the new digital duplicator which had recently replaced the old mimeograph. They tell me I was lucky to have missed out on that piece of equipment. There were other volunteers who typed, printed, assembled and mailed the Messenger; a council person was assigned to keep and approve all room assignments; Olga Schreiber kept all financial records using pen and paper; a large computer sat in the corner where one knowledgeable volunteer started to use software to keep the membership data base. The office was lined with metal cabinets for storage and large glass windows from floor to ceiling by the Memorial Garden that leaked cold air in the Winter and hot sun in the summer time. Our food distribution consisted of a couple of bags kept in the church office or another closet in the hallway. Preschool did not exist but VBS was a 2 week endeavor which drew close to 100 community children every year.

There have been lots of changes since those days, but I have been blessed to always have wonderful volunteers to help me when needed. I am especially grateful to my faithful crew of Florence Cleary, Rainey Augustine and Dot Trumbosh who are here every week and to Carol Cornell who has recently joined them, and to the dedicated Messenger mailers including these same ladies plus Jean Mack, Bee Thompson, Bette Pittman and Julie Henderson. Thanks also to Rochelle New, Bette Pittman, Vicki Schempp and Carol Willms who have volunteered in the office in my absence. This job cannot be done without the help of volunteer staff.

My life has changed considerably since I began in 1990. Both of my parents are now enjoying their place in the heavenly kingdom; my daughter, Melissa, was married to Chris by Pastor Tricia 5 years ago and she baptized my grandson, Will, 2 years ago. After being widowed for over 30 years, I met this special man, Dave

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Inside Story Headline

*(Continued from page 6)*

Thomas, when he joined St. John's. Pastor Tricia married us in this place in 2014. I have worked with over 20 different pastors at one time or another, at least six Directors of Music and seven different sexton/property managers. (It's the secretaries who can really hang in there!) I have seen the food cupboard grow from a couple of bags to the non profit organization we all know as Feast of Justice providing so much for the citizens of our community. I have been here for the birth of our preschool that began under Pastor Janice Vogt with a few children coming 3 half days a week to a state licensed, Keystone Stars school providing quality education and fun for so many 3 and 4 year olds. I get to see their smiling faces everyday as well as their dedicated teachers, Donna Conway, LaRaine Oliveira, Doreen Pifkowski, Denise Duffy and the director, Gina Hughes and my favorite side kick in the office, Terry Brighter. She is a true gem!

There have been times of joy at the birth and baptism of a new child; at the happiness of a newly wed couple; at celebrations of ministry and church anniversaries and times of sadness as we say good bye to those who are no longer with us. I have had the chance to listen to people who are going through difficult times and just need someone to listen to them. Hopefully, I was able to be of assistance when you needed me.

I have always felt the love that is in this place. You were there when my parents passed and when I was out of work for 3 months following a fall and fractured ankle. I loved coming to work here every day and will definitely miss some of the more unique telephone calls and stories that I have heard throughout the years. As we have heard many times at the yearly Parish Secretary's Seminar, this is a job but also a special kind of ministry. Hopefully I have used my talents wisely and been there when you needed me. I will still be around but in a different capacity. Look for me to continue volunteering my time especially at Feast of Justice and wherever God may be calling me. I am confident that he has some more special plans for me and for the congregation of St. John's.

Thanks to everyone for their love and support over these many years.

*Sue Black Thomas*

## Volunteer for VBS

Calling all people who will be helping with VBS. If you like to teach, make crafts, serve snacks, sing or play with children we could use your help. We also need

help behind the scenes with decorating the building. VBS will be the week of July 23-27. Please contact Doreen Kinzler at 215-514-6883

if you are interested in helping. Watch for further details of when we will have a meeting for volunteers.







### From Pastor Tricia

Overwhelming. That is the best feeling to describe the emotions of last month. From the gratitude shared during our last weekend of worship together, to the outpouring of love and

support my family and I have received around our transition, to the various ways that so many have reached out to us. I am thankful and blessed to have shared this time with you, and

look forward to what God is going to do with all of us together in the future.

With love,  
Pastor Tricia



### Thanks to Sue

Vicki Shempp wrote this to Sue Black Thomas but asked that it be in the Messenger.

Sue, thank you for all the years you worked for St. John's. You were

always there to help me with things, answered lots of questions over the phone and let me in the front door. You will be missed in the office but we will see you

around church. Enjoy your retirement and spending time with Dave. Thank you for a job well done and more.

## Father's Day Flowers



Additional altar flowers are planned for Father's Day. If you would like to help with the cost, fill out the form below, place it in an envelope with your donation of cash or check payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church." Please mark the envelope "Father's Day Flowers." Place the envelope in the offering or drop it at the church office. **Please note the deadline of Sunday, June 10, 2017.**

I/We would like to make a donation for Father's Day Flowers.

To the Glory of God and

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number or Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



# Congregational Picnic

Church Picnic



Date: Saturday, June 23

Time: 12 Noon—6 P.M.

Place: Neshaminy State Park

3401 State Road

Bensalem, PA

Cost: Adults—\$3.00

Children under 12 - Free

- ◆ Hot Dogs, Hamburgers or Veggie Burgers & soft pretzels provided
- ◆ Paper products provided
- ◆ Games for all ages, hiking, fishing (PA License required)
- ◆ Swimming tickets available day of picnic at the pool
- ◆ Restrooms and parking nearby.

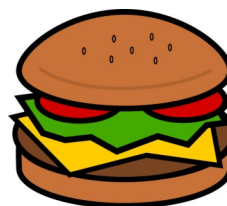
Bring a pot luck dish to share with others (salad, dessert, snacks, etc)

Bring beverages (no alcohol)

Bring your horseshoes, bathing suit, bats, balls and other games.

Bring a table & lawn chairs or a blanket

Tickets are available in the church office during the week and after all worship services on the weekend. See Dave Speece, Vicki Schempp or Sue Black Thomas. Info—215-331-4937.



## **JUNE NEWS FROM FEAST OF JUSTICE**



### **Show Us Your Green Thumb!**

The Feast of Justice Community Garden is ready for planting. After getting a makeover from our local Scout troop, we are planting seedlings for the summer and fall harvest.

If you are interested in helping out in the garden, let us know! We will be working twice a month—on the 2nd Saturday (times vary according to heat) and 4th Wednesday from 4-6. All hands are welcome. No experience necessary! Bring your tools if you have them. Otherwise, we have some to share.

### **Looking for Reading Buddies helpers!**

Reading Buddies is set to run again this year for children entering K-6. The program is an educational enrichment/camp atmosphere for 4 weeks (weeks of July 9, 16, 30, and August 6). The program runs from 8:45-1:15 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

We are looking for a total of 6 volunteers each day—made up of both adults and high school-age junior counselors. Adults must have or be willing to get their background clearances.

If this is your area of interest, please contact Pr. Tricia for more information. If you know of a youth who would be interested, the junior counselor application/information is available at Feast of Justice and will be on the website soon!

### **Community Meals—Plus Public Board Meeting**

June 14 is our final Feast Night of the season and we are going to celebrate in the courtyard with a BBQ. We will grill hot dogs, hamburgers, & more. Come join us! We could use some help too!

Then, at 7:00, all are invited to a public annual board meeting. Our Board of Directors will be meeting in the Parish Hall to discuss the year's plans, vote on next year's budget, and vote in new board members. Please watch for our Evite and join us!

### **Scheduling is Starting!!**

We are working to contact all active volunteers to add you to our summer schedule. If you have not heard from us by May 21, please reach out. Remember, you can volunteer for regular shifts (e.g. every Tuesday food cupboard distribution) or for more specific times (e.g. 2 Mondays a month or May 31 only). The volunteer schedule helps us and helps you. Please let us know if you have questions or concerns. AND, if you have not volunteered with us before, we invite you to come to our New Volunteer Orientation on June 9 at 12:00.

### **Volunteerapalooza is Back!**

We have such success at the holidays that we are launching Volunteerapalooza's year round—as a way to get some of our bigger projects done. The next day of service with an open volunteer call will be Saturday, June 30 from 10am-2pm. Registration is requested. Sign up in the Feast of Justice office.

**Church Council Members**

Marie Hand	215-332-4466	marie.e.hand@phila.gov	2021	Feast of Justice
Julie Henderson	267-324-1685		2019	Congregational Care/Fellowship
Don Jones	215-745-0992	dejcpa76@aol.com	2020	Finance
Maureen Jordan	215-332-4962	reen.jordan10@comcast.net	2021	Secretary/ Property
Doreen Kinzler	215-288-6416	doreen.m.kinzler@phila.gov	2021	President/Mutual Ministry/Youth & Family
George Miller	267-262-3252	george.miller@dla.mil	2019	Invitation
Bette Pittman			2019	Faith In Action
Clair Amy Roberts	215-421-3961	psu95lions@aol.com	2020	Music & Worship
Vicki Schempp	215-333-0428		2021	Stewardship
Jennifer Wilent	215-391-2186	simsc1j@aol.com	2020	Vice President/Communications

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**TEAM LEADERS:**

Judith Rose	215 -638-4739	RoseFam73@verizon.net		Mutual Ministry
Rev. Esther Rajashekar	215-233-1362	revrajashekar@gmail.com		

St. John's Lutheran Church  
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Philadelphia PA 19149

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3101 Tyson Avenue  
Philadelphia PA 19149

Phone: 215-624-5505  
Fax: 215-624-2938  
E-mail: stjohnsmayfair@verizon.net

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OUR MISSION IS TO PLANT THE  
SEEDS OF GOD'S LOVE  
THROUGH CHRIST, IN WITNESS,  
OUTREACH AND THE WORD

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Companion Church  
Kana Lutheran Parish, Tanzania

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

Rev. Esther Rajashekar, Bridge Pastor  
Lisa Thomas, Director of Music  
David Speece, Property Manager/Sexton  
Gina Hughes Polychronakis, Preschool Director  
Rev. Patricia Neale, Director of Feast of Justice

**Our Worship Schedule**

5:00 p.m. Saturday Evenings  
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mornings  
Holy Communion is celebrated every week