



# VOLUME 2018, ISSUE 8

*St. John's Lutheran Church*



*Volume 2018, Issue 8*

*September 2018*

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**Special points of interest:**

- *Sunday School begins.*
- *Preschool important information.*
- *Bible Study Opportunities.*
- *Look for Volunteer opportunities throughout the Messenger.*

## **A Season of Change—Pastor Daniel**

Here we are! My family and I have moved into the neighborhood, I have had my first few weeks serving as pastor of Saint John's, my driver's license says "Pennsylvania" once again, and I have heard more Eagles chants in the past 30 days than I have in the past 30 years. I am in a new place with new possibilities. In this new relationship between congregation and pastor, we are also in a new place with new possibilities. There are changes on the horizon and changes are exciting and a bit scary. Together, as pastor and congregation, we will explore the depths of God's mercy and grace in worship, teaching, fellowship, giving, and more. From that deep well of blessing, we will in turn bless the world with the Good News of Jesus. Just how that will work, who exactly will be involved, and what work we will specifically be doing is yet to be determined.

My hope over the coming months and years is threefold:

- 1) We get to know and celebrate each other's God-given gifts and passions.
- 2) We intentionally discern who God is calling us to be.
- 3) We boldly share the Good News with our words and deeds in a way that transforms lives.

These hopes are admittedly pretty nebulous at this point. The specifics are not worked out because we still need to discover what those specifics are exactly.

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We as God's people have been given an incredible gift. We have been given the gift of Jesus Christ's life and resurrection. This gift changes everything and the specific implications of this gift have been unfolding for 2000 years now. Mary Magdalene's grief turned into bold hope (John 20:11-18); the first disciples spread the Good News far and wide and connected with believers in the most unlikely places (see Acts, especially Peter and Cornelius, Paul and Lydia, Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch); Paul declares that the person of Christ brings us together as kin triumphing over our worldly biases of gender, social status, and ethnicity (Galatians 3:27-28), and John of Patmos has a vision of a world where peace reigns, pain is no more, and death is no more (see Revelation 21).

Jesus' triumph over sin and death changes everything. His victory makes us part of God's family together, it gives us defiant hope against the injustices that plague our world, it allows us to live bold lives of service no longer fearing sin or death, it provides comfort in the midst of pain and impending death, it calls us out to share that Good News with the world, and so much more.

We do not know exactly where we are heading in the midst of this change, but we know that Christ goes ahead of us. I am excited to be on this journey with you! There is a lot of pain and brokenness in our world, but we know that the risen Christ has saved our world through his own life. Now we have the blessed calling of sharing that Good News with the world through words of forgiveness and hope and through actions of justice and mercy. We may feel that the needs of the world are overwhelming and our path forward still unclear, but remember that we go with Christ. Christ's love changes everything.



The Reverend Daniel K. Eisenberg

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Blessing of book bags, lunch bags, and school supplies. Bring your book bags to worship for a back to school blessing at all services the weekend of 9/8 and 9/9.

Join us on Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. to register for the **Sunday School** year and meet your classmates and teachers. There will be singing, worship, fun, crafts, and refreshments for the children and adults.

**Sunday School will begin on Sunday, September 9 at 9:30 A.M. Children ages 3 to are welcome.** St. John's is celebrating the new school year in September and would like you to join us in celebrating and learning all that God has done for us as we begin our new Christian Education year.

**Sunday, September 9, 2018**

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hello and Welcome Back!

We hope you are getting back in school year routines after hopefully a great summer vacation! We are starting full swing for another great school year! Please spread the word to anyone you may know who is looking for a high quality preschool center! We are still currently accepting enrollments as we have a few spots available in all classrooms!

This fall please be on the look for many changes happening in the classroom, with the program, and different opportunities for not just St. John's preschool students available!

We will have a few fall fundraisers taking place as well. Once we have dates in set for them, I will leave information in the back of the sanctuary as well as the church office if you are interested!

St. John's Preschool is currently also looking for "comfort style seating." Rather than sitting in chairs throughout the day we are looking to make things a bit more comfortable for our students. These items can be items such as Large throw pillows, bright area rugs, or beanbags, we always love donations!

We look forward to meeting all of our new and returning families this year! If at any time you have questions regarding our program, please email Gina at [ghughes.stjohns@gmail.com](mailto:ghughes.stjohns@gmail.com).

## GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

September 9, 2018 is a dedicated day of service in thousands of ELCA congregations to share the Love of God with all of God's people in our Communities.

Before September 9, we still need your help with gathering items to fill the bags. We still need coupons from local businesses; dry package crackers, cookies, energy bars, or lifesavers; and some little trinkets, like little glow-in-the-dark crosses, or wallet size cards or tiny magnets that say things like "God Loves You."

You are invited and encouraged to gather with St. John's Mayfair to prepare and distribute 50 blessing bags for those new to our Mayfair neighborhood. We will gather in Room A after the 11 AM service on September 9 to share in our Annual Picnic and fellowship while we assemble the bags. Hamburgers, veggie burgers, and hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Water will be available but feel free to bring your own drink. Wear your St. John's T Shirt or your yellow God's Work Our hands T Shirt. Drivers and walkers are needed to deliver the bags to doorsteps.

Contact Joanne Hajoway to support this outreach in our community.



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

## FINANCE

Since our last messenger giving has been down.

As the summer season ends and we are back into a routine, please remember to put your envelope in the collection plate.



**Thank you for giving!**

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Saturday Fellowship time resumes September 15 at 6:00 P.M. with trivia night. Come join us for the best in unsubstantiated trivia Dave Speece could find on the internet. Even if you do not like trivia, come out for the three F's. **F**un, **F**ellowship and **F**ood (not in that order).

We will also have a light BBQ Dinner with grilled hot dogs and hamburgers. So we hope to see you out to join



## FELLOWSHIP

The church picnic has been rescheduled from June. It will now be held September 9, 2018 at 12:30 P.M. in the courtyard, weather permitting. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be available. Salads and desserts to share are appreciated. Please bring your own drinks.

Following the picnic we will have a service projects for the community. Please look through the Messenger for more details on the God's Work, Our Hands Day.



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## QUILTING CUTIES

The Quilting Cuties are in great need of gently used or new blankets and sheets. Please bring any donations to the church office.



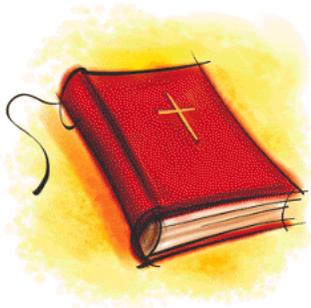
## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Adult Bible Study Bible Stories You've Never Heard Before.

Bible Study is starting up again on Wednesday, September 12 at 10:00 A.M. and will continue each week. There are a lot of stories in the Bible that we don't hear in worship or in Sunday School. We'll be checking out some of the stranger and more difficult stories in Scripture like "The Prince Whose Head Got Stuck in a Tree", "The Dirty Underwear Prophecy," and "Jesus curses a Fig Tree."

### Adult Bible Study—Animate: Bible

Bible Study is beginning Monday, September 10 at 7:00 P.M. and will continue each Monday evening. We will be taking a look at Scripture from a birds-eye view and exploring questions, like, "How did the Bible get put together anyway?" and "Why do people come up with so many different interpretations for the same book?" Each session will begin with a video and discussion.



## COMPUTER SUPPLIES

New Ink Cartridge—Black—FREE

HP 75 needs a good home. Please contact Mary Jones. [MLoewer906@aol.com](mailto:MLoewer906@aol.com)

## FROM PASTOR TRICIA SEPTEMBER NEWS FROM FEAST OF JUSTICE



Feast of Justice will be closed on Friday, August 31 and Saturday, September 1 for the Labor Day holiday. No appointments on those days. Produce will **NOT** be distributed on September 4th or 5th.

New Volunteer Orientations are held on the 2nd Saturday from 12:00–1:00 P.M. The next orientation is September 8th.

If you have any questions regarding the Feast of Justice programs, please call 215-268-3510, ext 1.

### Diabetes Self Management Program

Attend the **FREE Steps for Healthier Living Diabetes workshops.**

**Where:** Feast of Justice Parish Hall.

**When:** Thursdays 9:30 A.M.—12:00 P.M.

**First Session**  
September 6th

**Last Session**  
October 11th

Feast Night Community meals will restart On September 13 at 6:00 P.M. Feast Nights will be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. All are welcome for food and community fellowship.



## GENEROSITY TEAM

Live Free, Live Simply, Live Generously, Live Courageously

“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of life that really is life.” 1 Timothy 6: 18-19

For 3 years we have followed the Live Free, Live Simply, Live Generously in our themes for Stewardship. If we Live Free (free from the love of money), we can Live Simply (content with what we have, not jealous of what others have), which allows us to Live Generously (to give back to God, who blesses us with all). Now, we can Live Courageously. We are the children of God. No matter what, God is there with us, 24/7.

Risk is scary. Where will it lead us? What will happen? This is when Live Courageously comes in, trusting in God to be there. How does this apply to stewardship? Well, we need to take risks; to speak up, to change that which needs to change, to help others, help this planet, help St. John's. It's not easy to do these things, if it's not in your nature. But to take that risk, we can build St. John's, feed the hungry, help our neighbors, help our neighborhood.

So, what can we do? We can visit the shut-ins, call someone who hasn't been to church in a while, donate our time, talent, treasure to something we're passionate about.

We have a new pastor, a new beginning. Take that risk!!! Live Courageously!!! God is with us!!!

“Be strong and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.” Psalm 31: 24.

Your Generosity Team



## GARDENERS WANTED

We are looking for hands to help Sandy Bennett and Carol Sagin with the gardening around the church. With all the rain this month, the weeds are growing fast. They really could use a few hands to stop by once a week or so to help with the upkeep of our beautiful gardens. If you can help or know someone who can help, please contact Sandy, Carol or Dave Speece.

## SAVE THE DATE

2018 CROP Hunger Walk: Updated: The 2018 Northeast Philadelphia CROP Hunger Walk will be Sunday, October 28 at 1:30. We plan to begin at Holmesburg United Methodist Church on Frankford Avenue. Sponsorship packets will be distributed in early September. This is an ecumenical event, and all are invited to participate and raise money to end global hunger and provide clean drinking water for those in the developing world. If you can't walk, please sponsor someone who can. 25% of all proceeds will stay here in Northeast Philly and will be divided between King's Kitchen, the soup kitchen ministry of Holmesburg United Methodist Church, and Feast of Justice. Questions, call Pastor Owen Griffiths at (215) 637-4210.

**CROP  
HUNGER WALK**  
**ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME**



## Christmas Toy Drive



Once again Feast of Justice is requesting donations for their annual toy drive.

Donations should be new and unwrapped. Toys and games for ages infant through teen years.

A collection box will be available in the rear of sanctuary beginning September 9th through December 9th



JESUS is  
the Reason  
for the  
Season.

The text is arranged in a vertical stack. The word 'JESUS' is in a gold, serif font. 'is' is in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. 'the Reason' is in a gold, cursive font. 'for the' is in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. 'Season.' is in a gold, serif font. Below the text are silhouettes of a Christmas tree and figures.

**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	maureen.jordan10@comcast.net	2021	Secretary / Property
Doreen Kinzler	215-288-6416	Dore en.m.kinzler@phila.gov	2021	President/Christian Ed. / Youth & Family
George Miller	267-262-3252	george.miller@dla.mil	2019	Invitation
Bette Pitman			2019	Faith In Action
Claire-Amy Roberts	215-333-0428	psu95lions@aol.com	2021	Music & Worship
Vicki Schempp	215-421-3961		2020	Generosity Team
Jennifer Wilent	215-391-2186	simslcj@aol.cim	2020	Vice President/Communications



**Team Leaders**

Judith Rose            215-638-4739            RoseFam73@verizon.net

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CHURCH**

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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**

The Rev. Daniel K. Eisenberg, Pastor

Jackie Rooney, Administrative Assistant

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