



SERVE • CARE • WORSHIP • LEARN

ST. JOHN'S

Evangelical Lutheran Church

4125 Penn Avenue
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
610-678-1088

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 2PM

Friday: Closed



The Light Volume 2023, Issue 11



The staff at St. John...

Reverend Richard Moore, Pastor:

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Deacon Diana Pelletier,

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Kevin Brossman, Custodian

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Congregational Council:

President—Deb Dietrich

Vice President - Tim Fox

Secretary - Becky Ruth

Treasurer— Gary Triviets

Care Team Liaison— Georgianne Jones

Learn Team Liaison— Mason Sassaman

Serve Team Liaison - Antonette Rosenmerkle

Worship Team Liaison - George Balchunas

Congregational Team Leaders:

Care Team - Deb Scheidt

Learn Team - Danielle Hale

Serve Team - Cole Luscombe

Worship Team - Cleann Pauley



Flowers(\$54) , Bulletins(\$20) & Newsletter (\$40)

Sponsorships are needed. Please fill out the form which is on the table at the front door, and put it in Lexie's mailbox. Thank you.

Flower and Bulletin Sponsors are needed!



Dear friends,

November greetings!

The leaves are falling, and the air is turning cool and crisp. Soon, the aromas of pumpkin and apple pies, stuffing, and turkey will fill our senses as we look forward to gathering with our families for Thanksgiving.

Meanwhile, our world is heating up with conflict and the people of war-torn regions are without food, and adequate essentials of clean water, clothing, and shelter. Closer to home, the needs at local food pantries and shelters have dramatically increased since the pandemic.

The juxtaposition of these realities has me asking myself what I am thankful for this year in rather deeper ways. How about you?

Saint Paul's words to his friend, Timothy, are a reminder of the blessing of humbly being content just to have clothes and food. Paul's point is that when it all comes down to it, we do not take anything with us into heaven. Instead of chasing after more for ourselves, can we be humbly content with the food on our tables, the clothing we have, and the home where we dwell?

Paul's challenge of contentment isn't just an opportunity to evaluate ourselves. It is also a thankful act of counting our blessings. By extension, contentment also opens us to the freedom of giving generously to others. This is because being content with what we have diminishes the temptation to want more. Generosity can spring free from our souls when we are content with what we have and cease to hoard for ourselves in want of more. I think Paul would appreciate the bumper sticker slogan; *Happiness isn't having what we want. It's wanting what we have.*

My friends, God has put this challenge of contentment before me this month. If, by reading this, you sense that God is challenging you to be more content, then join me in this spiritual walk this month of Thanksgiving. Let me know, and we can commit to praying each day for one another. We can be sure that God is going to walk us through it, and our journey will be joyful and generous.

November blessings to you,

T Pastor Rich



There is a great gain in godliness with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.

1 Timothy 6:6-8 ESV



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Find me on Facebook: Rich Moore

Find me on Twitter: @LuthRevRich



In the month of November we are invited by society to consider all that we are thankful for as we approach the national holiday of Thanksgiving. Many spend time on Thanksgiving Day sharing what they have been most thankful for in the last year. Around tables we

Gratitude

might hear thanks for family, good health, a new job, house, or car, a financial windfall, a new pet, the list goes on.

It is absolutely right and good that we take moments (even at times other than a national holiday where it has become almost expected) to be thankful for all of the good things in our lives. Being thankful can help us to appreciate the people, things, and situations of our lives more fully. Acknowledging all that is good can help us to see and feel better about ourselves and the lives we are living. Some say that GRATITUDE is taking THANKFULNESS a step further, from a thought or feeling to a deed or action. "Gratitude is a positive emotion that involves being thankful and appreciative and is associated with several mental and physical health benefits. When you experience gratitude, you feel grateful for something or someone in your life and respond with feelings of kindness, warmth, and other forms of generosity.*"

Martin Luther referred to gratitude as "the basic Christian attitude" and today it is still referred to as "the heart of the gospel". Christians are encouraged to praise and give gratitude to their creator. In Christian gratitude, God is seen as the selfless giver of all good things and, because of this, gratefulness enables Christians to share a common bond, shaping all aspects of a follower's life. Gratitude in Christianity is an acknowledgement of God's generosity that inspires Christians to shape their own thoughts and actions around such ideals.

FEELING
GRATITUDE
AND NOT
EXPRESSING IT
IS LIKE
**WRAPPING A
PRESENT**
AND NOT
GIVING IT.

~WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD~

Therefore, not simply a sentimental feeling, Christian gratitude is a virtue that shapes not only emotions and thoughts, but also actions and deeds. Gratitude can move us to be Jesus in the world, caring for, and sharing with, our neighbors.

During this season of thankfulness I pray we can each be moved to expressing true gratitude to God for WHO we are and WHOSE we are as Children of God. And then let us be an expression of Gratitude by being what someone else is thankful for.



peace, Diana

*www.verywellmind.com/what-is-gratitude-5206817

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YOUTH

Thank you to all who donated supplies for hygiene kits! The assembling of the kits has been postponed until January. We will put every item to good use then!

Salute @ Genesis Preschool



Take the night off from cooking while supporting a locally owned restaurant and helping our preschool; all while enjoying convenient curbside pick here at St. John's! **15% of meal sales** goes back to our preschool when we reach our goal of 30 meals sold!

Order by Nov 6th @ 9PM
Tuesday, Nov 7th pick up 5-5:15



FAITH  IN
 ACTION

Our middle and high school youth will gather in the youth room on Sunday, Nov 5th to discuss what it means to live as a Follower of Jesus.



St. John's Lutheran donated \$272.42 for the September Mission/ Outreach giving envelopes to the Children's Home of Reading on Center Ave. Reading. Thanks to all who support this effort monthly. The October recipient will be the Salvation Army.

ALL Team Conversation

Are you interested in getting more involved in the ministries of St. John's? **Do you have gifts and a bit of time to share?** Do you have ideas about sharing God's love with our neighbors or community? **Would you like to have your voice heard regarding activities we lead and participate in as a church community?**

If you answered, "Yes" to any of the questions above PLEASE join the monthly ALL Team conversation envisioning the future of ministry at St. John's.

WHO: Everyone interested in the life and vitality of ministry at St. John's.

WHEN: November 7th, 6:30 pm

WHERE: Faith Journeys Room



As you may recall, during the congregational meeting held in June regarding the church budget, the decision was made to remove the purchase of the projector for the sanctuary from the annual budget and establish a Capital Campaign to fund the purchase. Following that meeting, the Worship Team agreed to lead the campaign for the projector. This campaign has been approved by the church council and is moving forward with raising the necessary funds. The Worship Team strongly believes that a projector in the sanctuary will provide us with a means to enhance worship in ways we are currently unable to do as well as have a positive economic and environmental impact by reducing the costs associated with the producing the bulletin in its current form. The overall cost of the projector and associated equipment will be +/- \$7500. Thanks to some generous donations, \$775 has already been added to the fund. Please consider targeting a donation toward the purchase of the projector. Also, look for fundraisers in the future to help us reach our target and add this additional piece of technology to our worship experience.

A LOOK At Our Budget

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Month: September 2023

	Year to date Sep 2023	Year to date Sep 2022	Year to date 2023 budget
INCOME			
General Fund Giving	\$153,774	\$148,438	\$159,723
Targeted Giving	\$23,252	\$25,825	\$23,634
Fundraising	\$12,754	\$11,820	\$8,000
Other Income	\$10,610	\$23,453	\$2,250
Subtotal	\$200,390	\$209,536	\$193,607
Genesis Income	\$82,686	\$55,161	\$74,685
Bequests	\$59,755	\$2,000	\$27,218
TOTAL INCOME	\$342,832	\$266,697	\$295,510
EXPENSES			
Care Team	\$57	\$113	\$380
Learn Team	\$2,377	\$1,946	\$2,738
Serve Team	\$11,459	\$7,088	\$12,549
Worship Team	\$4,776	\$5,083	\$3,881
Property Team	\$64,839	\$70,515	\$65,065
Hospitality	\$137	\$154	\$400
Office/Support Team	\$32,141	\$23,918	\$23,852
Subtotal	\$115,786	\$108,818	\$108,865
Staff	\$191,107	\$186,931	\$200,115
Genesis Expense	\$60,506	\$37,280	\$72,269
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$367,400	\$333,029	\$381,249
UnBudgeted Expense	\$17,943	\$42,095	
Net Income	-\$42,511	-\$108,427	-\$85,739
Unbudgeted Expense			
Fellowship Hall	\$0	\$40,355	
Easter Egg Funds used	\$0	\$0	
Maintenance & Repair	\$0	\$0	
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$2,419	\$1,018	
Speidel Bequest	\$0	\$0	
Use of Memorial Funds	\$10,500	\$0	
Youth	\$4,151	\$151	
VBS	\$874	\$570	
Total	\$17,943	\$42,095	
Forgiven Covid 19 Loan		\$0	
Change in Investment Value	\$19,296	-\$106,735	

Comfy Corners in the Sanctuary

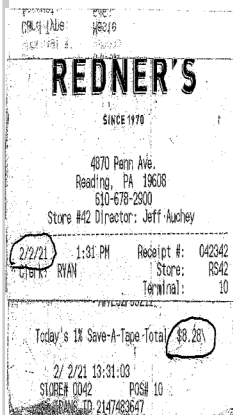
We have a "soft space" in the back corner of the sanctuary with carpet, rocking chairs and quiet toys. The other corner we have crayons and coloring pages. We are inviting families with infants, toddlers, children, or even adults that need to move around more freely, or who needs some extra space, to stay in worship more comfortably. Please check out these spaces and invite folks to use them.



Redner's Save-a-Tape program is simple:

Please put your receipts in your envelopes that you mail into the church or when you drop them off in the locked mailbox outside and also on the table inside the door. St. John will receive 1% of each bill. **You need to use your Redner card in order for the church to Receive the 1% as shown on receipt...Thank you!**

TOTAL for this year so far is \$950



**Saturday, December 2, 2023
10AM - 1PM**

Come support local artists while fulfilling all of your holiday gift lists!

Vendors Wanted:

bconner0423@msn.com

10% of vendor proceeds will support Genesis Preschool

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**Saturday, December 9, 2023
8:00 - 10 AM**

Adults and children are welcome to join us for breakfast and a visit from the Jolly Old St. Nick himself. Breakfast with Santa is free for all attendees.

Please bring a NEW unwrapped toy to donate to Moment of Magic for children in the hospital this holiday season.



We are still collecting for animals in need: blankets, towels, throw rugs, etc.

Thank you for your donations!



We are continuing to collect soda and soup can tabs to help support the Ronald McDonald House of Philadelphia.

Put them in the jar on the table outside the church office. Thank you!

September Treasurer's Report

Back in May we filed an Employee Retention Credit application (ERC) with the federal government. It had to deal with retention of employees during the Covid timeframe. The refunds, 5 of them, were to be paid to us based on the quarter of the year they pertained to. To date, we have received 4 of those 5 refund checks, totaling \$54,729.57. The accountant that did the work, Forrest Glass, agreed to take 89.5% of his bill. That amount is \$6,550.00. The 89.5% is roughly equal to the amount of the total refund we have received. He is certain we will eventually receive the last refund check, though, at the current time, is delayed by more than a month. At the time we receive that final check, we will pay him the final amount due. You will see this money as part of the Bequest line.

One of our annuities came "Out of Surrender" on August 21st. Council decided not to renew it but rather take the cash, \$61,637.05, and deposit it into a local CD paying a higher interest than what the renewed annuity would have paid us. This location has yet to be approved by council, but I will be requesting that it be Riverfront Federal Credit Union. Total income is above budget, however that is due mainly the effect of the ERC refunds. General Fund Giving is higher than 2022. Genesis continues to shine with income well above expected.

Total Expenses are lower than budget but higher than 2022. In good news, Unbudgeted Expenses are about 57% less than last year.

We have a finance committee working on the 2024 budget. We are hoping to have it to show you in November. We'll try our best!

Yours In Faith,
Gary Triviets

Mark your Calendars

- Nov 5** Day light Savings- "Fall Back One Hour"
Faith in Action conversation
- Nov 20** Spaghetti Dinner 5:30-7pm Free & OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
- Dec 2** Genesis Craft Show
- Dec 3** Youth Group - Baking Christmas Cookies & Building Ginger bread Houses
- Dec 9** Breakfast with Santa
- Dec 17** Cantata
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve ~ morning & evening services



Our Congregational Council last met on October 17th. At this meeting Council:

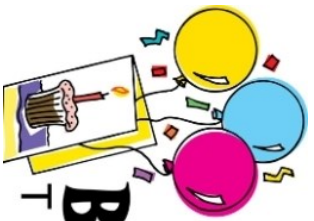
- Continued our study of Giving to God. This meeting we considered stewardship as an expression of faith and a spiritual discipline.
 - Determined that we will present a 3 month/first quarter budget, at the same levels currently, to the congregation during the November 19th Congregational Meeting. This will give us time to grapple with the hard decisions we need to make regarding what ministries, facilities improvements, and personnel our congregation can afford to support.
 - Discussed the remote work trial period for our Office Administrator, Lexie McLaughlin. Lexie will be working evenings to fulfill those responsibilities that can be completed remotely. We have asked for volunteers to serve as receptionists during scheduled office hours during this trial period, which continues until December 31st.
 - Learned the new Finance Committee has met and the new Personnel Committee will meet in the next week to begin their work.
 - Scheduled Spaghetti Dinners for the community on October 26th and November 20th. The free will offering from these dinners will be credited to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
 - Approved a Peppermint Bark and Peanut Clusters candy sale fundraiser to be led by Deb Scheidt and Barb Stoner. Proceeds will be credited to the video projector fund.
 - Reviewed the discussion outline for the October 22nd Congregational Conversation and set the date for the next conversation to be November 19th. There will not be Congregational Conversation in December.
 - Learned Lexie is now sending weekly announcements of "happenings" at St. John's in to the Reading Eagle for publishing.
 - Implemented the use of Giving Cards during the offering to encourage an offering by those who do not have an offering envelope to place in the plate. This is intended to remind congregants that the offering is an act of worship, not simply budgetary support. Giving can be time, talent and treasures.
- Learned the new fire and security alarm system installation is coming soon.



November Happenings



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting	6 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	7 Bulletin announcements due by Noon Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Pastor Rich on Facebook and Website with Devotions 5:00pm Pastor Rich's Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Team Meetings	8 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	9 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Pastor Rich on Facebook and Website with Devotions	10 Church Office is Closed	11
5 9:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting	13 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	14 Bulletin announcements due by Noon Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Pastor Rich on Facebook and Website with Devotions 5:00pm Pastor Rich's Zoom Bible Study 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting 6:30pm Spring Township Women's Club	15 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	16 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Pastor Rich on Facebook and Website with Devotions 2:00pm Food Pantry Setup	17 Church Office is Closed 10:00am Soup Kitchen 2:30pm Food Pantry Distribution	18
12 Visit from Pastor Bruce "Food for the Poor" 9:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream 4:00pm Troop 456 in Fellowship Hall-Fall COH 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting	20 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 5:30pm Spagetti Dinner	21 Bulletin announcements due by Noon Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Pastor Rich on Facebook and Website with Devotions 5:00pm Pastor Rich's Zoom Bible Study 6:00pm Church Council	22 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	23 Happy Thanksgiving 9:00am Church Office Closed 9:00am Pastor Rich on Facebook and Website with Devotions	24 Church Office is Closed	25 Opportunity House
19 9:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting	27 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	28 Bulletin announcements due by Noon Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Pastor Rich on Facebook and Website with Devotions 5:00pm Pastor Rich's Zoom Bible Study	29 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM	30 Church Office Hours 9AM-2PM 9:00am Pastor Rich on Facebook and Website with Devotions	1 Church Office is Closed	2 Genesis Craft Show
26 9:00am Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream 8:00pm AA/Alanon Meeting						



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 Charlene Wessner's birthday	2	3 Andrew Romberger's birthday Craig and Lori Dilks's anniversary Grace Schwambach's birthday Jeffrey and Gloria Fioravanti's anniversary	4 Timothy and Deanna Riegel's anniversary
5	6 Matthew Rutt's birthday	7 Antonette Rosenmckel's birthday Beth Schmidt's birthday Nancy Pawling's birthday Virginia Huyett's birthday	8 Roger Moyer's birthday	9	10 Eric Peiffer's birthday Jeffrey Fioravanti's birthday Karen Rutt's birthday Nancy Gajewski's birthday	11 Jacob Meinig's birthday Michael Hudzik's birthday
12	13 Nancy King's birthday Susan Mountz's birthday	14 Stephanie Allen's birthday Susan Nagle's birthday	15 Jace Drobeck's birthday	16 Chris Bruno's birthday Landon Rubida's birthday	17 Jeanette Minnich's birthday	18
19 Sharon Schlessman's birthday	20 Debbie Peert's birthday Richard and Shirley Davis's anniversary	21 Christine Woronko's birthday Liam Sassam's birthday Nathan List's birthday	22	23	24 Chase Weiler's birthday	25 Glenn and Kim Young's anniversary Kevin Foreman's birthday
26	27 Jace Stoner's birthday	28	29 Edwin Schwenk's birthday Peggy Klingner's birthday	30 Anna Liedt's birthday Diana Pelletier's birthday	1 Brian Gromis's birthday Caroline Riegel's birthday Daniel Witman's birthday Patrick Veleke's birthday Sean Hunter's birthday	2 Joyce Aukamp's birthday Shirley Loy's birthday