

CHURCH LIFE

PENTECOST SUNDAY

June 4, 2017

You do not want to miss Pentecost Sunday this year!

We will be celebrating the Affirmation of Faith with three of our young members. Julia Trei, Annabelle and Maxwell McCullough will all be confirmed during worship on June 4. We hope that you can be here to support them in their life of faith and pray for them as they are confirmed.

Following the worship service, you are invited to join us

for a celebration lunch in the fellowship hall.

Dress in red for worship. Come to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit not only in the lives of our three confirmands but in the life of our whole congregation.

Please contact the church office if you are able to join us for lunch so that we have plenty to eat!

HONORING THE LOYALS

As most of you know, the LOYALS have been very active in our congregation for years!

This group began as the League of Young Adult Lutherans. They may no longer be young but many are still young at heart! However, the group is much smaller now and can no longer regularly meet together.

On Sunday, May 21, we will be honoring our LOYALS during our regular worship service. We give thanks for all the many things they have done for the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church over the years.

Come out and show them how much they are appreciated by our congregation. Join us in asking for God's blessing upon each one of them!

LOYAL'S EVENTS

**Celebration of LOYALS:
Sunday, May 21**

**LOYALS Spring Luncheon:
Tuesday, May 23
Hickory Ridge Restaurant
St. Thomas, PA**

Being the Body of Christ means that we come together to celebrate each other's joys and bind together in pray over each other's sorrows. Join us on May 21 and June 4 to honor one another and rejoice in the blessings of the old and young among us.

FOUNDED 1786

8 LINDEN AVE AT S. MAIN STREET

(717) 328-2149

REV. MARLEEN GRIFFITH-STULL, PASTOR

Many people need our prayers. These are just some of the ones whose needs we know about. Please keep the following in your own prayers. Share others who need to be included in our prayers as well. Share prayer concerns on Saturdays or Sundays before worship or via email any time. Pastor Marleen can be reached at revmarleen@comcast.net or 878-295-2173.

Prayer List:

Eve Keefer
Dot Erickson
Mary Jane Davis
Stephanie Reisner
Susan & Tom Finucane
Family and Friends of Mark Bender, Sr.

Note: We are starting fresh with the prayer list once a month. When individuals need to be on the list again, please let us know on Sunday morning or by contacting the church office. Please contact the church office with additions and corrections to the prayer list and homebound list!

Micky Vink
Phyllis Wertime

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

Virginia Keefer
Shook Home
55 South Second St
Chambersburg PA 17291

Stephanie Reisner
10990 Deerwood Dr
Mercersburg PA 17236

Eve Keefer
1504 Buchanan Trail
McConnellsburg PA 17233

Jane Steiger Wingerd
126 Linden Ave
Mercersburg PA 17236

Don Hair
19800 Tranquility Circle, Suite 204
Hagerstown MD 21742

Grace Hess
2739 Luther Drive, Room # 9
Chambersburg PA 17202

Day Camp

All of our members can get involved in a new project this summer! We will be hosting a Day Camp for elementary age students in the Mercersburg Area. Camp Staff from Camp Sequanota in Jennerstown, PA will be here from July 24 thru July 28 to lead the camp. We need youth to participate, so you can help invite kids to camp. We need older youth and adults just to be extra hands to help with the camp each day, so if you are available, sign up to help. We need lunches and snacks for all of participants throughout the week. If you can supply either or help prepare snacks or lunches, your gifts will be used. For those who are not available in the day time, we need families to feed our camp staff dinners too. It would be a great way to hear about what is happening during the Day Camp. We also can use monetary donations to cover the cost of the Day Camp. We are using funds in our youth account but want to replenish those for future youth events. Most importantly we need prayers for the staff, the kids, and everyone involved in making our Day Camp a success. Get involved and make this truly a whole church event this summer!

Our May Community Dinner will be on Thursday, May 25. Can you help feed our community? We are looking for some people to do some cooking before the dinner along with the help we need for serving and cleaning up. Hope you can pitch in this month!

A New Way to Be in Community

The Mercersburg Area Churches are teaming together to be the Body of Christ! You are encouraged to join us.

We will be inviting people who are having a difficult time making ends meet to come and “shop” for daily items they need. Twice a month, members of the community who need basic necessities are invited to come to St. John’s Lutheran Church to receive them.

Bountiful Blessings is a ministry which provides shampoo, bath soap, toothpaste, bath tissue, paper towels, trash bags, liquid dish detergent, all- purpose cleaners, laundry care items, and occasionally other daily use items when available.

If you have not already done so, check out our updated website at www.stjohnsmercersburg.org

Angel Hand Bell Choir

Our Angel Hand Bell Choir will begin rehearsing again! We are pleased to announce that our angels will be directed once again by Jamie Trotty. They will gather before the summer to clean the hand bells and for fellowship. Beginning in September, they will begin rehearsing weekly on Tuesday afternoons and will be preparing for more performances.

As members of St. John’s Lutheran Church, we should be proud to sponsor this unique ministry with those who are differently abled. Our choir is an uncommon ministry which is a gift to the angels and gift to all of us who able to hear them perform. Thank you for your prayers of support as they were reorganizing this year. Continue to support all of our angels in prayers.

Starting Thursday, June 1, Bountiful Blessings will open up a distribution site right here at our church. Members of at least 5 local churches will join together to welcome those in need and get to know them better.

Those who receive products from this ministry give back to our churches with volunteer hours every year. All participants are encouraged to worship at one of our area churches weekly as well. This helps to create a stronger community where everyone is able to share their gifts and talents and join together to give God thanks and praise.

You are welcome to join in on the first and third Thursdays of every month beginning June 1! It is a great way to be the Body of Christ in our own community and to get to know members of other area churches.

Changes at Church

If you have been inside the church recently, you can see that things are changing!

A small group started working on where we might be able to move the office so that we can create a more inviting space as worshipers, especially guests, enter our church on Sunday mornings. In the past, we have had visitors who get lost finding the sanctuary and who are reluctant to walk through the church office.

We are still working on figuring out how to make the old office a more welcoming space. Your suggests are definitely appreciated!

We have relocated both the pastor’s and secretary’s offices together into the former council room. Stop in and check out the new office space. If you would like to make a donation toward these projects, please just mark on the special offering envelope “office project.”



Sequanota Day Camp @ St. John's Lutheran Church



Are you looking for a great, FREE, Christian camping opportunity right here in the neighborhood? St. John's Lutheran is hosting a week-long Sequanota Day Camp this summer!!

There will be games, crafts, Bible Study, song time, local field trips, and tons of FUN!

July 24— 28, 2017 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Kindergarten - 6th grader are welcome to attend.

Contact Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull for registration info
email: revmarleen@comcast.net
phone: (878) 295 - 2173

Conference & Synod News

SpiriTrust Lutheran Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are currently needed to assist residents from The Village at Luther Ridge on shopping trips to Walmart and the grocery store. Duties will include assisting residents with loading and unloading their bags from the transportation van. If you are interested in this opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, please contact Linda Beaver at 717-264-0737 or lbeaver@spiritrustlutheran.org

MUSIC@THE RIDGE

Once again you are invited to join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and music on the lawn of the Fleck Center at The Village at Luther Ridge. **On May 26th**, the group Free Donuts will be on hand to keep us entertained. **On June 23rd**, Jay Vonada will be featured on his trombone while Kirk Reese will play the piano. **On July 21st**, Take Two Variety Band will close out the summer concert season. A food stand with grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, soda, and water will be available beginning at 5:00p.m. Music will begin at 6:00p.m. A free will offering will be taken to support the SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary. In the case of bad weather, the event will move

Synod Assembly

The Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA will gather for their annual assembly on Friday, June 2 and Saturday, June 3 at Messiah College. Tom Steiger and Pastor Marleen are our voting members for the assembly this year. If you would like more information about the assembly, feel free to contact Pastor Marleen.

Auxiliary News

The SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary will hold its annual Membership Drive during the month of May. Anyone can join with a minimum donation of \$1.00. The Auxiliary provides support for programs of SpiriTrust Lutheran in Franklin and Fulton counties. Because of your generous support, in 2016, the Auxiliary was able to make donations to SpiriTrust Lutheran Home Care & Hospice, SpiriTrust Lutheran LIFE, SpiriTrust Lutheran Counseling Services, as well as The Inn Endowment Fund at The Village at Luther Ridge and many other important programs and services. If you would like to join the Auxiliary or need more information, please contact your congregational representative.

Job Opening in Chambersburg

Parish Administrator Position: First Lutheran Church in Chambersburg is seeking a 20-25 hour per week Parish Administrator. This person will perform administrative and secretarial services for the congregation, pastor and staff. We are seeking someone with a command of Microsoft Office Software and website maintenance. Organization skills, volunteer coordination abilities, basic office equipment knowledge, and a strong aptitude for computers, with skills in time management, verbal and written communication, friendliness, and a high degree of accuracy and confidentiality are necessary. Contact: flcpastor@outlook.com

Sharing Ministry

As you are well aware the cost of fulltime ministry continues to increase. In addition, there is a projection that there will be less available pastors in the coming years. With these realities and our current financial position, the council is pursuing sharing ministry with another congregation in the future.

Currently we are talking with St. Thomas Lutheran Church because they will need an interim pastor beginning in July. Their current pastor is retiring. Both congregational councils are open to this arrangement. Please keep our future in your prayers!

January thru March Finances**Budget:**

Jan-March Offering Receipts	\$17,214.50
Jan-March Expenditures	<u>\$28,263.27</u>
Deficit	- \$11,048.77

To cover the deficit, a Thrivent Investment transfer for \$15,000.00 was made in February.

<u>Lead Project:</u>	\$20,000
Loan payments thru of March	- <u>\$10,809</u>
Remaining Debt	\$9,191

Please look at your giving and pray about increasing it in the future.

JOIN US AND EXPERIENCE GOD'S GRACE AND LOVE WEEKLY!

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
8 Linden Ave
Mercersburg PA 17236

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