St. John Journal

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church • 1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

GREETINGS FROM PASTOR TAMMY

What a blessing the year 2019 was for me! It remains a privilege to serve as your pastor and partner in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

As we journey into the year 2020, I will continue to pray for all of you and for our ministry together. I wish you a happy and healthy New Year filled with brand new goals, fresh hopes, innovative dreams, and modern aspirations.

St. Paul used these words in his letter to the church of Corinth: *"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"* **(2 Corinthians 5:16-17)**.

In newness, we continue to *"live and move and have our being"* in Christ Jesus **(Acts 17:28)**. In this new year, may we be renewed in hope, restored through God's Holy Word, and invigorated to spread the joy of God's infinite love through the year as we remain ever guided by the Holy Spirit.

In Christ,

Pastor Tammy

WORSHIP IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

TWO SERVICES AT 9:00 AM AND 11:15 AM

January 5th	*Second Sunday after Christmas*
January 12th	*First Sunday after the Epiphany* *The Baptism of our Lord*
January 19th	*Second Sunday after the Epiphany*
January 26th	*Third Sunday after the Epiphany* **ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM** **Annual Congregational Meeting** **Brunch before the Meeting**
February 2nd	*Presentation of Our Lord*
February 9th	*Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*
February 16th	*Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany*
February 23rd	*Transfiguration of Our Lord*
February 26th	**Ash Wednesday** **Two Services at 1:00 pm and 7:30 pm**

PASTORAL ACTS & EVENTS

November 24th	**Welcoming of New Members Stan Harmer and Robyn McIlvaine**
December 5th	**Memorial service for James R. "Dick" Foley**
December 8th	**Holiday Concert**

MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A big **THANK YOU** to council members and the people of St. John's that keep our church running all year! If you have any suggestions or a specific committee you would like to serve on, please talk to a council member. We want to make your worship as meaningful as we can.

The church service on January 26, 2020 will be **ONE service at 10:00 am** with a carry in brunch-lunch to follow. The **annual congregational meeting** will be held after the brunch. Please plan to attend to learn and support the business of your church.

Lois Gibbs, Council President

ST. JOHN COMMUNITY ACTION AND OUTREACH

MILK, MILK, MILK

Don't forget! We are always collecting shelf-stable milk for the Food Pantry. There is a milk pitcher located in the Narthex for donations. We are the only church that provides the Food Pantry with milk.

COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

St. John Community Luncheon is held the second Saturday of each month at 11:30 am in the Education Building. Help and desserts are always needed. Next Luncheon is January 11th.

ST. JOHN LITTLE BIG BAND COAT DRIVE

The St. John Little Big Band Coat Drive in memory of Joe Zwaan concluded on December 8th and was a big success. THANK YOU to all who donated coats! There were 230 coats collected to be distributed to those in need

MONEY FROM AMAZON

These days many of us shop on line. If you shop at Amazon, it has a program called AmazonSmile that provides a way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop at their site. You can use your existing Amazon account and all products from Amazon are included at the same low price it makes available to everyone.

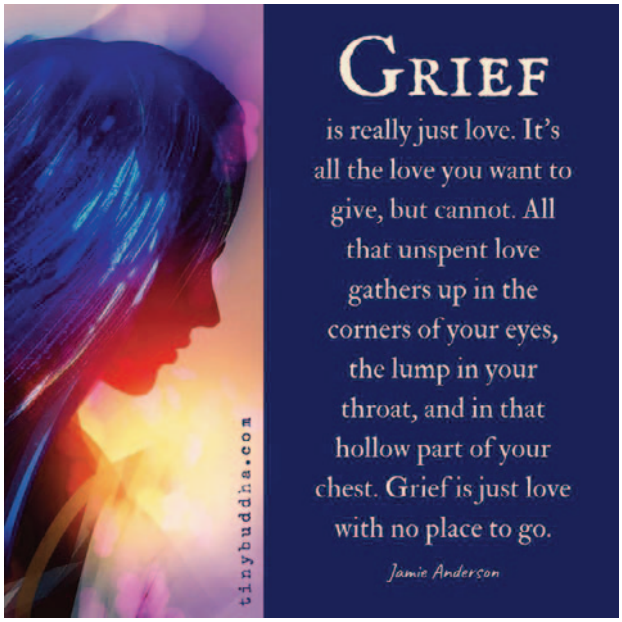
St. John's is now one of the charitable organization listed at AmazonSmile. If you go to this site and select St John's as your charity, Amazon will send St John's 0.5% of your purchase(s) at NO additional cost to you. This includes all purchases every time you shop at Amazon's site.

It is very easy to take advantage of this program and raise money for our church. Simply go to St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Facebook page, find the post about Amazon Smile, and click the link.

Then: Go to smile.amazon.com Start shopping.

If you go to Amazon's regular site after you have already selected St John's as your charity at smile.amazon.com a popup message will appear asking if you would like to donate to your charity.

ST. JOHN EDUCATION AND SUPPORT



GRIEF SHARING AND SUPPORT GROUP

Located in the Tea Room of the Parish House at 7:00 pm on January 20th and February 17th.

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Bible Study will continue on the 4th Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm at the Parish House. Join us for coffee, cookies, and cups of blessings as we study together the Book of Romans. We will gather on January 20th and February 24th.

CONFIRMATION CLASS is scheduled for January 12th and February 16th in the Parish House from 12:30–2:00 pm.

BOOK CLUB

Anyone interested in reading for group discussion ***The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*** by the **Dalai Lama** and **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, please let Pastor know for order placement.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

January and February we will be exploring biblical times in the Old Testament and learning about Moses.

5th grade and up will be doing a more in depth study of Moses using their bibles.

We will be presenting what we are learning the **3rd Sunday of the month at the 1st Service.**

We have begun learning to ring chimes and singing Bible related songs. Help with the ringing would be great.

ST. JOHN SOCIAL EVENTS

MONROE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORIC CHURCHES TOUR

The Monroe Township Historical Society is sponsoring a tour of 4 of our Historic Churches on **Saturday, January 4, 2020** starting at noon at the Ireland House. Participants can pick up a map and guide at the Ireland House from noon to 12:45. The first stop is the New Brooklyn Church on Malaga Road from 1:00 to 1:45; Second stop is the First Methodist on Main Street 2:00 to 2:45; Third stop is St. John's 3:00 to 3:45; and the final stop ends at Pitman Downer Church on Fries Mill Road 4:00 to 5:00. The Pitman Downer Church will have refreshments at the Parish House next door to the Church.

AFTERNOON TEA

Afternoon Tea will be held on ***Wednesday, January 15th and February 19th at 2:00 pm*** in the Parish House Tea Room. Please join us for an afternoon of Tea and Fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Friday, January 17th • 7:00 pm
Minute to Win it Night – Fun for Everyone.

Friday, February 21st • 7:00 pm
Movie Night with popcorn and pizza

St. John's Lutheran Church Murder Mystery Dinner

BEST LAID PLANS . . . an old Hollywood Murder Mystery

Join us for a night of mystery, mayhem and murder

St. John's Educational Building
Saturday, January 18th
6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Participate in the interactive whodunnit thriller at the estate of Sir Warren Peace and thrown into a night of mystery, intrigue, and murder.

Dress in your best evening wear . . . this is a refined party!

Buffet Dinner includes lasagna, chicken marsala, roasted potatoes, salad, roll, tomato pie, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages, coffee, tea. BYOB (beer and wine only)

$40.00 per ticket (in advance only)

For more info contact:
Writeonmom@comcast.net

ST. JOHN MUSIC MINISTRY

Take note

ST. JOHN'S MUSIC MINISTRY WELCOMES ALL

	Practice Time:	Provide Special Music for:
Chancel Choir	Thursday — 8:00 to 9:00 pm	*Sing 1st and 4th Sundays — 9:00 am service*
Youth Choir	During Sunday School	*Sing 3rd Sunday — 9:00 am service*
Bell Choir I	Thursday — 7:00 pm	*Ring 2nd Sunday — 9:00 am service*
Bell Choir II	Sunday — 12:20 pm	*Ring 3rd Sunday — 9:00 am & 11:15 am service*
Chimes	During Sunday School	*Ring occasionally 3rd Sunday of the month*

ST. JOHN LITTLE BIG BAND

If you play an instrument and want to play with the band, please contact Ken Weaver.
If you know of an individual who would like to play with the band, please contact Ken Weaver.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Band, Bell Choirs and Spouses
Epiphany Party • January 4th • 5:00 pm • 106 Madison Avenue, Pitman

Williamstown Annual Ecumenical Evening of Music Presented by Various Churches

A Unity Service is scheduled at Crosskeys United Methodist Church (UMC) on Friday, January 24th at 7:00 pm. Order of Presentations in the Faith Hall: First UMC of Williamstown, Crosskeys UMC, New Brooklyn UMC, St. John's Lutheran Church, Williamstown Assembly of God, First Presbyterian Church of Williamstown, Our Lady of Peace Parish. St. John's Little Big Band will be participating in the service.

Members of Williamstown Congregations are joining together for an evening of music presented by choirs, instrumental ensembles and praise groups from each church.

Cross Keys Methodist Church, 1648 N Main St, Williamstown
January 24th 7:00 pm

Each church is asked to bring 5 desserts

ST. JOHN PARKING LOT REPAIR PROJECT

It is apparent that our Church parking lot is in need of repair. There are a number of pot holes, sink holes and major cracks. Our plan is to have it repaired in the coming months.

As a church we have provided community support with our milk program, purchase of a cow, and honey bee. Now we your need your support to help heal our parking lot.

In September we began to make available blue vials to help provide some of the medicine needed to heal our parking lot. Each vial will hold $10 in quarters. A pot hole container will be located as you enter church to return the filled vials.

ST. JOHN CHURCH PHOTO GALLERY

2019 St. John 's Christmas Concert

2019 St. John's Christmas Tea

2019 St. John's Sunday School Presentation

ST. JOHN CHURCH PHOTO GALLERY

2019 Family Fun Night • Baking Christmas Cookies

2019 Christmas Caroling and Cookie Delivery to Shut-ins

ST. JOHN CHURCH PHOTO GALLERY

2019 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:
The Rev. Tammy Harmer

Administrative Coordinator:
Pat Reed

Organist/Music Director
Director of Bell Choirs:
Janice Smith

Band Director: Ken Weaver

Sexton:
Betsey Eley

Webmaster: Rich Oberle

Newsletter Editor: Marie Fickenscher

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