

# ST. JOHN'S JOURNAL

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1002 So. Main St.

Williamstown, NJ 08094

Phone: 856-875-8742

Worship Service Times:

Two Services Sunday at 9:00 am and 11:15 am

Sunday School at 10:15 am

Office Hours: Mon. & Wed. 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Pastor Margaret Marks, Interim Pastor



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## JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH



*From the Pastor's desk: January 2017*

*Grace to you and peace from our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ as we begin this new year.*

*On January 1, 2017, we are stood at the threshold of another year---365 breathtakingly wonderful days in which to begin new projects, complete old ones, improve ourselves and live our lives differently. But as we set new goals, we might pray and discern that they be directed by our faith and our healthy longing to experience more fully the love, mercy, forgiveness and freedom of Jesus Christ.*

*This year Christians worldwide will observe the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. To mark the anniversary, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Easton has encouraged congregations and individuals to study Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Luther intended this short volume, containing his explanations of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the sacraments, along with daily prayers and Bible verses to be used by ordinary people in churches and households. The catechism offers not a new "to do" list, but an experience, a new posture of freedom. In Christ, God gently reaches into our hearts to liberate us from self-focused anxiety and turns us outward so we may recognize how we are called and gifted to serve our neighbors.*

*In the spirit of freedom, we will be exploring over the coming year, how insights from Luther's Small Catechism might 'reform' some of our common resolutions, creating a "New Year's reformation" for living Lutherans in 2017. It will be fun!*

*Blessings and peace,*

*Pastor Margaret Marks*

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CONFIRMATION CLASS INFORMATION

*Confirmation Class will be held on Sunday, January 22nd at 12:15 and bibles will be given to all First Year students at either the 9:00 or 11:15 am services.*

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WORSHIP AND MUSIC



The Worship and Music Committee will be having a planning meeting on Wednesday, January 18th at 7:00 pm. We will be planning for the Lenten Season as well as looking forward to see if we can enhance

Our worship throughout the remainder of the year. We will have our traditional Ash Wednesday service that will be on March 1st at 7:30 pm and then discuss if we will have our soup suppers. We encourage the congregation to weigh in on this subject as we need you to be there to make the dinners successful.

There will be a meeting on January 15th to meet with anyone who is interested in serving as usher, greeter, communion assistant or lector.

I look forward to meeting with our committee. Please let Pat know if you will not be able to make this meeting.

Betsey Eley, Chairperson  
Worship and Music Committee

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## AFTERNOON TEA

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH AT 2:00 PM

This month we will be serving our Afternoon Tea on Wednesday, January 25th at 2:00 pm in the Parish House Tea Room. If you haven't yet attended one of our "Teas", please plan on joining us. It is a lovely social time spent with friends enjoying different teas, tea sandwiches, scones served with lemon curd and clotted cream and other surprise goodies that may appear. Everyone is welcome,

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Since the Milk Program began in September 2010, we have donated over 5000 boxes of shelf stable milk to the Food Pantry at Our Lady of Peace in Williamstown. 1,103 boxes this year alone. You can see how our contributions have increased over the years. Thanks for all of your support in this ongoing program.



The Blessing of the Animals scheduled in October had to be postponed until the Spring, but we did collect 129 rolls of paper towels for the Humane Society.



This year we helped make Christmas brighter for 26 children, thanks to our "Christmas Angel Tree".



We may be a small congregation but when it comes to helping others, we have huge hearts.

Thanks for another year of sharing Christ's love.



**ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 29TH  
ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM**

**A BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED IN THE  
EDUCATION BLDG. FOLLOWING THE  
SERVICE**

**THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD  
AFTER THE BRUNCH. PLEASE PLAN ON  
ATTENDING**



FINANCIAL REPORT

YEAR TO DATE 1/1/16 TO 9/30/16

	<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>+OVER</u> <u>-UNDER</u>
Income from Donations	\$83,366.70	\$97,583.70	\$14,217.50
Withdrew from Investments	<u>+\$ 8,524.74</u>		
Total	\$91,890.94		\$ 5,692.76