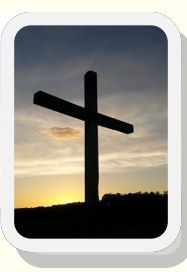




St. John's Journal



From the Pastors desk

MAY/JUNE 2016

I sit on the eve of the 200th anniversary and ponder the past. The Rev. Kemp comes to my thoughts and I begin to wonder if the thoughts he had one hundred years ago would be similar to mine. How do we faithfully celebrate an anniversary that truly speaks of God's faithfulness to us? Standing in the front of the nave I look out over the seats and albeit but dimly, I glimpse figures there seeing faces that I have yet to meet. Although I do not know them there is still something familiar to them for their faces are revealed in their descendants that I see before me today. Although the images are faint there is something else here that cannot be missed. The walls are stained with thoughts and voices from the past, through the years they have stood to hear voices raised in song, voices raised in prayer and praise of God. Evidence of their faith walk these halls where they would pray, study, and sing. They left that faith as they journeyed into the presence of Christ where their hope is realized. But what a powerful faithful foundation they have left for it guides the generations that remain. Their examples give encouragement and strength to we who still walk by faith. The body of Christ is made up of you to whom the Spirit of God has been given, the children of God. That Spirit is never diminished, that Spirit is never in decline, but continues unwavering, unfailing, in its purpose of bringing the Reign of God almighty to this world. With the strength and guidance from the Holy Spirit of God we boldly walk into the future knowing that Christ is ever-present in all the days to come and that the victory of salvation is truly completed in and through Christ's Holy Church. God has remained faithful to us and to this place. May we remain faithful all of our days in serving Christ, in serving one another.

Shalom

Pastor Faron

Bishop Driesen and our own Crystal Gutshall assisting



Pastor Kramer Bishop Driesen Pastor Johnson



*St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church
200th Anniversary*

Earlier this week I was walking from the church to the parsonage when I noticed a silver car parked across Musser Lane. This is actually not unusual at all. As I continued to walk the person started their car and pulled up beside me to introduce themselves. It seems the gentleman had seen the article in the Williamsport paper and was interested in our church. He said he had an aunt buried here and that he saw that we had a history room. I invited him in to see the room. It was then that he revealed that he was one of the men who helped place our steeple on our church and that he was in one of the photos in the paper. I took Mr. Atkins email to give to Kathi in hopes that she could forward the pictures to him, which she did. You never know how you will touch other lives in the midst of serving our Lord and this is another excellent example of how God works beyond the walls of the congregation through us.

The e-mail that Mr. Atkins sent to Kathi

I guess this all started as an ancestry search. I was looking for my aunt, Mabel Weaver, and all I knew was she was buried at the Riverside burying grounds, according to her death certificate. My sister and I were out looking for cemeteries one day and took a ride on Musser Lane and found this church. We never knew that there was a church back here. This was 30 some years after the steeple was erected, so I had forgotten all that went before. In visiting the cemetery from time to time, it finally dawned on me that this was the cemetery where I had helped erect a steeple in 1972 (I would have said 1971). I really don't remember many details. We cut the hole in the roof and built up a platform to support the steeple. Put a tarp over the hole once or twice to keep any rain out and set the steeple when we were ready. I was probably as much spectator as any others. I was helping the contractor and this was all new to me. Anyway my sister found this article in the Sun Gazette and showed it to me. "That's me on the roof" I said. I don't know anyone who attends St Johns. We always went to the Brick Church on the Muncy highway and as I said we weren't even aware there was a church back there. I suspect that my mother knew about it and where her sister was. And yet there I was working on the church for a week or two (and she knew I was working there) and she never said a word about Mable. Probably figured I didn't need to know. Thanks for the pics. If you would like to have the contractors name, I can get it for you. I'm sure he saw the article in the Sun Gazette and he lives not far from the church. Likely he remembers more about it than I do.



St. Thomas/Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

The Rev. Jill V. Seagle, Pastor

3980 S Lindbergh Blvd.

St. Louis, MO 63127

Phone: (314)843-6577

Email: sths@swbell.net

April 10, 2016

*St. John's Lutheran Church, Delaware Run
6590 Musser Lane
Watsontown, PA 17777*

Dear friends and family at St. John's,

Grace to you and peace from our resurrected Lord, Christ Jesus! In the words of the apostle Paul, "I thank my God every time I remember you" (Phil. 1:3).

We had hoped that we could make the trip to celebrate this milestone anniversary with you. Alas, it was not to be. Between my mother's illness, my doctoral work, and the Lent and Easter season, time is precious in the parish. Were we closer, we would be there today to celebrate your 200th anniversary. However, 820 miles is a little difficult to manage on a Sunday afternoon.

St. John's will always hold a special place in our hearts. You all took a chance on a 26-year-old first time pastor when you were moved by God to call me in 2003. Both Wyatt and Morgan were born and spent their earliest church years there. I baptized (not as many as I would have liked), married (a few) and buried (more than I would have liked) many there. In fact, Landan Kurtz was the first child at whose baptism I officiated (and now I feel old!).

In my just about 10 years of ministry with you, we shared laughter and tears. We experienced milestones (after all, you were brave enough to call me as your first pastor who happened to be a woman, causing some angst). We did ministry, reaching out to the community and sharing our gifts and blessings with those around us. We made chili (and I still cannot make chili unless it is in an 18 quart roaster), which is still doing ministry, just on the Scofield scale. In honesty, I probably learned more from all of you than you learned from me in that time.

So much history and ministry has occurred through your hands. Through the generations, through wars and changes in culture, you have continued to spread

the Word of God through voice and action. The seeds of faith that have been sewn through your families and friends have flourished and helped to spread the gospel, not just in the Watsontown area, but throughout the world as you have supported missionaries, given to international aid organizations, and gone on mission trips of your own.

Now, as you celebrate and commemorate 200 years of ministry, it is exciting to think what your next 200 years will bring. How many more seeds of faith will be planted by your hands? How much more love and caring will you send into the world? How many more generations will know that God is active and present in the world because of your hearts and hands? The possibilities are abundant!

May God the Father continue to bless all of you and strengthen your hearts and hands to continue to do the work of the gospel in the world. May the love of Christ Jesus sustain you, filling you with grace and peace for your continued journey, May the fire of the Holy Spirit burn within you, moving you to scatter seeds of faith throughout the world. Happy 200th, St. John's!

With Love and Blessings,

The Revs. Doug and Jill Seagle, Wyatt and Morgan



Our Special Choir

The three oldie cousins standing beside the sailor who scared some sensitive ladies out of their wits, according to Marty Mouse.

Jane, Barbara and Ginny and the sailor uniform belonged to our cousin, Charles (Bud) Hartranft.



102 Campus Drive
Johnstown, Pa. 15905
January 24, 2016

The Rev. Faron H. Johnson
Pastor Saint John's Ev. Lutheran Church
6590 Musser Lane
Watsontown, Pa. 17777

Dear Pastor:

Thank you for your letter of July 11, 2015 about the 200th Anniversary of St. John's. For a number of reasons, I will be unable to come for the Service.

Today, all the churches of Johnstown have cancelled service. Eighteen inches of snow came on the 22nd and 23rd. So I had time to be at my desk. Found your letter among the stack of papers.

Enclosed is a copy of my Christmas letter. Paragraph one describes my present condition. I'll not repeat it.

Hazel, Gail and I have many fond memories of St. John's from November 1, 1964 to August 15, 1968. St. John's had just become a single church parish and I was its first pastor. We lived in a rented house at 613 Ash Street in Watsontown. Then the church decided to build a parsonage at its present location. We moved in February 3, 1967 before the parsonage was finished and painting was in progress. Put a steel desk in the office, fixed the driveway, worked on the park across the street, ran a water line from the wall between the house and church, and pounded a lot of nails.

I am glad Bishop Robert Driesen can be with you on April 10, 2016. I have never met him, but I heard a lot about him, as I was supply pastor for a year in his former parish in Sidman.

Please send me copies of the Anniversary program, History, St. John's Journal and any other material available.

If I can help, let me know. Hope we can keep in touch.

Sincerely
Pastor Lloyd T. Wilson

Rev. A. Donald Main, D.D.
616 Stehman Road
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603-9678
717-584-5468
admain615@comcast.net

April 5, 2016

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
6590 Musser Lane
Watsonstown, Pennsylvania 17777

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We extend to you our very best wishes as you celebrate two hundred years of ministry at St. John's, Delaware Run. Due to responsibilities at our congregation in Lancaster, we cannot be with you in person to share in this wonderful celebration. Do be sure that we are holding you in our thoughts and prayers.

If they could see you now.....if those first generation members, those founding fathers and mothers of St John's could see you now, would they believe their eyes? It was a very different world 200 years ago when your congregation was founded. And St. John's is a very different church than what it was two centuries ago. That is exactly as our Lord, Jesus, intends His church to be. Today is a celebration of 200 years of ministry of the people of God, called and gathered by the Holy Spirit, to be the living body of Christ in the world. It is a celebration of stories, of members of St. John's sharing the Good News in their words and in their deeds---in their ministries. Yours is a gospel-rich history. Thanks be to God for the generations who have gone before you and to all of you today, who are carrying forth this ministry.

Anniversaries are a time to look back with gratitude to the Holy Spirit's leading in this community. This is also a time to look forward, building on the foundations of the past, so that your ministry in this place might move boldly forward into the future God has for you, His people.

God's richest blessings be with you as you celebrate this anniversary.

In His Name,



A Donald Main, Bishop Emeritus, USS

MAY 8, 2016, MOTHER'S DAY

DRESS UP DAY



LADIES WEAR A HAT AND/OR A HISTORIC DRESS

MOST OF US REMEMBER WEARING HATS AND GLOVES MANY YEARS AGO. THE COMMITTEE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO BRING BACK THE MEMORIES OF DAYS GONE BY.

PLEASE DO NOT BUY A HAT UNLESS YOU WANT TO. ANN REEVES HAS A WHOLE BOX OF HATS FOR THE OCCASION. WE SUGGEST YOU COME EARLY SO YOU CAN FIND A HAT YOU LIKE. THERE WILL BE A GROUP PICTURE TAKEN AFTER THE SERVICE AND THEN YOU MAY RETURN YOUR HAT TO THE BOX.

MEN!

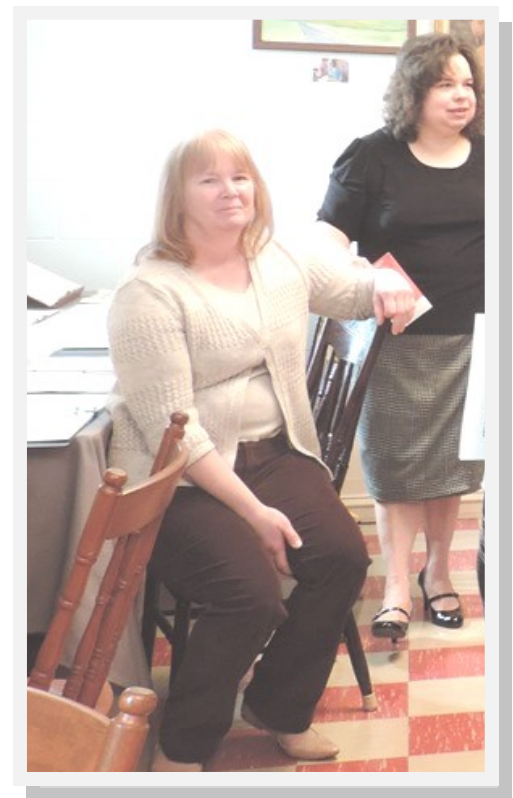
A SUIT OR A SHIRT AND TIE WILL BE FINE. AREN'T YOU LUCKY?

OUR HEROES



Kathi Wertman who spent numerous hours on her book The River Church

Stacey Reynolds and Kathi worked together many evenings after working all day to display the History Room as you saw it.
THANK YOU



JUNE 19, 2016 FATHER'S DAY
HONOR OUR VETERANS

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ANY VETERAN WHO ATTENDS
CHURCH SERVICE THAT DAY, WEAR A UNIFORM ,
CARRY YOUR HAT, WEAR A PIN, OR ANYTHING
PERTAINING TO YOUR SERVICE IN THE MILITARY.

THERE MAY BE A PATRIOTIC HYMN SUNG AND WE WILL HONOR THE
VETERANS WHO ATTEND. AFTER THE CHURCH SERVICE, WE WILL
MEET AT THE FLAGPOLE AND THERE WILL BE A PROGRAM BY JOHN
BECK AND OTHER VETERANS TO HONOR ALL WHO HAVE SERVED
AND LAY AT REST IN THE CEMETERY.

*Since the 1880s, the veterans interred at St. John's have been
honored on Memorial Day. Even during the 1940s and 1950s,
programs were held here and the Watson town High School
Band participated. It has been a long time since our veterans
have been honored in such a way. Please plan on attending
this special event.*

A BIG THANK YOU to Betty Snyder for taking charge of the Anniversary dinner and
thank you to those who helped her. A job well done. Thank you to Lois, Francine the Bell
Choir and vocal choir for their special music. Thank you to Francine for making the special
table decorations and all the pretty flowers on the windowsills. Thanks to all who attended
and those who provided food.
Barbara Russell

THANKS To Donny Guthrie for being our photographer.

Our church was sparkling inside and outside (thanks to the many people who helped in any
way), and the day was filled with excitement and emotions, thus ending a wonderful celebra-
tion of our 200th Anniversary and will continue with that feeling throughout the rest of the
year.
GW

Thank you Pastor Faron for all you do for us.

Kathi had to share! Paul Hitesman stopped at the store and said he just had to say what a special day
Sunday was. His family really enjoyed themselves-seeing people, seeing the history room and their
mom's choir robe...He loved the book and said what an amazing church it was. Such a special congrega-
tion and has resulted in life long friends.

Hi Folks!

Thank you so much for the invitation to the 200th Anniversary Celebration on April 10, 2016. What a fun day! Squeak! Squeak! I have been here for several weeks now and no one saw me! Tee hee!

Pastor Faron has the most silent foot steps. Once he almost stepped on me, but I scurried out of sight!

I spent a lot of time in the history room downstairs in the large classroom. Almost every night Kathi Wertman and Staci Reynolds were in there arranging all the memorabilia that was found here in the church or donated by members. Ginny Wertman and the Pastor dropped by occasionally to see how things were progressing. Quite a display! So much paper and fabric and I didn't chew on any of it!!

Did you all see the sailor who scared some sensitive ladies out of their wits? Ask Tina Cotner!!! And did you notice "Baby Face"?

I managed to scamper upstairs several times. I sat under a pew and listened on Monday evenings to the bell choir practicing and on Tuesday evenings I curled up in Jeff Kuntz's pocket and listened to the choir rehearsing for Easter and the Anniversary celebration. Crystal, Charlotte, Carol, Doris, Sarah, Lois and Francie would all have been standing on the pews if Jeff would have revealed my hiding place! Don't know what Pastor Faron would have done or said! Tee hee!!

It was great to have Bishop Driesen here to conduct the service that day. Did you all see the pig hiding behind the piano? I squeaked so loud I thought everyone would hear me! One of Francie's jokes!



Speaking of Francie, did you all see the lovely birthday cakes decorating the lunch tables? So much wonderful food!! I ate my fill from Barbara Russell's plate while she was acting as MC for the program during lunch. She read several letters received; look for them elsewhere in this newsletter.

Doesn't Ginny do a wonderful job putting this paper together every couple of months! Thank you, Ginny-triple squeaks!!

One of the evenings that I was snooping around downstairs, I got my little paws stuck in the paint that Carl and Jack were using to paint the hallways. I had to quickly hide or I would have left a trail!!

Also one evening, I saw Carl and Lonny Wertman in the Narthex along with Kathi. They were matching paint samples! I guess!

Occasionally, I sneaked into the office to watch Amy and Mitzi work on the computer and do copying. Such fun to watch, although one day I fell asleep and got locked in; it was several days till the door opened again and I was able to get out and find food!!

On the serious side, many kudos to Barbara Russell and her committee for a most fantastic job organizing the celebration. Many thanks too, to Betty Snyder and her helpers for planning and organizing the luncheon on that day.

There is so much more activity around here now than when I was here before- Hope it continues so that my great great great grandmice can enjoy another celebration as much as I enjoyed this one! Squeak! Squeak! So long till then.

Marty Mouse



The Impossibility of a Dying Church

The church has been doing things in similar fashion for thousands of years and sometimes it would be good to ask ourselves, "How is it working out for us?"

There is abundant talk about decline and so called "glory days" of the Church. I believe such talk is not helpful at all and actually can be detrimental to the Church and to ourselves. I say this because to refer to the good ole days of the Church when things were so much better also is a denial that God is doing anything now. Think about it. Things have changed along with the culture and population of the central Pennsylvania area. People's lives seem much busier than they once were and perhaps one of the things that we have forgotten is the art of leisure. The result is that the Church tends to be one of many choices of things to do on a Sunday.

Still in all these things we are only speaking of attendance. For the truth is that the Church cannot decline, cannot shrink, cannot die. To say otherwise is to say that Christ is in decline or shrinking or dying and that is simply impossible. The reality is that the Church looks different and God is still busy.

Possibly, we have focused so much on attendance that we have forgotten why we are at Church altogether. That reason is to worship God. The word worship comes from worth-ship or being worthy and there is only one worthy of our praise.

When we gather together we can become distracted by focusing upon ourselves. I have often heard comments throughout my life about worship, for example; "I didn't like that hymn, I don't like the standing up and sitting down, I don't like the way things are going at church, etc." All of these things start with the same word "I." And there is the focus, but what about God?

The hymns are sang to God, not to us. We stand in honor of God and the reading of scripture, the singing of praise, etc., not for ourselves. We pray for the Holy Spirit to guide our path and ways before we conduct any activity of the Church and believe the Holy Spirit does. To say otherwise,

would be to confess that the Spirit doesn't work or doesn't exist and we know that cannot be the case.

Finally, I know that we tire from activities in life and even in our congregations. Perhaps we feel that we have done our part and that it is time for others to do their part. The danger in this is present in Jesus' words when he says, "Let the dead bury the dead." Obviously, Jesus is not speaking of literal dead people burying other dead people. He is speaking of the Spiritually dead. To stop serving God is to be Spiritually dead. The day will come when we stop serving in this life, that is meant to be the day that we draw our last breath and not before.

So rather than lamenting numbers, perhaps we are called to see what God is doing in our lives, our hearts, as He daily reveals himself to us. Let us never lose heart and stay faithful to God. Let us focus on the Glory of God in this day, in this hour and celebrate God's faithfulness to those he loves.

Pastor Faron

REMINDERS

EVERY SUNDAY- 9AM CHURCH & COMMUNION- SUNDAY SCHOOL TO FOLLOW

NOTICE

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MONDAY MAY 2nd, 7. P.M.



Thank You Thrivent Members that contributed \$455.00 Choice Dollars to St. John's for 2015. A total of 313,700 members designated Thrivent Choice Dollars toward churches, schools, social ministries and non profits for 2015.

As of April 20th, Emily Rupert is at Rockwell Assisted Living, Milton. Earl Yoder is in Watsontown Rehab. Betty Kuntz fell Sunday eve. April 10th and broke her hip. She was in church Sunday morning. Spent several days in hospital.

Continuing Prayer Needed

Betty Kuntz, Gerald Shambach, Earl Yoder, Ken Hampe, Janet Becht, Bryon Krapf, Marie Bomboy, Norma Jean Herr, Blake Hemric, Betty Valentine, John Dugan, Jean Crawford, Neva Long, Patricia Rickert, Diann and Ernie Rupert, Ralph Stahlnecker, Carl Appleman, Nancy Yordy, Donna Long, Emily Rupert and the Kerstetters

On the lighter side, have you noticed the Black Cat (cut out) that is sitting outside under the Nursery Window? No one is admitting as to who takes credit for it. Max Beck is not saying. You know there is a black cat on our keepsake church made by The Cat's Meow, or didn't you notice that?



Soon and very soon, we are going to have our church
Pews full of many colors. Stay tuned.

On deck for counting the offerings Month of May
Linda Salvatori and Ralph Heater

On deck for counting the offerings Month of June
Lyn and Jeff Reitz

*Have a safe and
Happy Summer*

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
6590 Musser Lane



9 Things To Give Up If You Want To Be Happy

THINKGROWPROSPER

1. Complaining
2. Limiting beliefs
3. Blaming others
4. Negative self-talk
5. Dwelling on the past
6. Resistance to change
7. The need to impress others
8. The need to always be right
9. The need for other's approval