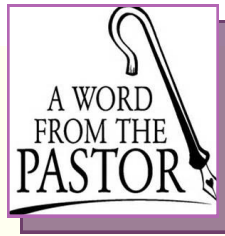
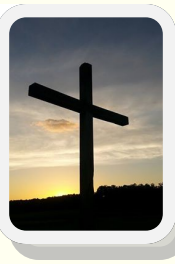




St. John's Journal



JANUARY, FEBRUARY 2017



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Having the Steeple cleaned was an on going discussion among council for many months. Finding someone to do it was a task in itself. Then happened very quickly , an Amish man, name Reuben Fisher from Elmsport was the lucky one to do the job. A lift was rented, some cleaning material was donated, and all of a sudden things fell into place. Was a beautiful day to do it and he did a wonderful job, after seeing the before and after. Big difference.

Nov. 11, 2016



Carl Snyder and Jack Mincemoyer

Trimming the shrubbery

Great job and a Hugh thank you also for overseeing the Steeple cleaning.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KYLAN KURTZ
Chosen as a member of the NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations goes to Sarah Cotner for being on the distinguished Honor Roll. 9th grade
Congratulations goes to Sophia Gomez for being on the distinguished Honor Roll. 6th grade
Congratulations goes to Tyler Cotner for being on the Honor Roll. 5th grade
Congratulations goes to Trevor Wertman for being on the Deans List at Bloomsburg University

CONGRATULATIONS to Blake Bomboy, who recently earned the Eagle Scout award. A ceremony in his honor will take place later. His project was doing a Fountain and Meditation Park in front of the Methodist church, Third St. Watsontown. Understand after completed, his work was vandalized. Very sad. Becoming an Eagle Scout is the highest award in the Boy Scouts. Blake is the grandson of Doris and Fred Bomboy.



A cake for the reception of new members.



WELCOME Sharon and Gene Greninger have joined St. John's by letter of transfer. A reception was held in the social hall following the service to welcome them to our congregation.

RULES OF PENNSYLVANIA

The rules of rural Pennsylvania are as follows:

1. Let's get this straight: it's called a 'dirt road.' No matter how slow you drive, you'r...e going to get dust on your Lexus. Drive it or get out of the way.
2. They are cattle. They're live steaks or walking milk bottles. That's why they smell funny to you, get over it. Don't like it? I-80 goes east and west, I-81 and I-79 go north and south. Pick one.
3. Pull your droopy pants up, you look like an idiot.
4. Turn your cap right, your head isn't crooked.
5. So you have a \$60,000 car, we're impressed. We have \$150,000 corn pickers and hay balers that are driven only 3 weeks a year.
6. Every person in rural Pennsylvania waves. We think of it as being friendly. Try to understand the concept.
7. If that cell phone rings while an 8-point buck and three does are coming in, we will shoot it out of your hand. You better hope you don't have it up to your ear at the time.
8. Yeah, we eat scrapple, pot pie, funnel cakes, haluskie, pierogies, shoo-fly pie, apple butter, chow-chow, and schnitz un knepp. Don't like the sound of them or the names freak you out because you never saw a "Bon Appetit" article on them? Great, more for us!
9. The 'opener' refers to the first day of deer season. It's a religious holiday held on the Monday after Thanksgiving. And Yes.. We sometimes close schools for this!!!
10. We open doors for women. That is applied to all women, regardless of age.
11. No, there's no 'vegetarian special' on the menu. Order steak, or you can order the chef's salad and pick off the 2 pounds of ham & turkey.
12. When we fill out a table, there are three main dishes: meats (includes fish), vegetables, and breads. We use four spices: salt, pepper, hot sauce, and Heinz ketchup. Oh, yeah...we don't care what you folks in Jersey call that stuff you eat. It's not really chili.
13. You bring 'coke' into my house, it better be brown, wet and served over ice.
14. You bring 'Mary Jane' into my house, she better be cute, know how to shoot, and have long hair.
15. College and high school football are as important here as the Steelers and Eagles and a lot more fun to watch.
16. Yeah, we have golf courses. But don't hit the water hazards---it spooks the fish.
17. Colleges? We have them all over. We have state universities, community colleges, and vo-techs. They come outta there with an education plus a love for God and Country. They still wave at everybody when they come home for the holidays.
18. We have a whole ton of folks who have been in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard - PA has one of the highest percentages of veterans in the entire country. So don't mess with us. If you do, you will get whipped by the best.
19. Turn down that blasted car stereo! That thumpity-thump-thump stuff is not music anyway. We don't want to hear it anymore than we want to see your boxers. Refer back to # 3.
20. Four inches isn't a blizzard--it's a flurry. Drive like you got some sense, and don't take all our bread, milk, and toilet paper from the grocery stores. You're not in Alaska. Worst case you may have to live a whole day without your croissants. The pickups with snow plows will have you out the next day.

Year end Evangelism Committee report

The Evangelism Committee met monthly and planned a Free Fellowship Meal. We served an average of 155 people. We had an average of 5 takeout meals delivered to shut-ins. We had a community hymn sing in July, followed by an ice cream social. There were 46 present. We gave the church money toward electricity also.

I wish to thank the committee of Sarah Shambach, Charlotte Roberts and Francine Bishop for their help. A special Thank You to Francine for the donations of eggs and chicken, but especially for all the monthly decorations. Thank you too Francine, Lois Rathmell and Merle Nicholas for their work on making the hymn sing a success.

It is very satisfying to hear all the compliments and appreciation for the meals. We wish to continue serving as long as there is a need.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Salvatori



DID YOU KNOW?????

Did you know there were two dehumidifiers donated and are downstairs in the hall. The old ones stopped working. Ralph Heater made brackets for them and installed them on the wall and put drainage hoses in to properly drain water in drains so they do not have to be emptied every day.

Did you notice the flag while driving past the church? It has a light shining on it from dusk to dawn. A beautiful site to see our flag lit up at night. Thanks to Ralph Heater and Jeff Reitz for doing the electrical work for it and thanks to someone who donated the light.

Did you know that Elaine Klinger has spent 29 days in hospital within the last two months? Home for a time, now admitted to hospital Dec. 27th as of this printing.

A very small group went Christmas Caroling, but they were well received.

Emily Rupert is in Kramms Rehab. Milton for the present time.

121 people attended the Christmas Eve Service. Was beautiful with everyone holding the new Moravian candle given by Pastor Faron.



I am sure Don would appreciate a visit or a card.
Don Rickert
C/O The Gardens at Millville
Room 221 A
48 Haven Lane
Millville, PA 17846

Extending our sympathy to Diann Rupert and family
On the passing of Ernie Rupert Nov. 3, 2016



Peace Be With
You GW

SINGING WITH THE LUTHERANS by Garrison Keillor

I have made fun of Lutherans for years - who wouldn't, if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn. We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them. If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Lutheranless place, to sing along on the chorus of Michael Row the Boat Ashore, they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear.

But if you do this among Lutherans they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road! Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony.

We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment. I once sang the bass line of Children of the Heavenly Father in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices.

By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other. I do believe this: People, these Lutherans, who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you could call up when you're in deep distress. If you're dying, they'll comfort you. If you're lonely, they'll talk to you. And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:

1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and an LCMS groom make for a mixed marriage.
10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.
12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.
13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas, in a tuna noodle casserole, adds too much color.
14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

And finally, you know when you're a Lutheran when: It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service. You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as

loudly as you can! Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee. The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight. All your relatives graduated from a school named Concordia.

When you watch a "Star Wars" movie and they say, "May the Force be with" you, you respond, "and also with you". You actually understand those folks from Lake Wobegon, MN. And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye!

Info on the author

Gary Edward "Garrison" Keillor is an American author, storyteller, humorist, radio actor, voice actor, and radio personality. He is known as creator of the Minnesota Public Radio show *A Prairie Home Companion*, which he hosted from 1974 to 2016. Keillor created the fictional Minnesota town Lake Wobegon, the setting of many of his books, including *Lake Wobegon Days* and *Leaving Home: A Collection of Lake Wobegon Stories*. Other creations include *Guy Noir*, a detective voiced by Keillor who appeared in *A Prairie Home Companion* comic skits.



It's the small acts of kindness and love that get my attention. The Christmas Eve before I came to this place and the two Christmas Eve's since small tokens of affection and love have been left outside at our Nativity. They have been situated next to the Christ child, a gift celebrating a holy birthday. One Christmas Eve I witnessed this sacred tradition as I walked from the church to notice a mother and her children gathered around this place. She read to them the story of the birth during that night so long ago as her children listened while all were on their knees surrounding the scene. What an amazingly special thing to see and what love and devotion from a mother to her children as she shared her faith. Walking by this evening I wonder if they will return once more and what will they bring the baby Jesus to add to those things from the past years that we lovingly place in the nativity each year? This is my special Christmas miracle.

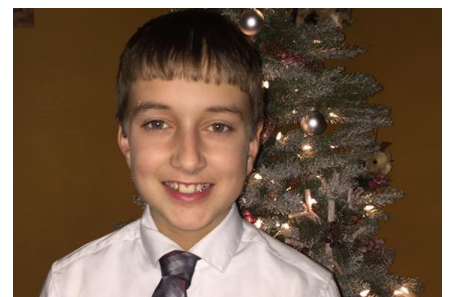
Pastor Faron Dec. 7, 2016



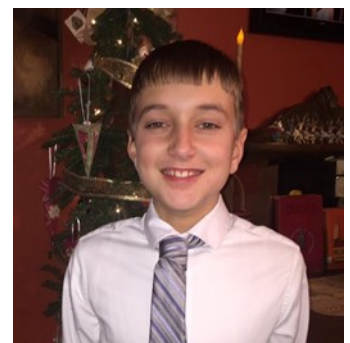
Landon Kurtz
On Wrestling team at WR



Sarah Cotner
First High School Band Concert



Tyler Cotner. Top
First chorus concert
Bottom, first band concert



Different pictures of Tyler
He has different ties on.

92 YEAR OLD PREACHER

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age. After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heart-break and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me. The only thing that would comfort was this verse

"Jesus loves me this I know. For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong,
We are weak but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so."

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

"Here for you now is a Senior version of Jesus Loves Me":

Jesus loves me, this I know, Though my hair is white as snow. Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.
(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME. YES, JESUS LOVES ME. YES, JESUS LOVES ME, FOR THE BIBLE
TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow, With my hand in His I'll go. On through life, let come what
may, He'll be there to lead the way.

When the nights are dark and long, In my heart He puts a song.. Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."

When my work on earth is done, And life's victories have been won. He will take me home
above, Then I'll understand His love.

I love Jesus, does He know? Have I ever told Him so? Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

If you think this is neat, please pass it on to your friends. If you do not pass it on, nothing bad
will happen, but you will have missed an opportunity to "reach out and touch" a friend or a loved
one.

God
Bless Us All!!!

These two young men — Gerald Shambach and Max Beck

CELEBRATED

their birthdays together in the church Social Hall on Sunday Dec. 18th. 2016.

Was well attended by church friends, and relatives.

A lovely lay out of food was available, plus each had their own cake to share.

We wish them many more birthdays



This is what the Moravian candles looked like after Pastor Faron finished putting the red crepe paper on them. Ralph Heater made the boards for him.





A Blessing for the New Year

Lord, as now we face the next New Year,
Let it be a time of grace:

For family and friends;
A year of blessings that increase;
A year of favour and your peace for all the human race.

For a new start I pray;
Let it begin this very day:
A time of healing for our woes,
A time of mercies
when pardon flows for those who go astray.

A time of goodness for those held dear,
A time of pardon for those we fear.
Lord, let this be a blessed year. Amen

Promises are like snowballs.
They are easy to make but
hard to keep

If you want 2017 to be
your year;
Don't sit on the couch and
wait for it. Go out. Make a
change. Smile more. Be excited.
Do new things. Throw away
what you've been cluttering.
Unfollow negative people on
social media. Go to bed early.
Wake up early. Be fierce. Don't
gossip. Show more gratitude.
Do things that challenge you.
Be brave.

REMINDERS

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

2017 Council Officers

Members staying on are Ron Long, Jim Criswell, Lois Rathmell and Amy Rickert.

New members: Jack Mincemoyer, Mitzi Kurtz, Crystal Gutshall, Ken Crawford and Jeff Reitz.

Members who are off: Ralph Heater, Carl Snyder, Emmett Reynolds, Lori Maneval and Linda Salvatori

One change due to Ron Long resigning, council asked the person who received the next highest number of votes to serve. That person was Kathi Wertman.

Thanks to all that have served and Congratulations to the new ones about to serve.

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS for Amy, amyrickert59@gmail.com



Continuing Prayer Needed



Brenda Grace, Deidre Rathmell, Donald Rickert, Joshua and Henry Reinsburrow Danny Wagner, Tina Applegate, Bonnie Little, Earl Yoder, Ken Hampe, Janet Becht, Byron Krapf, Norma Jean Herr, Betty Valentine, Diann Rupert, Emily Rupert, Elaine Snyder and Ralph Stahlnecker

On deck for counting the offerings Month of
January Audrey and Max Beck

On deck for counting the offerings Month of
February Carl Snyder, Emmett Reynolds and
Linda Salvatori

You should not pronounce it a poor sermon until you have tested it in practice.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
6590 Musser Lane
Watsontown, PA 17777



A pastor never gets to say "I'm off duty". Never gets to punch out at 5. Never gets to have a normal schedule. We don't know how many sleepless nights they spend on their knees praying for their church. How much opposition they face. How many family opportunities they miss to meet with hurting people. We can't carry their burden for them but we can do what the Bible tells us to: **Pray for them. Encourage them. Support them.** By blessing them we will only be blessed in return.