

# St. John's Journal

2014

Email us at [stjohnsjournal@hotmail.com](mailto:stjohnsjournal@hotmail.com)

NOV./DEC. PAGE 1

## From the Pastors desk

The fall has come and with it, the cool air along with beautiful colors that remind us of the majesty and wonder of God's creation. These blessings are among so many others that we enjoy and with the coming seasons we are called to reflect upon these things and to give thanks.

In mentioning this, I can't help but wonder what you are thankful for? Surely when we consider our lives, families, neighbors, and possessions we begin to realize that the list could be endless. But what about the things we miss? There is the cool night air, the sounds of a bubbling stream, seeing wildlife around us and other things in nature, being surrounded by all of God's creation. There is so much to be thankful for and wouldn't it be wonderful if we focused upon these things and spend all our days truly full of thanks.

And yet when we think of this, there is one thing outshines them all.

A new church year begins with the season of Advent and the anticipation of a coming child, and no ordinary child, but the King of Kings. How amazing it is that God would send His only son to live among us, to announce God's kingdom has come, to bring everlasting joy and salvation. Yet, this is just what God did; Jesus showed the greatest act of humility in coming to us and coming as a little one who had to have the help of a family to survive.

There is a view of scarcity rather than abundance. When we think of babies our hearts blossom with love for they are so helpless, so tender, and so precious. Their very existence speaks of promise for a new world and new tomorrow. They give us hope for a future.

But when Christ came, he did not only come for the small ones, but for all of humanity. This shows a love that we sometimes struggle to understand, for it is so easy to say that Jesus loves me, but is it also easy to say Jesus loves others; the foreigner, the stranger, and our enemies a great lesson in this for it shows that we tend to draw lines that are all too often based up? Yes, God loves them all.

So let us pray with all sincerity that God truly meets us this Advent, that we are changed in that meeting and that our hearts are filled with the love of God and neighbor. This is the greatest gift that God presents to the world. May the joyous proclamation of the angels become the reality of this world, peace on earth.

My prayer is that God blesses you so that your cup will run over with joy in the coming year.

Shalom,

Pastor Faron

## **PROJECT LINUS**

First-Provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of **new, handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers."**

Second-Provide a rewarding and fun service opportunity for interested individuals and groups in local communities, for the benefit of children.

**OUR GOAL AT ST. JOHN'S IS TO MAKE 200 BLANKETS FOR PROJECT LINUS TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO HOSPITALIZED AND NEEDY CHILDREN IN OUR AREA BY 2016 IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY!**

Blankets are for children infant to age 18. Blankets 45" x 60" and larger for teens and blankets for boys all sizes are always needed. Some suggested sizes are as follows:

Baby: 40" X 40"      Toddlers: 45" X 50" to 52"      Kids: 45" X 60"

Preteen: 45" X 60" to 65"      Teens: 45" X 72"

Not feeling particularly crafty? **We can always use donations of fleece, fabric, batting or money to purchase supplies to make the blankets.**

We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Social Hall at 6:30 p.m. Please join us for an evening of blanket making and fellowship.

Contact Amy Rickert for more information at 570-538-2296 OR pick up a flyer at the rear of the church.



Ready for Bishop's Day tomorrow at St John's. The people of the church do so much to make things go so smoothly. They never cease to amaze me. 😊 feeling blessed.

Pastor Faron Oct. 15

## WHO SAID THE LINUS PROJECT WAS FOR WOMEN ONLY??????



Pastor Faron tying knots on a  
Tinker Bell blanket



Jeff Reitz trimming  
A plain blanket

Picture on the right are 9 year old twins  
Dakota and Landree Fraley with the winning  
Holstein.

Landree took first place in the World In-  
ternational Junior Holstein Show held in  
Madison, Wisconsin, during the month of  
Sept.

Competing in age group 9-21.

Landree is the daughter of Gina and Adam  
Fraley, granddaughter of Patti and Keith  
Witmer and Great Granddaughter of  
Connie and Jim Criswell

**CONGRATULATIONS**





## A GLORIOUS DAY

Pastor Faron H. Johnson was installed as our Pastor at the Service of Installation On September 21, at 4:00 in the afternoon.

We were welcomed by Pastor Bill Henderson, Buffalo Valley Conference Dean.

Following the Prayer of the Day, Jeff Kuntz sang an anthem, "May the Mind of Christ."

Pastor B.J. Collins (assistant to the Dean) gave a most inspiring sermon. She told Of people and events that led Pastor Faron to choose the road into the ministry. Eventually he was led to the open doors of St. John's.

Pastor Bill Henderson addressed the congregation at the beginning of the Rite of Installation. A presentation was made by Ralph Heater, Council President. Representatives Of the congregation made the calls to the Font, Jeff Reitz, the Pulpit, Amy Rickert and The Altar, Norma Jean Herr.

Peace was shared by everyone, followed by Holy Communion.

Seventy people were in attendance at the service. Included in this event were Pastor Faron's parents, who drove from North Carolina to be with their son on this special day. Many of his fellow clergy came to give their support to his ministry.

Following the service, a light meal was served by women of the congregation, topped off By Betty and Carl Snyder's home made ice cream.

It was a glorious day, a time to celebrate Pastor Faron's being led to our doors and Choosing to enter in, to lead and shepherd our congregation.

Submitted by Norma Jean Herr

Pr.  
B.J.  
Collins





# DID YOU KNOW?

165 was served at our congregation fellowship picnic in August.

Misa Johnson and son Herb attended Sept. 14th church service. Was so nice to see them.

I met a Japanese lady today that is a member of our congregation that lives some distance away. She said something to me that was so simple and yet, profound, "I am glad you're here." I can't stop thinking of the simplicity and honor in saying such a thing. Written by Pastor Faron

172 was served at the Sept. 18th meal, (chicken & biscuit) 200 was served at the Oct. 23rd meal, (lasagna) A Hugh THANK YOU to all who have any part in preparing, giving, helping, with the food. It is a reward to see all the people come.

Yard sale profit \$1300.00 on Sept. 27th

Tyler Cotner had appendectomy surgery Oct. 6th. He is doing well.

On Oct. 16th. A luncheon was served in social room for Bishops meal. 47 attended.

Emily Rupert celebrated her 97th birthday on Oct. 18th  
Nice to see Kathy Kurtz Crowder in church and visiting family. Lives in Florida.  
Hay ride was held on Oct. 26th, great weather for a ride. 15 rode the wagon with Bryan Cotner driving his tractor. Wagon provided by Francine & Jay. Total attending was 19. Guessing the weight of a pumpkin, word scramble, throwing seeds in pumpkins and bingo was enjoyed. Lots of things to eat. A big Thank You to Tina and her crew for making this a success. There will be a picture on bulletin board of wagon riders.

Gene Kurtz had by pass surgery on Oct. 27th. Thoughts and prayers are with him and family.

Thanksgiving Day, there will be a free meal at the First Lutheran Church in Watson-town at noon. Volunteers are needed. No fellowship meal during month of November.

Dec. 11th will be our Christmas fellowship meal, ham loaf, scalloped potatoes, veggies and dessert. Yum

Dec. 14th a Hymn Sing at St. Johns, 2:PM refreshments after.

The Jolly Helpers will be making their famous candy, so get your orders in early.

Sharon and Rick Morgan have moved, new address 118 Berkeley Dr. Watson town

Have a Blessed Holiday Season

Peace be with you. Ginny

With permission from Pastor Faron, he has allowed me to copy and paste things that he has written on his face book page. I find them very meaningful and thought you would enjoy reading these too.

GW



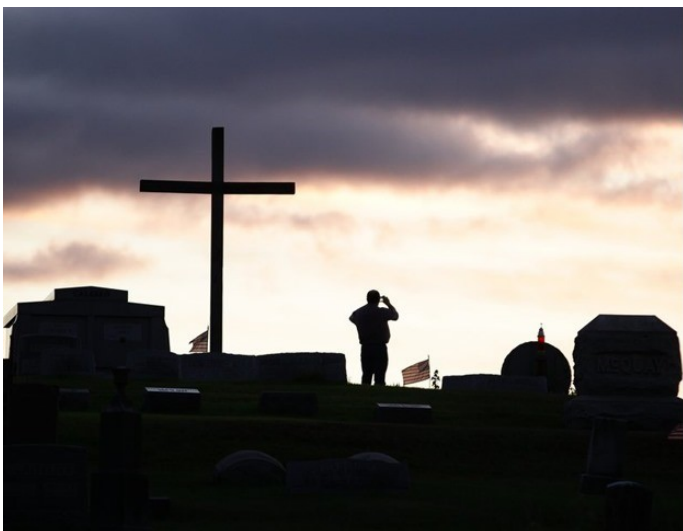
Sept. 6, 2014

I am encouraged when I see random acts of kindness in this world, a smile or opening a door for another points to the greater truth of opening our hearts; being vulnerable to others as we reach out in love. Today I was reminded that the simplest little things are multiplied in kindness and we often miss these things. It has been warm lately and I gave the flowers a much needed drink. While my initial intention was only to care for them, small butterflies soon appeared to drink...k in the puddles around the plants, delicately moving their wings as they sat and drank the cool water. So I witnessed additional beauty that I had never thought I would see. How many things do I miss each day when God increases our kindness, blessing all of creation? Perhaps this is what it means to walk through this world seeing God in all things; noticing the extra surprises that come when we let go of anger and judgment, instead reaching to acknowledge the world in wonder and love, allowing ourselves to be embraced by the fascinating things that are given. This must be what living in a state of grace is.

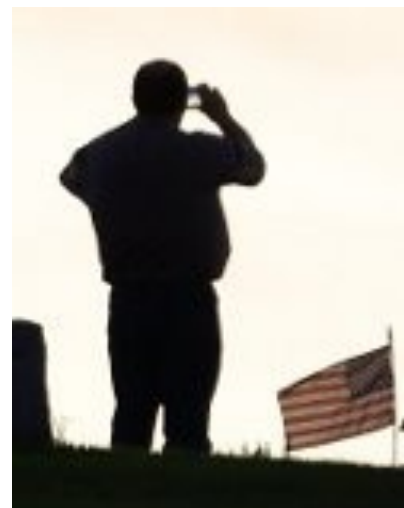


Sept. 6, 2014

I am aware of my Lord's approach even as I am aware of the coming rain. Although I stand trapped in the midst of dark swirling clouds I know you are near. The wind's touch is cooled by your distant rain and the scent of your cleansing waters is carried in the breeze. No Lord, I can't see you always, but nevertheless know you are here and that I am not alone. I will wait patiently for you, for just as the rain comes in the fullness of time, you will be here in my hour of need.



PICTURE  
TAKEN  
DUSK  
SEPT. 11,  
2014  
BY THE  
CROSS  
IN OUR  
CEMETERY



My friend, Donny Guthrie, saw this would be a great picture while driving by the church, not knowing it was Pastor Faron taking a picture of the clouds. Same picture, cropped for close up. Donny e-mails me pictures that he takes and I wanted to share this one with you.

GW

I thought this sounded good! Here is a turkey recipe that also includes the use of popcorn as a stuffing

> ingredient

> -- imagine that. When I found this recipe, I thought it was perfect for

> people like me, who just are not sure how to tell when turkey is

> thoroughly cooked, but not dried out. Give this a try.

> 8 - 15 lb.

> turkey> >

> 1 cup melted

> butter> >

> 1 cup stuffing (Pepperidge Farm is

> Good)> >

> 1 cup un-popped popcorn (ORVILLE REDENBACHER'S IS BEST)

> Salt/pepper to taste.

> Preheat oven to 350 degrees. > >

Brush turkey well with melted butter, salt, and pepper.

> Fill cavity with stuffing and popcorn.

> Place in baking pan making sure the neck end is toward the front of the oven, not the back

> After about 4 hours listen for the popping

> sounds.

> When the turkey blows the oven door open and the bird flies across the room,..... it's done.

> And, you thought I didn't

> cook...

> > Have a good Day!



I awake to see the breath of God gently flowing through the trees softly caressing the leaves into motion. They slowly lose their tenuous grasp on life to fall into the arms of God who tenderly lowers them to the earth where they lay in perfect silence. In that peaceful place they find their toil and labor is no more, but their value still remains for now they will change once more continuing in the ebb and flow of life that all is found within God.

Written by Pastor Faron Oct. 14th

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Kylan Kurtz on receiving National Recognition.

The United States Achievement Academy announced that

Kylan Kurtz has been recognized as a National Vocational and Technical Education Award recipient. This is a prestigious honor very few students can hope for.

Fewer than 10 percent of all American school students are recognized.

Kylan was also selected to be among the elite group of the All American Scholars.

See more details on bulletin board.

He is the son of Rodney and Michelle Kurtz and

Grandson of Mitzi and Gene Kurtz.





Top left, Dean, Pastor Bill Henderson Installing Pastor Faron.

Top right, Ralph Heater presenting the call letter to Pastor Faron with Pastor Henderson.

Serving on the call committee  
Crystal Gutshall, Amy Rickert  
Martin Anspach, Max Beck, Jeff Reitz and  
Missing when picture taken, Jeff Kuntz.



Pastor Faron  
And his  
Parents  
Geraldine and Henry  
Johnson





## For Social Ministry

**Neighbor Helping Neighbor (NHN) Collection (October 26, 2014–November 16, 2014)** – Please place non-perishable food items in the collection tubs which are placed in the Narthex and near the back door in the Social Hall. This will be a month-long collection for Thanksgiving. Monthly collections will resume in January 2015. If you have any questions, please contact any Social Ministry member.



**Haven Ministry Christmas and Toy Collection**–Help support Haven Ministry this holiday season by donating to our Christmas Collection. Items needed will be published in the bulletin and posted on the bulletin board mid-November. Toys are also being collected for Haven Ministry to distribute to children in need. Items for both collections can be placed in the Narthex starting November 23, 2014 through December 14, 2014.

### Sunday School pig project



Just 30.00 dollars can provide a piglet to a family in need. when this little piggy grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year.

Pigs help fertilize fields provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much needed income.

As we approach Thanksgiving and reflect on our many blessings, consider giving to this worthy project sponsored by ELCA World Hunger.

Piggy banks that were distributed on October 19th will be collected on Sunday November 16th.

Anyone wishing a bank can contact Crystal Gutshall

The church family expresses their sympathy to Deb Heater and family for the passing of her mother, Doris Sampsell. Oct. 3, 2014. In earlier years Dorie was active here with Jolly Helpers and helped with our VBS.



The church family expresses their sympathy to his family and brothers and sister of Rich Mincemoyer, on his passing Oct. 18, 2014. He was the caretaker of the Delaware Run Cemetery..



## REMINDERS

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

### 2014 Church Council

Ralph Heater, President  
Jack Mincemoyer,  
Vice-President  
Lyn Reitz, Secretary  
Mitzi Kurtz, Treasurer  
Brian Cotner  
Crystal Gutshall  
Buddy Herr  
Lori Maneval  
Dave Roberts  
Carl Snyder

Pastor Faron will have the sermon for Thanksgiving service, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2014 at the First Presbyterian Church in Watsontown, 7:00 PM

The Warrior Run Candlelight Service is Sat. Dec. 13, 2014 at the Olde Warrior Run Presbyterian Church at 7 PM, Pastor Faron will be there.

Here at St. John's we will have our Christmas Eve service. at 7:00 Special music will begin at 6:30. Plan to attend this wonderful service to celebrate the birth of our Savior.

### **Reminder: Your Council Members**

Please speak with any of the above at any time concerning the work and ministry of our congregation. Meetings are usually held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7pm. You are always welcome to attend meetings, as almost all of what we do is open to all members. Only elected council persons can vote though.

### NOVEMBER

Charlotte Roberts  
Glenn Wertman

### MONEY COUNTERS

### DECEMBER

Lyn and Jeff  
Reitz



<http://stjohnsriverchurch.org/>

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



**OOOOOOOOO  
I DON'T LIKE  
TO GOSSIP**

**BUT I HEARD "THE FATHER"  
TELLING "THE SON" TO TELL  
"THE HOLY SPIRIT" TO TELL  
"THE ANGELS" TO PROTECT YOU  
TODAY, TONIGHT AND ALWAYS!**

**SSSHHH...**

**JUST SAY AMEN AND PASS IT ON!**