

# St. John's Journal

2014

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

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Greetings,

Well a month has passed and I am still learning names and beginning to meet our homebound members and discover where they live. All of this takes some time with meetings, synod obligations, scheduling, and setting up the office. Fortunately, things are now falling into place as I develop a schedule for the events that will fill my days and ultimately, those days are all about you, the people of God.

With that said, I know we have experienced more transitions lately and I am happy to say that council has approved our new secretary Amy Rickert. I am sure you will welcome her in that position as you would welcome all people in Christ's name.

In the coming weeks I will be planning my installation service that is scheduled for Sunday the 21<sup>st</sup> of September at 4 pm. I hope to see you all there to celebrate the beginning of our ministry together. As the synod staff has been reduced in size, the dean of the Buffalo Valley conference, the Rev. Bill Henderson, will be the one who officially installs me as pastor.

I look forward to continuing to meet the members of Saint Johns in the weeks and months to come. While I do wish to know you and I am interested in hearing about your faith stories, I also realize that some people prefer to be more private than others and I respect that wish. So as the Lord said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," I too, follow that standard. So you can consider this message as me knocking. I will accept your invitations into your life, but will not show up unexpectedly at your doorstep. I leave you to decide how much you choose to reveal your life to the pastor. After all, when it comes to faith you never will have to answer to me or humanity, we answer to God alone.

I do want to emphasize that I am here for you should you wish to discuss your faith or any concerns in your life. I will be in the church office on Mondays from 9 to 12 in the morning and then from 1 to 4 in the afternoon. On Tuesdays I will be in the office from 1 to 4 in the afternoon following our morning Bible Study activities. Other times I am available by appointment by calling my mobile number at 570-246-3031. Please leave a message should I not answer. I tend to be old fashioned for I give the person in front of me my full attention while visiting and then answer messages afterward. So I will give that same focus to you when we visit. I have an open door policy that simply means that when my door is open, you can drop by any time.

Since I have been here, I have attended a variety of functions having been invited by members of the church including, livestock auctions, fairs, flea markets and ballgames. Just as God is interested in all of your life, I too, am interested in how your faith is revealed in how you live. I look forward to walking together in our service to God.

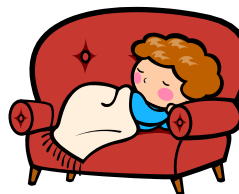
Grace and Peace,

Pastor Faron





## **PROJECT LINUS**



### **OUR GOAL IS 200 BLANKETS BY 2016!**

A group of individuals from St. John's has banded together to make blankets for Project Linus. The group meets on **the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.** in the Social Hall. Everyone (young, old, male or female) is welcome to join in the fun as you are able. If you can't make the blanket making session, but would like to make blankets from home, and just donate the finished product, you are welcome to do that. All blankets need to be handmade of new and washable materials. All styles are welcome, including quilts, tied comforters, fleece blankets, crocheted or knitted afghans and receiving blankets in child friendly colors.

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.

Since our church's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary is in 2016, we decided to make 200 blankets by 2016 our Goal in celebration of our anniversary! With everyone working together, we **can** accomplish this goal and give Project Linus **200 blankets** to distribute to hospitalized and needy children in our area.

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

## HYNN SING & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Jeff Kuntz



Lois Rathmell

Rev. Henry Fischer



F. Merle Nicholas



Randy Watts



Francine Bishop



Ice cream  
Yum yum



Social  
Room  
Cleverly  
Decorated  
Some of  
the  
Attendees





# Fall Fun Night with Hayride

The congregation is invited to attend a Fall Fun Night with Games and Hayride on Sunday, October 26, 2014 at 3:30 p.m. in the Social Hall. Hot Dogs, Corn/Potato Chowder, Apple Cider and Hot Chocolate will be served. Desserts welcome. Please plan to attend this evening of fellowship.

Sign-up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board downstairs and on the table in Social Hall at the end of September.

Hope to see you there!





# DID YOU KNOW?

**The Social Ministry Committee** would like to thank you for your continued support of our collections for Haven Ministry and Neighbor Helping Neighbor. Also, your generous donations for the care kits for college students is also appreciated. Your support is a constant reminder that here at St. John's we strive to fulfill "the call of "God's work, our hands," St. John's strives to serve our community through action and prayer."

**Come visit us at the Watsontown Yard Sale on Saturday, September 27, 2014. We will be located in front of First Lutheran at the corner of Main and Fourth Streets selling our famous Vegetable Soup and Chili (and hot dogs, too ☺ ).**

*Did you know Sandy Mincemoyer is wearing 2 different shoes to church? While walking in the down stairs hall, she made a misstep and broke a bone in her foot. At least 3 more weeks with her special "shoe".*

*Carol Crawford came to church with a new wrapping on her arm, seems she had a battle with an acorn and fell, hurting her arm and knee.*

*Rich Mincemoyer is doing a series of shots for his chemo. Slowly getting his strength back and keeping busy.*

*The hymn sing was very uplifting, to hear organ, piano and all the people singing. The church building was really happy that day.*

*The recent house fire brought out the best in our community. Children walking-home from a neighbors picnic, Crystal Gutshall heard the children screaming, looking at their house she saw flames and quickly called 911. Luther Gutshall pulled a van from the drive way with his truck preventing the van from burning. That evening, Crystal and Luther invited eleven children into their home, sleeping there two nights and in and out during the day. Air mattresses were brought in by neighbors. What a loving thing to do, and the children could not have been in better hands. I am sure Crystal and Luther could fill many pages with the experiences they had. Thank you. God Loves you and so do I.*

*Another kind jester- Jim Ranck gave them his empty farm house to stay in until their new house is completed.*

*St. John's church is giving the family \$500.00.*

*Peace be with you. Ginny*

# *Children's Sunday School*

*Beginning Sunday, September 7, 2014*

*10:15 a.m.*

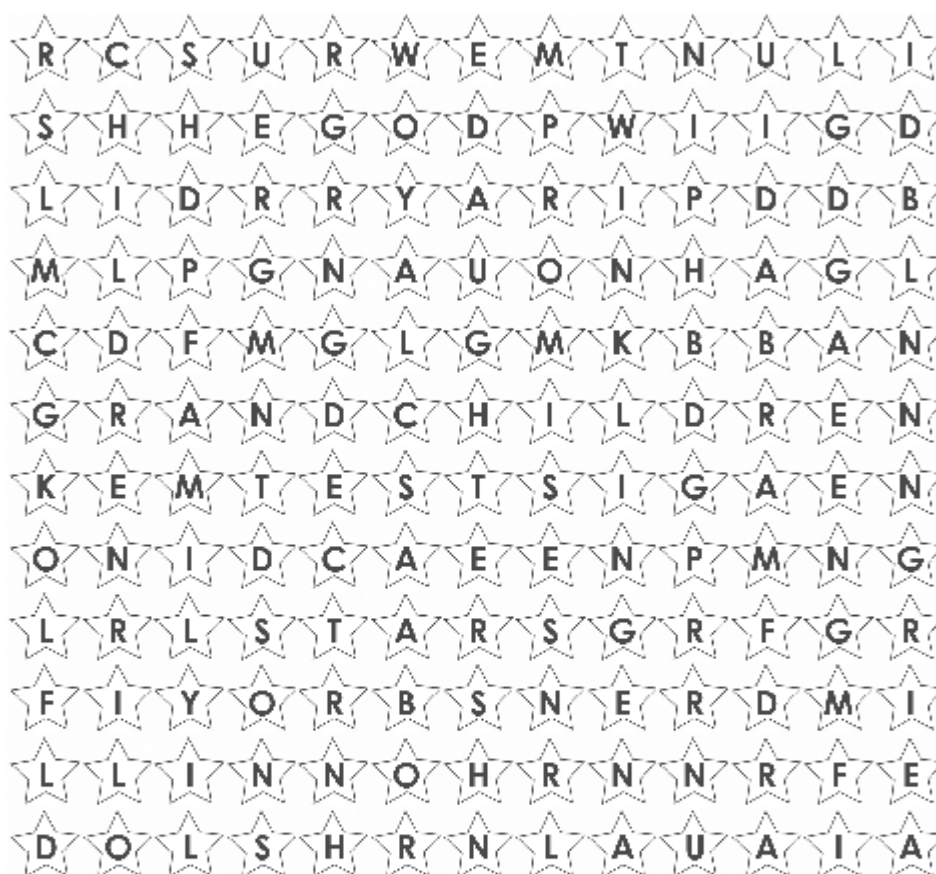
*All children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc. invited.*



## **Sentence Sermons**

1. "The Future: A Definition" - The future is that time when you will wish you had done what you are not doing now.
2. "Keep It Burning" - It is much easier to keep the fire burning than to rekindle it after it has gone out.
3. "The Futile Visit" - God often visits us, but most of the time we are not at home.
4. "Great Expectations" - Too many Christians expect a million dollar answer to a ten cent prayer.
5. "The Hard Work Principle" - If you want a place in the sun, you have to expect some blisters.
6. "Long Enough" - Life may be short, but it gives most of us time to outlive our good intentions.
7. "Real Knowledge" - It's what we learn after we think we know it all that really counts.
8. "Don't Interrupt" - People who say that something is impossible should not interrupt those who are managing to get it done.
9. "Negative Thinking" - If you keep thinking things are going to be bad, you stand a good chance of becoming a prophet.
10. "No Harm Done" - The devil is quite willing for a person to profess Christianity - as long as he doesn't put it into practice.

## Surprises in the Stars Word Search



### Word Bank

Abram	Family	Sons
Children	God	Stars
Daughters	Grandchildren	Twinkling
	Promise	

### CRYSTAL BRINGS HOME THE WINNERS

Crystal made her 25th trip to Skills USA National Championships in Kansas City, MO. She took 6 students from Sun Tech with her. Everyone was very happy when Audrey (a Down Syndrome student from Food Service) won a Gold Metal in Action Skills. She had an almost perfect score and competed against 28 competitors from across the U.S.

Crystal's cosmetology student received a Bronze Medal in Job Skill demonstration.

Another cosmetology student and her model placed 4th in Nail Care.

One male student representing the State of PA in Prepared Speaking. He was also checking out the "chicks."

Quite an accomplishment for a small school in New Berlin when they were competing with 6000 career and technical students.

CONGRATULATIONS goes to Amanda Applegate, wife of Derek Applegate.

Amanda graduated from Central Susquehanna LPN Career Center on August 14, 2014. She is continuing for bachelor of RN online through College Network and Indiana State University on line.

We express our sympathy on the passing of Bernice Leiser, July 1, 2014.

She was a faithful church member and a great lady.



There are no degrees of honesty.

A heart touched by grace brings joy to the face.

Swallowing words before you say them is so much better than having to eat them afterward.

We can stop forgiving others when Christ stops forgiving us.

Our duty is not to see through one another, but to see one another through.

Trusting God turns problems into opportunities.

It is better to hold out a helping hand than to point a finger.

Kindness, when given away, keeps coming back.

A friend is like a rainbow, always there for you after a storm.

Enjoy today, it won't come back!



## Good Thoughts from Ruth Doran

(Printed with her permission)

The Hymn-sing was a wonderful afternoon. I hope we can do it again. And maybe we could have an afternoon of nostalgic music ... Stephen Foster songs ... Irving Berlin tunes ... songs from church camp days ..... Or, maybe near Christmas, we could have a "Christmas Carol-sing" ... but still doing the caroling from house to house for the shut-ins.

I really loved to hear Merle and the musical duets of Lois and Francie. I know there are other musicians. Maybe we could invite other churches to provide special music. It is something that we have done here in the Hughesville area during Advent and for Good Friday ... having the area pastors provide homilies (for Good Friday--usually on the Seven Last Words of Jesus) and each church's choir provides an anthem during their 20 minutes of time (for the three-hour Service).

Our Fellowship Meals are a really great outreach! Maybe we could do something similar musically. When we had the Hymn-sing I felt that there were a lot of people there who weren't members of St. John's but who had come to St. John's because of their interest in singing "the good old songs." Maybe that interest could be built on.

Just some random thinking .....

Ruth

I do think that if we do develop "program gatherings" (musical or otherwise) that these should be on a Sunday afternoon rather than an evening, because people don't really want to travel at night ... and what a wonderful way to fellowship on Sunday afternoons during the drab winter months!

## 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

Council Summary Notes will be posted on the bulletin board downstairs and in the social hall a week or two after the council meeting. Please look for these and read them, and if you have any questions, please ask your council members.

**DEADLINE FOR INFO  
TO BE PUT IN BULLETIN  
SHOULD BE RECEIVED  
BY THURSDAY OF  
EACH WEEK.**

### **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.

SEPTEMBER

Buddy Herr  
Roxann Emmick

### MONEY COUNTERS

OCTOBER

Carl Snyder  
Linda Salvatori



<http://stjohnsriverchurch.org/>

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