

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Emmaus, Pennsylvania
5th Sunday after Epiphany, February 5, 2012

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“**Bulletin Recycling**” is available in the back of the nave. However, please feel free to take either or both the liturgy bulletin and announcements with you.

Items for the **Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank** can be placed in the grocery cart at the rear of the nave or in the plastic bin in the coatroom outside the Parish Hall.

Souper Bowl of Caring – Today!

Be part of this movement that is sharing God's love with those in need. Please give generously. Every dollar donated will go to: **the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank, our 2012 Souper Bowl of Caring charity of choice.** St. John's Youth will be stationed at each exit to collect your contribution. Checks are to be made payable to St. John's Lutheran Church (memo: Souper Bowl).

Pastor Wayne is away at a seminar which will be followed by vacation and returning to the office on Wednesday, February 15. If you are in need of pastoral care, please call the Church Office or Pastor Lyn Langkamer at 610-782-9691. Contact Scott Alderfer, Council VP, at 610-351-1740 for congregational matters.

Reception for Melanie Werley – Please join us on Sunday, February 19, at 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall for a reception to thank Melanie for her 17 years of service. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

2011 Year-end Contribution Statements listing your gifts to the ministry of St. John's have been mailed. Please take the time as soon as possible to review your statement. If you have any questions, please call the Church Office. Please note that only contributions which were received in the Church Office by 4:00 p.m. on December 28 are included in your 2011 Statement.

Lunch Bunch reminder – Friday, February 10, at Perkins. Meet at 11:30 a.m. Please call February host, Sally Kohl at 610-967-2980, by tomorrow so reservations can be made.

Prayer Bead Ministry -- The next Prayer Bead Workshop will be Sunday, February 12, at 11:45 a.m., in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 worship service. We will be making additional prayer beads for the veterans at Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. We'll begin the workshop with lunch; bring a sandwich of your choice. Beverage and dessert will be provided. If you are interested in this ministry and would like to attend the workshop on Sunday, February 12, or if you are unable to attend any of the workshops, but, would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Vera Fillman, at 610-967-2610 or e-mail yefillman@verizon.net. We will be glad to furnish the materials and instructions to make the prayer beads.

Still Curious About Having an Alternative Worship Service at St. John's?

Congregation Council is. Congregation Council believes that the decisions we make now should always be considered with those in mind who are not yet among us here at St. John's. That's how we plan for the future. And that's why we continue to keep our hearts and minds open to possibilities for a meaningful, non-traditional worship service that would complement our current traditional services.

At the January Worship and Music Committee meeting, the committee heard from two of the lay worship leaders from Emmanuel's Lutheran Church in Bath. Bobby Siegfried and Chris Druckenmiller explained how Emmanuel's gradually implemented an alternative service at their congregation nearly 20 years ago and discussed some of their experiences in helping other congregations take successful steps toward this new worship experience. They have offered to come to speak to the people of St. John's to explain what alternative worship is, what it is not, and what it can be.

Bobby and Chris will be joining us in the Parish Hall on Sunday, February 26, during the Fellowship Hour following the 10:30 service. All are invited to stop by and listen and ask questions – whether you are just curious about alternative worship, or trying to figure out what all of the fuss is about, or want to hear how another congregation successfully implemented alternative worship, or even if you just want to try to find more reasons to dislike it. And yes, you folks from the 8:00 service should come back to church at 11:30 for this interactive presentation, even if you think you only have a casual interest in alternative worship.

Remember, any opportunity to join together to praise our awesome God is a great opportunity!
"For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20)