

JANUARY 2013

*Pastor's Note:* I am giving over this entire page to this important topic this month. Have a blessed and happy New Year!

## **Hope for Homeless Children in Emmaus**

As of this newsletter deadline there were 34 homeless children from 16 families in the East Penn School District. The Emmaus churches and clergy have been working with the EPSD Home and School Visitor (Social Worker) as well as the person who recently retired from that position to support those families with our limited resources.

Unfortunately, most of these families have not been able to receive support from the county, community agencies, or the conference of churches because those resources have been exhausted

As I am announcing in my Christmas Eve sermon, the Emmaus Ecumenical Ministries (EEM) is following up on the community forum held last spring in Emmaus by launching a new initiative to provide temporary transitional housing for homeless families (one family at a time, at this point). A local landlord has agreed to lease an apartment to the EEM for this use. A team of 3-4 volunteers from our local churches will work with the family on issues like financial management, job skills, etc., to help them move to self-sufficiency as quickly as possible (no more than about three months).

When the first family transitions to their own housing, the EEM apartment will be made available to another family in the same position. Families which participate in this program will be required to make measurable progress toward self-sufficiency on a weekly basis.

This initiative is a venture of faith for all the churches of Emmaus. We do not know where or how the Holy Spirit will lead us, but we trust that God will provide us with what is needed to do God's will in this time and place.

Financial support will be needed to sustain the lease on the apartment. Volunteers are needed to be part of the teams which will work with these families. If you feel God is calling you to help with this project please contact me. Please lift up this initiative in your daily prayers.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (from *Evening Prayer*)

**Notes of THANKS!**

The Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank wishes to express its gratitude for your donation of 13 bags of food and \$460 (Harvest Home).

Esther Stahl, Corresponding Secy.



Son, Jim Steager, expressed his and his mother's (Florence) sincere thanks for all the lovely birthday cards she received for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in November. It was such a lovely outpouring of wishes.



Thank you for the very nice cards I received from my friends at St. John's. I'm doing well now and able to attend church again. God Bless You, Marlee Seip



Dear Pastor Wayne & members of St. John's, Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They are really appreciated. John C. Wagner



Thank you to the many friends at St. John's for the birthday cards and the visits. To Pastor Lyn for bringing me communion and a great visit. Also Faye Schuler for communion and a visit. To Vera fillman and Michele Miller for bringing me the beautiful altar flowers. To Mary Bealer for taking me to doctor visits. I appreciate the many things people have done for me. . . .

Betty Dougherty

**Stewardship Corner**

As noted in last month's Newsletter, about 500 years ago Martin Luther said, "If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write." St. John's members **Sylvia Havlish** and **MaryAnn Miller** did not set out to change the world, but they sat down at their computers and wrote and both published a book in 2012! Last month's article focused on **Sylvia Havlish**, and this month's will feature **MaryAnn Miller**.

For many years MaryAnn was fascinated by the paranormal. Studying it became "sort of a hobby." When on a trip, she and husband Raymond often take a "ghost" tour. As a member of the Emmaus Historical Society, MaryAnn began conducting ghost tours of Emmaus. As she continued to learn about ghosts and anomalies and Emmaus history, she was unable to convey all of this information on the tours because of location or lack of time. The idea of writing a book was born. For her book, *Legends, Myths and Ghost Tales from Emmaus, PA*, MaryAnn acquired information from historical resources and interviewed many Emmaus residents. Her book shares certain aspects of the history of Emmaus and also entertains.

MaryAnn likes to be busy every minute and enjoys helping people. She can be found ushering at St. John's on many Sunday mornings. She also knots quilts for Christian Service and is in charge of KFC (Knitting for Charity). She serves as a greeter and bakes for fellowship. In the past, she helped with Vacation Church School and was a member of the Stewardship Committee. She and Raymond have been members of St. John's for 55 years. Their four children were baptized here and some are still members.

In the community, MaryAnn helps at the Bethel food bank. Sadly, one of her four children died of pancreatic cancer seven years ago. She now serves on the Pancreatic Cancer Walk Committee and is in charge of their raffle prizes. She also found a unique, personal fundraising opportunity. Her lemon tree bears many lemons each year. To use the lemons last year she decided to bake and sell lemon sponge pies and to contribute whatever she took in to pancreatic cancer research. Her goal was to raise \$100. The pies sold so well that she decided to bake peach and apple pies. To date she has raised \$500!

MaryAnn has many hobbies including sewing (she made the period costume she wears for the ghost tours), knitting, and crocheting. She also enjoys "running around" – going shopping, out to lunch, to museums, and to New York.

St. John's and the community are blessed to have good stewards like MaryAnn who make such good use of their time and talents.

## Rebuild the Wall Update (Bell Tower Debt Reduction Campaign)

In July 2005 the congregation voted to spend up to \$90,000 to repair the West Gable stonework. In May 2006 the congregation voted to spend up to \$350,000 to repair the bell tower. In both cases, the congregation committed itself to financially support these essential repairs. The congregation also authorized the Council to borrow funds from both external sources (ELCA Mission Investment Fund) and internal sources (Memorial and Endowment Funds). The congregation directed that the funds borrowed from internal sources be repaid within 15 years at an interest rate of 5% per annum. To help keep members aware of the remaining debt, the following report from the Finance Committee will appear periodically in the Newsletter.

	<u>Loans</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Total Debt</u>
Balances 12/31/11	\$283,787	\$63,787	\$347,574
2012 Contributions			
Received thru End of Nov.	-31,292		-31,292
2012 Accrued Interest thru			
End of Nov.		<u>10,602</u>	<u>10,602</u>
Balances 11/30/12	<u>\$252,495</u>	<u>\$74,389</u>	<u>\$326,884</u>

The above recap reflects the status of the loans from the Memorial Fund and the Rohrbach Endowment Fund to help fund the costs of the repairs. The 2012 contributions of \$31,292 have been forwarded to the ELCA Investment Fund for deposit in the Memorial and Rohrbach Endowment Funds.

Thank you for your support and your continuing use of the "Rebuild the Wall/Bell Tower Debt Reduction" envelopes which are included in your packet of offering envelopes

## 2012 Year-end Contribution Statements

Statements listing your gifts to the ministry of St. John's will be mailed in January. 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 December 30 are included in your 2012 Statement.

## Simply Giving

*A simple and convenient way to give*

What is *Simply Giving*®? It's an easier, simpler way to make your regular contributions to St. John's through automated giving. To learn more about how you can participate, call the church office.

## Notes of THANKS!

Thank you so much to everyone at St. John's for the flowers, cards and prayers. My return to health will begin with a bone marrow transplant in January at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Hospital in NYC. Carol and I must stay close to Sloan for treatments in NYC for 4 or 5 months after the transplant. I hope to see you all later in the year back at St. John's.

Regards, Ron Merkel

## Christmas Undecorating

Volunteers are needed to help undecorate the church on Sunday, January 6, immediately following worship. Any help you might be able to give would be appreciated.

## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### Annual Congregational Meeting

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Emmaus, PA

January 27, 2012  
11:35 a.m. – Dinner  
12:30 p.m. – Meeting

## Pick Up A Copy of the Annual Report

The booklet of Annual Reports will not be mailed to all members as we continue to seek ways to save money and be good stewards of the resources entrusted to us. The booklet will be available on the Sunday before the Annual Meeting (Jan. 20) and from the Church Office throughout the week before the meeting. Please pick up a copy and review it in preparation for the Annual Meeting. If you would like to receive it electronically, please e-mail the Church Office.

**St. John's Tape Ministry**

**Worship Services:** Jan. 13 & 27  
Homebound and other members and friends of St. John's who wish to receive a cassette tape of the worship service twice a month, please call the Church Office (610-965-9885).

Those who wish to receive a tape of St. John's worship service that is **not** on a scheduled Sunday contact the Church Office by 9:00 a.m. the preceding Friday. Those wishing to receive weekly Sunday worship bulletins please contact the Church Office.

**P.O.F. (People Over Fifty-five)**

No meeting in January.

**God's Gifts—Our Response**

(for the period Jan. 1 – Nov. 30, 2012)

\$244,668 = Regular Envelope  
Giving Expected

\$244,060 = Regular Envelope  
Giving Actually Rec'd

\$303,694 = Actual Income YTD

\$293,467 = Actual Expenses YTD

Please note actual regular envelope giving and actual income are adjusted for prepaid pledges.

Also, please note that actual expenses YTD are significantly lower than expected (budgeted) because we have not yet been able to fill the part-time Christian Ed. Director position, plus we didn't fill the Music Ministry Director position until July.

**Spaghetti Dinner a Huge Success**

The spaghetti dinner held on November 17 was a big success! I would like to thank the cooks, the kitchen staff, the youth who served the meal, the bakers, and other members who gave their time to make this an enjoyable evening. Hopefully this dinner will be an annual event. The extra money we received beyond our expenses (\$265.66) has been donated 50/50 to Groceries Plus Food Bank (here in Emmaus at Bethel Bible Fellowship Church) and ELCA World Hunger. Thanks again for a wonderful night of fellowship.  
Annette Roth

**Music Notes**

Thank you to the Singers, Ringers, and Instrumentalists who created the music for our Advent and Christmas Eve Services. We are especially grateful to parents and children for their participation in the Children's Christmas Eve Choir. As we join the Wise Men in following The Star, may we share that Light with those around us.

Regular rehearsals will begin with Senior Choir on Thursday, Jan. 3, 7:15 pm in the Sanctuary. If you like to sing, please join us! The Handbell rehearsals will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, Jan. 9, at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary. The Sunday School Music will begin their bi-weekly music experience in the choir room on January 13. The Sunday School teachers will receive the schedule on January 6.

Looking forward,  
Beth Ann Vaughn, Music Ministry Director

**Book Swap & Pot-luck Lunch**

Keep the Date!! On March 3, we will have a pot luck luncheon followed by a book and DVD swap. We will be starting the luncheon in the parish hall at 12 noon. A sign-up sheet will be on the parish hall bulletin board and you can sign up for a main course or a dessert. Drinks will be provided. There will be a large box in the parish hall coatroom for books and DVD's. Donations are welcome and you don't have to attend the event to donate, so clean off your shelves. Please have your donations in the box by 8 am on March 3. As an added attraction, Carrie Alpago will be having activities for young children. Welcome to all and get ready for your summer reading. Call 610-965-5419 with questions.

Joan Collette, Marybeth McFarland and Mary Bealer

**KFC – Knitting for Charity**

This group meets monthly to knit and crochet – chemo caps, prayer shawls, scarves and mittens, etc. No experience necessary – those just learning or who would like to learn are welcome to come and be shown how it's done. We gather on the first Thursday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Youth Room on the lower level (below the Parish Hall). Bring your needles hooks, and yarn or just come and see what it's all about!

## Adult Sunday School Class

The adult class will be meeting weekly in January. There will be a movie on Jan 20, so that Sunday we will meet in Room 2, otherwise the sessions are in room 1. Please join in the group, although the topics are always thought provoking- laughter abounds. Everyone is welcome!

Jan 6 - "Return to Obedience"- Judges, Chapter 10 , the lesson is about Gideon

Jan 13 - "Preparing for Leadership"- Judges, Chapter 13, the lesson is about Samson

Jan 20 - movie day, Heroes of the Bible - "Old Testament Heroines", includes some of the Bible's most prominent women like Sarah, Deborah and Ruth

Jan 27 - "Choosing a Community"- Ruth, Chapter 1

## BYOB (Bible) Study for Women

The Women's Bible Study group will not be meeting in January. The next meeting will be February 6, 7pm at Mary Bealer's home, so please mark the date. We will be doing a study and then finalizing the details for the restarting of the Prayer Chain. All those interested are welcome to attend. Please call Mary Bealer with questions 610-965-5419.

## Prayer Chain to Start Up

*This is the confidence we have in approaching God that if we ask according to His will He hears us. 1 John 5:14*

The Bible Study group (BYOB) will begin a prayer chain ministry February 2013. Our monthly study on February 6 will focus on the "Power of Prayer." It is our hope that any and all at St. John's who would like to be a "link" will join us in this venture of faith. To make it easier, there will be a choice to be informed of a prayer request by e-mail or phone. Those who opt for e-mail participation will need only to check e-mail daily and then include the request(s) in their prayers. This is a confidential and caring ministry. If you have further questions or would like to part of this venture please contact Mary Ann Aten, Mary Bealer, Faith Drescher, Ferne Druckenmiller, Vera Fillman, Eileen Gribben, Carlene Morrow, Faye Schuler or Linda Rebeck in the church office. All are welcome.

## Pastoral Acts

Baptisms: Dec. 9, 2012

Aven Michael Garrison

Son of Carmen & Michael Garrison

Braydon John Killino

Son of Michelle & Joseph Killino

Weddings: None

Funerals: Nov. 23, 2012

Betty Schwartz (died 11/19)

Dec. 10, 2012

Harold Gaal (died 12/6)

## Homebound Members

### Birthdays

None of which we are aware.

## Worship in January

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion at all services

Intinction at all services except 1<sup>st</sup> Sun.

Jan. 6 Epiphany of Our Lord

Jan.13 Baptism of Our Lord

Baptisms/Fellowship/BP Clinics

Jan.20 Epiphany 2

Jan 27 Epiphany 3

## Memorial Contributions

Contributions received during the period November 16, through December 15, 2012, totalled \$660 and were in memory of Vernon Oswald and Betty Schwartz.

## Help us Go Green!

It's never too late to sign up to receive your newsletter and/or other mailings from St. John's via e-mail. Just send us an e-mail indicating your preference. We have over 100 people helping St. John's save time & money!

**Food & Fellowship**

**Opportunities**

**LUNCH BUNCH – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday**

Join us for lunch on Friday, January 11, 11:30 a.m., at The Mercantile. Our host in January is Sally Kohl. Please RSVP to her at 610-967-2980 by Monday, January 7, so we can reserve adequate space for our group.

**BREAKFAST BUNCH – 4<sup>th</sup> Friday**

Join us for Breakfast on the fourth Friday in January – the 25<sup>th</sup> – at 8:00 a.m. at Superior. Please call the Church Office at 610-965-9885 by January 22 to make your reservation.

**WELCA**

(St. John’s Women of the ELCA)  
 Tuesday, January 15  
 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall  
 Program: Pastor Lyn Langkamer will be the guest speaker.

All women & friends of St. John’s are invited. Questions? Call WELCA President, Barbara LaMotte, at 610-967-1776

**Christian Service Workshop** will not meet in January

**January Question**

[from our Church Health Team]  
 Have you ever had a sense of God communicating with you?

<b>Nov. Attendance</b>			
	<u>8:00</u>	<u>10:30</u>	<u>SS</u>
11/4	80	84	52
11/11	90	90	55
11/18	85	165	65
11/25	76	119	43

**Sunday School News**

During the month of October and November, the Sunday School classes from Nursery through Senior High collected small toys, school supplies, and toiletry items for Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan’s Purse Organization. Samaritan’s Purse is a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to people around the world who are less fortunate than us. We collected enough items to fill 12 shoe boxes. The boxes were delivered to a local drop off center and we are awaiting news on their final destination. (see thank you below)

In December, Grades 3 through Grade 5 made Christmas Cards with the help of our Senior High Breakfast Club for 30 shut-in members. Nursery through Grade 2 made Christmas bookmarks to be included in the Christmas Cards.

On the first Sunday of each month, the Sunday School classes collect a “noisy” offering of loose change. At the end of the Sunday School year, this loose change is donated to the World Hunger Appeal. The next noisy offering will be collected on January 6.

To find out more of what is happening in Sunday School, visit one of the bulletin boards located in the hall under the Sanctuary or under the Parish Hall.

(thank you received)

Dear St. John’s Sunday School, It is a privilege to join together with others who make OCC a part of their missions and outreach plans. Thank you for blessing children with your shoebox gifts. Your gifts will bring hope, joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need. . . . We are hoping to reach a milestone mark of 100 million shoebox gifts distributed since 1993. Thank you again. In Christ’s Love, Becky Swavely, OCC Volunteer

**Flower & Bulletin Sponsors for 2013**

New sign-up lists are posted on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall for both the weekly altar flowers and the weekly bulletins. Please note that there are no standing orders for either of these. It is your responsibility to sign up or contact the church office to reserve a date. Flowers are \$16 per vase and there are two vases allowing for two sponsors. Bulletins are \$30 and one sponsor.

## Souper Bowl of Caring – February 3



In 1990, a Super Bowl Sunday prayer inspired a group of young people to do something more than celebrate a football game. They created the Souper Bowl of Caring, and have mobilized youth across the country to raise more than \$50 million for people in need. Please drop \$1 (or more) in a soup pot on Sunday, February 3. For more information on the Souper Bowl of Caring visit [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org).

## Preschool Enrollment

Preschool Enrollment for the 2013-14 school year will begin in January. Members of St. John's Lutheran Church and students currently enrolled in St. John's Christian Preschool may register beginning January 21. Registration will open to the public on January 28. Registration forms will be distributed to current students in January.



Registration forms may also be found online at the Preschool Link on St. John's Lutheran Church website ([www.stjohnsemmaus.org](http://www.stjohnsemmaus.org)). If you have any questions regarding your child's placement for next year, please feel free to contact Nancy Weiss, Director.

## Lay Eucharistic Visitors are a Welcome Sight

We currently have six members involved in this program: Mary Ann Aten, Mary Bealer, Faith Drescher, Cookie Heiser, Ginny Himler, and Faye Schuler. These dedicated volunteers make monthly visits to our homebound members bringing communion and greetings from St. John's. The homebound members are so happy for these visits! Won't you consider helping in this ministry? Speak with Pastor Wayne or call the church office for more information.

## December Council Highlights

- Approved proposed 2013 budget from Finance Committee to be presented at the Annual meeting.
- Approved adding a Noon Service on Good Friday.
- Approved distribution of proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner to be divided equally between World Hunger Appeal and the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank.
- Approved receiving Raymond Barbosa, April Alvarez, Joseph and Michelle Killino and Karen and Dennis O'Donnell as new members to St. Johns.

## Blood Pressure Screening

The blood pressure screening clinic will be held on Jan 13, after both services during the fellowship time. Please drop by and have your blood pressure checked.

Staying indoors during the cold and flu season seems like a good way to avoid getting sick. Actually staying indoors can make you more susceptible to germs that are trapped in the warm, stagnant air. Get outside and walk if the weather and your health allows.

## Address/Phone Changes

Please remember to notify the Church Office if you have an address or phone number change. And now, don't forget to let us know if your e-mail address changes!

**St. John's Newsletter**

*Published Monthly by*

St. John's Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages: 9:15 a.m.

TEL: 610-965-9885

FAX: 610-965-6065

Website: [www.stjohnsemmaus.org](http://www.stjohnsemmaus.org)

L.V. Hospital ID #: 279

Deadline: Noon the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month

Materials to: [info@stjohnsemmaus.org](mailto:info@stjohnsemmaus.org)

**Staff**

The Rev. Wayne A. Matthias-Long, Pastor

The Rev. Lyn L. Langkamer, Assisting Pastor

Elizabeth A. Vaughn, Music Ministry Director

Nancy B. Weiss, Preschool Director

Linda K. Rebeck, Office Manager

Anna Galante, Bookkeeper

Brian Dunton, Custodian

The Rev. Fred S. Foerster, Pastor Emeritus

**In Case of Inclement Weather**

Information will be posted in the following places:

- WFMZ, TV Ch. 69 – church listing
- WFMZ website: [www.wfmz.com](http://www.wfmz.com) Be sure to click on the Stormcenter's Closings & Delays, then on Church & Worship Listings (churches are not included in the school and business listings)
- Church Office answering machine outgoing message – call the church at 610-965-9885.

Worship services will normally not be cancelled, although it is possible in the case of extreme conditions. Members should not put themselves at risk to attend worship if the weather and/or road conditions are bad.

Sunday School will be cancelled if conditions suggest it is the prudent course of action. A decision to cancel Sunday School will usually be made by 6:30 a.m. Sunday morning.

**Please call or check the listing before venturing out when weather conditions are bad.**

Address Service Requested

JANUARY 2013

Emmaus, PA 18049  
501 Chestnut Street

NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. JOHN'S

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EMMAUS, PA  
Permit No. 4

# January 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>6 Epiphany</b> 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:15 Sunday School	Dec. 31 New Year's Eve Preschool Closed Noon - Church Office Closed	1 New Year's Day Preschool Closed Church Office Closed	2 9:15 Preschool	3 9 KFC 7:15 Sr. Choir	4 9:15 Preschool	5
<b>13 Baptism of Our Lord</b> Fellowship / BP Clinics Baptism 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 6 CM Class	7 9:15 Preschool	8 7 Council	9 9:15 Preschool 7 Mutual Min. Committee 7 Bell Choir	10 7 Finance Committee 7:15 Sr. Choir	11 9:15 Preschool 11:30 Lunch Bunch @ The Mercantile	12
<b>20 Epiphany 2</b> 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:15 Sunday School	14 9:15 Preschool	15 7 Property Committee 7:30 WEICA	16 9:15 Preschool 7 Bell Choir	17 9 Assemble Annual Report 7:15 Sr. Choir	18 9:15 Preschool	19
<b>27 Epiphany 3</b> 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 11:45 Annual Cong. Dinner & Meeting 6 CM Class	21 <b>MLKing Holiday</b> Preschool Closed Church Office Closed	22	23 9:15 Preschool 7 Bell Choir	24 7 Stewardship Committee 7:15 Sr. Choir	25 8 Breakfast Bunch @ Superior 9:15 Preschool	26
	28 9:15 Preschool	29 8:15 Assemble Newsletter	30 9:15 Preschool 7 Bell Choir	31 7:15 Sr. Choir		

## SERVING at ST. JOHN'S in JANUARY

DATE	Communion Asssts.	Lectors	Acolytes	Gift Presenters	Greeters	Flower Delivery
January 6 <i>Epiphany</i>	8 Mary Ann Aten & Kim Hall 10:30 Nancy Bleam & Neal Heimbach	8 John Ashcraft 10:30 Joan Collette	8 Cody Masters 10:30 Alex Moudy	8 Masters family 10:30 Reiss family	8 Ray & Teri Vogel 10:30 Tom Stoisits	Bea Eichenberg
January 13 <i>Baptism of Our Lord</i>	8 Richard Keim & Kathy Mintzer 10:30 Jess Spayd & Marybeth McFarland	8 Mary Ann Aten 10:30 Helga Cury	8 Rachel Heiney 10:30 Joe Harps	8 Prutsman family 10:30 Ehrig family	8 Dusty & Bill Springer 10:30 Carol & Jim Young	Doris Heim
January 20 <i>Epiphany 2</i>	8 Judie Herb & Karen Matthias-Long 10:30 Alexis Kainz & Ann Pickin	8 Karen Blayle 10:30 Peg Duelfer	8 Courtney Miller 10:30 Jess Spayd	8 Miller family 10:30 Cury family	8 Peg Young & Leanna Reiss 10:30 Faye & Ron Schuler	Neal Heimbach
January 27 <i>Epiphany 3</i>	8 Mahlon Hariu & Carlene Morrow 10:30 Richard Keim & Neal Heimbach	8 Faith Drescher 10:30 Chris Cury	8 Talyn Wimmer 10:30 Liz Spayd	8 Kainz family 10:30 Sauter family	8 Linda Satter 10:30 Roberta Schantzenbach	Mae Kemmerer

**USHERS:** 8:00 a.m. Martin Godusky, Harvey McGarry, Mary Ann Miller, Raymond Miller, Charles Stout  
10:30 a.m. Albert Wicand, Robert Drennan, Norman Havlish, Barbara LaMotte, David LaMotte

**ALTAR GUILD:** Joan Dougherty, Roma Lindstrom, Annette & Jim Roth, Faye & Ron Schuler, Carol Young, Connie Young

# SYNOD NEWS

The Spirit of Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

January 2013

## Looking Forward to Our Ministry Together Doing What Matters



I am looking forward to our ministry together in 2013!

What makes me excited about our future together?

- ♦ The vitality and commitment of members I meet during congregational visits;
- ♦ What I read in newsletters about congregations finding ways to **do what matters** using insights from our workshops.

Here are just four snippets from congregational newsletter articles:



God is "on the loose" in the world – and we at St. John's Church are busy noticing God in action. During Vacation Bible School, we wrote down many of our "God sightings" and posted them on the wall in the Sanctuary. In August several people will share stories during worship of where they have witnessed God active in creation, in people, in our work and in our play.



The leadership of [our congregation] has found that becoming involved with the "Do What Matters" experience of the Northeastern PA Synod to be helpful in our life together. At the meeting at St. John's, Nazareth, more of our leaders became enthusiastic about the possibilities of the program in our particular setting...and we will use information



from the program as a basis for our annual leadership retreat.



Our first congregational "Do What Matters" workshop was interesting for the group that showed up. We had almost 30 people in attendance. It was a good start to our discussion on where we would like our church to go in the future. Please come and share your ideas at the next meeting.



We are beginning to see the light! The council meeting is no longer a dreadful 2 to 3 hours of indecision, misunderstanding and non-action; it is a pleasure! The members of council leave the meeting energized by the Spirit.



I'd love to know what excites you about what your congregation is doing. Let me know at [bishop@nepsynod.org](mailto:bishop@nepsynod.org) and I will make sure your story gets into Synod News and on the synod website ([www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org)).

Tell me your story. It will help me share my joy about how God is on the loose in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.



Happy New Year!

Bishop Samuel Zeiser





## 2013 Learning Ministries Day

**Saturday, January 26, 2013**

### *Weaving Our Faith Stories*

**Keynote presenter: Pastor Paul Lutz** (Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale). Pr. Lutz will talk about biblical storytelling. Hearing scripture told as story engages the listener in a powerful way and helps us see how our stories connect with the ongoing story of God's salvation.

**Location:** St. John Lutheran Church, Boyertown

**Cost:** \$25 (\$30 after January 11)

**New workshop added:** In addition to the many workshops that are available, another workshop, *Telling the Story through Music*, was added recently. Tom Yenser will lead this workshop.



A schedule, registration form, and workshop list may be found at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).



### Congregations: Support the 2013 World Hunger Lock-in

Youth in grades 7-12, young adults, advisors, and parents will gather at nine different locations around our synod on **January 5-6** for the **2013 World Hunger Lock-in**.

Congregations can support the Lock-in in multiple ways. Click the Hunger Lock-in link on the synod website ([www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org)) to check out six ways your congregation can be involved and to see the list of supplies needed for the hygiene kits that participants will be assembling for victims of Superstorm Sandy. Supplies are needed by **January 2**.



### Youth: Save These Dates!

**June 21-23, 2013** are the dates for the annual Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Lutheran Youth Fellowship Assembly at Muhlenberg College!

Make new friends. Sing. Study scripture. Have fun together. Worship. Discuss topics that matter to you.

Learn more by watching the video from last year's assembly. You'll find the link on the home page of the synod website, [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org). Check it out! And discover why *you* should be there.

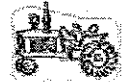


By the way, that's **Rachel Kurtz's** awesome song, *Make a Difference*, you can hear in the background of the video.

### Farm Family Appreciation Celebration



**Saturday, March 16, 2013**



**Hamburg Field House**

Join friends and families from across the synod at the annual farm family appreciation celebration.

This popular event has been held for over 10 years. A dinner buffet from 7-8 p.m. will be followed by a square dance and classic and modern country music by "The Majestics," with line dance music during intermissions, from 8 to 11 p.m.



**Information and a registration form** are available at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).



### 2013 Synod Assembly

**June 14-15, 2013**

**Mohegan Sun Arena,  
Wilkes-Barre PA**