

## EASTER 2009

### We Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord



Saturday, April 11;  
5:30 p.m.

#### **The Great Vigil of Easter**

This beautiful worship experience begins in the dimness of Holy Week with a candle lighting ceremony and the reading of scripture telling the sacred story of salvation. The service progresses with the renewal of Baptismal vows and culminates in the brightness of the first Easter celebration of Holy Communion. The Paschal Candle is lit as the visible sign of the presence of the Risen Christ in our midst. All are welcome to participate in this first Easter celebration!

Sunday, April 12;  
8:00 & 10:45 a.m.

#### **Easter morning celebrations of Holy Communion**

Both services will include special music by our chancel choir and a re-telling of the story of our Lord's Resurrection. PLEASE NOTE – the first morning service will begin at 8 a.m. (not 7:30 as in previous years).

Sunday Church School;  
9:15 a.m.

#### **Easter Program**

All members of the congregation are invited to attend this children's celebration of Easter in the church. Refreshments following the program.

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## Holy Week Worship Schedule

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### Palm Sunday – April 5

Holy Communion will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 4, and at 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, April 5. All services will include the blessing and distribution of palm branches and the reading of the Passion.

### Holy Thursday – April 9

Holy Communion at 12:10 and 7:30 p.m.

The evening service will include the ritual of Foot Washing and the Stripping of the Altar in preparation for Good Friday. If you wish to participate in the foot washing, contact Pastor Langkamer.

### Good Friday – April 10

8 a.m. – Annual Communion Breakfast  
1 p.m. – Stations of the Cross



## Good Friday Breakfast

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Our traditional Good Friday Breakfast will be held on Friday, April 10, at 8 a.m. in the downstairs Great Room. This breakfast is sponsored by the Worship and Music Committee. An informal Holy Communion will be celebrated, a light breakfast will be served, and an inspirational message will be



offered by our former assistant pastor, Pastor Nelson Quinones. The cost of the breakfast is \$4 per person. Tickets can be purchased after weekend worship services or from the church office.

The deadline for securing tickets is Holy Monday, April 6.

### Tiptoeing into Spring

*(a poem written by Lillie Lorrene Thorman, a friend of shut-in, Anna Vargo)*

*Winter days are fast slipping by, even the birds have begun to fly  
to their nesting homes farther north where from eggs fledglings will burst forth.*

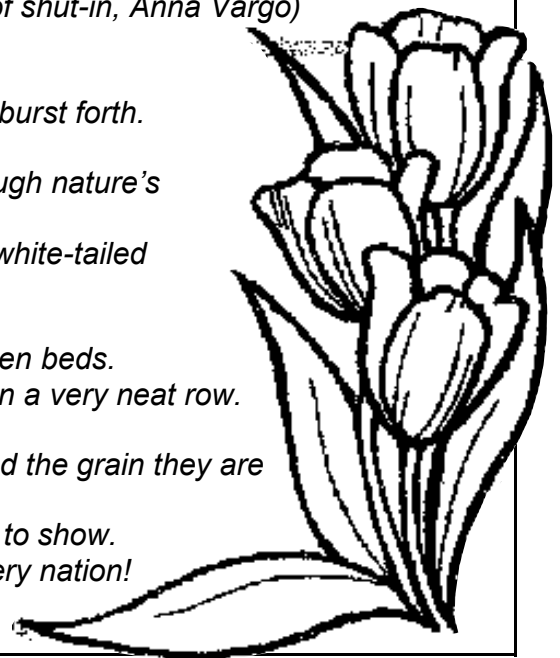
*The snowdrops are first to show their faces poking their heads through nature's  
places;*

*Crocuses are abundant on many lawns while in the forest are new white-tailed  
fawns.*

*Then daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips red are blooming in many garden beds.  
Chipmunks are lifting their heads from below leaving rooms set up in a very neat row.*

*Cattle are anxious to enjoy some grazing while farmers have planted the grain they are  
raising.*

*Spring is ethereal in its exotic glow; God's in his glory, his creativity to show.  
We thank you, God, for your creation that brings such beauty to every nation!*



## Spring Afternoon Communion Service

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This year's spring afternoon Communion Service sponsored by our Pastoral Care Team will be held on Sunday, May 17, at 2:30 p.m. This service is especially designed for our elderly members who have difficulties attending our regularly scheduled services. The service

lasts about ½ hour and communion is served in the pews. Following worship, fellowship and refreshments are provided in the Gathering Place. Invite and offer to provide transportation for some of our older members.

## Tape Ministry to Shut-ins

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Sending audio tapes of worship services for our shut-ins to enjoy is an important part of our pastoral care ministry at St. John's. Many thanks to the sound system operators who tape the services and special thanks to Bruce Sieger who duplicates the tapes and prepares them for mailing each week. We are always

looking for more sound system operators. If you might be interested, contact Jo Wieder in the church office. Also, if you would appreciate receiving tapes of services or know of any shut-in member who would, contact Jo. The church also provides tape players for those who need them.

## Thanks!!!

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St. John's members,

Many thanks for your cards, phone calls and prayers during my recent illness.

Also, Pr. Langkamer, thank you for your support and timely visit at the hospital. It was greatly appreciated.

Richard W. Kleppinger

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank, we thank you for your recent donation of 7 bags of food.

Because of your caring and sharing the hungry people of our community are being fed. Again, thank you for your donation.

Sincerely,  
Esther A. Stahl, Corres. Sec.

**Annual Congregational Picnic**

*Mark your calendars –  
this year's Congregational Picnic  
will be held on Sunday, June 21,  
beginning at 2 p.m.  
at the Lindburgh Park.  
More information will be coming  
in next month's Spire.*



## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Will you host a Coffee Hour following worship some Sunday during the up-coming months? It's really very simple. The coffee and paper supplies are provided by the church – all you need to do is to provide some goodies to share and oversee the fellowship time in the Gathering Place. If you are willing to help, sign the sheet on the bulletin board at the date you wish (the bulletin board is outside of the Gathering Place on the Fifth Street side). Many thanks to all those who have helped keep our coffee hours going in the past!



## ELCA World Hunger Appeal

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Make a special donation to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal during this season of Lent. Offering envelopes are found in the bulletin boards outside of the Gathering Place. Contributions can be placed in the offering plate at any worship service. Funds collected are used to fight poverty and hunger at home and throughout the world.



## Second Annual Synod LIFT Event

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Set aside Saturday, June 13, and spend the day on the beautiful campus of Muhlenberg College at our Northeastern PA Synod LIFT event. The varied schedule of activities will include 30-minute sacred-music concerts in the Muhlenberg Chapel. Two of the concerts will be of special interest to members of St. John's.

From 10:45 to 11:15 a.m., Andrea-Langkamer Smith, soprano, will present a vocal recital of spirituals and other sacred works. (Andrea is Pastor and Marti's daughter). Andrea, a graduate of the Indiana University School of Music, sings and teaches voice in Allentown. With her warm and elegant voice, Andrea's interpretations of these sa-

cred classics are filled with great emotion and meaning.

From 2:00 to 2:30 p.m., our Director of Music, Stephen Williams, will offer a recital on the 48-rank, 2,600 pipe Holtkamp organ in the chapel. We are so blessed to have Stephen. Any extra chance to hear the brilliant playing of this Lehigh Valley virtuoso is not to be missed.

## We're Going to the *Iron Pigs*

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St. John's will have a block of seats at two Iron Pigs games this summer – Thursday, June 25, and Tuesday, July 28. If you have reserved seats, the money for the

tickets is due now. Use the envelopes found in the Gathering Place and turn your money into Jo in the church office.

## We Saw You In the News . . .

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A publication of Good Shepherd Home ran an article about **Linda Bollinger**, a recreational therapist, using her experience to teach recreational managers in the military how to get wounded warriors back to enjoying sports and

leisure activities that are important to a healthy lifestyle.

The March 3 issue of the Morning Call ran an article "Helping Veterans Heal" looking at the Treatment Trends renovations of the **St. John's Sunday School Building**.

"Angel Army Scores a Victory" in the March 13 issue of the Morning Call pictured **Gloria Halpin** and others at the Senior Center, Allentown, with the gentleman who painted their activities room.

## Altar Guild Meeting

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The Altar Guild will meet in the chancel on Sunday, May 17, at 9:15 a.m. At this meeting, Pastor will lead a discussion of worship and set-up procedures will be reviewed. All members are urged to attend.

## Musical Happenings—The Arts at St. John's

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### Allentown Band in Concert

The Allentown Band will be performing along with Stephen Williams on our organ here in our chancel in a special spring concert scheduled for Sunday, March 29, at 4 p.m. The cost for this concert is \$10; \$5 for students and seniors.

### Noon-Ten Concerts in April, every Tuesday at 12:10 p.m.

April 7 – Soprano **Grace Adele Spruiell** will sing music appropriate for the Tuesday in Holy Week including arias from oratorios, Spirituals, and well-known hymns. Grace is from Bethlehem and has sung at St. John's many times, including her unique and moving presentation of African-American heritage in song.

April 14 – Organist **Ethel Geist** will offer a delightfully varied program that will tour the many sounds of St. John's pipe organ. Ethel is from Quakertown, spent most of her life as a music educator, until recently was Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Perkasio, and now

serves as organist at Abington Presbyterian Church.

April 21 – Guitarist **Ted Williams** will return to St. John's for another exceptional performance. From Macungie, he has been hailed by local press as "a first rate classical guitarist with masterful ability" and a review stated "deft performance by classical guitarist leaves crowd breathless." He is a true virtuoso, and not to be missed.

April 28 – Resident organist **Stephen Williams** will round out this series with a program of organ favorites including Gigout's Grand Choir Dialogue, Bach's Jesus, joy of

man's desiring, Franck's Piece Heroique, Widor's Toccata, and a few others.

The concerts last about 45-50 minutes. The setting is friendly and informal. Artists are encouraged to talk about their music with the audience. We have famous goodies and coffee or tea during our fellowship after each concert. Parking is available in our church lot, on the street (the meters take quarters), and in the Municipal Lot on south Sixth Street (behind the old Sunday School building). The concerts are free (donations appreciated). All are always welcome!!

### April 19 concert

We also have a "Sunday" concert on April 19 at 4 p.m. Stephen Williams will play an organ recital including some works that will test the reinforcement of St. John's stone walls: Bach's monumental Fantasia and fugue in G minor, Paul Hindemith's Sonata I composed in 1938 and considered 'degenerate music' by the Nazi government, one of two organ pieces by Jacques Ibert Choral - Justorum animae in

manu Dei sunt, a beautifully woven piece by Italian composer Respighi, a Wedding March (intended to replace the 'famous' one) by Ernest Suttle, and two pieces by contemporary blind French composer Gaston Litaize. The concert is free, reception following. We hope to see you here for an afternoon of delightful music played on one of the finest instruments in the Lehigh Valley.

### Cantatica Concert "I Hear America Singing"

Sunday, June 14, 4 p.m. Vocal and instrumental music from America. Voices, blue grass band, string quartet, piano, flute and percussion.

## First Communion Classes Organized

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Pastor Langkamer will hold a meeting to organize this year's First Communion class on **Monday, April 20, at 7 p.m.**, in the downstairs Great Room. Any child who is

at least 9 years old is invited to attend this session along with his/her parents. The dates and times of classes will be established at this meeting. Children who participate in a

series of classes with pastor will be invited to receive their first Holy Communion on Sunday, May 17. Speak to pastor if you have further questions about this program.

## Catechetical Class News

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Our catechetical class year is rapidly drawing to a close. The class will meet two times during the month of April: Tuesday, April 7, and Tuesday, April 21, from 7 to 8 p.m. The

Rite of Confirmation will be celebrated for Taylor Osley and Loren Weiss on Pentecost Sunday, May 31.

## Sunday School Lenten Project

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The Sunday School students are filling the Lenten Banks to benefit the PATHWAYS program of the Lehigh County Conference of Churches. They are also collecting toiletries to be distributed by PATHWAYS. You can see the contest between Pre-School through 6<sup>th</sup>

grade and 7<sup>th</sup> through High School in the Window wells of the Great Room. The classes bringing in the most toiletries and returning the most Lenten banks will receive a special recognition after Easter.

## Celebration in Honor of Laurie Christman

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On Sunday, May 3, Laurie Christman will be recognized as she celebrates her tenth anniversary of ministry with us at St. John's. Laurie began serving as our Director of Christian Education on March 1, 1999, and in addition to those duties presently serves as our Office

Manager. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Laurie will be honored at the 10:45 a.m. service and at a reception immediately following in the Gathering Place. Plan to be present to greet and congratulate Laurie.

## Blood Donors

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As of February 28 St. John's has 11 donations toward our yearly goal of 85. If you've not given this year, or if you've never given, please consider doing so—it only takes a short time and can mean life to another person. Call Miller-Keystone Blood Center—800-223-6667—or visit their website—[www.GIVEaPINT.com](http://www.GIVEaPINT.com)—for more information.

Thank you to the following persons who donated blood during the month of February:

Sharlene Bortz  
Glendora Kemmerer  
Robert Wolfe

Ronald Hannis  
Anne McClelland  
Bill York

Andrew Hausman  
Richard Schreiter



<i>Financial Status of St. John's</i>		
Unified Fund	February 2009	Year to Date
<b>Income</b>	\$29,968.39	\$53,419.18
<b>Expenses</b>	\$30,816.40	\$67,316.29
<b>Excess, (Deficit)</b>	(\$848.01)	(\$13,897.11)

## Our Ministry of Special Gifts

*To the Memorial Fund in Loving memory of:*

**Grace Bartholomew** by:  
Christine & Gary Banzhoff

## Deaths

May God grant His promise of the Kingdom to those who have loved and served Him in life especially:

**Mark Clewell**, March 6

**Dorothy Clewell**, March 14

**Jennie Farkas**, March 15

May our prayers and compassion reach out to their families who mourn their loss.

## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- 1 Pray for Danelle & Mark Smith♥, Tyson Stuber\*.
- 2 Pray for Chanel Dedic\*, Rita Cichello\*, Ryan Halpin\*, Marianne Leh\*.
- 3 Pray for Daniel Gerhart\*, Lawrence A. Greene\*, Sarah Moessner\*, Rachel Moessner\*.
- 4 Pray for Robert Bennett, Jr.\*, Gladys Erie\*.
- 5 Pray for John Moyer III\*, Gail Schreiber\*.
- 6 Pray for Kristel Gartner\*, Rosemary Kurtz\*, Nicholas Hoffman.
- 7 Pray for Elaine Beltrame\*, Ervin Kellogg\*, Teshia Osley\*.
- 8 Pray for April Henry\*, Camryn Barnett\*, Richard W. Miller\*.
- 9 Pray for James Hausman\*, James Wanamaker\*.
- 10 Pray for Kimberly Cramsey\*, Shauna Hausman\*, Andrew Hausman\*.
- 11 Pray for Kerri DeLorenzo\*, Sarah Herman\*.
- 12 Pray for Kyle Adams\*, Shirley Lentz\*, Michael Pletcher\*, David A. Marselles\*.
- 13 Pray for Isabella Figueroa\*, Anna Fink\*.
- 14 Pray for Curtis Dretsch\*, Henry Halpin\*, Kathleen & Cosmo DePinto♥.
- 16 Pray for Elizabeth DeLong\*.
- 17 Pray for Jason Hausman\*, Nolan Kacsur\*, Sharon Shiner\*, John & Rhonda Moyer♥, Fred & Evelyn Crone♥.
- 18 Pray for Gisela & Gary Reinhart♥, Kathleen DePinto\*, Robert Glose\*, David Wertman\*.
- 19 Pray for Thomas & Regina Boka♥
- 20 Pray for Robert Maza\*
- 21 Pray for Irene Kozemchak\* and Gisela Reinhart\*, Peter Wolfe\*.
- 22 Pray for Allen W. & Donna Swoyer♥, Jennifer Kacsur\*, Kaitlyn Young\*, Isabella Shotwell\*, Bernie Baran\*.
- 23 Pray for Cindy & Richard Kula♥, Jeanette & Martin Nichol♥, Joseph Ross\*, Morgan Walczak\*.
- 24 Pray for Edward & Donna Butz♥, David & Jacqueline Haver♥, Richard Haydt\*, Craig Haydt\*, Jeffrey Keck\*.
- 25 Nancy & Edwin Miller♥, Lisa & Michael Saylor♥ Todd Brobst\*, Tara Corraera\*.
- 26 Pray for Frederick & Mary Jane Mahler♥, Marian Bradley\*, Dorothy Hopkins\*, Bruce Sieger\*.
- 27 Pray for Jennifer & Christopher Kacsur♥, Nicholas Keck\*.
- 28 Pray for Katharine Burgess\*, Trevor Webber\*.
- 29 Pray for Janice & Charles Hess♥, Taylor Millette\*, Dalton Morganello\*.
- 30 Pray for Constance Fritz\*, Alexis Swoyer\*.

\*birthday ♥anniversary



## Ushering at St. John's by Wally Ely

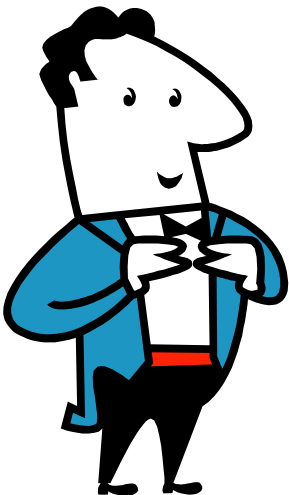
I have been an usher at St. John's Lutheran Church one way or another since I was eleven years old. Serving as an acolyte regularly on Sundays kept me occupied during the services, but a scheme hatched by Teddy Litzenberger and me brought me closer to the Narthex And the ushers.

Ted and I decided to help the congregation enter the sanctuary on cool spring nights during lent – Wednesday evening services and Holy Week. We stationed ourselves at the front door and acted like doorman at a ritzy hotel, holding the door open as each worshipper arrived. There was no NEED for this, we just thought it was a neat thing to do – so we did it.

As the ushers got to know us, they invited us to consider becoming part of the usher corps, a unique and rare invitation. I agreed to become an usher – Teddy did not.

In the late 1940's, and continuing for many more years, the ushers were a sight to behold! They were well regimented under the leadership of Robert Reichard. One couldn't wear a sweater, or loafers, and be allowed down the center aisle at St. John's in those days! And these were the days before females were permitted to help with the job.

St. John's ushers marched down the aisle in synchronized steps, right out of West Point. There were always eight in perfect formation. Additional ushers were stationed along the side aisles to trade over flowing offering plates for empty ones. You had to see this process to believe it – no other church in Allentown could boast an ushering corps as professional as this one!



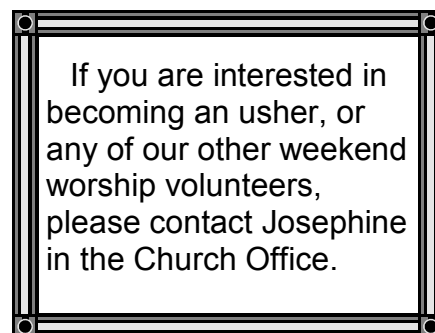
Ushers wore formal attire at St. John's. When I agreed to become an usher, my Mom had to have a pair of hand-me-down striped pants altered to fit my skinny frame. She bought me a black dress jacket and a shirt with a separate wing collar that was attached in the back by a button. The French cuffs required cuff links. Finally, one of the ushers donated a gray and black striped necktie to this young beginner. Black socks and shiny black shoes sealed the deal, and I was dressed for my new volunteer job.

That costume worked for much of the year, but for the summer months, usher attire reverted to matching white suits with burgundy neckties. This was another major wardrobe change for me, but I came up with a white suite to conform.

Over the years the appearance and standards of the usher corps changed – not always for the better. Today the group is loosely knit and hanging together by a thread.

Rather than being a burden to the congregation and the rest of the ushers, I have determined that my limited mobility means that now is the time to retire from this cherished assignment at the church. But I'll be watching!

If any of the church old-timers has additional memories, pass them along to me and I'll write an update to this story using your thoughts.



## VESTRY

Lisa Green , President  
Carol Leffler, Secretary

Gavin MacManaman, Vice President  
Donald Brannan, Treasurer

Jennifer Sontak, Recording Secretary

Barry Brobst  
Carol Baker-Kratzer  
Harry Sibbach

Lona Farr  
Diane Kellogg  
Donna Waldt

Lawrence D. Greene  
Ronald Reaman  
Janice Walker

## Staff

The Rev. Lyn L. Langkamer

Laurie Christman, *Chr. Ed. Dir./Office Administrator*  
Josephine Wieder, *Vol. Coordinator*  
Willard Moll, *Sexton*

Stephen C. Williams, *Director of Music & Organist*  
Tom Swierzewski, *Bookkeeper*  
Henry Halpin, *Sexton*

Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Church Office: 610-435-1587 Fax: 610-435-6505

E-mail: [stjohnslutheran@enter.net](mailto:stjohnslutheran@enter.net)

Music Office: 610-435-1641 e-mail: [stepwill@enter.net](mailto:stepwill@enter.net)

We're on the Web – [stjohnsallentown.org](http://stjohnsallentown.org)

## This and That

Did you know that **Lutheran Congregational Services** is the Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate for our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod? During the past year 203 volunteers put in over 6,000 hours to help restore 5 homes and build another from the ground up. Neighbors who are in despair following a disaster find hope because of your giving to Lutheran Congregational Services. For more information about this ministry or other ministries of LCS, go to [www.lutherancongregationalservices.org](http://www.lutherancongregationalservices.org) or call 610-770-9205.

May 12—Meet with Pennsylvania bishops, legislators, and fellow advocates in Harrisburg for the annual **Lutheran Day at the Capitol event**.

Andrew Genzler, director of the ELCA Washington Office, will be the keynote speaker.

More information on the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) website at [www.lamp.org](http://www.lamp.org).

## Sponsors Are Needed For the Following:

Bulletins- April 5, 19, 26; Cost \$30.00

Altar Flowers-April 12; Cost \$40.00

Chapel Flowers- April 5, 9, 19, 26; Cost \$15.00

Chancel Flowers- April; Cost \$60.00

Palm Tree Sponsorships are available for Palm Sunday. The cost of each will be \$30.00. We order 10 trees and we need 9 sponsors.

Spire Sponsorship for August is also available at a cost of \$50.00.

Anyone wishing to sponsor any of the above, please call Josephine at the church office 610-435-1587.