

The Disciple

The Good News of St. John soars like an eagle!

St. John's United Church of Christ
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Volume 14, Issue 8

October 13, 2015

Pastor Karen's
Korner

November is the time when our thoughts turn to celebrating the holiday of Thanksgiving. As Americans, when we hear the word *Thanksgiving* we might think about Pilgrims and Native Americans feasting together or the Mayflower. Perhaps our minds are more focused on family reunions, the food, the parades and football.

For some, this holiday will be the first Thanksgiving minus a loved one's presence, and that absence will change the tone of the day.

The Bible is full of stories and words of thanksgiving. Our ancestors in the faith thanked God for deliverance from enemies, the end of disasters, for the majesty of creation and for the gift of life and salvation.

Every day can be a thanksgiving day. We don't have to wait for the fourth Thursday of November to give thanks. When we wake up, we can thank God for bringing us through the night to a new day of opportunities. We can be grateful for food, shelter, work, family, friends, our senses, the ability to learn and so much more.

Take some time to say, "Thanks, God, for giving me the things I need, for providing the basics."

Thank God for Jesus and the Holy Spirit, for the gifts of hope, faith, joy, peace, love, companionship, perseverance and strength.

The list of people and situations we are grateful for is extensive.

I thank God for all of you.

Give thanks with a grateful heart every day.

Happy Thanksgiving,

Pastor Karen



Saturday Night before bed, October 31, 2015 turn clocks back one hour.

Daylight Savings time ends at 2:00am on Sunday November 1. If you forget to turn your clocks back you will be an hour early for worship but you will be just in time to join the **Adult Forum** in the Trinity Room.



- October 18–21st Sunday after Pentecost–Isaiah 53: 4-12; Psalm 91: 9-16; Hebrews 5: 1-10; Mark 10: 35-45
- October 25–22nd Sunday after Pentecost–Jeremiah 31: 7-9; Psalm 126; Hebrews 7: 23-28; Mark 10: 46-52
- November 1–23rd Sunday after Pentecost–Ruth 1: 1-8; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9: 11-14; Mark 12: 28-34
- November 8–24th Sunday after Pentecost–Ruth 3: 1-5; 4: 13-17; Psalm 127; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12: 38-44
- November 15–25th Sunday after Pentecost–1 Samuel 1: 4-20; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10: 11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13: 1-8
- November 22–Reign of Christ–2 Samuel 23: 1–7; Psalm 132: 1-12, (13-18); Revelations 1: 4b-8; John 18: 33-37
- November 29–1st Sunday of Advent–Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 25: 1-10; 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21: 25-36

Messages
from the



Sunday of Remembrance

On All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1, during worship, we will remember those of our members who have entered into eternal life. We will light a candle and toll the bell for William H. Marsh and Betty J. Appel. Another candle will be lit for all others who have died. Please attend this special service.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

The annual ecumenical community Thanksgiving eve service will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 417 N. Seventh Street, Allentown, on Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30pm. Pastor Karen will be preaching. Mark your calendars.

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals Begin

It's that time of year again. Rehearsals for our Christmas pageant will begin on Sunday, November 22, at 9:30am in the chapel. If your child wants to participate, be there so we can plan for their participation.

Advent Breakfast

Join us for breakfast and an intergenerational Advent experience, Sunday, November 29, 9:30am in the social hall.

Annual Peace Pilgrimage

The annual Peace Pilgrimage from Nazareth to Bethlehem is scheduled for Saturday, December 12. The walk happens rain or shine. See Pastor Karen for details.

Stand Up to Bullies Workshop

Bullying happens not just to children but to adults as well. The Lehigh Conference of Churches Justice and Advocacy workshop will address the areas of domestic violence, gun violence, human trafficking and systemic racism in schools/school-to-prison pipeline through presentations and workshops. The suggested donation is \$5, Saturday, November 7 at First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Crest and Tilghman Streets, Allentown. Time: 8:30am – 1:00pm. To register or for more information check out: bullies.pprj.org.



Nov. 1– Sunday of Remembrance Service

Nov. 1–Youth Halloween Party

Nov. 25–Community Thanksgiving Eve Service, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Pastor Karen preaching, 7:30pm, page 2

Nov. 29–First Sunday in Advent, Advent Breakfast 9:30am, page 2

Looking Ahead

Dec. 20– Children's Christmas Pageant

Dec. 21–National Homeless Memorial Day

Dec. 24–Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30pm

Adult Forum

Join us each Sunday morning for challenging and informative programs in Adult Forum. We gather in the Trinity Room for coffee and fellowship at 9:30am. We share joys and concerns around 9:45am and begin the program shortly thereafter. COME JOIN US!

Oct. 18—Session two of "Ethics of Care."

Oct. 25—We will view the next part of Bart Ehrman's video on the New Testament.

Nov. 1—Bonnie Falla will finish her presentation on the history of Communion.

Nov. 8—We will welcome either Carol Noga or Gloria Roth, who will give us an update on Early Bloomers, the daycare center at St. John's. The students receive scholarship grants from our St. John's Community Benevolence Fund.

Nov. 15—Consistory President Jeff Rissell will lead another presentation/discussion on Open and Affirming (ONA), the UCC initiative on acceptance and affirmation of LGBTQ persons.

Nov. 22—Part 4 of Bart Ehrman's video series on the New Testament.

Nov. 29—Our annual intergenerational Advent Breakfast in the Social Hall!

150th Anniversary Celebration

St. John's Anniversary Choir

St. John's anniversary celebration of the music ministry of our congregation will be held on **June 5, 2016**. We are planning now to have a reunion choir and invite back anyone who has sung in St. John's choirs! Music will be distributed and we will rehearse early the morning of the service, so no special rehearsals are needed. What we do need are names, voice parts, and addresses of former singers. If you know anyone who used to sing here, give that information to our music director Lois Mease. She will see that everyone is invited.

Plan B

"Plan B" is the title of a meditation in *Upper Room* for October 5, 2015. Its content resonated with me, especially related to our Stewardship Campaign whose Bible text ends with a Jeremiah passage "...to give you a future with hope." So often in life we have plans that don't materialize and we are very disappointed, but then from a future vantage point we realize what happened was for the best. In my own life, when a very long-term relationship did not result in marriage, I was heartbroken. But in retrospect, I would not have met Allan and had the wonderful relationship we have.

I think we can all identify with plans not materializing. That too happens in the church. We don't know what our future at St. John's will be but we hope and trust in God. In August, four wonderful people joined our church and they have nurtured that hope. During the next month we will hear from several of them telling us why they are part of a church and why St. John's at Sixth and Walnut.

In 2016 St. John's will be celebrating our one hundred fiftieth anniversary. Some members have not given financially in the past. Perhaps symbolically this anniversary can provide a framework—pledge \$1.50 or \$15.00 or \$150! When your Stewardship materials arrive, read them prayerfully and return your pledge card by November 8 indicating how you can support St. John's with your interests and gifts. *Each one of us is so important and God loves us all!*



Youth Calendar

October 18—Youth group 6:30–8:00pm

November 1—Halloween Party 4–6pm (The youth are expected to be there by 3pm.)

November 20–7pm –November 21– 11am– Youth Lock-In



You're Invited!

The youth are hosting a Halloween party for the children of the church. There will be snacks, music, games, crafts and trick or treating! The party will be from 4–6pm on November 1, 2015. Please come in costume!!

Help Needed

- Cassidy needs help with the youth group. She is really in need of a permanent partner to lead youth group, but until she finds one, she will need a second adult for meetings, lock-ins, events, etc. and occasionally as a driver. Please let Cassidy know if you would be willing to be her permanent partner or on an occasional basis.
- Cassidy is also looking for people to help in the nursery on Sunday mornings, mostly during worship, but also sometimes during Sunday School.
- We are having a Halloween party for our Sunday School kids on November 1, from 4–6PM. We are looking for snacks, wrapped candy for trick or treating and volunteers to help the youth run the party.
- Any help with these things would be greatly appreciated!!! Please contact Cassidy Bell with any questions or availability. Cbell86@ptd.net or 484-358-1081

INVEST IN THE VISION--Strengthen the Church Offering

Each day, visions and dreams are created in the hearts of many in the United Church of Christ. Through the Strengthen the Church annual offering, they can become a reality. As God calls our congregations to be “church” in new ways, your gift will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that “God is still speaking”. Your offerings are directed to the Penn Northeast Conference, local Church Ministries, and the Stillspeaking Ministry for these purposes.

While Pastor Karen was at UCC Synod this past summer she heard the news that in the past two years, there were sixty-seven new UCC church starts in areas where there had been no UCC churches. This offering gets results! Watch for the flyers in our October bulletins. The offering (your envelope is included in this issue of the “Disciple”) will be received on Sunday, November 1. Thank you for considering a gift to Strengthen the Church.

Help Our Church Earn Easy Money Just By Shopping

For all you Redner’s shoppers out there, please remember to present your Redner’s Save-A-Tape card every time you shop. Even if you are not a current Redner’s shopper, you can still join in and help the church by stopping at the Redner’s Store Office or Customer Service Desk to receive your Save-A-Tape card. There is no cost for the card and Redner’s does not request any personal information to obtain a card.

By using your Redner’s Save-A-Tape card every time you shop, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape receipt. Bring your receipts to church on Sunday mornings and drop them in the designated box located in the Great Hall. Periodically, we will return those receipts to Redner’s, and the church will receive a check in the amount of 1% of the total amount of the receipts collected.



Altar Flowers

- Nov. 1**—“In Memory of Loved Ones”, given by Bill and Nancy Zeky.
- Nov. 8**—“In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Saylor Sr.”, given by daughter, Emma.
- Nov. 15**—“In Memory of George J. Freyman”, given by Marion Freyman.
- Nov. 22**—“In Loving Memory of our niece, Carla Anne Anthony”, given by Doris and Ralph Todd.
- Nov. 29**— *This Sunday is available for anyone who wishes to place flowers. Please call office if interested.*

We thank all who have graced our altar with flower tributes!

September	Year to date				Avg. Worship Attendance for Month
	Current	Benevolence	Property	Totals	
2015					68
Member’s Giving:	\$45,150	\$17,655	\$0	\$62,805	
Endowment Used:	\$51,149	\$3,200	\$73,305	\$127,654	
2014					47
Member’s Giving:	\$49,352	\$17,808	\$0	\$67,160	
Endowment Used:	\$42,989	\$3,600	\$57,499	\$104,088	

Our Ministry with Central Elementary

IN SEPTEMBER, we gave a total of 35 backpacks for the children at Central, plus \$95 so the school can purchase more backpacks.

THANK YOU!!

The generosity of St. John's is overwhelming and is greatly appreciated!!

++ ++ ++ ++ ++ ++ ++ ++ ++ ++ +

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, WE ARE COLLECTING NONPERISHABLE THANKSGIVING FOOD ITEMS.

Central Elementary provides a Thanksgiving meal for as many of the neediest students and their families as possible. The items we collect during October will be for those meals.

Please consider donating items such as canned fruit and vegetables, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, premade gravy, stuffing mix, canned, evaporated milk and canned pumpkin or pumpkin-flavored pudding.

Please bring these items to worship for our children to collect during the offering. If you prefer, you may put cash or a check made out to St. John's in an envelope marked "Central".

We're doing ministry in the heart of the city.

ALSO NEEDED ANYTIME DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR ARE PRIZES from which the students can choose at their monthly "Soaring Eagles" positive behavior program assemblies.

The students can earn an "eagle's egg" for such things as cooperation, listening, paying attention and walking quietly in the hallways.

They collect those eggs in their "nests" each month and, if they collect a certain number of eggs, they're invited to the assembly where they can choose a prize.

What makes good prizes??

Clean, gently used stuffed animals, dolls, action figures or toys; fun, dollar store items; stickers; inexpensive coloring books or craft kits, etc.

STILL WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

+ **Breakfast Buddies** – one-half hour
Friday mornings

+ **Classroom Readers** - once a month,
flexible schedule

+ **Student Mentors and Tutors** – once
or twice a week, one hour per visit,
flexible schedule

Interested in volunteering at Central?
Any questions?? Contact Wendy Williams at 484-225-6708 or windwend1@gmail.com.



Anniversaries in the coming month are listed on the calendar. But we want to highlight those who are celebrating special wedding anniversaries.

Sterna and Richard Klingborg will celebrate their sixty-first anniversary on November 21.

Congratulations and may God be with you as you celebrate this and the anniversaries still to come.

The deadline for next month's newsletter articles are due on Monday, November 9.

Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank

The food bank is in need of the items listed below. The items most needed are written in capital letters. Please keep this list in mind when you are writing your shopping list:

Peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, tuna, jelly, and canned fruit, Jell-o, pudding, any kind of canned or dried beans (baked, white, kidney, garbanzo, etc.), soups, canned meats, vegetables and pasta. Monetary donations are also welcome. Your monetary donations enable the Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank to purchase food from the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Pathways Donations Needed

Toiletries and personal-care items like shampoo, conditioners, soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shaving cream, disposable razors, etc. Sample sizes and the types you find in hotels and motels are fine.

BikeWorks

Bike Works is often in need of toilet paper, paper towels, and disposable plastic gloves.

Dan Schantz Tickets in Pews

The Dan Schantz benefit tickets are located in the church pew envelope holders. The tickets will expire on December 25. The church will receive two dollars for every ten dollars you spend there. No more than two coupons may be used at a time. Take extras and hand the coupons out to friends.

Please Give to the Curtis Fund

This Fund has been helping members of our St. John's family for decades. It assists members in need when they have financial emergencies. It is supported by contributions from us, the members of St. John's, and has been an extremely important source of emergency funds for years. Place your donations in the beautifully handmade church in the narthex on Sundays. We need to grow this fund so we can continue to help our family members!



Veterans Day, November 11, 2015

In search of...

.....folks willing to host the "fellowship time" after a **Sunday service**. You do not need to purchase the refreshments. Speak with Trudi Egan if you have any questions about hosting. Please use the appropriate sign-up sheet in the Great Hall if you are willing to help.

.....folks willing to **sponsor the Worship Bulletin**. You can dedicate a weekly bulletin in memory of someone, or in honor of a person or group of people or in recognition of an event. The cost is \$15. Your sponsorship will help defray the annual cost of the weekly bulletins!!! Please see Bruce DeLong or Jeff Rissell if you would like to sponsor a week or two.

November 2015

 <p>Remember... Turn Back Your Clocks</p> <p>Saturday, Oct. 31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 12:00n Fellowship 12:30-2p Confirmation 4-6P Halloween Party Strengthen the Church Offering DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Election Day</p> <p>7:00p Elders</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Stand Up to Bullies Workshop (See page 2)</p>	<p>7</p>
	<p>8</p> <p>Memorial Sunday 9:30a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 12:00n Fellowship</p> <p>RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARD <i>Don't Forget Tilly</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>Disciple articles due!</p> <p>7:00p Consistory</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Veterans' Day</p> <p>7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p><u>November Birthdays</u></p> <p>4 - Vanessa Sperlbaum 5 - Sarah E. Collier 6 - Cyrah Morris 7 - Joseph Hein 8 - Byron D. Cook 10 - Jim Bronfenbrenner 17 - Noelle Schuler 20 - Kaitlyn Ertle 22 - Susan Lyons 23 - Jay Mosebach 24 - Damian Heinze 25 - Daniel Collier 27 - Susan Steinberg 29 - Alisa Gardner</p>  <p>Preparing for Advent</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 12:00n Fellowship 12:30-2p Confirmation</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30a Disciple mailing</p> <p>7:00p Benevolence mtg.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:00p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>LOCK-IN 7pm Youth Lock- In (See page 3)</p>	<p>21</p>  <p>LOCK-IN 11am Youth Lock- In Ends</p>
	<p>22</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School CHRISTMAS PAGAENT REHEARSALS BEGIN 11:00a Worship 12:00n Fellowship 12:30-2p Confirmation</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00p Finance & Property</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30p Community Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Luke's Lutheran Church (See page 2)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>28</p>
	<p>29</p> <p>Advent Sunday 9:30a Advent Breakfast 11:00a Worship 12:00n Fellowship 12:30-2p Confirmation</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>Celebrating  <i>An Anniversary This Month</i></p> <p>Nov. 8 - Megan & Rob Van Ingen Nov. 21 - Sterna & Richard Klingborg</p>				

S M T W T F S