

LOGOS OF ST. JOHN

MARCH 2025



St. John, Brooklyn
The Welcome Place ... The Church That Cares

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH, BROOKLYN

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Rev. Ellen Lichtfuss, Pastor

Drew Taliaferro, *Director of Music*

The Rev. Joseph Lettrich, *Pastor Emeritus*

*St. John is a congregation
in the Delaware-Maryland Synod (demdsynod.org)
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (elca.org).*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

A Message from Our Pastor

Dear St. John Family,

Lent begins this year on Wednesday, March 5, when we will receive ashes, an ancient Jewish and Christian symbol reminding of us of our mortality and human limitations, as well as our need for God's unconditional and infinite love and acceptance, known as "grace."

Let us spend these next weeks leading up to Holy Week reflecting on how God has been present with us and provided for us in some of the more challenging times of life. The Bible likes to call these challenging times in human life "Wilderness." Jesus experienced his own "Wilderness" through which God delivered him.

How has God's grace and blessing "shown up" and delivered you in your times of "Wilderness" (past or present) when you have most needed it? Remember to thank God with prayers of gratitude for God's grace during those times.

Let us also reflect on the areas of ourselves and our lives that are still in need of God's healing grace. Think about the ways of thinking, reacting, interacting, even judging, that are harmful to you and to others, and ask God to help you let go of them!

And also ask God to help you cope with any grief and loss you are experiencing.

God's healing and redemptive grace helps us to "grow new eyes" for seeing God's infinite love everywhere and in everything and everyone! Please look and pay attention for God's love all around you during Lent.

Each person carries the indelible image of God in their being. But we often have difficulty seeing God's image, the face of Jesus Christ, in ourselves and others, because we cannot let go of anger, resentment, judgement, and all those ways of thinking that hurt and diminish others and ourselves.

When we let ourselves fully accept and trust in God's healing and redemptive grace, it works in us and softens our hearts and

converts us, so that we learn to see ourselves and others with eyes more like Christ. We learn how to see with eyes of compassion and mercy, and respond to others with lovingkindness, as Jesus did.

We are ongoing work in progress as humankind. We are constantly growing and evolving spiritually. God’s loving Spirit is always working within, through and beside us to mold and shape us into the authentic, loving, faithful people he created and desires us to be.

I pray this time of Lent will yield opportunity to reflect, grow, and deepen your faith, and to further solidify your trust in God who is with us and for us, and who is with and for others too!

In Christ,
Pastor Ellen

Council President: Kathy Taliaferro
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Greetings,

The Congregation Council met on February 11th via Zoom due to the threat of inclement weather. Below are some highlights from this meeting:

- The Personnel Committee will be meeting to review the job description for the Ministry Assistant and to set up a timeline for hiring into this position. Members of this committee include Leslie Schell – Chairperson, Michael McFarland, Hal Baesch, and Jodi Horst.
- Claudia Hickman has been doing some work in the Archives Room and Michael McFarland has volunteered to assist her.
- Pastor Ellen will approach Stan Sieradzki and Ron Bartkowiak about co-chairing the Service Committee along with her assistance. A recommendation has been made to relocate the pantry to the social hall during the time of the community meal on Thursdays. Standardized bags, each with about 12 staple food

items, will be provided upon request for those attending the Thursday meal.

- Sue Calvert organized a clean-up day on February 8, 2025, with the concentration being on the office and workroom. A second clean-up day is scheduled for March 22, 2025.
- Bill Councill will be the new AA contact person.
- Remie Danielson will now manage the placement of the memorial plaques in the parlor.
- Leslie Schell is working on the new church directory. It is moving forward but not ready for publication at this point. Please provide her with any changes in your contact information.
- Michael McFarland is now working on the Evangelism Committee along with Kathy Riley and Kathy Taliaferro. He is looking to reach out to the AA groups with a brief prayer meeting.
- David Horst, Jr., and Kathy Taliaferro have been representing St. John at the Concerned Citizens for a Better Brooklyn meetings for the past year. This group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30PM in St. John's social hall. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to gain information about important topics in the Brooklyn community. These meetings are open to the public. Some information from these meetings will be shared in upcoming issues of the Logos.
- Pastor Ellen reported that she has been making visits and providing communion to some of our shut-in members including Marie Jacobs, Emily Eiermann, Jim Horst, and Rose Macknovitz. She has also been making pastoral phone calls to those individuals that have been recently ill.

As we enter into the Lenten season, I feel that we should take this opportunity to give thanks for all of the many blessings that we have here at St. John. We have wonderful volunteers in the congregation that are so dedicated to keeping the church functioning smoothly. We now are truly fortunate to have Pastor Ellen here with us offering her guidance and support. We are truly blessed.

Recent gifts presented to the glory of God

THE FOLLOWING people have made gifts to the

General Fund:

In loving memory of **Doris Anderson** – Kathy Harris, Monette Obzut, Henry & Shirley Quaskey, Dave & Cheri Horst, Mary & Kaitlyn Bancroft, Angie Smith, and Elsie Haber.



In loving memory of **Fran Sieradzki** – Linda & Wayne Watson, Kathy Harris & Don Shaffrey, Monette Obzut, Nancy Tye, Claudia Hickman, Henry & Shirley Quaskey, Karen Rhoades, Norma Service, and Bill Yakaitis.

Community Meal:

In loving memory of **Fran Sieradzki** – Paul & Linda (Inkrote) Mueller, James & Margie Hayne, Janice Blum, Ruth L. Jones, Henrietta Bond, David & Cheri Horst, Robert Cavender II, Kris & Jacqueline Ruchelshaus, Gary & Gail Miller, Philip & Ramona Jimeno, Audrey Vriolo, Thomas & Maureen Howard, Don & Laurie Collins, Roseann, Rocky, & Lona Kaschak, Christine Bryan, Rev. Ellen Lichtfuss, Warren & Kathleen Sorg, Chris Button & family, Peggie Albiker, Drew, Kathy & Laura Taliaferro, The Mei Family, Bonnie Menikheim, and Patricia Clark

In loving memory of **Doris Anderson** – Henrietta Bond

In loving memory of **Ray Yost** – Kathy Harris & Don Shaffrey, Drew, Kathy, and Laura Taliaferro,

Pantry Fund:

In loving memory of **Doris Anderson** – Drew, Kathy & Laura Taliaferro, Peggie Albiker, Chris Button & family, and Leslie & Dennis Schell.

Abiding Memorial:

In loving memory of **Ray Yost** – Michael & Janet McFarland and Dave & Cherie Horst.

In loving memory of **Doris Anderson** – Gayle & Dennis Hughes, Karen Rhoades and the Filbert Street Garden, Collin Slade, treasurer, and Nancy Kennedy.

In loving memory of **Fran Sieradzki** – Judy Halsey, Cindy Russell, Cathy Foester and Amanda & Brendan Newman, Veena Mootoo, and Lillie Rhoades.

Building Fund:

In loving memory of **Fran Sieradzki** – Brenda Jacobs, David & Christine Ambrose, Barbara Selwocki, Carol Thornburg, and Brian & Marion Harrison.

Christmas Baskets:

In Loving memory of **Doris Anderson** – David & Christine Ambrose, and Susan, Calvin Brown & family.

Sunday School:

In loving memory of **Fran Sieradzki** – Rev. Ellen Lichtfuss

Thank you notes...



Claudia Hickman thanks

everyone who assisted with funeral luncheons for Fran Sieradzki and Doris Anderson. This important ministry demonstrates how much we care for our members.

Sue Calvert wants to thank David Horst Jr. for volunteering to become the church treasurer during this tough time. We have worked together to carry out the financial business of the church. We also want to thank Stan Sieradzki and Mollie Blum for their support in supplying valuable information

Palm Branches

As we begin the journey of Lent and travel the road with Jesus to his entrance into

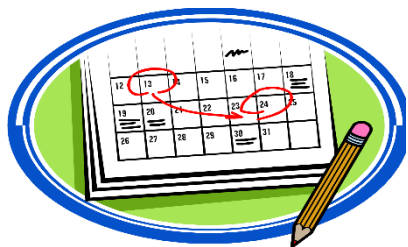
Jerusalem, we look forward to waving our Palm branches high. Again, this year, St. John will have Eco Palms, palm fronds and palm baskets for

Palm Sunday. If you wish to sponsor these palms, a donation of \$25 per person is requested, **but gifts in any amount will be appreciated.** Envelopes will be available at the back of the church.



Easter Lillies

It is time to order lilies, tulips, and hyacinths to decorate our sanctuary for Easter, April 20. A donation of **\$8** per plant or per order of cut lilies is requested. Envelopes for ordering your plants will be on the Welcome Table. You can place your completed envelopes in the offering plate as well as emailing the church or calling the church office (410-355-7295). The **due date** for orders is **Sunday, March 30**. The plants will be available for pickup after the Easter day service.



Looking Ahead

A new liturgical season begins in March – Lent. This is the season of darkness and pensive thinking of our sacrifice the Lord has made for us.

Here are some important dates for you to consider for your calendar.

April 13 – Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

April 17 – Maundy Thursday: Stripping of the Altar

- **Noon service only**

April 18 – Good Friday

- **12 Noon Service– Service of the Cross**
- **6:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service**

April 19 – Decorate the church

April 20 – Resurrection of Our Lord



You Are Cordially Invited to Enjoy St. John's

Afternoon Tea Bus Trip

Front Porch Tearoom in Hallam, PA

With return stop at the Shrewsbury Amish Market

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Cost: \$110

(Food, transportation, tax, gratuity, and driver tip included)

Deadline for Reservation and Payment in Full: June 8

The bus will leave St. John's parking lot at 9:30 and return at 6:30

Information and Reservations:

Leslie: 410-969-0129

This is an annual fundraiser to support the programs and ministries of
St. John Lutheran Church, 226 Washburn Avenue, Brooklyn, Maryland 21225

Vera Bradley Bag Bingo



2025 Spring Fundraiser

Featuring Vera Bradley bags, purses, beach bags,
and totes, plus other wonderful handbags!

Roland Terrace Democratic Club

619 Matthews Avenue, Brooklyn Park, MD 21225

Sunday, April 27

DOORS OPEN AT 1 P.M. GAMES BEGIN AT 2 P.M.

20 Bingo Games Door Prizes

All bags will be filled.

Refreshments will be on sale.

Tickets: **\$22** in Advance, **\$24** at the Door

For Tickets in advance or more Information, call

Sue at 443 - 326-3046

**Anyone who enters, including children, must have
a ticket.**

All proceeds from this fundraiser benefit the ministries and programs of St. John
Lutheran Church, 226 Washburn Avenue, Brooklyn, MD 21225

A Service Team for Community Meal and Pantry Needs



Pastor Ellen writes: Stan

Sieradzki and Ron Bartkowiak have agreed to work with me as well as the committed volunteers who assist at the Thursday community meal.

First thing you need to know is we have decided to try an innovative approach with the food pantry, “a makeover” of sorts, which begins March 27th. The reason being is the lack of consistency in the church office to answer the phone or the doorbell when community members call or stop by for help.

The food pantry will now be located in the Social Hall on Thursday mornings during the community meal. We may begin storing the food in the closet and storage area behind the stage. Bags of groceries/food pantry items will be pre-packed by the Team on Thursday mornings and be made available to those at the meal or stop by during that time. Every grocery bag will contain about 12 staple food items, as well as a can opener (thanks Henrietta for the idea!). There is a limit of one bag per person per week.

GROCERY ITEMS

Cereal

Spaghetti noodles and sauce

Canned Peas, Canned Corn

Macaroni and Cheese in a box

Instant Potatoes

Peanut Butter & Jelly

Instant Cup Noodles

Canned Tuna Fish

Canned Chick

Our Youngest in Training for the Future



James Horst: "I have a cross like Leslie!" (He is even holding his broom correctly!)



Amelia Johnson receives instructions from Grandpa and Dad on how to ring the bells.



Children's Time

Pastor Ellen helps our children spread their arms wide to encompass the love and grace of God.