

A Word from the Pastor....

You are cordially invited to attend the
ordination To the Ministry of Word and
Sacrament of

Roger W. Griffiths, Jr.

Saturday, November 4 2017 at 1 p.m.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1080 Main St.

Buffalo, NY

Bishop John S. Macholz

Presiding

Pastor Eric O. Olsen

Preaching

This is a very special day for all, and so, with the hope that many of you will attend, there will not be a Saturday service on November 4.

Last month, I wrote about stewardship, and so will continue that topic. We will focus on Stewardship in November, beginning the weekend of the 11th and concluding on the 26th. This year we want to introduce you to some new ideas, and let the Holy Spirit do the rest of the work.

Continued on page 2.

A Word from the Pastor continued....

November promises to be busy with an ordination, stewardship and of course, Thanksgiving. On that note, consider this.

"The first settlers in America landed in December of 1620 in Massachusetts, and within one month 10 out of the 17 fathers and husbands who were on that ship, the *Mayflower*, died. Within a couple months only four of the mothers and wives were alive out of the first 17 couples. And by Easter almost half of the pilgrims had died. They landed in the middle of winter without provisions, without shelter and that took a toll. It took a huge toll and yet in 1621 they celebrated and they gave thanks to God. It was amazingly difficult those first years.

On another continent about 25 years later there was a Lutheran pastor named Martin Rinkart. He lived in Eilenberg in Saxony and it was during the siege of the Thirty Years War. Eilenberg was a walled city that was surrounded by Swedes and there were 800 homes that were burned, and the people within suffered from the plague, from starvation, and it got to the point where the pastors within that town, within that village were burying 12 people a day. Pretty soon the pastors themselves started to die and Martin Rinkart was the only pastor left. He was conducting 50 funerals a day, can you imagine? Fifty funerals a day. He buried over 5,000 people that year, including his own wife. When the war ended a year later in 1648 he sat down, and listen to the words that he penned:

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

This was a man who knew horrors beyond all we can think and imagine, getting on his knees and leading people in praise and thanks to our God." "Thanksgiving," November 25, 2004, *Christ Presbyterian Church Web Site*, christpresbyterian.com.

Pastor V.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(3512 Clinton Street @ Union Rd, West Seneca)

Presents: **Our Monthly Community Dinner**

Date:11/24/17

Time:4pm – 6:30pm or until we
run out- Whichever comes
first

Chili

We will also have Desserts & Drinks

*** Menu subject to change ***

This dinner is provided for anyone that needs a meal
AND it is family friendly event...

The meal is **FREE** but we will take any free will donations
that anyone wishes to make...

WANTED: coupons from The Buffalo News Sunday paper. These coupons are mailed to Fort Bragg where our military personnel and their families can use them at their PX up to six months after the expiration date. Just drop them in the box on the counter in the Narthex and Sandy Stango will take it from there. Another way to support our troops and their families. Thanks, Sandy Stango



Pantry Needs

Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

With cold weather coming we need all kinds of canned soup.

Women of the ELCA

Special thanks to Evelyn Hicks for leading us in our Thankoffering Service which focused on the blessings of water. It is always a lovely service and we were so pleased to have had Pastor Valerie join us also to preside over the communion for us. Thank you ladies for making the evening even better by your presence!

The November 14th meeting will feature an Advent Program. Sylvia will lead us in this and we look forward to getting a head start on this season of the church year. We would invite any ladies to join us that night for an evening that is sure to provide new insight into Advent. The meeting starts at 7 PM in the fellowship room. Nancy Weber will supply the refreshments. We look forward to seeing you then.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving, remember and reflect on those who may not be as blessed as you and give some thought as to what you can do for them. Your donations, prayers, calls and time are welcomed at any time! Remember, someone cannot help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

Thought for the month:

Be a little kinder than you have to.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Ladies Aid

We invite you all to our meeting on Thursday, November 2, at 7 PM when we will be having our annual "mystery sale auction". All you have to do is wrap something up so we can't easily tell what it is, Sylvia will pry us to bid on it and the money will go to the West Seneca Crop Walk to benefit the food pantry and other places where needs are helped. We always have a good laugh this night whether we get a fun surprise or a silly one. The fellowship is most enjoyed.

Remember, if you would like to provide the refreshments, please tell Sandy soon.

Also remember to get your December dinner reservation in to Sandy if you plan to join us on Sunday, December 3 at 4 PM. We will be going to the Forestview Restaurant banquet room in the back of the restaurant. Money needs to be given to Sandy Haase by November 19. Sandy has all of the info if you have any questions.

We will be supporting the Kathleen Mary House again this year with gift cards or cash to Sandy so that she can purchase them for you. They can be brought to the restaurant. This will be in place of a gift exchange to each other.

We look forward to another enjoyable evening with our church friends and hope you can be there too.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Power Point Schedule

	Preparer	9:30 am Presenter
November 5	Nick Barnhard	Matthew & Autumn Brown
November 12	Nancy Kessler	Trevor Godus
November 19	Nick Barnhard	Linda Altman
November 26	Nancy Kessler	Jean Stankowski

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
November 5	Sue Springer	Karen Rothenberger
November 12	Pat Lipka	Adam Wolff
November 19	Sandy Gordon	Caroline Rackl
November 26	Jim Steiner	Evelyn Hicks

Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **December/January** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **November 12th**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koepfel (sekoepfel@gmail.com) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

Vision for Mission

The Vision Team has been working diligently since the beginning of 2017 looking at Mission and Ministry for the future. One thing we all agreed on is that prayer is essential for everything we want to do. On Palm Sunday, members of our congregation were asked to give a one word wish of what they wanted for the future at St. John's. Those words were compiled into groups based on similarity. Each group of words then became the basis for a sentence or thought in our Congregational Prayer. A word cloud was also developed to keep us mindful of the individual thoughts that had been shared. The prayer was drafted, revised several times, and then brought to the congregational council for approval.

During July, this prayer was introduced at the end of the worship services. September 17th was the formal roll out of our Congregational Prayer. We have new word cloud banners as a reminder that we individually have input and commitment in the future ministry at St. John's. Individual prayer trees were also made so that all families at St. John's would have one at home to use in their personal/family devotions. The word cloud is on one side and the prayer on the other. **(If you don't have one, ask an usher for one.)**

We know prayer is powerful! This is the first major step the Vision Team has taken to build for our future. We have also received information from the ELCA regarding demographics projected (2022) for the geographic area around the church. We plan to study this data and plan for ways to meet outreach goals/needs for our community in the future.

Dear Heavenly Father,

Together we come to you as the St. John's community, united in faith. We know you have called us to be one caring, welcoming, open-hearted family. We pray for your guidance and peace that we may come to understand your plan as we look with hope to the future. It is only through your wisdom and strength that we will continue to grow. Energize us with your Spirit so we may continue to do your work through our hands, wherever that may be.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Altar Guild

What a beautiful time of year, FALL ! Nice plush green grass, crisp clean air and the beautiful colors of the trees, God's paint brush and canvas right before our eyes. However, it won't be long now and we will start to see the signs of Christmas popping up. Another beautiful, wonderful time of year!!! At our next meeting on Nov. 5th. we will be planning our schedule for Christmas services set up and the purchasing of poinsettias. Also at this meeting, we will be making the 2018 altar schedule, meeting dates and hostess schedule. Please, ALL MEMBERS try to attend and make your requests known.

Taking care of the altar in Nov. are Judy Kelly & Nancy Weber

Hostesses are Shirley Johnson & Arlene Semlitsch

Meeting date Nov. 5th between services.

Remember GOD, adores the sound of your voice
talk to him often!!!!

Submitted by Nancy Weber

Bible Study

In November, we will meet on the 2nd, the 9th and the 16th. We will most probably still be considering the book of Daniel.

News From the Pews

Baptism

October 14, 2017 - Zachary Michael Magierski, son of Terry and Jennifer Magierski.

Weddings -

September 30, 2017 - Michael Lollier to Allison Altman -

October 7, 2017—Daniel Harris to Tonya Kent

Funeral

September 19, 2017—Raymond Hauck



This is the QR code for the St John's website. If you're not familiar, a QR code will take a mobile device directly to our web site, just by taking a picture of it.

LOST & FOUND

If you find items around our complex, please place them in the lower cabinet in the Foyer, next to the Guest Book stand. Please do not leave them lying where you found them.

If you lose something please look in that cabinet first.

Items of value are kept in the church office.

If you bring in goodies for our many receptions during the year, please take your dishes home. Those left in the kitchen will be placed on the pew next to the Classified Ads bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

We do thank everyone who brings in goodies but we just don't have room to store the dishes left behind.

Please call Carolly Huth if you can't find what you are looking for at 826-0506.



HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:

11/3 Sue Faust
11/9 Bob Drezek
11/9 Kayla Woodruff
11/10 Bethann Hintzman
11/12 Sylvia Delaney
11/15 Jay Delaney
11/17 Ashley Coder
11/18 Christopher W.Gulas-Karazewski
11/19 Laurie Abendenschein
11/20 Phyllis Gulas

HAPPY NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARY TO:

11/6 Rob and Melissa Germano
11/22/1973 Jim and Maxine Steiner



*Anniversaries
and Birthdays*

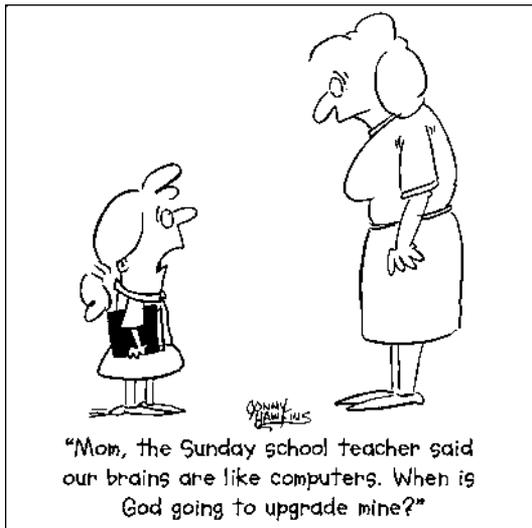
DINING OUT CLUB

Just a reminder that we will not be Dining Out in November and December due to the holidays and all the parties planned by our St John's Family.

Check the December/January issue of the Crossbeam for the details about our January dinner location.

Restaurant Review: In September, 13 of us dined at the Olive Tree Restaurant in Lancaster. We were noisy, had a lot of fun, some of us ordered Greek dinners while others went with old standbys. No complaints about the food, all was good and our waitress joined right in with our fun.

Submitted by Carolly Huth



Sunday Church School

Thank you for bringing your child to Sunday School!

Advent begins Sunday, December 3rd and our kids have begun preparing for our Christmas program! Our Christmas program will be held during the 9am service on Sunday, December 10th. If you would like to help out, please see Kayla W in the 3rd grade classroom or Kathy M in the Kindergarten room.

November 5th: Teachers & aides we have a brief meeting at 10:15 in the triple room on the first floor.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Submitted by Kathy Moody



Stewardship 2017

This year's Stewardship program is scheduled for kick-off on the weekend of November 11th and 12th, and will culminate with Stewardship Sunday the weekend of November 25th and 26th. As this time draws near, we will keep you updated, with announcements, bulletin inserts as well as St. John's web page.

A passage from Philippians 4:11b-31:

"I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Thanks and God Bless

Ron Wirth

St. John's Stewardship Committee



INDEX

Assisting Ministers	7
Altar Guild	9
A Word from the Pastor	1-2
Bible Study	9
Birthdays & Anniversaries	12
Community Dinner	3
Dining Out Club	13
Food Pantry	4
Greeters	See insert
Ladies Aid	6
Lost & Found	11
New from the pews	10
Power point	7
Stewardship	15
Sunday Church School	14
Ushers	See insert
Vision for Mission	8
WELCA	5