

St. John's Lutheran Church  
of Highland  
311 Cumberland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Information for  
August 2020

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**"Making Christ Known"  
during the  
Global Pandemic**

**Volume I,  
Number 1**

*email*  
sjlutheran@verizon.net

*phone*  
412-364-1606

Sunday Morning Livestreamed  
Worship Services:  
10:00 a.m.  
www.stjohnslutheranchurch.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
ZOOM CONNECTION 9:00 a.m.

**Pastor Kari Smail**

AUGUST  
2020



*Through God All Things Are Possible*



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**St. John's Council Members**

Pastor Kari B. Smail *Senior Pastor*

Erik Roth *President*      Kim Gettemy *Vice President (+Worship/Music)*

Emmett Brown *Treasurer*      Amy Kennedy *Secretary, Youth*

Ellen Skirpan *Evangelism*      Scott Celin *Mutual Ministries*

John Angel *Preschool*      Jamie Davis *Christian Education*

Joumana Driscoll *Social Ministry*      Denise Rudar *Property & Cemetery*

Abby Bauer *Fellowship*      Jim Robertson *Stewardship*

**St. John's Current Staff**

Pastor Kari B. Smail *Senior Pastor*

Ron Baling *Dir. Of Contemporary Music*

Joseph Tuttle *Organist & Dir. Of Choirs*

Mary Lynne Martin *Office Administrator*

Barb Eback *Office Asst. & Accounts P/R Clerk*

Laura Coombs *Chief Financial Officer*

Jennifer Bolinda *Dir. Of St. John's Preschool*

Linda Meyerdierks *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Gene Kesner *Sexton*

\*\*\* *Assistant Custodian*

Mike Sheleheda *Building Usage Coordinator*



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## “Making Christ Known”

Current Information  
August 2020

Vol. I Issue I

### A Note from Pastor Kari

Greetings to all of you in these summer days! We wanted to send a mailing out to the congregation as a way to ensure that we reach all of our members with the latest information during this time of pandemic. Inside this mailing you will find out some of the things that are going on at St. John's of Highland this summer. These times are a reminder that our ministry does not just take place in the building we call home, but it also takes place in our personal homes as well as the community at large. While we miss seeing you all in our church building, please know that we take seriously our call to care not only for our church family but our neighbors as well. As a result, one of the new ways that we are finding our ministry taking shape right now is that we are intentional about not only supporting people's spiritual lives but their physical lives as well. At the same time, rest assured that we are doing our best to plan for safe ways to get back in our building. Thank you to our church council for all of their hard work. Thank you to all of you as well for all the ways you continue to partner in ministry with us!

If there is anything that you need that your church family can help with, please feel free to let me know!

Soli Deo Gloria!  
*(To God alone be the glory!)*  
Pastor Kari Smail

### Worship at St. John's

Our building closure remains in effect at this time. We continue to wait on some supplies that have been ordered, and we continue to monitor CDC, ELCA, and county recommendations as we discern best next steps.

In the meantime, we had our first Saturday outdoor worship on June 27th. About 50 people were in attendance and all went well. Thanks to Ron and Sam Baling, Gene Kesner, and Cliff Blashford for their help with music leadership, as well as Jody Removchik and Amy and Jacob Kennedy for ushering. We had to postpone these gatherings due to local orders as well as increased case numbers, but we are hopeful to resume them during the summer. Updates will be available through email as well as our Facebook page. Sign ups for these services will take place on our bookapew website at

<https://bookapew.com/app/pa/stjohns/>.

Thank you for your continued understanding and grace as we seek to do ministry in the midst of the pandemic.

No matter what the status of our Saturday gatherings, we will always have our Sunday streaming service on Sunday mornings at 10am. The link for this week's livestream service can be found on our website at

[www.stjohnslutheranchurch.com](http://www.stjohnslutheranchurch.com).



Thank you to Jim, Laurie, and Nick Ross for their continued faithfulness in managing our online presence, to Tony Ruffolo for our wonderful camera work, and to Joe Tuttle for his music and worship leadership. Thank you as well to Erik Roth for organizing various anthems from members of the congregation, and to Ron and Sam Baling and Lori Elgin for our contemporary anthem offerings as well. We are also grateful for the many reading recordings sent in by various members of the congregation, as well as the fellowship shared during the stream. If you are unable to access the stream at this time but would still like the opportunity to listen in, please contact the church office at 412-364-1606 and they will connect you with someone that can call you so that you can listen over the phone.



**Stay Connected.....**



Each week our Sunday worship service is streamed online through a link on our website.

On Facebook daily reflections have been posted since mid March. Our current series is entitled, Bible Story Basics. You can also check our Facebook page for a weekly children's sermon video on Sundays, as well as helpful ministry details. Please note: there is a link on our website to all of the posts that are being shared on Facebook.

You can access this at: <https://stjohnslutheranchurch.com/together>.

**Some Ministry Highlights @ St. John's**

**PLEASANT VALLEY MEN'S SHELTER**

During this time of corona virus pandemic, members of our congregation have still been providing meals for the clients of the Pleasant Valley Men's Shelter.

Thank you to the Kofmehls and Harlans, Diane Hamley and friends, Chris Ruffolo and family and Cathy Coudriet and friends for helping to provide this outreach ministry over the past few months.

If you'd like to be a part of this or any other Social Ministry please contact Dianne Barbin (412-364-3045) or Janet Schmitt (412-931-4313).

**MCKNIGHT MEALS ON WHEELS**

We just added 14 more volunteer bakers from St. John's to provide desserts during the month of **October ~ Thank you!**

Whether you've participated before or would like help in this ministry, please call Eric Kofmehl (412)860-1585 and let him know how you can contribute.

The baked goods are delivered to Berkeley Hills Lutheran Church on Monday mornings and we are told that the desserts are the favorite part of the meals!

**SAINTLY SEWERS**

We have continued to be actively engaged in sharing God's love through our gifts of sewing. Masks and mask helpers have and continue to be made that help so much during our present situation. We have not made as many quilts but they too continue to be sewn with great love and will be finished when we again can gather. We have been using many of the small pieces of material that was donated by members to make both quilts and face masks. We have also been making hats for our frontline nurses and staff. Part of our sewing group communicates each week to plan pick-ups or distribution of materials. We now are trying to sew the backpacks that go to children through Lutheran World Relief. If you are in need of a mask please contact →

***Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.***

**ST. JOHN'S FOREVER FRIENDS**

We are a group that visits homebound members and nursing home residents. Our dedicated and loving Kay Roehlich has entered her heavenly home and we miss her leadership and friendship with this group. We continue on and have had new members join us reaching out to our friends. Letters, cards, notes, phone calls have all continued even when we cannot visit in person. Some people in our group have helped members who are not technology comfortable to connect with our weekly services. If you would like to share a card or a phone call with one or more of our Forever Friends contact \_\_\_\_\_

Carole Helvig at [CaroleHelvig@verizon.net](mailto:CaroleHelvig@verizon.net)

text or call  
845-216-2952.

**Church Council**

**Thank you**

**Welcome**

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR  
NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
EMMETT BROWN      SCOTT CELIN  
JAMIE DAVIS      ELLEN SKIRPAN**

**AND TO THE NEW OFFICERS:  
PRESIDENT: ERIK ROTH  
VICE PRESIDENT: KIM GETTEMY  
TREASURER: EMMETT BROWN  
SECRETARY: AMY KENNEDY**

**WE SINCERELY EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION TO  
JANICE BUKAMBU, HEATH GAMACHÉ, ERIC KOFMEHL,  
AND WINTER MARIOTTI FOR THE DEDICATION OF  
THEIR TIME AND TALENTS WHILE SERVING ON OUR  
CHURCH COUNCIL!**



## Financially Speaking

### General Fund Income

June Actual	\$ 48,300.61
June Budget	\$ 57,659.25
Gain (Short Fall)	(\$ 9,358.64)
YTD Actual	\$ 323,199.24
YTD Budget	\$ 345,955.50
Gain (Short Fall)	(\$ 22,756.26)
YTD Income	\$ 323,199.24
YTD Expenses	\$ 288,509.70
Income (Loss)	\$ 34,689.54

<b>BUILDING FUND:</b> YTD Actual	\$ 30,720.00
YTD Budget	\$ 42,234.00
Gain (Short Fall)	(\$ 11,514.00)



### Building Loan

Currently our mortgage has a balance of \$193,837.31 (as of July 1, 2020) with a monthly payment of \$7,039.00.

There are three ways to contribute to the building fund.

1. Use the **Building Fund** envelope from your monthly envelope packet
2. Use the **Opening New Doors** envelope found in the pews.
3. Use the pledge card **“STEWARDSHIP THE TREASURE”** for 2020.

### Continuing the Legacy 2019 (Miracle Sunday)

Thank you to the Congregation for making this a successful event. As of July 1, 2020: 135 members made a pledge of \$631,640.24. We have collected and sent to Mission Investment a total of \$ 597,733.17 to pay down the Principal so far (we have collected \$14,092.93 more than was pledged). This still leaves \$48,000.00 in pledges to be collected. The Mortgage balance is down to \$193,837.31. There is still time to make a Pledge or make a One Time Donation to “MIRACLE SUNDAY”. All you have to do is fill out a pledge card or drop a check into the plate or mail.

## Thank you

for your continued support of St. John’s of Highland! We are grateful for all the financial contributions that continue to be made. For those who are able to still contribute in the days to come, we are checking our regular mail if you want to send an offering envelope, or you can use the giving link on our website, or use bill pay on your bank’s website to have a check directly sent to the church. In addition, please know that your prayers, emails, texts, and cards, as well as your shares, posts, and likes on Facebook are all appreciated. We will get through this difficult time as we partner together for the sake of the Gospel!

## Emergency Assistance

Are you in need of financial assistance? St. John’s has a family emergency fund and might be able to help. Please contact Pastor Kari at [kbsmail1@verizon.net](mailto:kbsmail1@verizon.net) or on her cell at 412-613-8393 for more details.

## Educational Opportunities

Our Social Concerns Class is gathering through the summer via Zoom on Sundays at 9:00 am. The link for this class is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88355450875?pwd=UDV4SDVXRENrajE2MnVxam94WHhoQT09>

Meeting ID: 883 5545 0875 Password: 983497

They are currently watching an interfaith lecture each week from the Chautauqua Institute and then discussing it on Sunday mornings. For more information on the lecture for the week and how to access it prior to the class, please contact Cathy Coudriet at [cathyfc1@gmail.com](mailto:cathyfc1@gmail.com).

## Unveiling of Artwork at United Lutheran Seminary

Last year our congregation did a collection in honor of Pastor Bill Diehm’s retirement and faithful ministry, and the money was given to United Lutheran Seminary for the creation of artwork to be used in their chapels. It is a collection of portraits entitled, “For All The Saints” which were created by Ophelia Chambliss and which reflects the artwork depicting various saints in the windows at the Gettysburg chapel but recognizes some of the saints not portrayed by those windows. We are happy to announce that the artwork is complete and it is going to be unveiled virtually on August 1st at 7:00 pm on the seminary’s YouTube channel. For those who would like to watch the unveiling, please tune it to the United Lutheran Seminary [YouTube channel](#).



More information (and how to get a commemorative poster) is available here:

<https://www.unitedlutheranseminary.edu/united-news/for-all-saints-portrait-unveiling>