

JOY IN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Building Bridges of Caring, Compassion, and Civility

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

So the people shouted, and priests blew the trumpets; and when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted with a great shout and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city (of Jericho). Joshua 6:20

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh, he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace. Ephesians 2:13-15

St. Paul provides a different perspective on walls than the one we have been hearing about in recent weeks and months. Much of the talk in Washington is about building walls. St. Paul articulates the vision of the faith of Jesus – the tearing down of what divides us and the building up of what binds us together.

We are in a time of great division in our country and in our world. We now define ourselves more by that we are against, then by what we share in common. We are more interested in walls than bridges. However, as in the story of Jericho, the walls can come a-tumbling down. How can that happen?

First, we need to reclaim and recall our identity as immigrants. In the 1880s and '90s, there was significant immigration from the southern region of Sweden, due in large part to a drought that lasted for years. Farmers, lumberjacks and merchants left there and came to the United States where they established churches, schools, colleges, and hospitals. Our history as a church of the Augustana Synod is a reminder that we were once an immigrant people. We need to remember that all of us came here from somewhere else.

And we need to reclaim a Christian ethic of civil discourse. We need to recover that simple but challenging call to be kind and civil to one another. When the chaos of this time recedes, and I believe it will, there will be a need for people to rebuild connections to one another, to civic life and democracy, as well as to the healing of the injustices that these difficult times are causing in our souls, in our country and around the world.

These are the days of division – that cannot be denied. However, these are also days where together with Christ, we can rebuild, not walls of division, but bridges of compassion, caring, and civility. That is who we are at Joy in Christ. That is what Jesus calls us to be. **That is why we are here.**



With thanks and appreciation to Bishop James Hazelwood,

Pr. Russ.

Notes from the Worship & Parish Life meeting on January 3, 2019

Present: Vicki Burke, Pat Gladbach, Audrey McNevin, Candy Stone, and Pr. Russ Norris.

In addition to the agenda, discussion took place over the “Lord’s Prayer”. Most preferred the traditional version over the new version being prayed during worship.

We looked at new music; “Broken Vessels” will be played during Lent and we will research the license for “Raise Me Up” sung by Josh Groban.

Vicki reported on “It Takes a Village”. It seems to be going well and she will update the records with Frank’s new address.

Pr. Russ updated us on confirmation. He will contact the confirmand families as well as Pr. Beatrice from Price of Peace. Some of the suggested activities are a movie (The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe) with discussion, YOGA, a craft and a banner. A weekend at Camp Calumet in March is planned.

We will continue our tradition of soup & sandwiches at 6:00 p.m. and worship at 7:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays in Lent inviting Terri & David Raymond as well as the folks from All Saints to participate.

Next meeting: Sunday, February 17th, at 11:15 a.m.



FEBRUARY

6th: Rachel Leadbetter-Shields
19th: George Porter
20th: Lily Williamson
22nd: Alyssa Burke
22nd: Michael Remes
28th: Lee-Ann Trigler

MARCH

1st: Kai Hoku Jazon
8th: Anita Smith
9th: Max Djusberg
10th: Bob Fehl
10th: Matthew Nichols
13th: Sara DeLong
13th: Berndt Tupa
15th: George Sullivan
16th: Karla Rasche
16th: Jack Kirby
18th: Lisa Jazon
24th: Steffan DeLong
29th: Elizabeth Remes



Brief update from the January 6, 2019 Council Meeting

Present: Pam Borgeson, Vicki Burke, Lisa Clairmont, Pat Gladbach, Audrey McNevin, Kathy Remes, Jeff Stone, Pastor Russ.

Confirmation- Pastor is planning three retreats. The first will be on a Saturday at the church with a movie, yoga and making Confirmation banners. The second retreat will be at Calumet in March and the third at the church in the spring. Members will assist in lunch and activities and Emily Clairmont will assist the Pastor. Confirmands families are being contacted by Pastor.

Jeff discussed **Stewardship responses**. By mid-December only 8 members had turned in pledges. After repeated requests, 23 members and 1 non-member completed Time and Talent Sheets. Twenty seven members and 1 non-member pledged \$4,600 less than last year.

Jeff has been in contact with Synod regarding the Site Survey and **pastoral candidates**. Non-Lutheran candidates must go thru a vetting process and Jeff presented two candidates, a woman pastor from the UCC and an Episcopalian who they will vet and then we will interview, hopefully in February. Because of the small size of our congregation, the Council will act as the Call Committee.

Annual Meeting materials were reviewed:

- All 2018 Meeting Minutes for the year were unanimously approved.
- Financial Secretary & Treasurer Reports for the year were unanimously approved as presented and will be audited by the audit committee the week of January 7th.
- 2019 Anticipated Income from all sources is \$65,402 which will require \$33,257 in withdrawals from our Fidelity fund to meet our expected expense obligations.
- Council unanimously approved the 2019 Expense Budget for presentation to the Congregation, which totals 101,514.
- Pam reviewed the Nominating Report and the Slate of Officers was presented. The treasurer will not be a member of Council. Slate was unanimously approved.

January Mission/Community Outreach: Warming Soles-Sock drive for Souls. Leeann will lead. Collection boxes will be left at church, Whitman Wellness, Abington and Hanson Senior Centers. The socks will be given to the homeless and others in need.

February Mission/Community Outreach: A warm dinner for families in need and the homeless on **Feb. 14th**. Vicki and Pam will lead. St. Vincent de Paul will help us plan numbers and are willing to contribute food from the food bank. As many of these families live in their cars/campers, we would like to give out gas cards also.

Future meetings were scheduled as follows:

- February Council Retreat at the Stones to plan the Mission Year - **Feb. 16**, 10:00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. Non council members are invited but if you plan on attending *please contact Jeff or Candy Stone* for food planning purposes.
- March Council Meeting, **March 17**, 11:15 a.m.
- April Council Meeting, **April 28**, 11:15 a.m.



Brief update from the January 27, 2019 annual meeting:

Council President Jeff Stone called the meeting to order at 11:27 a.m. and Pastor Norris opened the meeting with a prayer.

Jeff appointed Vicki to be the clerk and confirmed that there was a quorum with 23 members in attendance.

Jeff thanked the Pastor, Church Council and all the Committee leaders and members for all of their efforts on behalf of Joy in Christ in 2018. He also thanked the many people who help prepare for and participate in Sunday worship services. Special thanks were given to Kim who has served in several Council capacities over the last six years and is moving off of council after two consecutive terms.

Jeff asked for a motion to be made and seconded to approve and accept the 2017 January and December Congregation Meeting Minutes and all Annual & Financial Reports, pages 3-18. Jeff clarified that the ending balance of the Discretionary Account was \$702.75 as Stop & Shop had not correctly processed two gift cards totaling \$100 and when he visited them, the store manager responded, “don’t worry about it. A motion was made and seconded, the floor was opened to questions and there being none, the vote was called and passed unanimously.

Lisa Clairmont then reviewed the Anticipated Income for 2019. Total Anticipated Income is projected to be \$65,402.

Jeff reviewed the Expense Budget for 2019 which totals \$101,514. It was mentioned that the church will operate at a deficit of approximately \$33,000 this year with the money coming from the Fidelity account to balance the budget.

A motion was made and seconded for approval of the 2019 Budget, the congregation voting unanimously to accept it as presented.

Jeff then reviewed the Nominating Committee Report consisting of Nominations for Council and Council Officers, Nominations for the NE Synod Assembly, the 2018 Nominating Committee, and Auditors for 2018. A motion was made and seconded for the entire nomination slate as presented and was approved unanimously.

Jeff then reviewed the giving trends of the congregation for the last 6 years and projected 2019. He noted that the downward trend reflects the loss of two large donors last year and the aging of our congregation.

Jeff then presented the congregation update:

Pastoral Leadership—Pastor Russ will continue thru June 2019. The Council decided at this time to continue plans for a part time pastor. Our Congregational Site Profile has been sent to Synod and an introductory email and resumes of two possible pastors, one an Episcopalian and one from the UCC. The Synod will vet them and contact us in early February when the Call Committee/Council will meet with them. They would go through the same process as any Lutheran candidate. Jeff also contacted Synod as to the possibility of any Lutheran candidates for call, but has not yet received a response.

Building— we have been reviewing options. We agreed that keeping the members together is more important than keeping the building. We agreed that we would not want to sell the building and worship in a storefront, but we have a lot of available space, are willing to rent it out and share the building. We will put together a group of members to look for possible other groups on the area who may be interested in renting space in our building.

Mission—“We’ve done some really good things this year!” said Jeff. And we will continue our mission work, with the February dinner for the homeless and the sock collection. Some will be big, some small as we need to be mindful of the small group that is participating. The Council Retreat on Feb.16 at the Stone’s is to plan for the year ahead. Members were reminded there is an open invitation to participate in the ongoing discussions.

Our mission: To Build Bridges of Caring, Compassion, and Civility

Below is the weekly **SUNDAY** discipleship schedule through the month of May. Please make note of your responsibilities in your personal calendar. **IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE AWAY** on one of the dates in which your name appears, please find someone to switch with and contact Lee-Ann Trigler at leeann281@gmail.com or call her at 781-264-7136 and let her know of the change. You can find the contact information for people in your church directory.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ASSISTING</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>TECH</u>	<u>GRUSHER</u>	<u>WORSHIP SET-UP</u>	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>
2/3	Jeff Stone	Pat Gladbach	Stephanie Burke	Kim Nichols	Jeri Screnci	Lisa Clairmont & Pat Gladbach
2/10	Noreen Dionne	Jeri Screnci	Lee-Ann Trigler	Vicki Burke	Jeff Stone	Stephanie Burke & Lee-Ann Trigler
2/17	Lee-Ann Trigler	Jeff Stone	Jeff Stone	Pam Borgeson	Kathy Remes	Vicki Burke & Joy Franey
2/24	Emily Clairmont	Pam Borgeson	Lisa Clairmont	Kathy Remes	Lee-Ann Trigler	Josh Lehr & Lee-Ann Trigler
3/3	Pat Gladbach	Lee-Ann Trigler	Stephanie Burke	Jean Petersen	Jeri Screnci	Lee-Ann Trigler & Kathy Remes
3/10	Lisa Clairmont	Pat Gladbach	Lee-Ann Trigler	Carol Porter	George Porter	Candy Stone & Jeri Screnci
3/17	Jeff Stone	Kathy Remes	Lisa Clairmont	George Porter	Jeff Stone	George & Carol Porter
3/24	Noreen Dionne	Emily Clairmont	Jeff Stone	Pat Gladbach'	Mike Remes	Audrey McNevin & Jean Petersen
3/31	Lee-Ann Trigler	Lisa Clairmont	Stephanie Burke	Jeri Screnci	Jeff Stone	Lee-Ann Trigler & Joy Franey
4/7	Emily Clairmont	Aimee Remes	Jeff Stone	Joy Franey	Jeri Screnci	Vicki Burke & Stephanie Burke
4/14	Pat Gladbach	Jeff Stone	Lisa Clairmont	Jeri Screnci	Lee-Ann Trigler	Candy Stone & Lee-Ann Trigler
4/21	Lisa Clairmont	Jeri Screnci	Lee-Ann Trigler	Jeff Stone	Kathy Remes	Pot Luck Easter Brunch
4/28	Noreen Dionne	Lee-Ann Trigler	Lee-Ann Trigler	Pam Borgeson	Pam Borgeson	Josh Lehr & George Sullivan

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<u>DATE</u>	<u>ASSISTING</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>TECH</u>	<u>GRUSHER</u>	<u>WORSHIP SET-UP</u>	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>
5/5	Emily Clairmont	Pat Gladbach	Stephanie Burke	Joy Franey	George Porter	Jean Petersen & Kathy Remes
5/12	Pat Gladbach	Pam Borgeson	Jeff Stone	Kim Nichols	Bob Fehl	Pam Borgeson & Jeri Screnci
5/19	Lee-Ann Trigler	Emily Clairmont	Lisa Clairmont	George Porter	Mike Remes	Lee-Ann Trigler & Vicki Burke
5/26	Lisa Clairmont	Pam Borgeson	Stephanie Burke	Kathy Remes	Jeff Stone	Bob & Phyllis Fehl

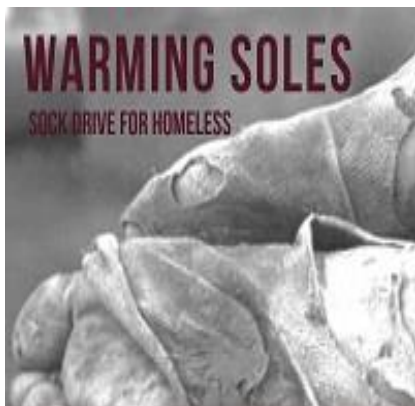
IT TAKES A VILLAGE

TEAM 1 FEBRUARY 3RD & 17TH

Anita B.
Audrey
Ingrid
Kathy

TEAM 2 FEBRUARY 10TH & 24TH

Candy
Lee-Ann
Pat
Vicki



Socks are one of the most needed items and the least donated to homeless shelters. Support our **WARMING SOLES** project and drop off socks through February 14th.

NEW Socks accepted at the following Abington locations:

Joy in Christ Lutheran Church, UCC Church, American Legion and the Senior Center

At the following Whitman locations: Whitman Wellness Center and All Saints Episcopal Church

And at the Hanson Library

LOOKING AHEAD

Please look for the sign-up sheet to help with the Ash Wednesday Soup, Supper & Worship starting March 6th and our mid-week Lenten tradition starting the following weeks - March 13th through April 10th.

Also, if you would like to assist with the Maundy Thursday (April 18th) and/or Good Friday (April 19th) services please speak to Lee-Ann Trigler, Jeff Stone, or Pr. Russ.

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Joy in Christ Lutheran Church
21 South Bedford Street, Abington, MA 02351
(781) 878-3394

jicchurch@outlook.com

Pr. Russ Norris is usually in the office on Wednesday and by appointment. It is always best to call first, as visits and meetings sometime alter the schedule. Pr. Norris is available at 774.487.8734(cell) or 508.534.9307 (home) or at rbnorrisjr@gmail.com

FEBRUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 CLEANERS	2 
3 FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP	4 7:00 p.m. YOGA GIRL SCOUTS TROOP 66027 4:00 -5:00 p.m.	5 6:00 p.m. TOPS	6 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY	7 GIRL SCOUTS TROOP 62324 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	8	9
10 FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP	11 7:00 p.m. YOGA	12 6:00 p.m. TOPS	13 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY	14 VALENTINE'S DAY WARM MEAL for those in need & the homeless	15	16 COUNCIL RETREAT 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. @ the Stone's home
17 SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP 11:15 a.m. WORSHIP & PARISH LIFE	18  7:00 p.m. YOGA	19 6:00 p.m. TOPS	20 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY	21	22 CLEANERS	23
24 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 10:00 a.m. WORSHIP	25 7:00 p.m. YOGA	26 6:00 p.m. TOPS	27 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. BIBLE STUDY	28		

SAVE THESE DATES: ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH - Soup, Sandwich & Worship starting a 6:00 p.m. MARCH 13TH, 20TH, 27TH, APRIL 3RD, & 10TH – We will continue our mid-week Lenten tradition with Soup, Sandwich & Worship starting at 6:00 p.m.

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Leadership Directory - 2019

	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Pastor Russ Norris	508-534-9307	rbnorris@gmail.com
<u>Council Officers</u>		
Jeff Stone, President	781-405-7800 (c)	jstone100@gmail.com
Lisa Clairmont, Vice-President	774-263-0884 (c)	lisa.clairmont@icloud.com
Vicki Burke, Secretary	781-249-8948 (c)	vicki.burke44@gmail.com
Jeri Screnci, Treasurer	617-901-4108 (c)	jrscrenci@yahoo.com
<u>Council Members</u>		
Pam Borgeson	508-942-1402 (c)	bioborg20@hotmail.com
Pat Gladbach	781-217-5734 (c)	
Audrey McNevin	781-588-2894 (c)	aemcnevin@comcast.net
Lee-Ann Trigler	781-264-7316 (c)	leeann281@gmail.com
<u>Financial Secretary:</u>		
Lisa Clairmont	774-263-0884 (c)	lisa.clairmont@icloud.com

Who to Talk to About What at Joy in Christ

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Baptism, Funeral, Wedding, Confirmation, Illness, Personal and/or Personal Spiritual matters	Pastor Norris
Altar Guild	Noreen Dionne
Bible Study	Kathy Remes
Flowers	Pat Gladbach
Newsletter, Facebook page	Anita Brady
JIC website	Jeff Stone
Outside Groups using JIC space	Kim Peterson
Property Matters	Gordon Williamson
Questions about Worship Service Helpers and Assistants	Lee-Ann Trigler
Questions about your offering/donations (financial or in-kind) to JIC	Lisa Clairmont
Staff Support	Martha Ratliff
Sunday School	Ingrid Williamson
Worship or Music related matters, including Bulletin; Parish Life, Church Events	Candy Stone or Lee-Ann Trigler
Any other question for which you are seeking an answer	Jeff Stone