



St. John's Windish Ev. Lutheran Church

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NEW MEMBER INFORMATION



Welcome to St. John's Windish (Slovenian) Evangelical Lutheran Church. Like us on Facebook to receive our daily meditation. There is an **8 AM chapel service** each Sunday and a **10:45 AM worship service in the**

sanctuary September (the Sunday after Labor Day) through the end of May. During the **summer months**, there is only **one (1) worship service at 9 AM. Communion** is offered every week during the year **at 10:45 AM** in the nave, and the **2nd and 4th weeks at the 8 AM Chapel** service. **During the summer there is communion every week in the nave at 9 AM,** unless Pastor is on vacation.

Communion is **by Intinction**. This means Pastor offers you the wafer and you proceed to the communion assistant, dip the wafer in the chalice of wine and then place it in your mouth. For those who are ill or homebound, Pastor Suzanne will visit a few times a year or as requested. Communion is an important part of your membership at St. John's.

The Baptismal Font is opened the Sundays we have communion in the nave. This is for those who wish to renew their baptism by dipping their fingers in the water and blessing themselves by making the sign of the cross.



We use the new *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal* (red book). This hymnal replaces the *LBW* and *WOV*. Our bulletins are all inclusive. The hymns are listed but you must use the hymnal to sing them. The worship service begins as indicated in your bulletin. For the Psalms, the cantor sings the first line, congregation sings the second line.



There are **large print hymnals** and **hearing assisting devices** on the red table in the center vestibule. There are also **large print hymnals** (in the pink notebooks) on the windowsill at the entrance from the handicapped ramp.

In order to remain a **member in good standing, you are required to receive communion** and fill out a communion card



found on the back of each pew at least once a year. **You must also use your offering envelopes** in order to have a record of your offering at least once per year. We no longer mail statements. If you need a year-end statement for your records and income tax, please contact the office. Weekly offering is the only offering going toward your pledge. Pledge cards are sent out in September/October of each year to aid us in planning our next year's budget.

There are two (2) **Congregation Meetings** each year. One is the 3rd Sunday in November to elect new council members

(each serves a three (3) year term and no more than two (2) consecutively elected terms). All



members are encouraged to run for Church Council. They are installed at the beginning of December before the first council meeting. The November meeting is also when we approve the proposed budget for the coming year.



A LOOK
at the
BUDGET

The 4th Sunday in February meeting is when we accept all of the year end reports, which are sent to parishioners about two (2) weeks prior to the meeting. You are asked to submit any questions in writing before this meeting in order to get a properly researched answer.

Church Council

meets the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room downstairs. The only exceptions are during the summer, Labor Day and Easter Monday. They meet the 2nd Monday in those instances. There is only one meeting during the summer, usually in July. This is followed by a council picnic, which includes their family members.





Greeters are in the center vestibule in the back of church on Sunday mornings. Their job is to hand out bulletins and say

good morning to all who come to worship. They also wish everyone a good day/week after worship at the side vestibules (Pastor greets in the center). Greeters are volunteers and are assigned about two months in advance. Contact the church office to be a greeter—610-868-3282.

Ushers are volunteers and council members who can answer questions of visitors (directions to bathrooms, etc.). They are positioned in the vestibules on each side of the church (greeters are in the center). Ushers will be in the center

vestibule until the greeters arrive. Offering is collected by the ushers and taken to the altar. During communion Sundays, the ushers guide the worshippers to the altar.

Acolytes are usually



students in Confirmation class or volunteers who are at least nine years old and responsible enough to do the tasks required.



If you want to **sponsor altar flowers, candles or bulletins** any particular week, just sign up on the special calendar located in the center vestibule

and be sure to fill out one of the information sheets in the same plastic holder. Turn your information in to the office with your payment. We can only have one sponsor for candles and one sponsor for bulletins each week. Flowers can have two separate sponsors.

St. John's offers potted flowers to be sponsored by many people three times a year: Easter (Lilies and Azaleas or another selected plant), Pentecost (Geraniums), and Christmas (Poinsettias). The cost is determined by the grower.



Forms for these sponsorships are always in the bulletins and newsletter several weeks

before the designated season deadline. These are usually sponsored in memory of, or in honor of, someone. A listing of the sponsored plants is included in the bulletin for that special day.

Our church is an active participant in the **Better Buy Thrift Shop**, an outreach program for the Southside of Bethlehem. It is located in the Cathedral Church of the Nativity at 321 Wyandotte Street where good (only if you would give it to your best friend) used clothing is accepted for resale. Sale days are ??????There are vouchers available for those in need of the Thrift Shop clothing. Volunteers are always needed for the Thrift Shop. *Thrift Shop—610-867-6764*

Volunteers from St. John's also prepare a meal at New Bethany Meal Center the 5th Tuesday of any designated month. This usually occurs about 4 or 5 times a year. Lynn Long (610-298-2893) is currently in charge of our meal center team.

Coffee Hours—St. John's offers a coffee hour from 10:00 AM to 10:40 AM each Sunday from the week after Labor Day through the end of May.

Volunteers prepare the coffee (supplied by the church along with a plastic container marked with tape for measuring the coffee) at 9:00 AM. They

may (entirely the volunteer's choice) also bring doughnuts, cookies, bagels, etc. and sometimes juice for the children in warmer weather. One pot of coffee is brewed and one electric teakettle of just water for tea and cocoa is also prepared. Our church also supplies the paper products, tea and hot cocoa. There is a sign-up sheet on the doors leading in to the Kaiser Auditorium to host a coffee time. If you are unable to sponsor a coffee hour, donations are always welcome.



Sunday School Classes—There are classes for all ages. Pre-school and school age students meet in the rooms designated for their grade level (downstairs) at 9:00 AM. They usually have a theme for the year, beginning with Rally Day (the Sunday after Labor Day). The children also do a Christmas production in December.



Sunday School *for all ages*

The adults also meet at 9:00 AM in the Conference Room (lower level off the Chapel). The class usually includes viewing a video followed by discussion.

Students in 7th grade should be registered for Catechetical Class. This is a two year program from September to May the first year, and September and October the second year, taught by Pastor Suzanne at 9:00 AM in the Banko Lounge. Reformation Day of the second year is their confirmation day.

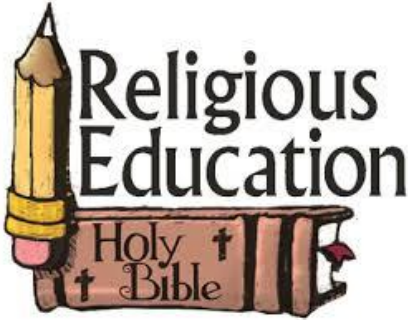
Lunch Bunch—St. John's has a Bible study group led by Pastor Suzanne that meets the 2nd and the 4th Wednesday at Noon. Everyone brings a lunch (if they choose).

There is coffee, tea and hot cocoa available. The class actually begins at **12:30 PM until approximately 1:30 PM**. They study the Bible readings for the next Sunday.



There are several committees that keep our church running smoothly with the help of our parishioner volunteers. They currently are:

Christian Education—



Religious Education

oversees all educational ventures of the Congregation (e.g. Sunday School, adult education classes, seminars, retreats, etc.) plus all groups of the congregation such as

women’s circles, youth groups, etc.

Stewards and Angels—

helps the congregation to recognize all the various ways that God blesses us and to respond with gifts of time, talents, and finances. In using our gifts in ministry for the community and the world, we proclaim the Good News of God’s love for all.





Youth—as sub-committee of the Christian Education committee, is specially charged with all youth related activities and projects within the

congregation and outreach activities as well.



Worship and Music—provides guidance for the worship and music life of the

congregation which includes all worship services, music, etc.

Choir—rehearsals are every other



Wednesday from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM, unless otherwise noted.

Rehearsal prior to the worship service is at 10:15 AM on Sunday

(September through May). Soloists are welcome during the summer months and throughout the year. Jim Long is our Minister of Music, 610-298-2893.

Social Activities—coordinates our social activities and events for the congregation.



Social Ministry—directs the congregation as it responds to human need, works for justice and peace, cares for the sick and suffering, and participates responsibly in society. This committee also determines where our Fifth Sunday Mission offering is directed. Church Council approved that 10% of all proceeds gained through Thrivent Financial Action Team efforts will go to assist with outreach efforts.



Property—oversees the care, repair, protection, maintenance and improvement of all church property (e.g. real estate, buildings, equipment, etc.)



Finance—has direct oversight and control of all financial matters and budgets of the congregation.



Altar Society—is the group that usually organizes our breakfasts and dinners. They also pay to have flowers on the altar

when there are not any sponsors.

Altar Guild—are Sacristan teams that are scheduled each week to take care of the altar, set up for communion, change the paraments (altar cloths), clean the communion ware after communion, etc. These too are all volunteers.





Scholarship Committee —

reviews the applications submitted by students to receive a \$500 scholarship to help defray

college expenses. They organize fund raising events to build up the scholarship fund.

All interested persons from our church membership are welcome to join one or more of these committees.

St. John's is your congregation and we need your help to carry out our parish mission and ministry!!!

INVITE



A FRIEND
TO CHURCH