

**SAINT JOHN'S  
EPISTLE  
APRIL 2016**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

P.O. BOX 270, BERRYSBURG, PA 17005  
The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr., Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

As you are hopefully well aware by now, Amanda Baker began her ministry with us as our Children's & Youth Ministry Coordinator in mid-February. Already, she is making her presence felt as she focuses her energy and passion for the Gospel of Jesus on our ministry to and with our younger members, at this point particularly focused on our pre-youth group-age folks.

Please be sure to turn over to the next page for Amanda's monthly letter which will fill you in on many things that are happening, including the plans for Sunday, April 10, when we will officially install Amanda in her position during morning worship and then, following worship, invite especially those younger folks and their parents and caregivers to a pizza lunch and time of sharing and fun in the pavilion (weather permitting) or the Sunday School Room.

I would like to use my remaining space this month to highlight a four-item "wish list" for Amanda's ministry:

1. Support/Steering Committee Members (Amanda would very much like to form a strong and vigorous group of interested persons to give guidance and support to her work through the coming years. Please speak with her if you would like to know more or to volunteer.)
2. Small Desk and Chair (As you may know, Amanda currently divides her time between her home in the Halifax area and the campus of Messiah College, but we would like to eventually furnish a small work space for her here at the church. If you would have a desk and/or chair that might work that you would be willing to donate, please contact Amanda.)
3. Financial Support (You might recall that, for this first year's approximately \$20,000 ministry budget for Amanda's work, we are planning that \$15,000 will come from Memorials Fund interest, \$2,500 from the Bicentennial/Local Benevolence Fund, and the rest from designated gifts beyond regular giving to our congregation's ministry. This support from giving over and above previous contributions will hopefully increase in coming years to cover the entire cost of Amanda's work. If you would like to make a gift toward Amanda's ministry, all you need do is write a check payable to "St. John Lutheran C & Y Ministry", making the notation "Children & Youth Ministry" on the memo line for good measure. If you forget and simply make your check payable to the church, don't worry – that will also work. Please place your check in a plain envelope that is also marked "Children & Youth Ministry" and which includes your offering envelope number if you would like your gift to appear on your annual giving statement. You can then either drop your envelope in the offering plate, give it directly to Carl Baumgardner – the treasurer of the account through which project monies are being routed – or mail it here to the church at PO Box 270, Berrysburg, PA 17005-0270, whichever is easiest for you.)
4. Prayer Support (Saving the most important need for last!)

Thank you for reading this month, and for your partnership in this dynamic ministry that we share!

*Pastor Tom*

Hello everyone!

I have officially been a part of your church family for one month and I am so excited about what has happened already! Thank you for making me feel so welcome! I am looking forward to everything that is up ahead! Looking forward, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 we will be having a pizza party for all of the families and children of St. John. This is going to be a time for me to speak one on one with a lot of you and the children of this church, as I do not always get that time on a Sunday morning. During the pizza party we will be having a brief suggestion time and an introduction of the new program to the members of the church. I will have games planned for all of the kids. (Water games weather permitting). I hope to see you all there! Have a great rest of your week everyone! ☺

Blessings,

Amanda Baker

### **THERE'S (PROBABLY!) STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR SPRING BIBLE STUDY**

Midweek Bible Study will resume for the Easter Season on Wednesday, April 6, and then will meet on subsequent Wednesdays through May 25. As before, class will be held each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Having finished a lively fall and winter study of the time of the Protestant Reformation, the topic for this spring study will be the Bible books of *Ephesians* and *Philippians*, where we encounter a joyful and thankful Apostle Paul addressing the real-life issues of real-life Christians – folks just like us! No previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and discuss God’s Word together! So that the correct number of books can be ordered for our study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) by *Easter Sunday morning, March 27.*

### **COMING SOON!**

Cat’s Meow of St. John Church

The Cat’s Meow will be a replica of our church including the new addition. This wooden collectable will be available for our church members and people in the community to purchase as a keepsake, or could even be used to commemorate a baptism, first communion, wedding or other special occasions. This miniature church will bring back warm memories of life in our community with our church family, and will depict our historic church building on the “Hill”.

Information about placing your order will be available soon !

## LOOKING AHEAD TO STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL TIME...

**Important Schedule Change!!!** Our Annual Strawberry Festival, which had been tentatively scheduled for June 15, has been moved to Wednesday, June 8. Please update your family calendar and pass the word to any friends or family members who might have been planning on the old date. And please watch for next month's *Epistle*, which will include the complete committee/work list.

## ...AND TO OTHER CHANCES TO "THINK SUMMER"...

Our schedule of summer outdoor worship has also been finalized by Worship & Music Committee and Congregational Council. These Sundays will be: May 29 (Memorial Day Weekend), June 19, July 3 (Independence Day Weekend – “Colonial” Order for Holy Communion), July 24 (Vacation Bible School Closing Program, followed by Annual Picnic), August 7 (Holy Communion), August 21 (Annual Old Fashioned Hymn Sing Worship), and September 4 (Labor Day Weekend – Holy Communion). Altogether, we will have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoor beauty of “the Hill” in worship for a total of seven times this summer.

And the dates of Vacation Bible School have also been set, running Monday, July 18, through Friday, July 22, with the closing program taking place – as mentioned above – on Sunday, July 24, outside in the pavilion. Amy Gehring, who will once again be leading our VBS, with strong support from Louise Baumgardner and Amanda Baker, is just in the early stages of her planning, but please consider giving her a call to lend your time and talents.

Please save all of these dates in your family’s calendar, and please spread the news to your friends and neighbors. Summer will be here before we know it!

## CHURCH CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Now is the time to be planning how you might take advantage of summer church camping opportunities of all kinds which are available for people of all ages. Schedules and registration information are available in the foyer for the camps of our Lower Susquehanna Synod, Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, and information is available online for Camp Mt. Luther in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Please bear in mind that, for members of St. John, camping scholarships are provided from the Sunday School treasury, making any week-long experience a great value as well as a life-changing experience. *Special discounts are available for those who register by the beginning of April!*

## PLAY BALL!

Sign up on the foyer bulletin board for Lutheran Night with the Senators, which is coming up on Friday, May 13, as the Harrisburg Senators host the Akron Rubber Ducks. \$4 of every \$11 box seat ticket we purchase as a church group will be donated to camperships at Camps Nawakwa and Kirchenwald, and Bishop James Dunlop will throw out the first pitch. Fireworks will close out the evening. Deadline to sign up and pay for tickets (check payable to “St. John Lutheran” and given to Pastor Tom) is Sunday, May 1.

## FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT HEATHER HILDEBRAND

A sign up sheet is also posted on the foyer bulletin board for a “pot pie” (actual pies) fundraiser that is being held again this year to benefit Heather Hildebrand, the daughter of Randy & Heidi Challenger and granddaughter of Mervin & Cora Mace, who is dealing with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Previous fundraisers have made possible the outfitting of a van for Heather's transportation, the installation of an accessible bathroom in her home, and the purchase of a device that allows Heather to communicate via facial movements as her ability to speak weakens. The deadline to order is April 14, with pickup of orders (at Randy & Heidi's home in Elizabethtown) on April 30 beginning at 11:00 A.M. Payment may be made when your order is received. Checks should be made payable to “Randy or Heidi Challenger”. Please contact Randy (717-362-3000 or 717-805-7197) with any questions.

## NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA

On March 13, 2016 we had a 2:00 PM meeting with Helen Henninger having the topic. Helen spoke about strong and bold women of the past and today.

There will be an Executive Meeting on April 19, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall. I ask that all who are part of this committee please be there as we are planning the Mother/Child Banquet.

Day of Renewal will be represented by Fay Nichols, Barbara Bullock, and Patricia Herb. If anyone is still interested in attending please contact anyone of these ladies as registrations can be made until April 6, 2016.

Our next meeting will be on April 10, 2016 at 6:00 PM; ( Note the time change). Our leaders will be Patricia Herb and Elsie Krout.

Have a Happy Easter Season.

## PASTORAL ACTS

### At the Altar

On Saturday, February 20, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Blake Maurer** and **Sarah Dietrich** at the church. We pray God's blessing on Blake and Sarah, that they may each be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

### At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Romaine E. Lower**, the mother of **Joe** and **Jim Lower**, and sister-in-law of **Judi Cheatham**, who died at Community General Hospital on February 20. Worship was held at the Shultz Funeral Home in Lykens on February 24.

We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Romaine, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to all of her family and loved ones.

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Minutes  
February 14, 2016**

The council meeting was called to order by President, Roy Henry. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

**Present:** Roy Henry, Lorraine Henninger, Gail Billow, Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger, Sandra Lamenza, Tamara Spicher, Jeff Buffington, Karen Paulman, Jamie Doyle and Pastor Tom Bruner

**Excused Absence:** Jeff Lehman, Carl Baumgardner

**Minutes:** Motion by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Gail Billow to approve the minutes from the January 2016 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:**

Mike Hubler was present to talk about the local ministry needs. He shared some information about poverty in our local area and outlined some of the programs that are currently addressing the situation. He proposed that St John establish a task force to review the problem and how we can provide meaningful assistance. After discussion we decided we would consider asking our existing benevolence committee to take on the task.

The annual request for donations for Life Team was discussed. A motion was made by Lorraine Henninger and seconded by Jamie Doyle to match the donation we made last year. Motion approved unanimously.

We received notification from Burgey Water that our water test was good.

St John will host the first Lenten Service on Wednesday, February 17. Pastor Tom will offer the sermon at the February 24<sup>th</sup> service held at Trinity United Methodist Church in Elizabethville.

**Pastor's Report:** Motion made by Joseph Doyle and seconded by Dale Hassinger to accept the pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously.

**Treasurers' Reports:** Motion made by Karen Paulman and seconded by Jeff Buffington to accept the treasurers' reports. Motion approved unanimously.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

*Church Property:* Improvements at the sexton's home have been completed. The generator has been serviced. They will be scheduling a date to take the stars down.

*Finance:* No report

*Worship and Music:* The committee is reviewing a new music setting for the liturgy. They are also reviewing options for getting our communal wine from one of the local vineyards.

*Christian Education:* They are working on the children's Easter Program.

*Stewardship:* No report

*Youth Ministry:* Amanda Baker starts her new position as Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator this week. The snow outing is scheduled for February 28.

*Mutual Ministry:* No report

*Executive:* No report.

*Nominating:* No report.

*History:* No report

*Green Team:* No report

**Other Reports:** Construction on the pavilion has begun. The search for a used kettle cooker is in progress, and the other items we need to purchase are being researched. Everything is on schedule for complete operation for the Strawberry Festival.

The Child Protection Policy has been completed. Pastor Tom has completed all the paperwork for his personal clearance. The process to have all those working with children complete the process has begun.

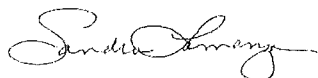
**New business:** There was some discussion about how to handle the payroll account for the new Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator position. A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Dale Hassinger to open a separate account during this temporary period with Carl Baumgardner serving as treasurer. Motion approved unanimously.

**Next Council Meeting:** March 13,2016 at 4:00PM

**Adjournment:** Motion by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Jamie Doyle to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lamenza



Secretary

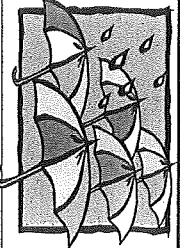
**Treasurer Reports  
January 2015**

	<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>EOM</b>
Current	11,857.24	12,171.47	10,473.13	13,555.58
Benevolence	165.07	1253.04	1253.00	165.11
Memorial	34,403.81	9.57		34,413.38
Improvement	5509.23	505.00	365.29	5648.94
Bicent Ch Acct	29,672.82	1.66	998.78	28,675.70
Bicent Svngs	5300.91			5300.91
Flower	179.21	225.00	140.00	264.21



# April 2016

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
<b>3 The 2nd Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:00 Festival Prelude 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, Featuring Easter Program	<b>4</b> Upper Dauphin Conference Cabaret Meeting at Zion, Rife	<b>5</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 Spring Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church Pastor Tom's Day Off <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>
<b>10 The 3rd Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Children's Church and Installation of Amanda Baker <b>Fair Trade Coffee and Tea will follow</b> <b>Worship</b> 11:30 Mutual Ministry Comm. Mtg. 11:45 Young Persons and their Families Gather with Amanda for Pizza Lunch and sharing time (In Pavilion or Sunday School Room) 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting. 6:00 Women's Group Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg. 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Meeting 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 Spring Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Deadline to Submit Items for May "St. John's Epistle"</i>	<b>16</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off
<b>17 The 4th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Young Person's Sermon by Janet Denlinger	<b>18</b> Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off—No Office Hours	<b>19</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 Spring Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off Passover
<b>24 The 5th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Children Church	<b>25</b> Mark, Evangelist	<b>26</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 Spring Bible Study	<b>28</b> 5:30 Community Meal at Salem United Church of Christ Elizabethville	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off



*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor [stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com](mailto:stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com).....717-362-9519 (O)  
 717-362-7895 (H)

Amanda Baker, Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator, [girwildcat@aol.com](mailto:girwildcat@aol.com)...717-802-5672

Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email).....717-319-0703

Judith Ferree, Organist [jjferree@epix.net](mailto:jjferree@epix.net).....717-362-4228

Sandra Paul, Secretary [rbpaul@epix.net](mailto:rbpaul@epix.net) .....717-362-4117

Roy Henry, Council President [webmaster@randrhenry.com](mailto:webmaster@randrhenry.com)..... 717-579-0244

Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 717-362-9108

**Find Us on Facebook**

**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)**

Physical Address (for deliveries): 215 St. John Road Elizabethville, PA 17023

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 270 Berrysburg, PA 17005

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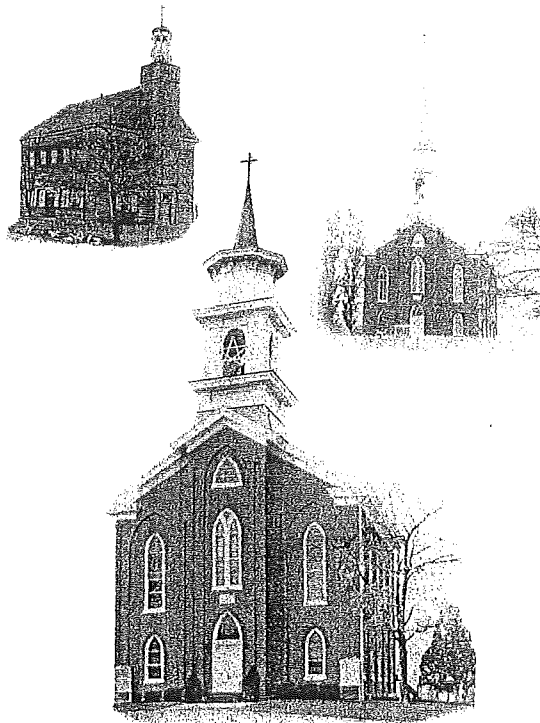
Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Thursday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Friday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

(Other times by appointment)

**OUR MISSION**

*St. John congregation, responding to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, unites together to preach and teach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission. With God's guidance and grace, we strive to boldly proclaim by word and action the reconciling Gospel of Jesus: Working together for justice and peace, and caring for those in need in our community and world. We invite everyone to join us wherever you are on your faith journey.*



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Berrysburg, Pennsylvania  
 1780-2005

