

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 270
Berrysburg, PA 17005

St. John's Epistle
April 2017

*He is not here:
for he is Risen,
as he said.*

--MATTHEW 28:6

From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Later this month, we come again to our observance of Palm/Passion Sunday and the “Three Days” or “Triduum” – the ancient title for the period that begins on Maundy Thursday evening and ends on Easter Sunday evening. If you have never taken the time to experience the power of these holy days focusing on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, why not make this the year? Our schedule of worship and related activities will be as follows:

-Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, April 9:

We will begin our worship outside in the pavilion (or, if the weather turns out to be severe, in the Sunday School Room downstairs) and join in a genuine procession of palms, led by our young persons. (Folks who feel unsure for any reason about joining in the procession up the stairs will simply go upstairs in advance just like normal and be able to follow along through the sound system.) As we process, we will again carry the beautiful “fair trade” palm fronds that provide just compensation for the small family farms who grow them. Once we are all assembled upstairs, we will again be inspired by a dramatic reading by Vincent Lamenza of The Passion of Jesus – according to St. Matthew this year.

-Maundy Thursday, April 13:

At 7:00 P.M., we will gather for a Liturgy of Holy Communion, sharing in the mystery and the meaning of that Upper Room – the body and the blood given for us – the betrayal and desertion of our Lord. Reflecting that betrayal and desertion, our worship will end with the solemn stripping of the altar by members of altar guild as the senior choir intones the haunting words of Psalm 22.

-Good Friday, April 14:

At 7:00 P.M., we will gather for the Liturgy of Good Friday – a dark and solemn, and yet hopeful, time when we hear again of the extent of Jesus' great love and sacrifice for you and me. Members of Youth Group and Pastor Tom will again lead us in the drama which we used last year for the first time. Following the conclusion of worship, the Youth Group will begin their overnight lock-in.

-Holy Saturday, April 15:

At 9:00 A.M., members of Youth Group will wrap up their overnight lock-in and set up for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, with the hunt getting underway at 10:00 A.M. for children in four age groups: preschool, grades K-1, grades 2-3, and grades 4-5.

At 7:00 P.M., we will continue our worship downstairs with a Liturgy of Readings and Prayer. This liturgy, a part of the Liturgy of Easter Vigil, features a series of lengthy readings from the Old Testament, telling of the creative and saving actions of God, beginning with Genesis 1, that point the way to the ultimate creative and saving action of Easter. There will be no music and no offering – only my reading by the light of a single candle, silence for meditation, and prayer.

-The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day, April 16:

Following Easter Sunday tradition at St. John, a very brief Sunrise Worship will take place outdoors (weather permitting) from 6:30 – 6:45 A.M. From 6:45 – 7:00, all interested men of the church will prepare and set up for Easter breakfast, which will be served from 7:00 – 8:00. Following some clean-up time, and a Men's Choir rehearsal at 8:15, regular Sunday School for all ages will follow at 9:00. Our morning will conclude with a Liturgy of Holy Communion, featuring the great hymns of Easter, at 10:15 A.M. A special musical prelude, featuring Men's Choir, will precede this worship, so please plan to come approximately 15 minutes early.

And, looking just a little further ahead, please don't forget that **the 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 23**, will be the date of our **Easter Program, during 10:15 A.M. worship**. While the rest of the world will have already stored away the Easter decorations, concluding that Easter is over and done, we choose to live the truth that Easter is, in fact, a “week of weeks” – 49 days plus 1 – and our young persons, guided by Miss Laurie, will lead us in continuing that celebration. As Miss Laurie and the young persons recently reminded us, our God Is a Great Big God! Let's prepare to celebrate together just How Great and just How Big!!

Contact Us

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	stjohnhill-church@frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little@gmail.com	717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
Tammy & Bill Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
Judith Ferree	Organist	jjferree@epix.net	717-362-4228
Carol Hubler	Choir Director	mchubler@gmail.com	570-758-5052
Rebecca Conte	Secretary	rlkconte06@gmail.com	570-262-2664
Daniel Langhans	Council President	langhans@pa.net	717-365-3794
Fay Nichols	Prayer Chain Coordinator	fnichols46@comcast.net	717-599-8990

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

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

Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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.

Miss Laurie's Office Hours:

Monday 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Friday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.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.

Upcoming Events

LOOKING AHEAD TO STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL TIME...

As was mentioned in last month's **Epistle**, please be sure to add the date of this year's Festival to your family calendar – Wednesday, June 14. As we prepare for June 14, one noticeable change as a result of the first planning meeting is that we will not be holding the flea market, intending instead to move the history display and other stands, which have previously been more out of the way, in with the bake sale tables. Please watch for next month's **Epistle**, which will include the complete committee/work list, and consider attending the next planning meeting, which will be coming up on Tuesday, May 2, at 6:15 P.M. at the church.



REGISTER FOR SPRING BIBLE STUDY!

In this year of the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, largely at the hands of our own Martin Luther, Midweek Bible Study this spring will both take a look back at how things were in 1517 and take a look forward at where relations between the Lutheran and Roman Catholic branches of the One Christian Family might be headed in 2017 and beyond. We will look back by working together through a new translation of **Martin Luther's 95 Theses with Introduction and Commentary** which is being published especially for this anniversary year. We have probably often heard of how Brother Martin nailed those 95 Theses (or discussion points) on the Wittenburg church door on October 31, 1517, but what exactly did they say? This resource will give us a great chance to take a look for ourselves! And, looking ahead, we will work together through a brand new book titled **Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist**, which has been prepared jointly by our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for use by both Lutheran and Roman Catholic Christians. Where have we come closer together and how have things changed since 1517?

SPRING BIBLE STUDY CONTINUED...

And where do we still have significant points of disagreement and disunity which would be familiar to Martin Luther? The study will begin on Wednesday, April 26, and will meet for a total of 5 Wednesdays, ending before Memorial Day weekend. Class will be held each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. 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, April 16**.

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!**



News from Miss Laurie Children & Youth Ministry



Yes, she can be taught! I sent out my FIRST group e-mail! WoHoo!! Every Friday, I will be sending out an e-mail to keep the congregation posted on upcoming events. If apologize if I missed anyone. Please let me know if I need to have "my people" add your e-mail to my list!

In March, SONday Celebration will undergo a bit of a transformation as we start preparing for our Easter Program. The program will be held Sunday, April 23rd during worship. ALL youth (grades 12 and under) are invited and encouraged to participate!!

We're looking for input as to what time of day families and helpers would like to have VBS this summer – mornings or evenings. Look for a questionnaire in your bulletin on April 23rd, or e-mail me at misslaurie.little@gmail.com with your preference. Thanks, in advance, for your input!

On Easter Sunday, April 16th, we're planning a special Easter Celebration during SONday Celebration! Join us for music and fun activities to celebrate the fact that Jesus LIVES!!!

God continues to bless this ministry! Thanks to everyone for so whole-heartedly welcoming me and my family into your fold!

Miss Laurie

...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 28 (Memorial Day Weekend), June 18, July 2 (Independence Day Weekend – "Colonial" Order for Holy Communion), July 23 (Vacation Bible School Closing Program, followed by Annual Picnic), August 6 (Holy Communion), August 13 (**Elizabethville Bicentennial Worship at the Upper Dauphin High School Athletic Field at 10:30 A.M.**), August 20 (Annual Old Fashioned Hymn Sing Worship), and September 3 (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, along with one further outdoor opportunity in Elizabethville on August 13.

And the dates of Vacation Bible School have also been set, running Monday, July 17, through Friday, July 21, with the closing program taking place – as mentioned above – on Sunday, July 23, outside in the pavilion. Miss Laurie is just in the early stages of her planning for VBS, 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!

Worship Service Schedule April 2017

Altar Guild for Month of April Pat & Harold Herb
Lector for Month of April Donald Deibler



Usher's for the Month of March: Jeff Buffington (L) Jeff Lehman(E),
Angela Maurer and Dan Maurer(LAY)

APRIL 2, 2017

5th Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-
Sunday School Pianist-
Greeters-
Acolyte-

Roy Henry
Lois Watson
The Lynn Mace Family
Owen Mattern & RJ Henry

APRIL 9, 2017

Sunday of the Passion / Palm Sunday Sunday School Superintendent-
Holy Communion Sunday School Pianist-

Greeters-
Acolyte-

Larry Gessner
Judy Ferree
The Baumgardner Family
Hoyt Schlegel & Cole Roadcap

APRIL 13, 2017

Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion

Greeters-
Acolyte-

The Maurer Family
Serene Boyer & Lily Boyer

APRIL 14, 2017

Good Friday

Greeters-

The Jim Watson Family

APRIL 16, 2017

Resurrection of Our Lord/ Easter Day Sunday School Superintendent
Holy Communion Sunday School Pianist

Greeters-
Acolyte-

Jeff Lehman
Louise Baumgardner
The Thompson Family
Kelsey Henninger & Aidan Roadcap

APRIL 23, 2017

2nd Sunday of Easter
Easter Program

Sunday School Superintendent-
Sunday School Pianist-
Greeters-

Ken Koller
Sandy Paul
Maryjane Zelner

APRIL 30, 2017

3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday School Superintendent-
Sunday School Pianist-
Greeters-
Acolyte-

Lynn Henninger
Carol Hubler
The Enders Family
Ashton Schreffler & Madeline Willard

Women of the ELCA

First of all I want to say what a wonderful presentation Dana Klouser gave at our last meeting. About a year ago she traveled to the Holy Land and she was willing to share her memories with us. Thank you; we sure had an enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting will be on April 9, 2017 at 6:00 PM (**we will be going back to our regular time again**). Our leaders will be Pat Herb and Lois Leshner.

Things to Think About

1. We are still needing materials for our quilting project.
2. If you are planning to attend the Day of Renewal on April 29, 2017 at Holy Trinity Church in Hershey your registration form must be in by April 10, 2017. The cost is \$ 20.00 per person. If you need a form contact Barbara Bullock.
3. We are in need of a delegate for our next Women of the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod in August. Our convention will be at Trinity Lutheran in Camp Hill on the 18 & 19 of August. Think about this until our next meeting.
4. Don't forget the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

The next event we as the women will be planning is our Annual Mother /Child Banquet. Mark your calendars for May 21, 2017 at 6:00 PM in our Fellowship Hall **Hallews from the Women of the ELCA at St John's**

Our next meeting will be on March 12, 2017 in the Fellowship Hall. Ann Bruner and Jean Weaver will have the program. Dana Klouser will be joining us to give a presentation of her recent trip to the Holy Land.

Pat Herb stated that material for quilting is getting very low. So we are asking that the congregation help by keeping their eyes open for material at yard sales or auctions or closets or attics in our own homes. If you are able to help please contact Pat; her number is 362-9668.

Barbara Bullock has stated that our Prayer Shawl Ministry will now be open to folks in our communities. To acquire a prayer shawl **you must contact pastor** with information about the recipient. We will be continuing our Blessing Bears for our little ones who are in the hospital. Fay Nichols will make the purchase.



Youth Group News

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Little Caesars Fundraiser. The proceeds mainly will help with the cost for our youth to attend GATHERING 2018, in Houston, Tx.

The youth of St. John's, after assisting Pastor Tom at our Good Friday worship on April 14, we will once again hold our Youth Group Shut in. During the shut in we will prep for the following days Annual Easter Egg Hunt as well as other activities planned for the evening. Youth Group Members will lead the Easter Egg Hunt and its activities on April 15, on the grounds of the church.

Please look forward for more information regarding an upcoming service day in which we will be attending Bethesda Mission for a day of volunteering.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2017

The Council Meeting was called to order by Pastor Tom who also offered prayer and devotions.

Present – Carl Baumgardner, Jeff Buffington, Jamie Doyle, Joseph Doyle, Henry Henninger, Patricia Herb, Dan Langhans, Donna Rabenold, Tamara Spicher and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences – Gail Billow and Dale Hassinger

Absent – Karen Paulman

Reading of Minutes:
Motion by Carl Baumgardner, 2nd by Pat Herb to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:
Pastor indicated that we passed our most recent monthly and quarterly water tests conducted by Pure Test Labs (Martin). Cost of testing has been lowered significantly from \$92/month down to \$60/month. Cost of quarterly tests has been lowered from \$90/quarter to \$38/quarter.

The Elevator maintenance contract is increasing by 3.48%.

Dana Klouser, our Life Line Pregnancy liaison would like to hold a “Baby Shower offering” where she would set up a play pen for donation of items supporting the Pregnancy Center. She will write an article and donations will be accepted from 2/19 to 3/5. Motion by Tamara Spicher, 2nd by Pat Herb to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

August 13 Community Worship service in celebration of the Elizabethville Bicentennial will be held outside at 10:30am. The Auditorium will be the backup location in the event of inclement weather. There will be a free community luncheon afterwards. St. John is responsible for chips & pretzels for approximately 600 people. Musical entertainment by each congregation will follow such as Children’s Choir, Men in Harmony, etc. Old timer baseball game will wrap up the festivities. Offering will be split between Upper Dauphin & Northern Dauphin Community Service Centers.

Lenten worship – Mid week dinner & worship March 15 hosted by St. John. Pastor Tom will be preaching at the March 22 service.

Pastor’s Report:
Motion by Donna Rabenold, 2nd by Jamie Doyle to approve Pastor Tom 2017 vacation schedule as follows:
May 13-17
Aug. 15-23 (outside hymn sing)
Oct 12-23
Dec 25- Jan 2 (lesson & carols)
Jim Watson is available for all 5 Sundays. This includes 1 leftover Sunday from Pastor Tom’s first year. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by Carl Baumgardner to accept Pastor’s report. Motion Passed unanimously.

Children & Youth:
Program is going very well. Motion to have a sign-up sheet to help out with the “SONday Celebrations” by Pat Herb, 2nd by Tamara Spicher. Motion passed unanimously.

Report of Treasurers:
Motion by Pat Herb, 2nd by Carl Baumgardner to accept the treasurer’s reports. Motion passed unanimously.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2017

With regard to our 2016 Benevolence offering, we were \$945 short of our \$12,000 commitment. Motion by Henry Henninger, 2nd by Joe Doyle to take \$945 from the Local Benevolence Fund to honor our 2016 commitment. \$12,000 will be the 2017 goal.

Reports of Standing Committees:
Church Property: The furnace/boiler passed inspection. Outside painting project is estimated to cost \$12,000. New Storm windows are estimated at \$20,000. Suggestion of looking into painting lines to accommodate more parking spaces was made.

Finance Committee: No report

Worship & Music: Next committee meeting is in March.

Christian Education: Met and discussed Sunday school program and Miss Laurie is up and running well. Angie Maurer took online course camping program so we will receive discount.

Youth Group: Youth are returning from Camp Hebron retreat with Lykens UM Youth today. Youth led worship will be 2/19. Round Top trip coming up.

Mutual Ministry: 4/9 is next meeting.

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report.

History Committee: Still working on history book with Publisher.

Other reports: In addition to the Elevator Usher “driving” the elevator to take people up to church, they will be responsible to drive the elevator after church to take people back downstairs.

Unfinished Business: Aug 19 is the Elizabethville Bicentennial Parade. July 29 is the deadline to enter. Think about a float for the next meeting possibly featuring our Children’s Choir and Program.

New Business: Carl Baumgardner donating a wireless printer for use by Council members counting offering after church. Tamara Spicher will bring the remaining Cat’s Meows to the Strawberry Festival.

Next Council Meeting: March 12, 2017 @ 4:00pm

Adjournment: Motion by Tamara Spicher, 2nd by Donna Rabenold to adjourn at 5:18pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

Treasurers Report for
January 2017

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	8,509.42	18,851.56	12,584.77	14,776.21
Benevolence	56.00	1,013.05	913.00	156.05
Memorial	13,751.22	50,901.85	29,300.00	35,353.07
Improvement	1,055.80	258.00	-0-	1,313.80
Bicent CkAcct	19,765.71	.70	1,391.00	18,375.41
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	30.56	245.00	149.15	126.41
C&Y Ministry	3,280.75	810.11	1,412.48	2,678.38

