

ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

A Letter from The Pastor.....

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Our 50-Day Celebration of Easter, which begins on April 1 and runs through the Day of Pentecost, May 20, provides us time to consider the center point of the entire biblical story – the victory of Jesus over death and sin, a victory for us and for all Creation. I was thinking that these 50 days might also be an appropriate time to consider the “big picture” of that biblical story, and so, to aid us in that process, I give you **The Bible in 50 Words:**

**God made,
Abraham split,
Bush talked,
plagued,
People walked,
Promise landed,
Prophets warned,
Love talked,
Love rose,**

**Adam bit,
Joseph ruled,
Moses balked,

Sea divided,
Saul freaked,
Jesus born,
Anger crucified,
Spirit flamed,**

**Noah arked,
Jacob fooled,
Pharaoh**

**Tablets guided,
David peeked,
God walked,
Hope died,
Word spread,**

God remained!

I believe it was in seminary days that I first came across these words, and so I assume they have been circulating for many years. May they be a blessing to you this Easter Season.

Easter is also a time about new beginnings of all kinds and so, with that in mind, I want to mention a brand new Sunday School offering that will be getting started on Sunday, April 8. Olivia Williard has heard the Call of God to begin a Sunday morning class for junior high folks, basically those in Grades 5 and 6. Please see her for more information, and also please say “thanks” for this new faith formation initiative!

Don't forget to read on to see Miss Laurie's April letter, where she will have more to say about this new class, as well as our “Easter Celebration Worship” coming up at 10:15am on the 8th.

Pastor Tom





LUTHERAN CAMPING NIGHT AT THE SENATORS GAME

MAY 11TH, 2018



GATES OPEN: 6:00PM * 7:00PM GAMETIME

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them." -Matthew 18:20

THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION AND THE HARRISBURG SENATORS INVITE YOUR CHURCH FAMILY TO A NIGHT OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP AT FNB FIELD FOR OUR ANNUAL LUTHERAN CAMPING NIGHT!

TICKETS ARE \$11 AND \$4 FROM EACH TICKET WILL BENEFIT CAMP KIRCHENWALD & CAMP NAWAKWA



POST GAME FIREWORKS



ORDERS AND PAYMENT DUE SUNDAY, APRIL 15TH TO OLIVIA WILLIARD

* ALL TICKETS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE WILL CALL WINDOW ON MAY 11TH *

TICKETS _____ TICKETS AT \$11 EACH FOR A TOTAL \$ _____

CHURCH: St. John's Lutheran Church, Berrysburg, PA

NAME OF PURCHASER: _____

ADDRESS OF PURCHASER: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

PAYMENT TERMS: _____ CHECK CREDIT CARD: ___VISA ___MC ___DISCOVER ___AE

NAME ON CARD: _____ EXP: _____

NUMBER ON CARD: _____ SEC CODE: _____

PAYMENT OF CREDIT CARD, CASH, OR CHECK MADE OUT TO HARRISBURG SENATORS CAN BE MAILED ALONG WITH ORDER TO

ATTN: LUTHERAN NIGHT; PO BOX 15757; HARRISBURG, PA 17105

OR FAX TO 717-231-4445

OR GIVEN TO OLIVIA WILLIARD BY 4/15

News from Miss Laurie

Happy April everyone! I hope you all enjoyed a fabulous Easter with family and friends! And isn't it great that spring is finally here?!

As we continue to celebrate our risen Lord, please join us on Sunday, **April 8th** for a special Easter "Celebration" Service! This service will be a family-friendly worship experience (similar to the 4:00 Christmas Eve Service) using a more contemporary format. There will be "jazzed-up" versions of traditional hymns, some special music, and our young Christians will be involved in the service. There will be a Sunny Sermon too! Mark your calendars and plan to attend!!

And the celebration continues! On **April 29th**, we're having a special "40 days of Easter" SONday Celebration where we'll learn and explore things that happened to Jesus between Easter and Ascension Day. Bring your appetites to this one – there will be LOTS of snacks! It's another worship experience our young Christians won't want to miss!

Starting the Sunday after Easter, Olivia Williard will be leading a new Sunday morning class for 5th and 6th graders! Some of the older kids may feel like SONday Celebration is geared toward the younger children, so Olivia is tailoring a class especially to this age group. If you have a youth in 5th or 6th grade, bring them **April 8th** at 9:00!

There are always new things in the works!! Wishing you all the wonder of new life that springtime and the season of Easter bring!!

Miss Laurie

St. John's Facebook:
facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch

St. John's Children and Youth Ministry:
facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry

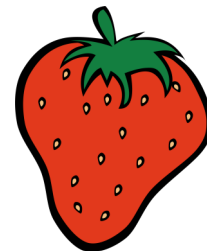


OUR MISSION

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.

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 13***. 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 ***Monday, April 30, at 6:30 P.M.*** at the church.



Register for Spring Bible Study

Starting on Wednesday, April 11, Midweek Bible Study will continue and conclude the study begun last winter with a look at the work for which (except for his 95 Theses themselves) Martin Luther is perhaps best remembered – The Small Catechism – continuing our journey through a 500th Anniversary resource called **By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism**. This richly illustrated resource, complete with companion DVD, will again guide our exploration of Luther's guide to the most important aspects of our Christian Faith. The study will meet each Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. through May 23, when we will break for the summer. No previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and discuss God's Word together! If you were not a part of the fall or winter study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) no later than Easter Sunday morning, April 1, so that the correct number of new study books can be ordered.

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!**

Women of the ELCA

The next meeting of the women of the ELCA for ST Johns will be on *April 8, 2018* In the fellowship hall of the church The leaders for this meeting will be Pat Herb and Lois Leshner. All are invited to join us at the meeting.

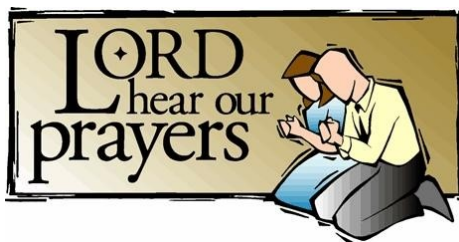
Many things were talked about at our meeting on March 11, 2018. The following is a schedule for you to mark on your calendar.

April 21, 2018 - Day of Renewal held at Shippensburg (Reservations must be made)
May 2, 2018 - Lehman Sale
May 6, 2018 - Family Celebration (following service)
June 13, 2018 - Strawberry Festival
August 18, 2018 - Women Convention
September 29, 2018 - Pizza Stand at Pillow Celebration
November 2 - 4, 2018 - Fall Retreat (Camp Hebron)

Mark your calendars and if you can help in any way contact President Janet Denlinger

Coming soon the ladies are working on a cookbook that will be assembled and on sale in the fall. Watch for more information.

Please do not forget the quilting and shawl ministries.



HOSPITALIZED/RESIDING IN SENIOR LIVING/DEALING WITH ACUTE ILLNESS

Margaret Enders – Rm. #211, Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, 4000 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, 17112

Warren Hassinger – Room #323, Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg

Ronald Hoover – Room #101, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg

Marlin Koppenhaver - Room #12, Green Valley Skilled Nursing & Rehab. Center, 200 Taylorsville Road, Pitman, 17964

Sue Lebo – Rm. #203, Heritage Mill Personal Care Home, 846 E. Wiconisco Ave., Tower City, 17980

Cora Mace – Rm. #2822, Ben Franklin, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022

Martha Rebuck – Rm. #50, Stonebridge Health and Rehab. Center, 102 Chandra Drive, Duncannon, 17020

Helen Schade – Rm # 218, Traditions of Hershey, 100 North Larkspur Drive, Palmyra, 17078

Robert Schaffer – Discharged from Harrisburg on 3/17

Dawn Warner – Discharged from Premier at Susquehanna on 3/17 to her daughters home: 4210 Williamsburg Dr., Apt J, Harrisburg 17109

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2018

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Dan Langhans. Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions.

One unexcused absence – Jeffrey Buffington; all other members present.

Reading of Minutes: Motion by Carl Baumgardner; second by Daniel Maurer to accept the minutes. Motion passed by all in attendance.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

1. Women of the ELCA – Kitchen and other improvements; presented by Sandra Lamenza; recommendations:

- Kitchen: center island, redo the entire kitchen
- Cleanup day for office area and children's room
- Turn the old nursery into a conference room
- Jamie looking into pre-owned office furniture as a donation from her company
- Pastor's office needs an executive desk; to be used only as an office
- Clean out and improve children's room
- Motion for feasibility study through Sandra, first by Barbara Bullock, second by Daniel Maurer, passed by all in attendance.

2. Berrysburg and Mifflin Township Bicentennial Committee – Rifle; presentation by Alvin Kocher and Lynn Henninger:

- Henry rifle with picture of the St. Johns Church 1780
- part of the Bicentennial Celebration
- Motion to accept first by Carl Baumgardner, second by Carol Hassinger; the vote was 7 yes and 4 no; the motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

- Water test had good results – passed
- Looking for 2 persons to attend the Synod Assembly; 3 days at Messiah College; -
- Motion to send \$500 for support by Carl Baumgardner, second by Dan Maurer; passed by all in attendance.
- Boy Scouts now accept girls as scouts; church to await further developments.
- Motion to accept report by Patricia Herb, second by Jamie Doyle, passed by all in attendance.

Children and Youth: Carl reported the children's ministry is doing well. Motion to accept report by Donna Rabenold, second by Barbara Bullock; motion passed by all in attendance.

Treasurer Report by Jamie Doyle – the church’s current financial status; new flower coordinator to be announced; Motion to accept report by Patricia Herb, second by Carl Baumgardner; motion passed by all in attendance.

Church Property Report by Henry Henninger – new Christmas stars are being built, one already done.

Worship and Music Committee will meet February 20.

Faith Formation Team next meeting March 13.

The **Youth** have the next Sunday Service – February 18; spaghetti supper planned for February 25.

New Business:

Suggestion to close the back sanctuary doors during the church service
For the February 21 service to give all of the offering to local charity; cost of meal and expenses to be paid by the church

Motion to adjourn meeting by Jamie Doyle; second by Dan Langhans; passed by all in attendance.

Next meeting scheduled for March 11, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Darrell Denlinger, Secretary

Treasurer Reports – February 2018

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
Current	14,373.99	8,225.52	11,082.97	11,516.54
Children & Youth	(1,433.30)			(1,891.26)
Benevolence	106.65	862.03	0	968.68
Flower	297.88	35.00	195.55	137.33
Improvement	2,437.00	204.00	891.92	1,749.08
Memorial	3,366.07	120.66	0	3,486.73

... 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 27 (Memorial Day Weekend), June 17 (Father's Day weekend), July 1 (Independence Day Weekend – "Colonial" Order for Holy Communion), July 15, July 29 (Vacation Bible School Closing Program, followed by Annual Picnic), August 19 (Annual Old Fashioned Hymn Sing Worship), and September 2 (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 23, through Friday, July 27**, with the closing program taking place – as mentioned above – on Sunday, July 29, 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!

Thank You!!

The Snack Pack Steering Committee would like to thank the St. John's Family for your generosity over the last few months.

The Fill The Pew Project yielded two pick-up trucks full of food to fill the shelves at the elementary school. Thanks Delmar and Herbie for your trucks and muscles!

Then we had the wonderful soup luncheons. You gave a total of \$1,741.00 to support our program. WOW!!

You have been awesome with your support! The 150 children for whom we pack boxes each week are certainly benefiting.

Please keep us in your prayers. We, as a committee and our wonderful volunteers, feel blessed to be able to fulfill this Mission.

Pastoral Acts

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Joann Leitzel**, following her death at the Green Valley Nursing & Rehab. Center in Pitman on February 26. Worship was held at the church on March 2. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Joann, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to her family and other loved ones!

Congratulations

To **Taylor & Eileen Denlinger** on the safe and healthy birth of **Julia Mae Denlinger** on the evening of February 24 at Lancaster Women's & Children's Hospital. Julia weighed in at 7 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches long. Congratulations, too, to proud grandparents Janet & Darrell and aunt Rachel!

Youth Group News

There is plenty going on and coming up for the youth of St. John's and it is all very exciting! On March 30, the youth are assisting Pastor with the Good Friday Liturgy and then having their annual Lock-In event. We encourage all youth grades 5-12 to join us for this fun and entertaining evening together. The following morning we will host the Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 AM.

If you haven't in the past I encourage you to attend the Easter Sunday Sunrise Worship, yes I know, 6:30 is early and it's a weekend, but it's a beautiful moment to find yourself staring at the sun rising over the mountains and celebrating through worship and prayer the "new beginnings" our Lord creates. Then you can enjoy a wonderful breakfast served by the men of St. John's!

On April 8th during worship Miss Laurie is hosting an Easter Celebration that sounds like an exciting time! That same day a new Sunday school class is beginning for all youth grades 5-6.

On April 15th we are planning on a youth group activity night at the church from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Hope to see you all there!!

High School Class Update..

Hi everyone! I just wanted to give you some updates on what we have done so far in the High School Sunday School class and a glimpse into what is planned in the upcoming months. In November, we used a Thrivent Action Team to fill 20 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! The boxes were filled with toys, school supplies, and hygiene items. The shoeboxes were delivered to children in Honduras, the Bahamas, Burundi, Ukraine, and Panama! A big thank you to the Benevolence Committee for covering the shipping costs! Also this fall, we helped two local residents with yard work (and what a lot of work it was). This spring, plans are in the works to plant a Pollinator Garden here on "The Hill", so you may see us getting our hands dirty.... please excuse the mess! Also this spring (when we aren't playing in the soil), we will be doing lessons related to the Youth Gathering coming up in Houston. I am always looking for projects in the community or for local residents that may need an extra hand, so keep your eyes and ears open! I am having a great time with this class, so far, and I am excited with what it can grow into! Keep praying and encourage those high schoolers to join us on Sunday!

Yours in Christ,
Matt W.

We encourage all youth who are attending GATHERING,
to take time regularly and review the resources available to
you on the ELCA website

<http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>

Looking Ahead

May

Little Caesars Pizza
Fundraiser

June

13th - Strawberry
Festival, all youth will
be scheduled to work
the pavilion and assist
with the food service
portion of the festival.

28th - GATHERING,
Houston, Tx.

April Worship Schedule

April Gifts

Konde Diocese -
Delmar & Ginny
Enders
Celebrate Inserts -
Jamie Doyle
Tree 4 Hope -
Joe & Arlene Doyle

April Altar Flowers

Apr. 1
Jamie Doyle
Apr. 8
*Rabenold Children &
Grandchildren*
Apr. 15
*Tom & Donna
Rabenold*
Apr. 22
Roy & Rachel Henry
Apr. 29
Chris & Dana Klouser

**as of print date,
subject to change*

Altar Guild Pat and Harold Herb
Lector Donald Deibler

Usher's for the Month of April: Carl Baumgardner (L)
Louise Baumgardner (E), Matthew Williard and Olivia Williard (LAY)

April 1, 2018 **Holy Communion** **Easter Day**

Greeter Jim Watson Family
Acolytes RJ Henry and Aidan Roadcap
Superintendent Roy Henry
Pianist Louise Baumgardner

April 8, 2018 **Easter Program**

Greeter Jodi Thompson Family
Superintendent Larry Gessner
Pianist Sandy Paul

April 15, 2018

Greeter Maryjane Zelner
Acolytes Madeline Williard & Allysa Rabenold
Superintendent Jeff Lehman
Pianist Carol Hubler

April 22, 2018

Greeter The Enders Family
Acolytes Cole Roadcap and Aidan Roadcap
Superintendent Ken Koller
Pianist Lois Watson

April 29, 2018

Greeter Larry and Karen Gehring
Acolytes Hoyt Schlegel & Gary Leitzel
Superintendent Roy Henry
Pianist Judy Ferree

*Christ
is
Risen!*



April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1. Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day 6:30 Brief Outdoor Easter Sunrise Worship 7:00 – 8:00 Easter Breakfast served by the Men of St. John 8:15 – 9:00 Men's Choir Rehearsal 9:00 Adult & Sr. High Sunday School, Confirmation Class (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration and Jr. High Sunday School (opening downstairs) 10:00 Festival Prelude 10:15 Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion</p>	<p>2 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief</p>	<p>3 Pastor Tom Taking a Vacation Day – No Office Hours 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</p>
<p>8 Second Sunday of Easter 9:00 Adult and Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration and Jr. High Sunday School (opening downstairs) 10:15 Easter Celebration Worship Fair Trade Coffee and Tea will follow the Worship 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting 6:00 Women of the ELCA Meeting</p>	<p>9 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 5:30 Book Discussion Group Gathering 7:00 Church Dartball League Banquet at Valleys E.C. Church, Halifax Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</p>	<p>10 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</p>
<p>15 Third Sunday of Easter 9:00 Adult & Sr. High Sunday School, Confirmation Class (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration and Jr. High Sunday School (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 11:30 Mutual Ministry Committee Mtg 6:00 – 8:00 Monthly Youth Group Gathering Deadline to Submit Items for May "St. John's Epistle"</p>	<p>16 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief</p>	<p>17 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Worship & Music Committee Mtg 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</p>
<p>22 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00 Adult & Sr. High Sunday School, Confirmation Class (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration and Jr. High Sunday School (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of the Word</p>	<p>23 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting at Immanuel Lutheran, Williamstown</p>	<p>24 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Property Committee Mtg 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 Mark, Evangelist 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</p>
<p>29 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00 Adult & Sr. High Sunday School, Confirmation Class (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration and Jr. High Sunday School (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of the Word</p>	<p>30 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief</p>					

Pastor's Office Hours:

Mon, Tues -
8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

Wed, Thurs -
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon

Friday
8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
*(Other times by
appointment)*

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	Stjohnhillchurch@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

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE