ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

A Letter from The Pastor.....

Dear Friends in Jesus,

As I write these lines, it is a very chilly day in early March, and, even though the Season of Lent has begun (the name "Lent" coming from an Old English word having to do with "spring"), it still feels a lot like winter. And so I would really like to "think summer" and invite you to do the same as I highlight some important dates and times for our congregational family life this coming summer.

+Our Sunday Morning Summer Schedule will begin on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 26, and run through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 1, with Adult Sunday School (minus an opening time) running from 8:45 to 9:15 A.M., followed by Worship and SONDay Celebration (for persons in Grade 4 and younger) both at 9:30 A.M.

+Our schedule of Summer Outdoor Worship will be as follows: May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend), June 16 (Father's Day weekend), July 7 (Independence Day Weekend – "Colonial" Order for Holy Communion), July 14, July 28 (Vacation Bible School Closing Program, followed by Annual Picnic), August 18, and September 1 (Labor Day Weekend – Holy Communion). Altogether, we will again have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoor beauty of "the Hill" in worship for a total of seven times this summer.

+As was already mentioned in last month's *Epistle*, the date of this year's Annual Strawberry Festival will be <u>Wednesday</u>, June 12. 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 29, at 6:30 P.M. at the church.



+Vacation Bible School will be held each evening from Monday, July 22, through Friday, July 26, with the closing program taking place – as mentioned above – on Sunday, July 28, outside in the pavilion. Miss Laurie is just in the early stages of her planning for a week of VBS which will take us *To Mars and Beyond*, but please consider giving her a call to lend your time and talents. (Also be sure to add to your calendar the return of last year's very popular "spin off" from VBS – an *Outdoor Water Fun Night* on Friday, August 9.)

+And last, but most certainly not least, we will have the honor of making history by hosting the official *Berrysburg/Mifflin Township Bicentennial Worship* on Sunday evening, July 28, at 7:00 P.M., kicking off a week-long celebration. Pastor Jeff Wagner and I are planning a time of worship which will give us all the flavor of what worship was like 200 years ago for our Reformed and Lutheran Christian ancestors (but without the hour – or more – long sermon!). Carol Hubler and Judy Ferree will be directing a community adult choir and Miss Laurie and Louise Baumgardner will be leading a community choir for our young persons – watch for more information in the Easter Season. And, following worship, at 8:00 P.M., it is planned that everyone will gather in our pavilion for an old-fashioned ice cream social.

Please don't hesitate to check with me – or with any of the other folks named above – for further information about any of these plans. As always, thank you for reading and for your partnership in the Gospel!

Pastor Tom

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Font

Pastor Tom presided on Sunday, February 17, as we welcomed **Brielle Grace Miller** into the Kingdom of God and the St. John Congregational Family in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray God's blessings on Brielle, her parents Courtney & Eric, her other family members, and her sponsor as they live out the promises they have made!

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Rosena Barry**, following her death at Country Meadows in Mechanicsburg on February 9. Worship was held at the church on February 24, with interment in our cemetery. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Rosena, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to her children and other family members and loved ones!

News from Miss Laurie Young Christians Minister

Well, it's finally here – SPRING has arrived! The days are getting longer, the temperature is warming up (let's hope it STAYS up), and I'm pretty sure I saw my first robin!! The arrival of spring also means that Easter is on the way, and we'll be doing lots of things to celebrate the Easter season!

First, Celebration Club gets back to its original meeting day – the first Wednesday of the month! Join us on April 3rd for our Celebration Club Easter EGG-stravaganza!! Will there be fun games and activities and LOTS of treats? You know there will!! But more importantly, we'll be learning about the true meaning of Easter, and celebrating the fact that JESUS LIVES!!

Then on Palm Sunday, April 14th, come and be part of the crowd that will be cheering for Jesus as he triumphantly enters the city! We'll need all our young Christians waving palms and shouting "Hosanna" BOTH in SONday Celebration and then outside to kick-off our Palm Sunday Worship service!

April 21st is Easter and we'll ring in the morning "celebration" style! Join us for our "Jesus Lives" SONday Celebration with lots of activities to rejoice in our risen Lord! And don't miss the fun that continues in worship during Celebration Time!

The last Sunday of April – the 28th – we'll again be having an Easter "Celebration" Service! Come experience this more contemporary, kidfriendly worship service which will feature "jazzed-up" versions of traditional Easter Hymns, music from our Celebration Choir and, of course, a Sunny Sermon! It will be a fun service and a great way to keep our hearts engaged in the season of Easter!!

Mark your calendars and join us for ALL these awesome Easter activities! Wishing you a HAPPY SPRING and a blessed, and joyful Easter season!

Miss Laurie

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 vour faith journey.

Midweek Bible Study

Starting on Wednesday, May 1, Midweek Bible Study will get back underway for its spring session, continuing and concluding our in-depth look at *Women of the Bible*. We often think of the Bible as being mostly about men and don't expect to see or hear much about faithful women. But, as this study reminds us, our God is a surprising God whose work has and does include as many bold and important and memorable women as men. We will meet each Wednesday during May from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. and then take a 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, you can simply pick it up in the spring. To do so, please just register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) no later than <u>Easter Sunday</u>, <u>April 21</u>, so that the correct number of new study books can be ordered.

Summer Church Camping

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. Please contact our Congregational Camperson, Amy Gehring, who can point you to schedules and registration information for the camps of our Lower Susquehanna Synod, Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, and for Camp Mt. Luther in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Please bear in mind that, for members of St. John, camping scholarships are provided, 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 Our Women of the ELCA...

The ladies of the ELCA will once again have a jam and jelly stand at the annual St. John's Strawberry Festival. All proceeds from the event will go to the "Snack Pack" program. Homemade breads will also be available for purchase. To maximize profits the ladies would appreciate your help. They will be collecting sugar, Sure-Jell, lemon juice, 8 oz. glass jars and cash donations toward fruit.

And mark your calendars for the upcoming "Family Fiesta" on May 5 immediately following worship. The format will be a covered dish luncheon with walking tacos being supplied by the women's group. A fiesta type celebration is being planned by Miss Laurie to follow the meal. An invitation is extended to all members of the St. John church family.

Special Worship Opportunities throughout April

We will begin the month with the final two Wednesdays in our Lenten supper and worship series A Journey of Forty... Why Lent? On April 3, Pastor Tom will speak at Salem Lutheran Church, Elizabethville, with the theme of "Forty Days: Israelites Camping" and Pastor Jeff Wagner will bring the series to a close on April 10 at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville, with the theme "Forty Days: Jesus Tempted".

Then, as we reach the middle of the 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 14:

We will begin our worship <u>outside</u> in the pavilion (weather permitting) and join in a 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. Luke this year.

-Maundy Thursday, April 18:

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 19:

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 our worship drama. Following the conclusion of worship, the Youth Group will begin their overnight lock-in.

-Holy Saturday, April 20:

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 <u>downstairs</u> 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 21:

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, regular SONDay Celebration/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.

And, coming to the end of the month, please don't forget that **the 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 28**, will be the date of our **Easter Celebration 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 continue to remind us, our God <u>Is</u> a Great Big God! Let's prepare to celebrate together just How Great and just How Big!!

Tentative Youth Dates

April:

19th Assist with Good Friday Worship 19th - Annual Lock In 20th - Annual Easter Egg Hunt; 10:00

Youth Group News

Thank you to everyone who supported our Food Sale on Saturday March 30 at Mid Penn Bank, in Elizabethville! We would especially like to thank those who donated items, baked goods, and for the Thrivent Action Team!

April is full of fun activities for our youth to

participate in. If you haven't heard from Pastor Tom already, please be on the look
out from him regarding the Good Friday Worship in which the youth assist him,
or feel free to contact him to express interest to participate. Following the Good
Friday Service the Youth Group will hold their annual lock in, where they will prepare for the following days Annual Easter Egg Hunt, with other fun activities
planned that evening!!! On Saturday April 20 we will welcome our congregational
family to participate in our Easter Egg Hunt, that starts at 10:00

Looking Ahead

May 19 - Youth Group Fun Night July 22-26 - Vacation Bible School - All Youth are welcome to join our group grades 9-12 July 28 - Berrysburg / Mifflin Township Bicentennial Worship

Summer Lutheran Baseball Nights

The dates for this years Lutheran Baseball Nights at the Harrisburg Senator home games are **May 3** and **Aug 24!** Look for more info on the church bulletin board soon!!



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

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





April 20, 2018 10:00 All Kids Welcome!!

Youth Group Service Projects

With Spring around the corner the Youth Group would like to remind our Congregational family that we are always looking for service projects in our community. Specifically this Spring and Early Summer we would like to focus on the Berrysburg Community to help them prepare for their upcoming Bicentennial Celebration and are looking for individuals who are interested in cleaning up/decorating their property, but are unable too. Something similar to what Elizabethville and Pillow did during their Bicentennials. Please Contact Matt Williard with any suggestions!

REMINDERS

- 1. <u>ALL PARTICIPANTS</u> in any Youth Group activity (*Youth members AND friends*) must complete a General Information and Emergency/Medical Form. This form only needs to be completed 1 time each year.
- 2. Any time a Youth Group activity involves leaving the church, <u>ALL PARTICIPANTS</u> (*Youth members AND friends*) must complete a Permission, Liability, and Travel Form.
- 3. As we get closer to an organized Youth Group activity, an Activity/Event Sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

NOTE: You will find copies of the above forms posted on the bulletin board at church or on the shelf below the bulletin board. Completed forms may be given to any YG Advisor or to Pastor Tom. Thanks!

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

February 10, 2019

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Dan Langhans.

Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions from Mark Chapter 9 – Story of the Transfiguration.

Meeting started at 4 PM.

Excused absence: Henry Henninger

Reading of Minutes: Motion to accept by Donna Rabenold; second by Sandra Lamenza. Motion passed by all In attendance.

Reception of Petitions and Communications

- Annual Ministry Support
- UDA Parent Teacher Advisory Council request donation for wholesome after PROM activity of \$100: Motion to accept by Sandra Lamenza; second by Dan Langhans; passed by all present.
- Chaplaincy Program Spiritual Care Department at Pinnacle UPMC at various hospitals donation request of \$100: Motion by Carol Hassinger; second by Sandra Lamenza; passed by all present.
- Received letter from Cub Pack 86 for financial support of \$1500: Motion by Pat Herb; second by Dan Langhans; passed by all present. Girl Scouts are not chartered by St. Johns Church.
- Gift to Annual Fund Drive of the Dauphin County Library System donation request \$100: Motion by Ron Erb; second by Barb Bullock; passed by all present.
- Pastor Jenkins of Klingerstown has been identified as the Dean for Lutheran Church for one year.

Pastor's Report:

Motion to accept by Donna Rabenold; second by Sandra Lamenza; passed by all in attendance.

Children and Youth:

- Very active Children and Youth Groups
- Motion to accept by Carol Hassinger; second by Pat Herb; passed by all in attendance.

Treasurer Report:

- 2018 Church in Review
- Motion to accept by Sandra Lamenza; second by Pat Herb; motion passed by all in attendance.

Church Property:

- Kitchen coming along smoothly; should be ready for the spaghetti dinner; one cabinet not used was given to the youth: report by Sandra Lamenza.
- Third floor youth room requested to be painted blue.
- Need to look into a solution for the sanctuary ceiling.

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

February 10, 2019

Worship & Music:

- New bulletin design
- Bicentennial worship plans
- Suggest more lighting at Christmas
- March 13 St Johns to host the evening Lenten Service

Faith Formation: no meeting

Mutual ministry: to meet in April

Youth Ministry:

- \$136.85 collected for Super Bowl; support for Bethesda Mission
- Spaghetti Supper upcoming
- Plans to help in the community
- We are blessed with six advisors.

Women's Report:

- Breaking Bread on February 10 collected \$620.
- Cookbook is planned
- Jam and jelly to be sold at the Strawberry Festival
- Blanket making continues

Unfinished Business:

Working on the usher list

New Business:

Letter from Bishop about child abuse; Do we need a policy about addressing child abuse?

Motion to adjourn by Ron Erb; second by Carol Hassinger; motion passed by all in attendance. Next meeting March 10.

Respectfully submitted, Darrell Denlinger, Secretary

Treasurer Report - September 2018

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
Current Benevolence Children & Youth Flower Improvement Memorial	\$4,351.85 \$56.68 \$624.88 \$505.23 \$1,205.38 \$6,876.25	\$19,279.33 \$1,028.68 \$3,960.88 \$690.23 \$18,510.38 \$7,960.47	\$17,658.70 \$922.00 \$1,486.18 \$247.00 \$8,500.00 \$5,800.00	\$5,972.48 \$106.68 \$1,543.80 \$443.23 \$10,010.38 \$660.47
Bicentennial	\$24,237.48	\$0.88	\$0.00	\$24,238.36

April Worship Schedule

April Gifts

Celebrate Inserts -Joe and Arlene Doyle Altar Guild Harold and Pat Herb Lector Donald Deibler

Usher's for the Month of April Sandra Lamenza (L) Ken Koller (E), Larry and Karen Gehring (LAY)

April 7, 2019

Holy Communion

Greeter The Jodi Thompson Family Acolyte Allysa Rabenold & Madeline Williard

Superintendent Larry Gessner **Pianist** Judy Ferree

Altar Flowers

April 7

April 14, 2019 **Holy Communion** Greeter Maryjane Zellner and Arlene Doyle Cole Roadcap and RJ Henry Acolytes

Superintendent Jeff Lehman **Pianist** Lois Watson

April 14

April 21 Roy and Rachel Henry

April 18, 2019 **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion**

Greeter Acolytes The Lynn Mace Family Landon Mace and Avery Mace

April 28

Chris and Dana Klouser

April 19, 2019 **Good Friday**

Greeter Fay Nichols

*as of print date, subject to change April 21, 2019 **Holy Communion** Greeter Angela Enders and Family Acolytes Landon Mace and RJ Henry Superintendent **Pianist**

Ken Koller Louise Baumgaardner

April 28, 2019

Greeter Acolytes Mike and Carol Hubler

Superintendent **Pianist**

Gabe Gehring and Aidan Roadcap Roy Henry

Sandy Paul



Saturday		6 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off	13 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off	40 Holy Saturday 9:00 Youth Group Overnight Lock-in Ends and Members Set Up for Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 Annual Easter Egg Hunt	Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off	terk
Friday		15	12.0	Good Friday Good Friday G:15 Practice for Evening Worship 7:00 Solemn Good Friday Liturgy 8:00 Youth Group Overnight Lock-in Begins Passover begins at Sundown	98	r Easte
Thursday	0 0	4	11 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	18 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Liturgy of Holy Communion, concluding with Solemn Stripping of the Altar	25 Mark, Evangelist	appy
Wednesday	2019	3 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Salem Lu- theran Church, Eliza- bethville (Pastor Tom Speaking) 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Meeting	10 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville	17 7:30 Maundy Thursday Liturgy Practice/Senior Choir Rehearsal	4.	
Tuesday	APRIL 2	9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	9 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Faith Formation Team Gathering No Senior Choir Rehearsal Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East	9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.	23 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off	30 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Altar Guild Annual Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal
Monday		1 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:00 Church Dartball League Banquet at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens	8 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	15 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief Deadline to Submit Items for May "St. John's Epistle"	22 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of April 20) Earth Day	29 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 6:30 Second Planning Meeting for Annual Strawberry Festival
Sunday			7 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 2:00 - 4:00 Girl Scout Troop Meeting	14 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Lituugy of Holy Communion, with Palm Procession and Dramatic Passion Story Reading by Vincent Lamenza Fair Trade Coffee and Tea will follow the Worship 11:30 Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting	21 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 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion	28 Second Sunday of Easter 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Easter Celebration Worship 2:00 – 4:00 Girl Scout Troop Meeting

Pastor's Office	The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	Stjohnhillchurch @frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
<u>Hours:</u> Mon, Tues - 8:00 A.M 9:30 A.M.	Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little @gmail.com	717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
Wed, Thurs -	Tammy Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon	Judith Ferree	Organist	jjferee@epix.net	717-362-4228
Friday	Carol Hubler	Choir Director	Mchubler @gmail.com	570-758-5052
8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. (Other times by appointment)	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	717-329-7447

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