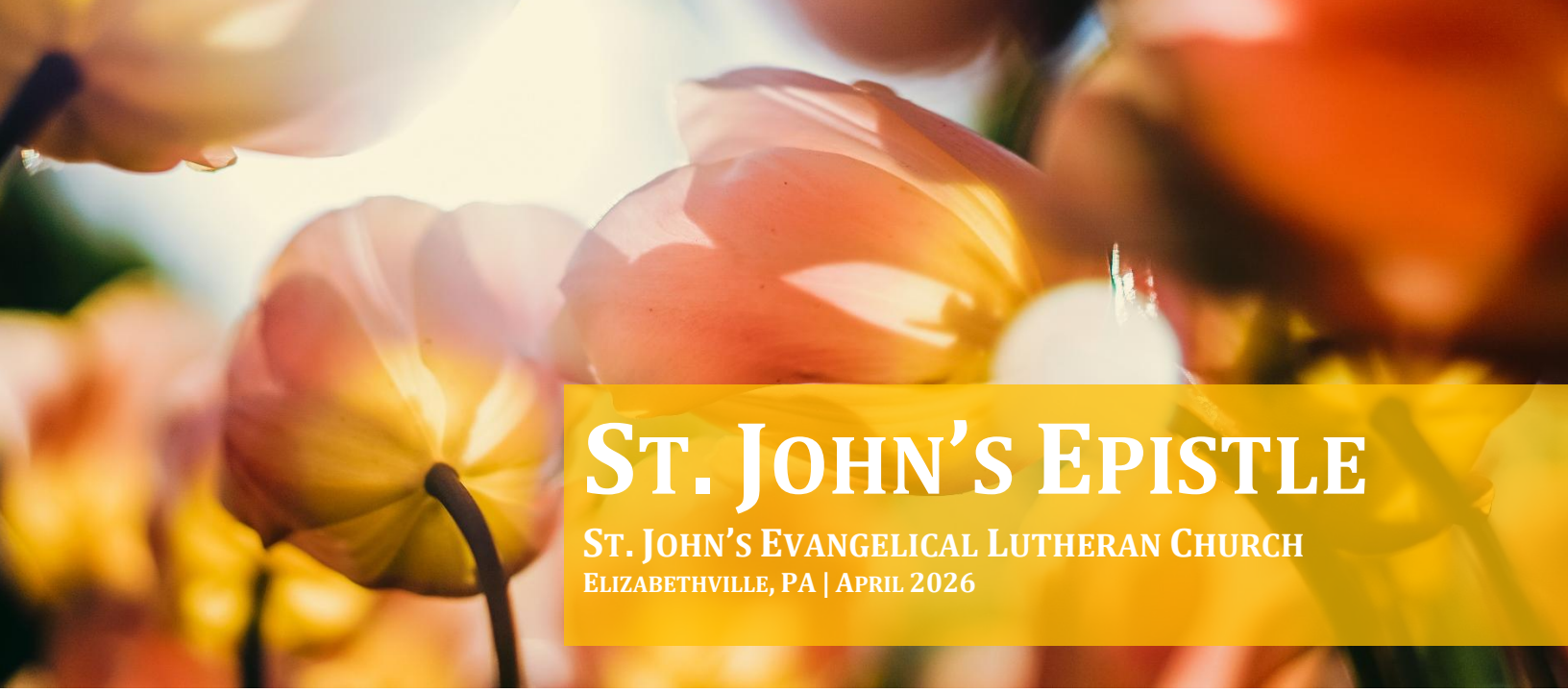


St. John's Epistle

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Elizabethville, PA | April 2026

In Christ we are a new creation!

The 40 days of Lent have given way to the 50 days of Easter. It's a season of refreshment, of putting on our new lives in Christ (which we receive daily) and being refreshed for ministry in Christ's name.

This Easter season happens to coincide with the finalization of a major step in the process of calling a new pastor. The Ministry Site Profile will be completed this spring. The process in on track to see this congregation's profile being shared nationwide in the ELCA by the time summer begins in earnest.

Then, we wait. God is working on the new in more hearts than just yours in the congregation. Pastors who are exploring new calls for themselves will be reading Hill's profile, and those interested in going deeper into exploring who you are here will contact the the synod office to make known their desire to be considered as a candidate here. How long will that take? The ONLY sure answer anyone has to that question is "As long as God needs to guide that new relationship into being."

In the meantime, we still have some work to do here. I like to call it the "Getting Ready to Welcome" phase of this process. What could and should we be doing to welcome a new pastor? When we think about the strongest place someone could being to build relationships here, what's in place? What isn't that should be? How do we help someone succeed in partnering with Hill for the sake of the Gospel's work?

You see, it's not just or ever about only what the pastor's skills are. The congregation has a responsibility to partner with ministry leaders in this work. Think the Strawberry Festival, how so many details and teams handling them work together to create a fluid, effective and life-giving service on behalf of the congregation.

So, we have some time to get very specific about refreshing things in preparation for this huge welcome on the horizon. The list isn't exhaustive, but it's weighty and important. It includes:

- A functional, electronic database for membership
- Collecting files that were farmed out to individual members of the congregation and bringing them back under the administration of the church
- Updating the directory
- Setting up a communication phone-tree system
- Each committee updating and reporting via written report the function of and current status of committee or team work, including a designated chair of every standing committee
- Updating to current the shut-in, prayer and care lists of the congregation
- Creating and practicing ways of communicating needs to the pastor

Let's take a deeper look at the last two: Care lists and ways we show or pass along concerns for care.

We'll spend a whole congregation conversation on this in the upcoming weeks. This will take some practice and some thinking through. Ways of communicating well and effectively have to flex and change depending on the depth and longevity of a relationship. Have you ever met new people, been in a new team, made a new friendship? You sit with them at a dinner, and they being talking to you about someone else. You think "I have no idea who they're talking about" or "I can barely remember the name of the person sitting across from me, let alone know who they're talking about!"

Dear folks, this has *nothing* to do with the skill of a pastor. It is the place every single one of us is in at the start of a new relationship. So, WE at Hill bear the responsibility of thinking about ways we can help the new pastor grow into relationships with everyone here.

Here's a foretaste of the feast to come in that Congregation Conversation:

- When do we pass along news to the pastor about care/concerns? At the beginning of a Sunday morning before worship?
- How do we pass along that information? By just saying "Pastor, have you heard…."
- If even five people do that on a Sunday morning, then pastor needs to remember 5 distinct stories, making connections to multiple different relationship units, holding all those details, storing them away, and then switching focus to lead worship and everything that comes with that.
- There were no notes or lists given to me when I started here about shut-ins or those needing care, other than the list that was in the bulletin. Any expectations for who to visit, how often, what are fair, mutual and shared expectations of the congregation still need to be explored and agreed upon. This will go a long way to Hill's hospitality and welcome for the new pastor.

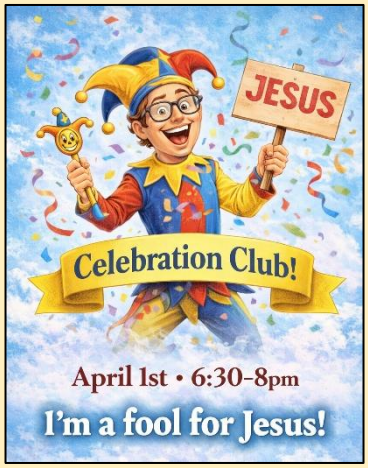
In Christ, we are a new creation. That doesn't mean that we have to throw everything out and start again. It's an invitation to refresh ourselves, to look critically with a loving eye at how we are caring community together, and to deepen our faith practices of care by responding in ways that are appropriate for a relationship that is just beginning to grow.

Welcome to the Easter journey, dear church. As the process goes, so we grow together!

May the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the God of all new beginnings bless us.

PK

News from Miss Laurie, Young Christians Minister



Happy April everyone! This month, our Lenten journey comes to a close and we now anticipate the promise of Easter! Grab your pens and take down these important dates:

- Wednesday, April 1st – Join us from 6:30 – 8:00 for our "I'm a fool for Jesus" Celebration Club!
- Saturday, April 4th – It's the youth-run Easter Egg Hunt at St. John's! Grab your baskets and meet us at the church at 10:00 for the fun!
- Sunday, April 5th – Come celebrate our risen Lord during our "Jesus Lives" SONday Celebration! The fun will continue right through Celebration Time!
- Sunday, April 12th – It's our annual Easter "Celebration" service! Join us for this kid-friendly service featuring contemporary music, a Sunny Sermon, and an Easter Object Lesson.

We hope you can join us ALL month as we rejoice in our risen Savior! In this season of rebirth, may you feel your faith renewed and your heart made new with the hope Easter brings. Get ready to Celebrate - Jesus LIVES!!

Miss Laurie

Holy Week Schedule

Join us as we journey through Holy Week together:

- **Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 PM**
  Maundy Thursday Service
- **Friday, April 3 at 7:00 PM**
  Good Friday Service
- **Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 AM**
  8:00 AM – Youth Group gathers for Breakfast and egg hunt setup
  10:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt
- **Sunday, April 5**
  6:30 AM — Sunrise Service
  7:00 AM — Third Annual Fred Weaver Memorial Easter Breakfast
  10:15 AM — Easter Sunday Service

We invite you, your family, and friends to join us for these meaningful services and celebrations as we remember and rejoice in the hope of Easter.

Book Group

Zoom Information: Meeting ID: 848 8976 9611, Passcode: 983050

Date	Leader	Title Of Book	Author	Location
Monday, April 13	Carol	Hotel on the Counter of Bitter and Sweet	Jamie Ford	In Person

Upcoming Youth Group Events

Congregational Conversation & Call Committee Meeting Update

The next Congregational Conversation will be held on **Sunday, April 19, immediately following worship**. All members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important time of discussion and fellowship.

Please note that the **Call Committee meeting scheduled for April 19 will now begin immediately following the Congregational Conversation.**

For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact a member of the Call Committee:

Chair: Jamie Doyle
Scribe: Amy Gehring
Chaplain: Madeline Willard
Member: Tonya Henninger
Member: Randy Paul
Member: Craig Peters

Upcoming Meetings:

April 12 | 3-5pm
April 19 | following Congregational Conversation and Pork and Sauerkraut Dinner
May 31 | 3-5pm
June 7 | 11:30am-1:30pm

YAY…. IT'S THE YARD SALE!

Congregational Yard Sale – May 14, 15, 16

Yard Sale Schedule

* Yard Sale Set Up * May 11, 12, 13 * - The greatest need for help is Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and Noon to unpack, sort, hang and organize donations.

* The sale will take place in the pavilion:

- Thursday, May 14, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, May 15, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 16, 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Regarding Donations

* Be sure your donations are in good/clean condition.

*Drop off donations at any time between Monday, May 11 and Wednesday, May 13.

- Please place donations in the front part of the pavilion, near the kitchen.
- Please do not bring donations to the church before Monday, May 11.
- Please do not place them anywhere but directly in the pavilion.
- Although we do not turn away donations brought during the sale, we have a better chance of selling them if they are out and ready for the first day of our sale… bright and early Thursday morning.

* Donate your time to set up, tear down or help during the sale.

- Come to the pavilion during any of the times listed in the schedule above.

* Pick up any unsold items, you do not wish to donate, in a timely manner.

- Items not claimed by 8 AM on Monday, May 18, will be donated or disposed of appropriately.
- As in past years, items not sold during the yard sale will be available to the congregation after the service on Sunday, May 17, and/or prior to pack up on Monday morning.

Yard Sale Pack Up and Pavilion Tear Down

If you can help with the pack up and/or tear down, please come to the pavilion Monday, May 18, at 9 AM.

Proceeds Benefit the Lutheran Disaster Response
of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

~ Thank you ~

We appreciate all available help and thank you for your support.
Sheila Barder and Tam Spicher

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			6:30-8pm: Celebration Club (I'm a Fool for Jesus!)	**7pm:** Maundy Thursday Service	**7pm:** Good Friday Service	**8am:** Youth Group gathers for Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt Setup **10am:** Easter Egg Hunt
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter Sunday **6:30am:** Sunrise Service **7am:** Third Annual Fred Weaver Memorial Easter Breakfast **9am**: Adult Bible Study, Confirmation Class, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie **10:15am**: Worship with Holy Communion, Celebration Time with Miss Laurie	**10am**: Blanket Bunch	**8:45am:** Women's Prayer Breakfast **7pm**: Choir Rehearsal				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Second Sunday of Easter **9am**: Adult Bible Study, Youth Formation, Confirmation Class, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie **10:15am**: Worship (Easter Celebration Service), Sunny Sermon, Celebration Time with Miss Laurie **12pm**: Council Meeting **3pm**: Call Committee Meeting	**9am:** Quarterly Audit Meeting **10am**: Blanket Bunch **6:30pm**: Book Discussion Group Gathers	**7pm**: Choir Rehearsal	***Deadline to Submit Items for May "St. John's Epistle"***			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Third Sunday of Easter **9am**: Adult Bible Study, Youth Formation, Confirmation Class, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie **10:15am**: Worship, Celebration Time with Miss Laurie **11:30am:** Congregation Conversation **11:30am:** Youth Group Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner **Following Conversation:** Call Committee Meeting	**10am**: Blanket Bunch	**7pm**: Choir Rehearsal				
26	27	28	29	30		
Fourth Sunday of Easter **9am**: Adult Bible Study, Youth Formation, Confirmation Class, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie **10:15am**: Worship, Celebration Time with Miss Laurie	**10am**: Blanket Bunch	**7pm**: Choir Rehearsal				

Contact Information

Pastor Katrina Holland	pastorkatrinaholland@gmail.com	717-362-9519 (O)
Laurie Little, Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little@gmail.com	717-571-5058
Judith Ferree, Organist	jjferee@epix.net	717-362-4228
Ty Troutman, Choir Director	kimjtroutman@gmail.com	717-686-2758
Rachel Henry, Secretary	admin@stjohnhillchurch.org	717-439-3897
Roy Henry, Council President	henryfamily2004@gmail.com	717-215-9837
Kim Williard, Prayer Chain Coordinator	59kimwil@gmail.com	717-439-3050

Address: 217 St. Johns Road, Elizabethville, PA 17023

Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

Church email: admin@stjohnhillchurch.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch