



# St. Johns Epistle

St. Johns Lutheran  
Church  
Berrysburg, PA

April 2020

Dear Friends in Jesus,

*Worship opportunities abound this month as the Season of Lent comes to an end and we prepare once again to observe 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. First up, on Wednesday, April 1, our Lenten supper and worship series Preachers of the Gospel will conclude at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville, as I take my turn in the pulpit.*



Then, beginning **April 5**, our schedule of worship and related activities will be as follows:

## **+Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, April 5:**

We will begin our worship outside 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. Matthew this year. Immediately following worship, all men who plan on helping to serve our Annual Easter Breakfast are asked to meet briefly with coordinator Roy Henry.

## **+Maundy Thursday, April 9:**

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 10:**

At 7:00 P.M., we will gather for the Tenebrae 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/Easter Eve, April 11:**

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: pre-school, 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 12:**

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 finally, on **April 19**, please don't forget that this **Second Sunday of Easter** will be the day 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 Is a Great Big God! Let's prepare to celebrate together just How Great and just How Big!!

***PASTOR TOM***





*News from Miss Laurie  
Young Christians Minister*

Happy April, everyone! I am writing these words with the hope that April finds us back to normal – even if it is a NEW normal! Prayers for everyone affected by the coronavirus – and that is ALL of us at this point – and prayers that our Easter activities can go on as scheduled!

With a hopeful heart, please mark your calendars for these upcoming April events:

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** – Celebration Club – it’s a “Jellybean Prayers” Easter celebration!! Join us from 6:30 – 8:30 for the fun!

**April 5<sup>th</sup>** – “Palm SONday” Celebration and Church Processional with Palms – Join us for SONday Celebration as we welcome our King into the city.....HOSANNA!! Then for church (if all is able to proceed as planned), we’ll “tunic up” in the attire of the day and continue to wave our palms as we greet and welcome our church family as they make their way to the sanctuary for the Palm Sunday Service. It’s always a joyous gathering, so plan to add your voices to the throng!!

**April 11<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 led by our Youth!

**April 12<sup>th</sup>** – “Jesus Lives” SONday Celebration and Celebration Time – Join us for the fun on Easter morning!!

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – Easter “Celebration” Service – Join us after SONday Celebration for this more contemporary, kid-friendly service which will be followed by the annual Youth Spaghetti Luncheon! Yum!!

**April 19<sup>th</sup>** – 1:00 – following the Celebration Service and Youth Luncheon, plan to stay for the “Sex and Gender” Presentation as prepared for us by Rachel and Roy Henry. We are providing Celebration Time (for children 4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger) downstairs in the Celebration Space so that you can enjoy the discussions upstairs.

The Easter season is upon us! Let us give thanks for our Risen Lord who, even in these times of uncertainty and challenge, has promised never to leave or forsake us!! I pray the joy of Easter fills your hearts and gives you peace. Halleluia!!

*Miss Laurie*

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

# World Hunger 2020

**A young mother in Niger had her crops destroyed by a worsening drought. Now she has no food for her baby girl and no income to buy produce.**

**That is why I pray that you will give generously to 2020 World Hunger Project.**

**Your donation will help establish long term solutions to age old problems for women like her, providing tools they need to feed their children today and in the future. For example your gift will help women in countries facing changing rain patterns to drought resistant crops and ways to make their crops less susceptible to floods.**

**Also your help will provide easy care chicks, goats, hens and sheep to give a year round source of eggs, milk and wool. These products can in turn help to bring an income to help support the families through the year.**

**But with so many hungry children and mothers in desperate need we need to ask for your help.**

## PLEASE HELP!!!

*- From Fay Nichols, one of our congregational World Hunger Appeal coordinators, looking ahead to our annual World Hunger Appeal Ingathering, which will be coming up this fall, on Sunday, October 18.*



# St. John's Youth Group

All April Events for Youth Group have been postponed.

Our special workshop **BEYOND BINARY: "Getting" Sex and Gender**, with guest speaker Debra Doubrava PhD, LPC, RPT-S, that was planned to be directly after the Annual Spaghetti Dinner is being pushed back to a later date, that will be re-announced when the date is finalized!

Please refer to emails sent by Youth Group Advisors regarding the upcoming events and schedule changes. If you are interested in receiving the email updates please see any advisor!

## YOUTH GROUP ADVISORS

◇ Pastor Tom Bruner	◇ Becky Conte	◇ Amy Gehring	◇ Clint Gehring
	◇ Jodi Thompson	◇ Matt Williard	◇ Olivia Williard



St. John's Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch](https://facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch)  
St. John's Children and Youth Ministry: [facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry](https://facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry)



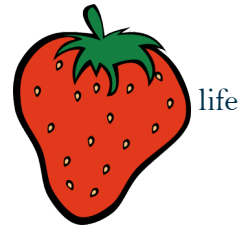
The Women of the ELCA of St. John are making plans for the purchase of new church aprons. It has been 7 years since we purchased them originally, and so we would like to purchase a new batch of aprons to be borrowed and used by our Strawberry Festival servers. In addition, since that last order, where a number of folks wanted to purchase their own, we have received new members into the congregational family to whom we would like to give the opportunity to purchase aprons for the first time, as well as an opportunity for all members to purchase additional ones. The apron order will consist of two types of aprons. The color for both will be gray. (The original aprons were slate in color but the new ones will be slightly lighter in color). Bib aprons will be available and also half-aprons as well. We feel the half-aprons would be especially appealing to waitresses and servers. Both types of aprons will have pockets. Instead of the church name and address being embroidered on the front, the new aprons will have the church logo sewed on them. The logo will be the same that we have used on the church shirts and caps that have been sold here at the church. The price for the bib aprons will be approximately \$8.00 and the half-aprons will be approximately \$7.00. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board downstairs for those planning to purchase them. Please indicate on the sheet your name, phone number, and the number of each type of apron you wish to purchase. If you have any questions regarding the aprons, please feel free to contact Pat Herb. Thank you.





## 2020 Strawberry Festival

By way of showing love and kindness to each other and to all our neighbors in this time of COVID-19, not to mention “regular” flu, Congregational Council is asking that we all do the following in our together here on “The Hill”:



***+Please stay home from worship or other scheduled congregational family activities if you aren't feeling well.*** (If someone will need to make arrangements to take your place, please just let Pastor Tom or the leader of the activity know in advance if possible so those arrangements can be made.)

***+Please refrain from handshakes and hugs during the Sharing of the Peace or at the door with greeters before or Pastor Tom after worship.***

***+Please disinfect or, better yet, wash your hands regularly with soap and water (think “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”).*** To help us all in this process, at its March 8 meeting, Council set in motion the purchase and installation of three hand disinfectant dispensers – one in the foyer, one in the Sunday School Room, and one upstairs at the top of the stairs.

Council and Pastor Tom will continue to monitor guidance from government, health, and denominational leaders going forward and change our guidelines as needed.

## Annual Easter Breakfast

Roy Henry is making plans for our Annual Easter Breakfast, coming up on April 12 at 7:00 A.M., following Sunrise Worship, and is asking for two things:

+To better estimate how much food should be prepared, folks who are planning on joining in the breakfast are asked to please sign up on the foyer bulletin board. ***(Please note that this is not a reservation or iron-clad commitment of any kind – merely a way to have a very rough count. If you don't sign up in advance and then find on Easter Day that you can attend, please do. Likewise, if you sign up and find at the last minute that you can't make it for any reason, that will be no problem.)***

+All men who plan to help with serving Easter Breakfast are asked to please come to a very brief but important planning meeting, right after worship on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 5.

Please contact Roy (717.215.9847) with any questions or ideas.

## Midweek Bible Study

Midweek Bible Study will get back underway for its spring session on Wednesday, April 22, in this Easter Season taking an in-depth look at the New Testament letters of I and II Peter, with I Peter especially figuring prominently in the weekly readings we will be hearing each Sunday in worship through the end of May. Come out to learn more about these relatively unfamiliar letters which tell us a lot about the life and faith of the early Christian Church. We will meet each Wednesday – weather permitting – from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. through Memorial Day weekend, 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! Please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) no later than Easter Sunday morning, April 12, so that the correct number of study books can be ordered.

## *Pot Pie Sale to benefit Heather Hildebrand*

A signup sheet is posted on the foyer bulletin board for a “pot pie” (actual pies) and apple dumpling fundraiser that is being held again this year to benefit Heather Hildebrand, the daughter of Randy & Heidi Challenger and granddaughter of 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 22, with pickup of orders (at Randy & Heidi's home in Elizabethtown) on May 2 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.

## *Church Camp*

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!**

## *Thank You!*

Thank you to all who planned, prepared food for, served, and participated in this winter's three ***Breaking Bread*** gatherings. During our three times of great fellowship and food, a total of \$1,658 was received in the freewill offerings, for the support of the Weekend Snack Pack and Weekend Power Pack nutrition programs at the Upper Dauphin Area Elementary and Middle Schools!

Thank you also to all who participated in the Youth Group presidential coin collection silent auction, especially our generous donor of the two collections! A total of \$402 was raised by Youth Group, with congratulations to Gary Litzel (the 5<sup>th</sup> Grader) and Hoyt Schlegel, both of whom are getting an early start on their coin collecting careers with their winning bids.

## **Pastoral Acts**

### **At the Graveside**

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Margaret Enders**, following her death at the Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg on February 15. Worship was held at the church on February 21, with interment in Riverview Cemetery in Halifax.

Pastor Tom also presided at funeral worship on February 26 at the church for **Janet Knarr**, who died at Premier at Susquehanna in Millersburg on February 20. Janet's interment took place in our cemetery. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to our sisters in Christ, Margaret and Janet, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to their children and other family members and loved ones!

# Worship Schedule

## April Sponsorships

**Tree 4 Hope**  
*Delmar & Ginny Enders*

**Konde Diocese**  
*Delmar & Ginny Enders*

**Celebrate Inserts**  
*Delmar & Ginny Enders*

## Altar Flowets

April 5  
**Palm Sunday**

April 12  
**Easter Sunday**

April 19  
**Tom and Donna Rabenold**

April 26  
**Roy and Rachel Henry**

**Lector**  
**Altar Guild**  
**Usher**

Donald Deibler  
Sheila Barder and Naomi Rudisill (4/5)  
Tammy Spicher and Karen Gehring (4/12)  
**(Lead)** Sandra Lamenza  
**(E)** Ken Koller **(LAY)** Karen and Larry Gehring

April 5, 2020

**Holy Communion**  
**Palm Sunday**

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist  
Prayer  
Scripture

The Jodi Thompson Family  
Madeline Williard & Lilly Rabenold  
Roy Henry  
Louise Baumgardner  
Fay Nichols  
Louise B. / Lois W.

April 9, 2020

**Holy Communion**  
(Common Cup)  
**Maundy Thursday**

Greeter  
Acolytes

Angela Enders and Family  
Gabe Gehring & Cole Roadcap

April 10, 2020

**Good Friday**

Greeter

Larry and Karen Gehring

April 12, 2020

**Holy Communion**  
**Easter Day**

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist  
Prayer  
Scripture

Fay Nichols  
Gabe Gehring & Hoyt Schlegel  
Lynn Henninger  
Sandra Paul  
Larry Gessner  
Larry Gessner

April 19, 2020

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist  
Prayer  
Scripture

Mike and Carol Hubler  
Gary Leitzel & Avery Mace  
Jeff Lehman  
Carol Hubler  
Ann Bruner  
.Hoyt Schlegel


April 26, 2020

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist  
Prayer  
Scripture

Tim and Lori Motter  
Caroline DeSoto & Madeline Williard  
Ken Koller  
Lois Watson  
Janet/ Darel Denlinger  
Matthew Williard

*He is not here;  
he has Risen!*  
Luke 24:6



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  <h1>April 2020</h1> </div>						
<b>5 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Palm Procession, Dramatic Passion Story Reading by Vincent Lamenza, and Celebration Time for Young Persons with Miss Laurie 11:30 Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting 11:30 Brief Meeting of Men Helping with Annual Easter Breakfast 2:00 p.m., Book Discussion Group Gathering	<b>6</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	<b>7</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.  No Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 7:00 Liturgy Practice for Maundy Thursday Evening/Senior Choir Rehearsal  <b>Passover Begins at Sundown</b>	<b>9 Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00 Liturgy of Holy Communion, concluding with Solemn Stripping of the Altar  <i>Day of Prayer for            Peace with Justice,            Beginning in the            Middle East</i>	<b>10 Good Friday</b> 6:15 Practice for Evening Worship  7:00 Solemn Good Friday Tenebrae Liturgy	<b>11 Holy Saturday/            Easter Eve</b> 7:00 Easter Eve Quiet Liturgy of Readings and Prayer
<b>12 Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day</b> 6:30 Brief Outdoor Easter Sunrise Worship 7:00 – 8:00 Easter Breakfast served by the Men of St. John <b>Second Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Festival Liturgy of Holy Communion	<b>13</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off (instead of 4/11)  9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	<b>14</b> Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off  7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b>  <i>Deadline to Submit Items            for May "St. John's Epistle"</i>	<b>16</b>  <b>Passover Ends at            Sundown</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>19 Second Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Easter Celebration Worship	<b>20</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	<b>21</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.  6:15 Altar Guild Annual Meeting  7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 6:30 Midweek Bible Study <b>Earth Day</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25 Mark, Evangelist</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>26 Third Sunday of Easter</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	<b>27</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:00 Second Planning Meeting for Annual Strawberry Festival	<b>28</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Property Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	<b>30</b>		

<u>Pastor's Office</u> <u>Hours:</u> 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. <i>(Other times by  appointment)</i>	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	717-365-5099 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
	Tammy 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
	Roy Henry	Council President	Henryfamily2004 @gmail.com	717-215-9837
	Fay Nichols	Prayer Chain Coordinator	Fnichols46 @comcast.net	717-329-7447

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

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

Church Website: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)

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

**P.O. Box 270**

**Berksburg, PA 17005**