



ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BERRYSBURG, PA | APRIL 2022

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

I'm delighted to report, and to look forward to, the plan that our worship in the week which begins with Palm/Passion Sunday and ends with Easter Day will, for the first time in three years, look and feel very much like "normal"! A few details:

- **Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10**

At **9:00am**, we will proceed with our normal Faith Formation activities, in their usual combination of Zoom and in-person events. At **10:15am**, we will likewise join in our new normal "hybrid" worship, combining in-person and Zoom opportunities and, while we will not have a procession of palms of any sort, we will be handing out our beautiful Equal Exchange palms to those present in-person (***and have them available for a day or two beforehand for picking up here at the church for those who will be Zoom-ing that morning***). Our worship will begin with the Liturgy of the Palms and we will again enjoy Vincent Lamenza's reading of The Passion of Jesus (this year According to St. Luke) as the center point of our worship.

- **Maundy Thursday, April 14; Good Friday, April 15; Holy Saturday/Easter Eve, April 16**

On all three of those evenings (which, as you may recall my mentioning in previous years, together actually form one complete time of worship), we will gather for worship at **7:00pm**. On both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evenings, we will join in "hybrid" worship, combining physically present and Zoom access to worship for all. On Holy Saturday/Easter Eve, our worship will not be available on Zoom, with the much smaller and quieter and darker setting of our downstairs chapel.

- **Easter Day, April 17**

We will once again gather in-person for a brief time of Sunrise Worship at **6:30am** in the field across from the pavilion, next to the sexton house (or under the pavilion roof in case of inclement weather). At **9:00am**, we will again proceed with our normal Faith Formation activities, in their usual combination of Zoom and in-person events. And at **10:15am**, we will likewise join in our new normal "hybrid" worship, combining in-person and Zoom opportunities as we celebrate the Good News that Jesus is Risen! ***Please be watching for news about a possible return of our Easter morning breakfast, following the Sunrise Worship.***

And it occurs to me that I would be remiss if I didn't also mention that, on **April 24**, this **Second Sunday of Easter** will once again 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!!

I will look forward to being in worship with YOU, my sisters and brothers in this wonderful congregational family that is St. John, in this most Holy of times. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or ideas!

Pastor Tom

News from Miss Laurie, Young Christians Minister

Happy April, everyone! Spring is definitely in the air - you can feel it, you can see it, you can hear it, AND you can smell it! What a fantastic treat for the senses! And what a wonderful way to welcome in the Easter season!



As the month progresses, you'll see we have LOTS of ways to celebrate Easter! Join us for ALL of the following activities:

- **Wednesday, April 6th** - It's our "Jelly Bean Jam" Easter Celebration Club! Join us from 6:30 – 8:00 for the fun!
- On **Sunday, April 10th**, we'll be parading our palms for our "Palm Sunday" SONday Celebration! Come and be part of the triumphant procession!
- Grab your baskets and come out to the Youth sponsored Easter Egg hunt at the church on **Saturday, April 16th**! The fun starts at 10:00!
- Join us on **Sunday, April 17th**, for our "Jesus LIVES" SONday Celebration! Come and help us celebrate our risen Lord!
- The last **Sunday** of the month, **April 24th**, is our Easter "Celebration" Service in church! Join us upstairs after SONday Celebration for this kid-friendly, more contemporary worship service!

There's a lot going on this month – we hope you'll be part of the Celebrations!!

Wishing you all an "egg-strordinary" Easter!!! Hallelujah - our Savior LIVES!!!!

Miss Laurie

Camp Sunday



Since you will likely be reading these lines somewhere near our March 27 **Camp Sunday**, it is the perfect time to be thinking about how you might take advantage of summer 2022 church camping opportunities. Please contact our **Congregational Camperson, Amy Gehring**, who can connect you with the latest and most current information about 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 baptized members of St. John, camping scholarships are provided, making any camping experience a great value as well as a life-changing experience.

St. John's Youth Group

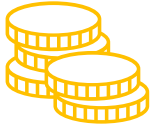
St. John's Facebook: facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch

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

ELCA Gathering Website: www.elca.org/youthgathering



Youth Group Coin Fundraiser



The Youth Group Coin Fundraiser started on March 1st. This is a coin sale and not an auction. To purchase an item, please contact Matt Williard at 717-574-0809 or mntneer24@yahoo.com. Thank you in advance for your support!

Youth Group Meeting

The next youth group meeting is **Sunday, April 10th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Bring your appetite and egg stuffing skills!!! We will be stuffing the plastic eggs for the Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 16th. Following egg stuffin', we will have pizza for supper and play games. Bring a dessert, snack, or drink to share. Please let Olivia or Amy know if you are coming so we can order the pizza ahead of time.

Good Friday/Lock-In

Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID concerns, we have decided to forgo a youth group lock-in this Spring. However, Good Friday service will go on as in years past. Please watch for Pastor's email for any opportunities to participate in the Good Friday service on Friday, April 15th.

Easter Egg Hunt

Good news!! The Easter Egg Hunt is on the calendar for Saturday, April 16th at 10:00 a.m. Back to it's original time!! All youth group members should arrive at the church by 9:00 a.m. to help set up. There will be four (4) age groups. Youth group members will work in teams to take charge of each age group. We will also need someone to handle the sale of the remaining Knoebels ticket books. Please let Olivia or Amy know if you are able to help.



Knoebels Ticket Books

Are you looking for a great Easter basket stuffer? Why not give the gift of fun?! The youth group has a handful of Knoebels ticket books for sale. They make the perfect Easter basket gift! They never expire!! You get a \$20.00 ticket book for only \$18.00. That's a free ride on the S&G Carousel! Please see Olivia to purchase your tickets!

Movie Night at the Colonnade



The youth group is invited to bring their family and friends to the Colonnade in Millersburg for a movie night on Monday, April 18th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. We will be showing the movie Overcomer. The concession stand will be open to purchase snacks and drinks. You must provide your own transportation to the movie. More information to follow.

Boundless Celebration and Retreat at Camp Nawakwa

The senior high youth group (those currently in 8th through 12th grade) are planning to attend the Gathering Celebration and Retreat at Camp Nawakwa from Sunday, July 24th to Wednesday, July 27th. This is in place of attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, which was canceled earlier this year.

The 'Boundless' Celebration and Retreat, focuses on the 'Boundless' theme and incorporates the three unique days youth and young adults would experience at a typical Youth Gathering. Sunday, July 24, is the day that most closely resembles our Synod Day, with a catered meal, camp games and activities, live music, a visit from Bishop James Dunlop, and outdoor worship, all in the Upper Camp field and pavilion at Nawakwa. Retreat groups will participate in active learning on Monday morning, followed by camp activities in the afternoon, and an all-camp activity with the campers and camp staff Monday evening. Tuesday will serve as our Service-Learning Day, with off-site service activities for all participants. We'll pack a lunch and head out to service venues in the morning, returning to camp for swimming, dinner, and an evening campfire. Wednesday morning, groups will worship with the entire camp community, led by Pastors Jennifer & David Hope-Tringali, who are serving as camp Chaplains for the week. Jennifer and David shepherd Tree 4 Hope, a missionary ministry in Guatemala.

There are nine (9) people signed up to go to the Gathering Celebration and Retreat at Camp Nawakwa: Advisors - Amy & Clint Gehring and Matt & Olivia Williard; Youth - R.J. Henry, Gabe Gehring, Madeline Williard, Mary Riland, and Sarah Riland. Please keep our group in your prayers as we prepare and embark on our adventure to meet God in the woods!

As always, watch those emails for any updates!!!

Midweek Bible Study

Our spring session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on **Wednesday, April 27**, and will continue through the end of May, wrapping up just before the Memorial Day weekend. We will meet each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M., with the exact format and location to be determined. We will spend these weeks of the Easter Season delving into the 150 prayers, songs, liturgies, and poems which make up the Book of Psalms, under the guidance of ELCA pastor and consultant the Rev. Dr. Joana Elise Brown and her guidebook ***Songs of the Faithful: Studies in Psalms***. The Book of Psalms displays the highest highs and the lowest lows of the life of faith, along with everything in between and we will read through them all during the course of the study, while focusing on six psalms in particular which we will read in worship later in the summer. No previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and (as you are comfortable doing so) discuss God’s Word together. So that the correct number of study books can be ordered for our study in a timely fashion, please register in advance (by contacting Pastor Tom in whatever way is easiest for you) **no later than Sunday morning, April 3.**

Book Club

Please join us for upcoming Book Group Discussions on Zoom! Call or email Ann 717.362.7895 rahbruner@gmail.com if you need a book or have any questions. Copies of the book should be available on the bench under the bulletin board in the foyer. **Next up – Monday, April 4, at 6:30 P.M.: And Then You Loved Me by Inglath Cooper.** And looking ahead to next month:

May 2 **American Harvest** by Marie Mutsuki Mocket

Hope to see you there!

Strawberry Festival

The second planning meeting for our Annual Strawberry Festival will be held on **Thursday, April 28, beginning at 7:00 P.M.** at the church. Since there really isn’t a fixed committee and the meeting is literally made up of those interested persons who show up each time, all interested persons are (really!) invited to attend as we work together on a planned return to “normal” for the Festival this summer, but with some tweaking for insights gained last year. (The Festival itself is planned for June 8.)

Upper Dauphin Archery

Friday morning March 11, 2022 over 50 high school and middle school archers left Upper Dauphin Area High School enroute to State College, PA. to the PA State NASP {National Archery School Program} championships being held at Horace Ashenfelter III Indoor Track.

The shooting began around 10:00am with 200 hooters on the line at one time. When the clock struck 4:00pm the shooting was over. The Upper Dauphin Area High School Team shoot their best score of the year. Good enough to take 1st place and become the PA State champions for 2022. The Middle School also shoot their high score for the year. They earned the runner-up trophy. Losing by only 11 points.

Congregational team members include; High School; Gabe Gehring and R. J. Henry, Middle School; Brayden Bender and Gary Leitzel. Gabe and Gary shot their personal best high score helping their team earn the respective trophies.

Kudos to both teams for a great season and to out congregational members.

Next stop is National Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky on May 11th – 13th. Good luck to archers and teams.

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
January 23, 2022

The council meeting was called to order by President Roy Henry. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

Present: Roy Henry, Michael Henninger, Dana Klouser, Sheila Barder, Heidi Lehman, Ira Antes, Lori Motter, Carl Baumgardner, Craig Peters, Joshua Paul, Courtney Foreman, Gail Billow, and Pastor Tom Bruner

Minutes: Motion by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Joshua Paul to accept the December 2021 minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Election of Officers:

- **President – Roy Henry**
- **Vice President – Joshua Paul**
- **Secretary – Courtney Foreman**
- **Assistant Secretary – Dana Klouser**
- **Treasurer – Jamie Doyle**
- **Assistant Treasurer Position** – discussion followed on eliminating this position. Motion made by Carl Baumgardner, seconded by Joshua Paul to eliminate the Assistant Treasurer position. Motion approved unanimously.
- **Cemetery Board Representative** – there are currently no lot holders on Council. Pastor Tom will discuss this with Lynn Henninger and Carol Hassinger.
- **Financial Secretary – Pat Herb**
- **Usher Chairpersons – Louise Baumgardner, Tamara Spicher, Lois Watson**

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

1. Appeal from Dauphin County Library to join annual fund drive in the amount of \$100. Funds will be used towards books, databases, e-resources. Motion made by Carl Baumgardner, seconded by Dana Klouser. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Contract for Kone Elevator Service – includes every other month visits (which includes State inspections at three and five year intervals). Pastor Tom reported there is a 3.5% increase in the new contract.
3. Request received from Bob Weaver who would like to make a wooden wall hanging to display glass from the original log church. The hanging will include a plaque with information about the glass. Motion made by Craig Peters, seconded by Michael Henninger for the wall hanging to be displayed in the church. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Motion made by Joshua Paul and seconded by Heidi Lehman to accept the Pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously.

Children and Youth Ministry Report: Motion was made by Sheila Barder and seconded by Michael Henninger to accept Miss Laurie's report. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports: Motion made by Michael Henninger and seconded by Dana Klouser to accept the Treasurer's reports. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: No meeting in December. The next meeting is Tuesday, January 25 at 6:15 pm. There is a proposal for the sanctuary ceiling painting project that will be finalized in the near future.

Finance: No report

Worship and Music:

- Mid-week Lenten worship will resume this year; however, no meals will be served. Worship will begin at 7:00 pm. March 9 will be the first Lenten worship – hosted by St. Johns. Pastor Tom will be preaching on March 16 at Hoffmans Church. The theme this year is “Preachers of the Gospel”
- Ash Wednesday is March 2 – at the end of worship, there will be three stations (ashes, wafer for Holy Communion, wine for Holy Communion). Pastor Tom will use separate Q-Tips to apply the ashes to each person. Barry Williard will assist with wafers and Miss Laurie will assist with wine distribution.
- Girl Scout Sunday is March 6 – Nicole Radel will attend with Girl Scouts
- Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band will perform at worship this summer (outside in June)
- Holy Communion – a decision was made to change the flow/direction of receiving Holy Communion. The center aisles will go first, followed by North aisle, followed by South aisle. Congregation should exit after receiving Holy Communion by the South aisle (this will avoid walking in front of the Zoom Hosts who are set-up at the North aisle). Motion made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Michael Henninger to approve the new method of receiving Holy Communion. Motion approved unanimously.
- Next meeting is March 15 at 6:15 pm

Faith Formation Team: No report

Youth Ministry:

- Meeting will be held today at 6:00 pm
- Youth-Led worship will be held February 13. Kelsey Henninger will prepare the sermon. Hoyt Schlegel will perform the Anthem. Pastor Tom will contact other youth for participation.
- Spaghetti Dinner will be held on March 27 – Take Out Only
- National Youth Gathering is temporarily on hold due to concerns by Minneapolis city officials

Mutual Ministry:

- Meeting held on January 9 – discussion on a strong finish to 2021 year
- Next meeting will be April 10

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report

History and Archive:

- Sandra Lamenza continues to work on church archives
- She is doing a great job and is able to answer many questions when needed about church/congregation history

Women of ELCA:

- The last meeting was cancelled due to weather
- There will be no “Breaking Bread” meals

Unfinished Business:

1. *COVID-related:* It was agreed a good balance is being followed. Courtney Foreman expressed her thanks to all Council members during Covid times.
2. Gary Daniels will come to the next Council meeting to talk about AED and Carry Chair options for the church.
3. Roy Henry is troubleshooting options for the printer cord/cable.
4. February Lead Usher is Michael Henninger.

New Business: Discussion was held on praying for teachers, school employees, educational professionals from our congregation by name (similar to our medical professional list). Discussion tabled until next month.

Next Council Meeting: The next council meeting will be February 27, 2022, at 4:00 pm.

Adjournment: Motion by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Michael Henninger to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Motter, Assistant Secretary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
*(Both In-Person and on Zoom)						
						Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5th Sunday in Lent 9am - Faith Formation Time (Adult Bible Study on Zoom; Younger Groups In-Person) 10:15am - Worship*, including Sacrament of Holy Communion, and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person	6:30pm - Monthly Gathering of Book Discussion Group (On Zoom)	9:30am - Pastor Tom at Upper Dauphin Conference Pastors Gathering	6:30-8pm - Monthly Celebration Club with Miss Laurie 7pm - Lenten Community Worship at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown			Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday 9am - Faith Formation Time (Adult Bible Study on Zoom; Younger Groups In-Person) 10:15am - Worship*, including Liturgy of Palms, Sacrament of Holy Communion, and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person 11:30am - Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting 2pm - Meeting of Women of the ELCA of St. John 4pm - Congregational Council Meeting 6-8pm – Youth Group Meeting				Maundy Thursday 7pm - Maundy Thursday Liturgy	Good Friday 7pm - Solemn Good Friday Liturgy Deadline to Submit Items for May "St. John's Epistle" Passover Begins at Sunset	Holy Saturday/Easter Eve 9am - Youth Group Members Gather to Prepare for Annual Easter Egg Hunt 10am - Annual Easter Egg Hunt 7pm - Easter Eve Quiet Liturgy of Readings and Prayer
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day 6:30am - Brief Outdoor Easter Sunrise In-Person Worship 9am - Faith Formation Time (Adult Bible Study on Zoom; Younger Groups In-Person) 10:15am - Worship*, including Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person	Youth Group-Hosted Movie Night at the Twin Valley Players Colonnade in Millersburg Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off (instead of 4/16)	Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off				Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off Passover Ends at Sunset Earth Day
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
2nd Sunday of Easter 9am - Faith Formation Time (Adult Bible Study on Zoom; Younger Groups In-Person) 10:15am - Easter Celebration Worship*, including Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie	Mark, Evangelist 7pm - Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting at Zion Lutheran, Erdman	6:15pm - Property Committee Meeting	6:30pm - Midweek Bible Study	7pm - Annual Strawberry Festival Planning Meeting #2		Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday: 8am – 9:30am

Wednesday, Thursday: 8am – 12 noon

Friday: 8am - 9:30am

(Other times by appointment)

Contact Information

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)
Lewis Weaver, Sexton	bootsdagreat@gmail.com	570-809-1014
Grace Weaver, Sexton	No Email	570-809-1510
Judith Ferree, Organist	jiferee@epix.net	717-362-4228
Carol Hubler, Choir Director	mchubler@gmail.com	570-758-5052
Rachel Henry, Secretary	henryfamily2004@gmail.com	717-439-3897
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 Elizabethville, PA 17023

Mailing Address: PO Box 270 | Berrysburg, PA 17005

Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch