



ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BERRYSBURG, PA | DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Since December 24 falls on a Sunday this year, we again encounter one of those “only every once in a while” quirks of the Christian Church Year – a day with two very different purposes and two very different names.

On the morning of Sunday, December 24, we will be doing all of the things we do as a Congregational Family on most any Sunday morning – gathering for faith formation opportunities for all ages at 9:00am and then for worship at 10:15am. We will observe the Fourth Sunday of Advent, one final Sunday in blue where we will hear of the joy and promise of Jesus' coming and light those candles of waiting on our Advent Wreath.

But then, come the late afternoon/evening of Sunday, December 24, we will completely change gears and be doing the things we do as a Congregational Family each year when the beauty of Christmas Eve rolls around, exchanging our blue of hope and anticipation for the white of high festival times and lighting candles, not on a wreath of waiting, but to pray thankfully together and sing the beloved carol ***Silent Night***. There will once again be two distinctive times of worship on Christmas Eve...

Our **4:00 P.M.** worship will once again have its own special focus and feel. We will do that with a focus on our young persons, including a Sunny Sermon and special music by our youngest members, set within worship that will, in general, be simpler and less formal than our traditional candlelight worship later that evening. Then, at **8:00 P.M.**, our traditional candlelight festival liturgy of Holy Communion will again take place in the nave with carols galore. Our goal at both 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. is to provide the most meaningful opportunities to worship our Newborn King for the most people of God. Please come and worship at one or both and please note that our musical preludes will be planned so that they wrap up and worship begins at the top of the hour, at 4:00 and 8:00. **If you might have music of any kind that you would like to share during the prelude at either 4:00 or 8:00 (or both), please contact me as soon as possible if you have not already done so.**

I realize that, on a day when everyone traditionally already has a great deal to attend to, asking you to come to worship twice in one day might seem like “overdoing it” 😊, but I hope you will look at the morning and the late afternoon/evening as two essential pieces of one whole celebration – one not being really complete without the other and both very worthy of your time and best effort!

As we again enter into this holy time, reminded of just how very much God loves you and me and all that God has made, I want to thank you, my sisters and brothers in this wonderful congregational family, for another year of productive and, we pray, faithful ministry together – and I want to join with Ann to wish you a most blessed Advent and Christmas celebration and a strong beginning to another new year. A lot has changed over the past 23½ years, for all of us, and we know that change is built by God right into the very fabric of Creation, but the thankfulness that we both feel to be a part of the St. John congregational family – the honor that it is to journey in faith together – does not change. Thank you – and thank you for your kind attention in reading on in this **St. John's Epistle!**

Pastor Tom

News from Miss Laurie, Young Christians Minister

Hey everyone! It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!! Tis the season of preparing for Jesus, and our young Christians have been doing just that! We've already begun making decorations for our tree and Celebration Space - it's soon going to be looking VERY festive!

Since the "Jingle Elves" have reunited again, it's beginning to SOUND a lot like Christmas, too! We've already performed in the Gratz Holiday Parade and following the parade, at the Gratz Fair grounds. In addition, we performed at the Berrysburg Tree Lighting ceremony. Stay tuned for upcoming "gigs" in December!

The season is off to a great start, and there are lots of opportunities to help get you in the Christmas spirit!! Grab your calendars and add the following to your holiday "to do" list:

- **Sunday, December 3rd** – We'll be making more decorations in our "Preparing for Jesus, 2" SONday Celebration!
- **Wednesday, December 6th** – It's our "Happy Birthday Jesus" Celebration Club! Join us from 6:30 – 8:00 for the fun!
- **Sunday, December 10th** – We'll be adorning our space during our SONday Celebration "Decorating Party"!
 - **At 2:00**, EVERYONE is invited to this year's advent activity – a Christmas Pajama Party!! Put on your favorite holiday pj's and join us for a movie and other fun surprises!
- **Sunday, December 24th – 9:00 am** – It's our SONday Celebration Christmas Party!
 - **At 4:00 pm**, it's our kid-friendly Christmas Eve "Celebration" Service.
 - **At 8:00 pm**, join your congregational family for our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.
- **Sunday, December 31st** – It's our annual "Happy Birthday Jesus" SONday Celebration! EVERYONE is invited to our celebration of Jesus' birth!!

Looking ahead to the NEW YEAR, mark your calendars with these dates as well:

- **Wednesday, January 3rd** – It's our 'Do-nut Forget Jesus Loves You" Celebration Club!
- **Sunday, January 21st** – Join the fun of our "Snowman" SONday Celebration!

Join us for ALL our upcoming activities as we share the Glory, the Wonder, and the Miracle of this Holy Season. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Miss Laurie

Join us for a Christmas



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th

At 2:00 pm

Among other things, we'll be watching

DREAMWORKS



**Put on your favorite holiday pj's and be
part of the fun!!**



St. John's Youth Group

December
&
January

ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP CHRISTMAS BREAK RETREAT

Friday, December 29th to Sunday, December 31st at Camp Hebron in Halifax: This year we are having a youth group retreat the last weekend of December. Our speakers / teachers are Amy and Clint Gehring. We will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. For those meeting us at camp, we plan to arrive around 6:00 p.m. We will be staying in Hillside Villa. Can't wait for a weekend full of fun!



Winterfest 2024 runs from Friday, January 5 to Sunday, January 7, 2024 at the Wyndham Resort in Lancaster. Winterfest is hosted by the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Our group will join youth, young adults, and advisors from across the Synod. Friday night will be filled with live music, worship, and introduction to the theme for the weekend: **The Way**. Saturday will be filled with fellowship time, live music, and large and small group sessions led by Synod leadership. The weekend wraps up with worship Sunday morning, shared with the parents. Watch your emails for additional information!

YOUTH GROUP MEETING - GAME DAY

The next youth group meeting is **Sunday, January 28th**. We will meet immediately following church service in the kitchen for a pizza lunch. Then it's game time! Bring your favorite game. Youth can be picked up at 1:30 p.m.

Book Group News

Book Group continues online for the winter months, and snacks are still a part of the experience! Pick them up in the kitchen on Sunday, the day before each book discussion to share while online Monday evening. Thanks to Rita, who is providing our December goodies!

We'll gather on Zoom at **6:30 pm, Monday December 4** to discuss **Blessings by Anna Quindlen**. Copies are available in the church library or circulating among the participants. If you have questions or need to locate a book, contact Ann (rahbruner@gmail.com) and she'll quickly find a book for you.

Please join us anytime! The fellowship is wonderful, snacks are yummy, and all are welcome!

Annual Congregational Meeting to be Held

As specified in our congregational constitution, our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in two parts. On **Sunday, December 10**, we will meet following worship to take action on the election of four members to our Congregational Council and to adopt a spending plan for 2024. On **Sunday, January 21**, we will again meet following worship to receive and act on reports of the ministry of our congregation conducted during 2023 and take care of such other business as may come before the gathered body. For both parts of the meeting, it is **very important** that we have a good turnout of voting members! Voting members are confirmed members of the congregation who have communed and made a contribution of record during 2022 and/or 2023. For those attending either or both parts of the meeting via Zoom, the Zoom host of the morning will make sure to keep a close eye on all Zoom participants for any questions that need forwarding to the floor of the meeting and when hands need to be raised for any voting.

To aid you in preparing for the December 10 meeting, the proposed 2024 combined budget for the Current, Children and Youth (C&Y), Flower, Improvement, and (newly combined in 2024) Sunday School Funds, along with the budget for the Benevolence Fund, are included in this *Epistle*.

To focus on that combined budget for a moment, covering the funds which handle far and away most of the day-to-day work of congregational ministry, you will notice that total anticipated 2024 income and expenditures show an increase of 4.6% from 2023. Part of this increase is due to the simple bookkeeping change of having the Sunday School Fund (\$3,100) included in these totals for the first time. Another part of the increase comes with well-deserved increases in compensation for Miss Laurie and our other paid staff and a necessary increase in heating oil expense. And finally, there is a 3.8% increase in Pastor Tom's area of the budget, to keep his compensation in line with the synodical minimum guideline and, for the second of two years, to provide for covering half of the cost of including Ann in Pastor Tom's health insurance plan for the coming year, after several years of savings in this area with Ann on a separate plan. This increased insurance cost should come to an end early in 2025, leading to a nice decrease in our 2025 budgets.

With regard to Congregational Council elections, our Nominating Committee is bringing the following four names for congregational action on December 10: **Justin Adams, Karen Gehring, Sandra Paul** and **Matthew Riland**.

Please don't miss this opportunity to help in the faithful strengthening of our ministry together – plan to join in these brief but important gatherings on December 10 and January 21!

Looking Ahead to Our Annual Strawberry Festival

The date of next year's Annual Strawberry Festival is set for Wednesday, June 12, 2024, a return to our traditional second Wednesday of the month. After a spectacular day this past summer, we look forward to next June! (And, the first planning meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, at 7:00pm at the church. Everyone is cordially invited to attend; especially needed are all committee chairpersons.)

Christmas Ornaments

The Youth Group is excited to offer the second ornament in the St. John's ornament collection. Again this year the ornament is \$15 and comes in its own gift box. They will be here before Christmas, so consider getting more than one to gift to children and grandchildren. This year's design depicts the beautiful prayer garden installed by Eagle Scout, Roy Henry, Junior.

This will be a short sale to be sure they arrive in time for Christmas. The last day to order is Sunday, November 26—please see any Youth Group Advisor to order and pay. Checks can be made to St. John's Youth Group. Please reach out to Amy at 717-503-7623 if you have any questions. A portion of the cost supports St. John's Youth Group, so thank you to all who already placed an order!

There is a small number of last year's ornament available. Please see Amy Gehring if you are interested.

Women of the ELCA

Women of ELCA of St John will be hosting an angel ornament craft on **November 30th from 6-8pm**. There is no cost to attend. Snacks and drinks will be provided. Sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please join us for this time of fellowship.

Fill the Pew!

The ELCA women of the congregation are holding A Fill The Pew event the month of January. All items received will benefit the Weekend Snack Pack program.

Three items are especially needed at this time: Pop tarts, individual sized cereal, Vienna sausage – 4.6oz cans. Thank you in advance for supporting this event.

2024 Sponsors

Four new 2024 sponsor sheets are now posted on the bulletin board in the foyer area – three of them 1. for continuing ministry support for our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month); 2. for **Tree 4 Hope**, an innovative anti-poverty ministry begun by our neighbors at Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, and serving those in need in Guatemala, involving an orphanage, mission trips from our area, and, now, a new girls' school called "Hope Academy" - a world mission with a local connection (\$50/month) – and 3. for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month). The fourth is the separate sign-up sheet for sponsoring weekly altar flowers in 2024, (\$35 per week). To sponsor any of these four ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please simply stop by to sign up or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can place your name on the desired month(s).

Lector Schedule for 2024

The following is the schedule of folks scheduled to serve as lectors during 2024:

January:	Reyann Cheatham	July:	Carl Baumgardner
February:	Barry Williard	August:	Dana Klouser
March:	Judith Cheatham	September:	Vincent Lamenza
April:	Courtney Foreman	October:	Jamie Doyle
May:	Amy Gehring	November:	The Henry Family
June:	Joshua Paul	December:	Matt Williard

We thank them for serving in this important ministry of worship. **(And on Sunday, January 21, we will join in praying God's blessing on them as they share God's Word throughout the coming year!)**

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregational Council Minutes

October 1, 2023

The council meeting was called to order by President Joshua Paul. Devotions were offered by Pastor Tom.

Present: Pastor Tom Bruner, Christie Kahler, Joshua Paul, Ira Antes, Dana Klouser, Gail Billow, Jeff Lehman, Sandra Lamenza, Sheila Barder, Michael Henninger, Craig Peters, Ty Troutman, and Courtney Foreman.

Minutes: Motion by Joshua Paul to accept the September 2023 minutes as read. Second by Sheila Barder. Motion approved unanimously.

Roy Henry presented options for a new copier and/or monthly maintenance contract since our current contract is coming to an end.

Motion to keep current copier and renew the monthly maintenance contract with Marco to be negotiated with an increase of 7 – 8% per month made by Sandra Lamenza. Second by Craig Peters. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- Received thank you notes from the Pillow Fire Company and the UDAHS PTA for Post Prom donation.

Pastor's Report: Motion to accept Pastor Tom's report was made by Ty Troutman. 2nd by Josh Paul. Motion approved unanimously.

Children and Youth Ministry Report: Motion to accept Miss Laurie's report by Sandra Lamenza. 2nd by Christie Kahler. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Pastor provided a summary. Motion to accept the treasurer's report by Dana Klouser. 2nd by Jeff Lehman. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Meeting rescheduled to 10/31/23. Aluminum cans in barn need to be taken to recycling.

Finance Committee: Next meeting: 10/30/23 at 7 PM.

Worship and Music: September meeting was cancelled. Next meeting scheduled for 11/21/23 at 6:15.

Cemetery Committee: No report.

Faith Formation: No report.

Mutual Ministry: Met today. Discussed attendance and possibly going back to passing the offering plate.

Executive: No report.

Nominating: Lynn Henninger, Pat Herb, Bob Weaver and Craig Peters plan to meet this week to solidify a list of possible candidates.

History and Archive: Sandra met with Tom Dressler, a descendant of Pastor Enterline, that was interested in the church organ. He is researching the façade of our organ.

Bell Ringing: No report.

Care Creation: Ann is working on committee formation.

Women of the ELCA: No report.

Youth Group: Created school kits with a nice turnout to first meeting in September.

Unfinished Business:

Offering plate discussion was revisited. Motion to table the decision on passing the plate vs. keeping as is and ask Worship and Music committee to develop a plan for the flow of worship service to be discussed made by Jeff Lehman. Second by Christie Kahler. Motion passed unanimously.

Elevator phone board is still on back order.

New Business:

Josh reviewed what happened with Zoom not projecting properly. There is a button on the sound board that won't slide to adjust the sound for projection. Barry Williard will be working on getting that fixed.

Next Council Meeting: November 12, 2023, at 6 PM.

Adjournment: Motion by Sandra Lamenza to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Mike Henninger. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Foreman, Secretary

*As of 9/30/23

	2022	2023	2023	2024
	Actual	Budget	Actual*	Budget
Current Fund				
Beginning Balance 1/1	22,458		13,235	
Revenues				
Plate	4,842	3,000	3,258	3,000
Current Envelopes	151,213	162,477	109,345	168,258
Children & Youth Giving	22,885	25,891	14,553	26,409
Improvement Giving	10,760	4,900	3,450	4,900
Flower Giving	318	3,095	1,292	3,095
Regular Sunday School Giving	-	-	-	1,000
Special Sunday School Revenues				1,500
Sunday School Transfer In				600
Miscellaneous	7,586	4,640	6,784	4,640
Budget Transfers from Other Funds	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	197,605	204,003	138,682	213,402
Expenditures				
Pastoral Ministry				
Pastor's Salary & Housing	54,955	72,868	52,973	74,149
Social Security	6,090	6,036	4,401	6,142
Pension & Healthcare Costs	45,549	37,572	29,928	40,822
Travel Reimbursement	4,121	4,200	3,379	4,200
2 Weeks Continuing Education	124		-	
Book, Periodical & Personal Office Expenses	287	400	325	400
Total Pastoral Ministry	111,125	121,076	91,007	125,713
Worship				
Organist Salary & Taxes	4,183	4,668	3,215	4,761
Choir Music & Supplies	198	500	-	500
Worship Aids & Supplies	2,827	2,790	1,597	2,790
Offering Envelopes	815	900	-	900
Secretary Salary & Taxes	3,336	3,440	2,571	3,509
Supply Pastor	-	200	-	200
Youth Group	-	500	-	500
Children & Youth Ministry	-	-	-	-
Delegate & Convention Expenses	140	400	400	400
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total Worship	11,498	13,398	7,783	13,560

*As of 9/30/23	2022	2023	2023	2024
	Actual	Budget	Actual*	Budget
Current Fund				
Office				
Payroll and Tax Preparation	809	812	723	956
Paper, Supplies & Archival Supplies	314	650	58	300
Postage & Box Rent	271	300	146	300
Copier Maintenance & Supplies	755	1,500	608	1,500
Telephone & Internet	2,243	2,328	1,596	2,328
Total Office	4,391	5,590	3,131	5,384
Maintenance				
Fuel	7,116	7,506	7,196	8,148
Electricity	2,534	2,520	2,193	2,520
Insurance Church Property	6,439	6,000	-	6,500
Workmen's Compensation	3,177	2,000	399	2,000
Organ & Public Address System	-	200	-	200
Janitor's Salary, Taxes + Electric Reimb.	2,206	2,287	1,704	2,333
Janitor's Supplies	280	200	-	200
Property & Maintenance	2,029	3,500	1,434	3,500
Total Maintenance	23,781	24,213	12,925	25,401
Miscellaneous				
Interfund Transfers	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	1,464	1,200	305	1,200
Total Miscellaneous	1,464	1,200	305	1,200
Total C&Y				
C&Y Salary	26,251	25,891	20,250	26,409
Children & Youth Fundraiser	-	-	-	-
C&Y Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total C&Y	26,251	25,891	20,250	26,409
Flower Expenditures				
Flower Expenditures	362	3,095	1,236	3,095
Total Expenditures	362	3,095	1,236	3,095
Sunday School Expenditures				
Regular Sunday School Expenditures				1,600
Sunday School Donations	-	-	-	1,500
Total Expenditures	-	-	-	3,100
Improvement Expenses				
Taxes	3,137	-	3,199	-
Elevator	1,300	-	1,160	-
Myers Pipe Organ	295	-	355	-
J Carl Zimmerman	656	-	-	-
Water Service	-	-	1,505	-
Klinger Lumber Company	1,024	-	495	-
Pavilion Maintenance	-	-	-	-
Kitchen Project	-	-	-	-
Fire Protection	-	-	-	-
Transfer to Memorial Fund A	-	-	-	-
Special Improvement Expenses	17,819	-	-	-
General Maintenance	3,763	-	2,867	-
Total Expenditures	27,994	9,540	9,581	9,540
Total Expenditures	206,868	204,003	146,219	213,402
Current Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	(9,263)	(0)	(7,537)	0

*As of 9/30/23

	2022	2023	2023	2024
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Benevolence Fund				
Revenues				
Regular Benevolence	12,250	12,000	8,874	12,000
World Hunger	1,154	1,000	886	1,000
Konde Pastor's Salary	600	600	500	600
Domestic Disaster Response	1,154	1,300	2,905	1,300
WELCA Project Comfort	-	700	-	700
Community Thanksgiving Offering	-	500	-	500
Interest	-	-	-	-
Donations	-	-	-	-
Always Being Made New	-	-	-	-
Tree 4 Hope	600	550	500	550
Lutheran Camping Corp	-	500	-	500
Weekend Snack Pack Program	-	500	-	500
WVA Flood Relief	-	-	-	-
Global Barnyard	-	2,000	-	2,000
Sunday School Program for UDHS	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-
International Disaster Response	-	-	-	-
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	1,200	-	600	-
Nepal Earthquake	-	-	-	-
Hunger Initiative	-	-	-	-
Blanket Shipping	-	-	-	-
Lutheran World Relief	1,289	-	200	-
HHS Donations	-	-	-	-
Erik Erdman Foundation	-	-	-	-
Eastern European Crisis	805	-	-	-
Upper Dauphin Human Services Center	192	-	-	-
Middle East Crisis	-	-	1,259	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Interfund Transfer	-	-	-	-
Total Revenues	19,436	19,650	15,724	19,650

*As of 9/30/23

	2022	2023	2023	2024
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual*</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Benevolence Fund				
Expenditures				
Regular Benevolence	12,000	12,000	9,126	12,000
World Hunger	1,154	1,000	886	1,000
Konde Pastor's Salary	600	600	450	600
Domestic Disaster Response	1,154	1,300	2,905	1,300
WELCA Project Comfort	-	700	-	700
Community Thanksgiving Offering	-	500	-	500
Haiti	-	-	-	-
New Checks	-	-	-	-
Always Being Made New	-	-	-	-
Tree 4 Hope	600	550	450	550
Lutheran Camping Corp	-	500	-	500
Weekend Snack Pack Program	-	500	-	500
WVA Flood Relief	-	-	-	-
Global Barnyard	-	2,000	-	2,000
Sunday School Program for UDHS	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-
Nepal Earthquake	-	-	-	-
Interfund Transfer	-	-	-	-
Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services	1,200	-	600	-
Hunger Initiative	-	-	-	-
International Disaster Response	-	-	-	-
Lutheran World Relief	1,289	-	200	-
Blanket Shipping	-	-	-	-
Erik Erdman Foundation	-	-	-	-
Upper Dauphin Human Services Center	192	-	-	-
Northern Dauphin Human Services Center	-	-	-	-
Eastern European Crisis	805	-	-	-
Middle East Crisis	-	-	1,259	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	19,799	19,650	15,876	19,650
Benevolence Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	(363)	-	(152)	-

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
* In-Person ** In-Person and On Zoom					1	2 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
3 1st Sunday of Advent 9am - Adult Bible Study*, Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt*, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie* 10:15am - Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Younger In-Person Worshipers** <i>Our Steeple Stars Will Be Lighted at Sunset</i>	4 6:30pm - Book Discussion Group Gathers on Zoom No Church Dartball League Match – St. John Bye Week	5 9:30am - Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6 6:30-8pm - Monthly Celebration Club with Miss Laurie “Happy Birthday, Jesus!”	7 5:30pm - Free Community Holiday Meal at Salem UCC, Elizabethtown Hanukkah Begins at Sundown	8	9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 9am - Adult Bible Study*, Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt*, Confirmation Class*, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie* 10:15am - Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Younger In-Person Worshipers** 11:15am - Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 1** 2pm - Advent Activity with Miss Laurie for All Ages – Christmas Pajama Party	11 7pm - Church Dartball League Match – Faith United Methodist at St. John	12 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	13 6pm - Congregational Council Monthly Meeting	14	15 Hanukkah Ends at Sundown	16 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 9am - Adult Bible Study*, Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt*, Confirmation Class*, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie* 10:15am - Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Younger In-Person Worshipers**	18 7pm - Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Lykens United Methodist	19	20	21 Winter Begins	22	23 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
24 4th Sunday of Advent 9am - Adult Bible Study*, Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt*, Confirmation Class*, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie* 10:15am - Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Younger In-Person Worshipers** Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve 4pm - Christmas Eve Celebration Time Worship, including Sacrament of Holy Communion** 8pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship, including Sacrament of Holy Communion**	25 Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day	26 Stephen, Deacon & Martyr 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	27 John, Apostle & Evangelist	28 Holy Innocents, Martyrs	29	30 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
31 1st Sunday of Christmas 9am - Adult Bible Study*, Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt*, Confirmation Class*, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie* 10:15am - Liturgy of Lessons and Carols (Guest Worship Leader – Jim Watson), Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Younger In-Person Worshipers** New Year's Eve	Pastor Tom Off – Returning to the Office on January 4					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
* In-Person ** In-Person and On Zoom	Name of Jesus New Year's Day	7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	6:30-8pm - Monthly Celebration Club with Miss Laurie "Do-nut Forget, Jesus Loves You"			Epiphany of Our Lord Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
Pastor Tom Off – Returning to the Office on January 4						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Baptism of Our Lord 9am - Adult Bible*, Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt*, Confirmation Class*, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie* 10:15am - Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion, Recognition of Recently-Baptized, and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Younger In-Person Worshipers**	9am - "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 6:30pm - Book Discussion Group Gathers on Zoom	7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East				Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9am - Adult Bible*, Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt*, Confirmation Class*, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie* 10:15am - Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Younger In-Person Worshipers** 11:15am - Fair Trade/Equal Exchange Products Sampling and Fellowship Time 11:15am - Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting 6pm - Congregational Council Meeting	Deadline to Submit Items for February "St. John's Epistle" 9am - "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7pm - Church Dartball League Match – Valleys EC Church at St. John Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	6:15pm - Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		Confession of Peter		Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9am - Adult Bible*, Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt*, Confirmation Class*, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie* 10:15am - Worship, Including Annual Blessing of Lectors and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Younger In-Person Worshipers** 11:15am - Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 2**	9am - "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7pm - Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville	6:15pm - Property Committee Meeting 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		Conversion of Pau		Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
28	29	30	31			
4th Sunday after Epiphany 9am - Adult Bible*, Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt*, Confirmation Class*, SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie* 10:15am - Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Younger In-Person Worshipers**	9am - "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief No Church Dartball League Match – St. John Bye Week	7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal				

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

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