



St. Johns Epistle

St. Johns Lutheran
Church
Berrysburg, PA

December 2019/
January 2020 Newsletter



Dear Friends in Jesus,

I want to thank the good folks at my former congregation, Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lanse, PA, for the following joke which was included in a recent newsletter:

A pastor decided to skip church one Sunday morning and go play golf. After telling her assistant that she wasn't feeling well, she drove to a golf course in another city, so nobody would recognize her. She teed off on the first hole. As her ball took flight, a huge gust of wind caught it, carrying it an extra 150 yards and dropping it right in the hole, for a 450-yard hole in one! At that moment, an angel in heaven looked at God and asked, "What'd you do that for?" God smiled and said, "Who's she going to tell?"

As with my (totally fictional, I'm sure!) colleague, many things call out to us for attention on a Sunday morning. It seems to me that, as is so often the pattern in human history, we have swung from one extreme (the days of "blue laws" and there being almost nothing besides explicitly-Christian activities taking place on a Sunday) to the other (where hunting here in Pennsylvania will apparently soon be added to the ever-growing slate of available Sunday activities), and I highly doubt that will be slowing down. I've often stated my contention that Jesus doesn't expect that we never miss worship – that there are indeed sometimes other tasks to be done in God's name that take us away on a Sunday morning. But worship with our congregational family – or a congregational family away from home – should absolutely be our "default setting". Except for those infrequent times when God's work calls us in another direction, or those occasional times where sickness or other personal emergency get in the way, worship should be where we are, for God's sake as well as for our own.

As I was sharing with Congregational Council at our November meeting, our average Sunday congregational family worship attendance this year has been – well, "very average", for lack of a better term – just kind of flat when looked at from the perspective of our almost two decades together. I'm thinking that God has in mind something more for us – that, in addition to our presence in worship being necessary simply to say a great big "THANK YOU" to God,

these times in which we are living make it even more critical that we band together in worship as a congregational family to be reminded of and strengthened for our calling to be God's people of love in a challenging world.

So, as the year 2019 begins to come toward its close, please step back and prayerfully take a look at your life of worship, your participation in the Sunday life of your congregational family. What do you see? What is your default setting? What do you allow to take you away? How does what you see align with what you believe Jesus would want for you as His beloved child?

As we again enter into this holy time of the Church Year, reminded once again 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 – Ann and I wish and pray for each of you a most blessed Advent and Christmas celebration and a strong beginning to another new year!

PASTOR TOM

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Altar

On Saturday, October 26, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Teresa Hughes** and **John Lebo II**. We pray God's blessing on John and Teresa, that they may each be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

On Reformation Sunday, October 27, five young persons, **Tanner Bixler**, **Caroline DeSoto**, **Lillian Rabenold**, **Landon Troutman** and **Axten Zimmerman** were recognized during worship as they communed for the first time at our altar, following the successful completion of First Holy Communion instruction with Pastor Tom. We congratulate these young persons and pray that this will be a blessed day in a lifetime journey of participation in this Sacrament of Love!

Congratulations to **Scott & Melanie Peters** (and their families/the Peters family) on the safe and healthy birth of **Wilder Robert** to **Chelsea & Logan Beard** on July 30 at Harrisburg Hospital. Wilder weighed 7½ pounds and was 19¼ inches long. Per proud grandpa Scott, everyone is doing well.

News from Miss Laurie
Young Christians Minister



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

How could it possibly be December already? I know the stores have had their Christmas merchandise and decorations out since Halloween, and they've been playing Christmas music on the radio since November 1st, but really, how did the time go by so quickly?

It's hard to believe, but the Christmas season is upon us! We've got lots of ways to brighten your holidays, so please take out your pens and add these activities to your calendars:

Sunday, December 1st – The Jingle Elves will have practice here at St. John's at 5:30 in preparation for their singing at the Berrysburg Tree Lighting Ceremony which will take place at 6:30 in the square!

Wednesday, December 4th – Celebration Club meets from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. It's a Candy Cane Christmas Celebration!!

Saturday, December 14th - Jingle Elves will sing for residents of the Polk Personal Care Facility at 10:00!

Sunday, December 15th – Join us for our annual Advent Celebration! The fun starts at 4:30 with a light meal of soup and sandwiches and a craft for the kids. At 6:00, the Jingle Elves will perform followed by a skit entitled, "The Great Church Robbery", a take off of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" with Vincent Lamenza lending his voice as narrator! After the skit, we'll sing a few Christmas carols; then we'll head back downstairs for cookies and drinks. We hope it's an evening of fun, church-family fellowship that really gets you in the Christmas spirit!!

Sunday, December 22nd – It's our SONday Celebration Christmas Party! Join us at 9:00 for the fun!

Tuesday, December 24th – Join us for the Christmas Eve Celebration Service at 4:00. It's a kid-friendly service with contemporary music, and a Sunny Sermon! And/or if you want a more traditional service, join us for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 8:00 pm! Each service will start promptly at the top of the hour!

Sunday, December 29th – Adults and kids alike come together for the "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party at 9:00 during SONday Celebration!!

As you can see, we want to help you get into the holiday spirit, so join us for all of the above activities and be part of the St. John's Christmas Celebration!!!

Wishing you and yours a blessed



Miss Laurie

Advent Christmas Event

Once again this year, we have some unique opportunities to enrich our journey through the wonderful seasons of Advent and Christmas. Please see Miss Laurie's letter in this ***St. John's Epistle*** for all the details about our **December 15** "Advent/Christmas Event" which will get underway at **4:30 P.M.**

Then, 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 music by the "Jingle Elves" celebration choir, set within worship that will, in general, be simpler and less formal than our later 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! *Please note that, in a change from recent years, our musical preludes will begin prior to the top of the hour, so that we are ready for worship to begin at 4:00 and 8:00 sharp. (And, if you have music of any kind that you would like to share at either 4:00 or 8:00 (or both), please contact Pastor Tom as soon as possible if you have not already done so.)*

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 8**, 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 2020. On **Sunday, January 19**, we will again meet following worship to receive and act on reports of the ministry of our congregation conducted during 2019 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 2018 and/or 2019.

To aid you in preparing for the December 8 meeting, the proposed 2020 budgets for the Current Fund and the Children and Youth Fund are included in this ***Epistle***. To focus on the 2020 Current Fund budget for a moment, our largest fund which handles most of the day to day work of congregational ministry, you will notice that it shows a total increase of only \$746 or just under a half-percent from 2019. This small increase basically comes from Pastor Tom's section of the budget, with the recommendation to again set his salary to the minimum figure specified by synodical guidelines for someone with his years (32) of pastoral experience being partly offset by a decrease in the cost of his health insurance benefits. For its part, the Children and Youth Fund, from which Miss Laurie's important ministry is provided, shows a \$470 or 2% increase, reflecting a much-deserved 2% increase in her compensation.

With regard to Congregational Council elections, our Nominating Committee is bringing the following four names for congregational action: **Roy Henry, Ken Koller, Heidi Lehman** and **Lori Motter**.

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 8 and January 19!

St. John's Youth Group

THANK YOU to everyone that helped in any way for the Chicken and Waffle Dinner! The Youth group was able to raise over \$800 towards the ELCA GATHERING in Minneapolis, Summer 2021!! We are continually blessed to have such an amazing support system in our congregational family!

December Events

December 13 - The High School age kids in Youth Group will be participating in the Bethesda Mobile Mission, meeting at the church at 5:00 P.M. This trip we would like to focus on stocking up on "hygiene packs" if you know of anyone who would like to donate items please speak with any youth group advisors. If you are interested in attending talk to any youth group advisor. All other youth group members will meet at the church for a fun night!

December 15 - Advent Program -The Great Church Robbery - Miss Be sure to go out and support our congregational family!

FUNDRAISERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP ON 12/15!

Winter Mobile
Mission Donation List
(Oct - Mar)

Sternos
Cans of Soup
Matches
Sleeping Bag/ Blanket
Mens/Womens
Underwear

January - The Advisors are in the planning stages for our January Event! Please keep an eye out for emails! If you are not receiving youth group emails and would like to be added to our email list, please talk to any advisor and/or Pastor Tom.

ALL YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS
must complete a General Information and Emergency/Medical Form. This form only needs to be completed 1 time each year and this is the annual renewal time! Please check the bulletin board for copies and return to one of the Youth Group Advisors.

This years Annual Spaghetti Dinner has been rescheduled until April, Look in the February and/or March newsletter for more info!

The ELCA has announced the theme for the 2021 Gathering in Minneapolis!! All Youth Group members who will be going into 9th Grade and above as off June 2021 will be eligible to attend GATHERING. Please see any youth group advisor if you would like more information.

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



MidWeek Bible Study

Midweek Bible Study will get back underway for its winter session on Wednesday, January 8, this year taking an in-depth look at the ***Gospel of Matthew***, from which we are reading most every Sunday in worship between now and the end of November. Come out to learn more about this unique gospel which holds the preeminent place as the starting point of the whole New Testament! We will meet each Wednesday – weather permitting – from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. through February 19, when we will take a break for Lent and Holy Week. 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 Thursday, January 2 (when he returns to the office), so that the correct number of study books can be ordered.

Look Ahead - Summer is Coming

The date has been set for our Annual Strawberry Festival in 2020. It will take place on Wednesday, June 10, in our grove and pavilion. Serious planning will get underway with a first gathering on Tuesday, March 3, at 7:00 P.M. at the church.

Also, the dates of Vacation Bible School have been tentatively set, running Monday, July 20, through Friday, July 24, with the closing program taking place on Sunday, July 26, outside in the pavilion.



Please save these dates in your family's calendar, and please spread the news to your friends and neighbors. Summer will be here before we know it!

Equal Exchange Program

OUR PARTNERS

Equal Exchange has initiated partnerships with small scale dairy farmers in Vermont and Wisconsin (with other partnerships on the way!) These partners share a commitment to animal welfare, to ecologically responsible practices, and to the maintenance of rural communities. If they hire workers outside the immediate family, they treat those workers respectfully and pay them fairly.



RED BARN WISCONSIN

Red Barn is a network of 10 small family farms in Wisconsin. The network was started by a veterinarian, so there's a special emphasis on treating the animals humanely and giving high priority to their health. Each Red Barn farm has 75 or fewer dairy cows, a scale that allows each farming family to care for a herd with minimal outside labor, and treat each cow as an individual.

(pictured left: Mark, Matthew and Caleb Beyer from Red Barn, the 4th, 5th, and 6th generations to live on the farm that has been in their family since 1874.)

NEIGHBORLY FARMS OF VERMONT

Neighborly Farms of Vermont is a third generation farm owned by The Dimmick Family. It's an organic small scale dairy with an on-site creamery. The sixty head herd lives in an open barn, with access to pasture, and milking is done by a high tech robot. A few times a day - on their own! - each cow enters the stall, gets some food, gets cleaned and is automatically milked.



Life on the farm with Bobby, Brooke and Baby Emily.

There is cheese available from Equal Exchange in the kitchen refrigerator. Honor system prevails. Put money in plastic bag in refrigerator.

Checks are acceptable but made out to Larry Gessner

Many Thanks for this new Equal Exchange Program.

2020 Sponsorship Opportunities

A new altar flower sponsor chart is posted in the foyer. Please sign up to sponsor flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or event and direct any questions to Coordinator Yalonda Rabenold (717-362-2454). Three new 2020 sponsor sheets have also been posted on the foyer bulletin board – for continuing ministry support for our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month); 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 for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month). Please sign up on the foyer bulletin board to sponsor any of these three ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events. (Two requests from Pastor Tom: First, please be sure to print all sign up information, especially names, clearly and legibly. Second, please consider, if possible, a sponsorship for the month of January, which has historically been a difficult month to fill. Thank you!!)

Lector Schedule for 2020

The following is the schedule of folks who will serve as lectors during 2020:

January	-	Reyann Cheatham
February	-	Barry Williard
March	-	Judith Cheatham
April	-	Donald Deibler
May	-	Amy Gehring
June	-	Joshua Paul
July	-	Carl Baumgardner
August	-	Gary & Terri Daniels
September	-	Vincent Lamenza
October	-	Jamie Doyle
November	-	The Denlinger Family
December	-	Matt Williard

We thank them for serving in this important ministry of worship. *(Please be present in worship on Sunday, January 19, as we join in praying God's blessing on them as they share God's Word throughout the coming year!)*

Attention!! Communing Members

As we near the end of the year, please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you have turned in at least one communion record card this year. If during the year you have been living and worshipping out of the area, or if you have communed even once at another congregation, please be sure to have that congregation send notice to Pastor Tom. If you are a contributing member of the congregation, please be sure that you have used your offering envelopes at least once this year, so that you are on record as having made a contribution. (And, following January 1, please remember that the same record keeping need exists in the new year.) Please do your part to make sure that our parish records are as accurate as possible!



St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
September 18, 2019

The council meeting was called to order by President, Dan Langhans. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

Present: Dan Langhans, Donna Rabenold, Carol Hassinger, Sandra Lamenza, Matt Williard, Barbara Bullock, Arlene Doyle, Dan Maurer, Pat Herb, and Pastor Tom Bruner

Excused Absence: Darrell Denlinger, Ron Erb

Minutes: Motion by Matt Williard and seconded by Barb Bullock to approve the minutes (with noted corrections) from the July 2019 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

The monthly water inspections were completed and passed for both July and August.

The six-month elevator inspection was completed and passed.

Pastor's Report: Motion made by Donna Rabenold and seconded by Dan Maurer to accept the pastor's reports for July and August. Motion approved unanimously.

Children and Youth Ministry Report: Motion was made by Carol Hassinger and seconded by Matt Williard to accept Miss Laurie's July and August reports. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Pat Herb and seconded by Arlene Doyle to accept the treasurer's report. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Several maintenance issues have been taken care of. The cross has been hung above the altar in the social room and the cabinet was hung in the youth room on the third floor. Sandra Lamenza reported on the options and bids she received for repairing the plaster and painting the sanctuary. She will attend the September property committee meeting and discuss options with them.

Finance: No report

Worship and Music: The committee met on September 10. There are seven outdoor services scheduled on the following dates: May 24, June 21, July 5, July 12, July 26, August 16, September 6. The earlier summer service schedule will start May 24 and end September 13.

Motion was presented by the committee and seconded by Matt Williard to have the Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band return for one of the summer services. Motion approved unanimously.

The decision was made to retire the large nativity that has been positioned at the front of the sanctuary where the grand piano now sits. The committee recommended that the smaller nativity made by Fearl Lenker be moved to the sanctuary at a different location possibly in the entrance. Sandra Lamenza offered to find a suitable location and set up the nativity.

Faith Formation Team: Getting ready for the fall programs.

Youth Ministry: A trip is planned to go miniature golfing with a stop at Sweet Treats. They are working on assembling 500 school kits, A Gaga Pit was purchased and set up in the ball field. They will be going to the Bethesda Mission in October with cans of soup and Sterno heaters.

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
September 18, 2019

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report.

Nominating: Compiling list of candidates for council.

History: No report

Women of ELCA: The Blanket Bunch will do a demo at the Gratz Fair. The Italian Dinner is October 20 and November is "Fill the Pew" month; both designated to support the Snack Pack program. The "Thank Offering" service will be held November 24. St John will host next year's ELCA Synod meeting on August 15, 2020.

Other Reports: Sandra Lamenza read a letter from a grateful person seeking information about ancestors that were part of the St John congregation. She noted that we are usually able to assist people with this type of research because much of our archive collection has been preserved. As per our discussion at the last meeting, the archive room is now locked.

Pastor Tom reported on additional follow-up regarding the mystery of the lost pre-sets on the organ. Currently there is no logical explanation, and there is no evidence of foul play. In an abundance of caution, Judy is arranging to have the organ locked.

Unfinished Business: N/A

Next Council Meeting: Next council meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2019 at 4PM.

Adjournment: Motion by Donna Rebenold and seconded by Dan Maurer to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Lamenza, Assistant Secretary

Treasurer's Report – August 2019

	Beginning Balance	Revenues	Expenditures	Ending Balance
Current	5,455.54	8,513.13	12,023.59	1,945.08
Children/Youth	(588.27)	1,697.00	1,796.32	(687.59)
Benevolence	449.96	2,442.50	2,685.78	206.68
Flower	137.12	140.00	175.00	102.12
Improvement	32,434.93	223.00	242.26	32,415.67
Memorial	5,054.84	3,677.45		8,732.29
Bicentennial CK	32,486.02	176.91	2,158.35	30,504.58
Bicentennial Savings	5300.91			5300.91

Current Fund

	2018 Budget	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2020 % Change from Budget	2019 Budget
Revenues					
Plate Offering	6,000	7,139	6,000	6,000	100.00%
Current Envelopes	145,180	135,754	149,314	150,061	100.50%
Use of Church Pavilion	500	618	500	500	100.00%
Celebrate Sponsorship	250	265	264	264	100.00%
Thrivent Choice Funds	1,800	1,559	1,800	1,800	100.00%
St Johns Cemetary Assn. Children & Youth Ministry	200	150	150	150	100.00%
Taxes	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Budget Transfers from Other Funds	-	-	-	-	0.00%
Misc. Refunds & Donations	500	547	500	500	100.00%
Total Revenues	154,430	146,032	158,528	159,275	100.47%

Expenditures

Pastoral Ministry

Pastor's Salary & Housing	68,443	64,411	70,215	71,881	102.37%
Social Security	5,670	5,362	5,816	5,954	102.37%
Pension & Healthcare Costs	34,370	38,075	36,046	35,302	97.94%
Travel Reimbursement	5,250	4,945	5,250	5,000	95.24%
2 Weeks Continuing Education Book, Periodical & Personal Office Expenses	700	432	700	700	100.00%
	400	600	400	400	100.00%
Total Pastoral Ministry	114,833	113,825	118,427	119,237	100.68%

Worship

Organist Salary & Taxes	3,840	3,973	4,237	4,322	102.00%
Choir Music & Supplies	250	502	250	500	200.00%
Worship Aids & Supplies	1,550	884	1,550	1,550	100.00%
Offering Envelopes	900	934	900	900	100.00%
Secretary Salary & Taxes	2,899	3,037	3,123	3,185	102.00%
Supply Pastor	200	-	200	200	100.00%
Youth Group	1,000	379	1,000	500	50.00%
Children & Youth Ministry Delegate & Convention Ex- penses	-	-	-	-	0.00%
	600	380	400	400	100.00%
Miscellaneous	-	84	-	-	0.00%
Total Worship	11,239	10,171	11,660	11,557	99.12%

Current Fund

	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>2020 % Change from Budget</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Office					
Payroll and Tax Preparation	771	622	771	771	100.00%
Paper, Supplies & Archival Supplies	650	302	650	650	100.00%
Postage & Box Rent	600	102	300	300	100.00%
Copier Maintenance & Supplies	1,500	868	1,500	1,500	100.00%
Telephone & Internet	1,900	2,023	2,040	2,040	100.00%
Total Office	5,421	3,917	5,261	5,261	100.00%
Maintenance					
Fuel	6,000	5,560	6,000	6,000	100.00%
Electricity	2,000	2,594	2,520	2,520	100.00%
Insurance Church Property	5,000	5,654	5,000	5,000	100.00%
Workmen's Compensation	800	639	800	800	100.00%
Organ & Public Address System	200	-	200	200	100.00%
Janitor's Salary, Taxes + Electric Reimb.	1,796	1,987	1,961	2,000	102.00%
Janitor's Supplies	200	-	200	200	100.00%
Property & Maintenance	3,500	2,425	3,500	3,500	100.00%
Total Maintenance	19,496	18,858	20,181	20,220	100.19%
Miscellaneous					
Interfund Transfers	1,800	180	1,800	1,800	100.00%
Miscellaneous	1,200	1,371	1,200	1,200	100.00%
Total Miscellaneous	3,000	1,551	3,000	3,000	100.00%
Total Expenditures	153,989	148,322	158,529	159,275	100.47%
Current Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	441	(2,290)	(1)	(0)	

Children and Youth Fund

	<u>2018 Budget</u>	<u>2018 Actual</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>	<u>2020 % Change from Budget</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Revenues					
Offerings	8,800	13,677	16,003	23,973	149.80%
Transfers from Local Benevolence	2,500	2,500	2,500	-	0.00%
Transfers from Memorial Fund Interest	10,000	7,500	5,000	-	0.00%
Thrivent	-	1,064	-	-	0.00%
Miscellaneous	-	780	-	-	0.00%
Total Revenues	21,300	25,521	23,503	23,973	102.00%
Expenditures					
Salary- Children & Youth Coordinator & Taxes	21,300	23,285	23,503	23,973	102.00%
Children & Youth Supplies	-	232	-	-	0.00%
Miscellaneous	-	217	-	-	0.00%
Total Expenditures	21,300	23,734	23,503	23,973	102.00%
Children & Youth Fund Surplus/(Deficit)	-	1,787	0	0	

December Worship Schedule

December Gifts

Celebrate Inserts -

Pastor Tom and Ann

Bruner

Tree & Hope

Pastor Tom and Ann

Bruner

Konde Diocese -

Pastor Tom and Ann

Bruner

Altar Flowers

December 1

Chris and Dana Klouser

December 8

Shelia and Brian Barder

December 15

Adam and Hannah

Rabenold

December 22

Jeff and Heidi Lehman

December 24

Fay Nichols

December 29

Sandy Paul

**as of print date,
subject to change*

Lector
Altar Guild
Usher

Matthew Williard
Donna Rabenold
Arlene Doyle (Lead) Joe Doyle (Elevator)
Fay Nichols and Jamie Doyle (Lay)

December 1, 2019

Holy Communion

Greeter	The Roy Henry Family
Acolytes	Hoyt Schlegel and Aidan Roadcap
Superintendent	Lynn Henninger
Pianist	Lois Watson

December 8, 2019

Greeter	John and Connie Shaffer
Acolytes	Gary Leitzel and Medeline Williard
Superintendent	Jeff Lehman
Pianist	Judy Ferree

December 15, 2019

Greeter	Gary Daniels
Acolytes	Caroline DeSoto and Avery Mace
Superintendent	Ken Koller
Pianist	Louise Baumgardner

December 22, 2019

Greeter	Robert and Faye Weaver
Acolytes	Cole Roadcap and Hoyt Schlegel
Superintendent	Larry Gessner
Pianist	Sandra Paul

December 24, 2019

8:00 P.M.

Candlelight Liturgy

Holy Communion (Common Cup)

Greeter
Acolytes

Joshua and Sara Paul

December 29, 2019

Greeter
Acolytes

Darrel and Janet Denlinger
Gabe Gehring and Briana Radel



*Happy
Holidays*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December 2019						
1 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 SONday Celebration Christmas Decorating Downstairs 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons 5:30 “Jingle Elves” Rehearsal with Miss Laurie (followed by singing at Berrysburg Tree Lighting)	2 Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day 5:30 Book Discussion Group Gathering	3 Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Meeting	5 5:30 Community Holiday Meal at Salem UCC, Elizabethville	6	7 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off Miss Laurie's “Jingle Elves” Celebration Choir Sings at Polk Assisted Living
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Celebration Time for Young Persons 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting Pt 1 11:30 Fellowship Time with Fair Trade Products for Purchase 2:00 Christmas Caroling to Shut-In Members 2:30 Girl Scout Troop Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting 6:00 Women of the ELCA of St. John Gathering	9 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at Lykens United Methodist <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	10 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Faith Formation Team Gathering 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13 5:00 Youth Group Ministry Trip to Serve with Bethesda Mobile Mission	14 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Celebration Time for Young Persons 4:00 Advent/Christmas Event	16	17 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20	21 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off Winter Begins
22 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Celebration Time for Young Persons Hanukkah Begins at Sundown	23	24 Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve 4:00 Christmas Eve Celebration Time Liturgy of Holy Communion 8:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Liturgy of Holy Communion	25 Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off	26	27 John, Apostle & Evangelist	28 Holy Innocents, Martyrs
29 1st Sunday of Christmas 9:00 SONday Celebration – Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Lessons and Carols, with Celebration Time for Young Persons – Guest Worship Leader, Mr. James Watson	30 Hanukkah Ends at Sundown	31 New Year's Eve	Pastor Tom Off as of Dec 26 - Returning to the office Jan 2.			

January Worship Schedule

Lector
Altar Guild
Usher

Reyann Cheatham
Donna Rabenold
Pat Herb (Lead), Harold Herb (Elevator),
Lori Motter and Tammy Spicher (LAY)

January 5, 2020

Holy Communion

Greeter

Jeff Buffington

Acolytes

Avery Mace and Madeline Williard

Superintendent

Roy Henry

Pianist

Carol Hubler

Prayer

Larry Gessner

Scripture

Larry Gessner

January 12, 2020

Holy Communion

Greeter

Harold and Pat Herb

Acolytes

Gabe Gehring and Gary Leitzel

Superintendent

Jeff Lehman

Pianist

Lois Watson

Prayer

Ann Bruner

Scripture

Hoyt Schlegel

January 19, 2020

Greeter

Fred and Jean Weaver

Acolytes

Caroline DeSoto and Briana Radel

Superintendent

Ken Koller

Pianist

Judy Ferree

Prayer

Janet/Darel Denlinger

Scripture

Matthew Williard

January 26, 2020

Greeter

The Clint Gehring Family

Acolytes

Cole Roadcap and Allyssa Rabenold

Superintendent

Larry Gessner

Pianist

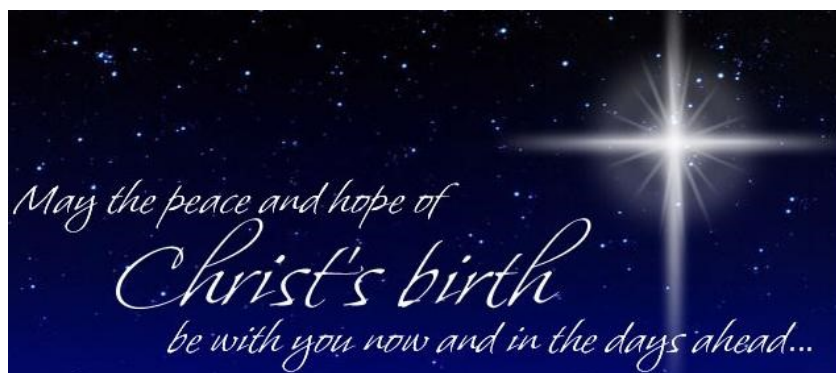
Louise Baumgardner

Prayer

Pat Herb

Scripture

Kelsey Henninger



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>January 2020</div>						
			<div>1</div> <div>Name of Jesus</div> <div>Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day</div> <div>New Year's Day</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</div>
<div>5</div> <div>2nd Sunday of Christmas</div> <div>9:00 SONDay Celebration</div> <div>9:00 Confirmation Class</div> <div>9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School</div> <div>10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Epiphany of Our Lord</div> <div>9:00 Blanket Making for LWR</div> <div>7:30 Church Dartball League Match – Messiah Lutheran at St. John</div>	<div>7</div> <div>9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting</div> <div>7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>8</div> <div>6:30 Midweek Bible Study</div> <div>6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Meeting</div>	<div>9</div> <div>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div> <div>Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</div>
<div>12</div> <div>Baptism of Our Lord</div> <div>9:00 SONDay Celebration</div> <div>9:00 Confirmation Class</div> <div>9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School</div> <div>10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Baptismal Presentations and Celebration Time for Young Persons</div> <div>11:30 Brief Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting</div> <div>11:30 "Breaking Bread" Congregational Fellowship Meal</div> <div>4:00 Congregational Council Meeting</div> <div>6:00 Women of the ELCA of St. John Gathering</div>	<div>13</div> <div>9:00 Blanket Making for LWR</div> <div>7:30 Church Dartball League Match – St. Christopher Lutheran at St. John</div>	<div>14</div> <div>9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting</div> <div>7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>15</div> <div>6:30 Midweek Bible Study</div> <div>Deadline to Submit Items for February "St. John's Epistle"</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>Confession of Peter</div> <div>Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</div>
<div>19</div> <div>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</div> <div>9:00 SONDay Celebration</div> <div>9:00 Confirmation Class</div> <div>9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School</div> <div>10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Annual Blessing of the Lectors and Celebration Time for Young Persons</div> <div>11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting, Pt 2</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off</div> <div>9:00 Blanket Making for LWR</div> <div>7:30 Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Valleys E.C. Church, Halifax</div> <div>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting</div> <div>6:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting</div> <div>7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>22</div> <div>6:30 Midweek Bible Study</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div> <div>Conversion of Paul</div> <div>Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</div>
<div>26</div> <div>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</div> <div>9:00 SONDay Celebration</div> <div>9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School</div> <div>10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Celebration Time for Young Persons</div>	<div>27</div> <div>9:00 Blanket Making for LWR</div> <div>7:30 Church Dartball League Match – Faith United Methodist at St. John</div>	<div>28</div> <div>9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting</div> <div>6:15 Property Committee Meeting</div> <div>7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>29</div> <div>6:30 Midweek Bible Study</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div>	

<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	717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
	Tammy Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
	Judith Ferree	Organist	jferree@epix.net	717-362-4228
	Carol Hubler	Choir Director	Mchubler @gmail.com	570-758-5052
	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

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

Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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Berrysburg, PA 17005

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