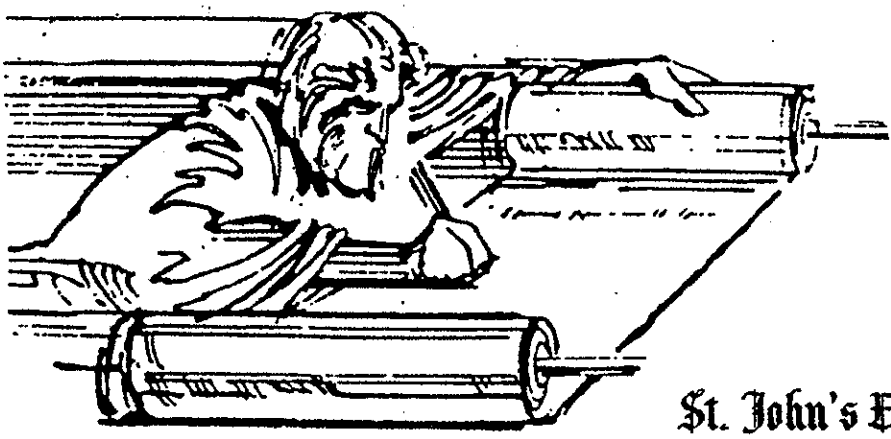

SAINT JOHN'S EPISTLE

DECEMBER 2013/ JANUARY 2014

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. BOX 270, BERRYSBURG, PA 17005

The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr., Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Looking ahead to the first part of our Annual Congregational Meeting, following worship on Sunday, December 8, we will be taking action on a new congregational Mission Statement, in addition to our yearly elections and adoption of a new budget. This statement was drafted by the Upstairs Adult Sunday School Class, as an outgrowth of a study they were doing earlier this year. A Mission Statement, as its name suggests, is intended to serve as a clear and concise summary of who we are and what we are called to do as a congregational family. In my opinion, this one does just that, and, after approval by our Congregational Council at their November meeting, it comes for final action by all of us on December 8. It reads as follows:

> ***St. John congregation, responding to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, unites together to preach and teach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission. With God's guidance and grace, we strive to boldly proclaim by word and action the reconciling Gospel of Jesus: Working together for justice and peace, and caring for those in need in our community and world. We invite everyone to join us wherever you are on your faith journey.***

Please give it your prayerful attention between now and the 8th, and please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of Council with any questions!

The Sunday before we meet, December 1, is the First Sunday of Advent, which marks the beginning of a new church year. It has now been a year since we ended our three-year-long discipline of daily Bible readings which were designed to take our whole congregational family through the whole Bible each year, but I sincerely hope that it has not been a year of lessened Bible reading! As we begin this new church year, I would like us all to renew our commitment to daily Bible reading. Three very good ways to do that are: 1. using the ***Christ in Our Home*** devotional booklets which are provided by the Sunday School treasury every three months (You will find them in the foyer – if we run out, please let me know and we will see that we order more!), 2. using the daily readings that can be found underneath the prayers on the back cover of our weekly ***Celebrate*** bulletin inserts (my current practice), or 3. continuing to follow one of the three tracks of readings that we used from 2009 to 2012, which can be found either in old newsletters or (very similarly) in the back of the ***Lutheran Study Bible***. In addition to this daily reading, which will tend to have us doing several different things in our Bible reading for most of the year, I would like our whole congregational family to commit to following a common path of Bible reading for the seasons of Lent and Advent – times during the church year when we especially focus on such disciplines. Please "stay tuned" for more information about a resource for this reading for the coming season of Lent, which will begin in March.

As I close, a personal note… Timothy, Dan, Ann, and I want to join in wishing you and yours a most blessed and holy Christmas and a hopeful beginning to the new year 2014! It doesn't seem possible, but we are preparing to celebrate our 14th Advent and Christmas with you, and it is again with much joy and anticipation that we do so. May the One who is "Immanuel" - God With Us – bless you now and always!

Pastor Tom

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR DECEMBER, 2013

Altar Guild for Month of December — Donna Rabenold

Lector for Month of December — The Denlinger Family

Usher's for the Month of December
Craig Peters (L), Karen Gehring (E), Robert & Faye Weaver

DECEMBER 1, 2013
1st Sunday in Advent
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Lynn Henninger
Sunday School Pianist- Carol Hubler
Greeters- The Eric Mattern Family
Acolytes- Gracie Gehring & R J Henry

DECEMBER 8, 2013
2nd Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent- Jeff Lehman
Sunday School Pianist- Lois Watson
Greeters- The D'Alesandro Family
Acolytes- Kelsey Henninger & Katherine Gessner

DECEMBER 15, 2013
3rd Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller
Sunday School Pianist- Judy Ferree
Greeters- The Eric Steigman Family
Acolytes- Ryan Henninger & Reyann Cheatham

DECEMBER 22, 2013
4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent- Fay Nichols
Sunday School Pianist- Jean Weaver
Greeters- The Roy Henry Family
Acolytes- Owen Mattern & Tyler D'Alesandro

DECEMBER 24, 2013
The Nativity of our Lord/Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

Greeters- Bob & Faye Weaver
Acolytes- Kelsey Henninger & Cameron Thompson

DECEMBER 29, 2013
1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday School Superintendent- Larry Gessner
Sunday School Pianist- Louise Baumgardner
Greeters- Lynn & Helen Henninger
Acolytes- Ryan Henninger & R J Henry

December 2013

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **The 1st Sunday of Advent** 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion ***Steeple Stars are Lighted***	**2** Pastor Tom off Dec 2 through Dec 4	**3**	**4**	**5** 5:30 – 6:30 Free Community Dinner at Salem UCC Elizabethville	**6**	**7** Pastor Tom's Day Off
8 **The 2nd Sunday of Advent** 9:00 Sunday School / Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word with Holy Baptism 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting –Part 1 2:00 Christmas Caroling to shut in members 6:00 Women's Group Meeting ***Congregational Council will not meet, except for a possible brief meeting downstairs right after the Congregational meeting.***	**9** ***Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East*** 7:30 Dartball Match Faith United Methodist at St. John	**10** 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14** Pastor Tom's Day Off
15 **The 3rd Sunday of Advent** 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 6:00 Annual Advent/Christmas Program and Covered Dish Dinner	**16** 7:30 Dartball Match –Lykens United Methodist at St. John	**17** 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 1:00 Gathering with Residents at the Manor at Susqu. Village 6:15 Evangelism Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	**18** 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal	**19**	**20**	**21** St. Thomas, Apostle Pastor Tom's Day Off **Winter Begins**
22 **The 4th Sunday of Advent** 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	**23** No Dartball Match	**24** **The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve** 4:00 Quiet Liturgy of Holy Communion 8:00 Candlelight Liturgy of Holy Communion	**25** **The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day**	**26** **Stephen, Deacon & Martyr**	**27** **John, Apostle & Evangelist**	**28** **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs** Pastor Tom's Day Off
29 **The 1st Sunday of Christmas** 9:00 Happy Birthday Jesus! Party 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	**30** 7:00 Dartball League All Star Game at Messiah Lutheran Church, Fisherville	**31** **New Year's Eve** Pastor Tom off Dec 31 returning to office on January 9				

SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JANUARY 2014

Altar Guild for Month of January — **Donna Rabenold**

Lector for Month of January — **The Shade Family**

Ushers for the Month of January
James Bullock (L), Jamie Doyle (E), Tammi Spicher & Michael Henninger

JANUARY 5, 2014
The 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Sunday School Superintendent- Lynn Henninger
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul
Greeters- The Denlinger Family
Acolytes- Reyann Cheatham & Gracie Gehring

JANUARY 12, 2014
The Baptism of Our Lord
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Jeff Lehman
Sunday School Pianist- Carol Hubler
Greeters- Ray & Joyce Matter
Acolytes- Cameron Thompson & Ryan Henninger

JANUARY 19, 2014
The 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller
Sunday School Pianist- Lois Watson
Greeters- Harold & Pat Herb
Acolytes- Katherine Gessner & Reyann Cheatham

JANUARY 26, 2014
The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent- Fay Nichols
Sunday School Pianist- Judy Ferree
Greeters- Fred & Jean Weaver
Acolytes- Aidan Roadcap & Kelsey Henninger

January 2014

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 **The Name of Jesus** New Year's Day	**2**	**3**	**4**
5 **The 2nd Sunday of Christmas** 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Lessons and Carols (Guest Worship Leader Mr. James Watson 11:15 Youth Group Meeting	**6** **The Epiphany of Our Lord** 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match-- St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville	**7** 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	**8**	**9** **Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East** Pastor Tom Returns to the Office	**10**	**11** Pastor Tom's Day Off 7:00-9:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group Meets at the Church – Please Contact Ray Matter for More Information
12 **The Baptism of Our Lord** 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Baptismal Presentations 11:30 Mutual Ministry Comm. Mtg. 4:30 Green Team Gathering 6:00 Women's Group Mtg. 7:30 Congregational Council Mtg.	**13** 9:00 Blanket Making 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conf. Cabinet Meeting at St. John 7:30 Dartball Match- St. John at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens	**14** 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg.. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	**15** 6:00 Midweek Bible Study	**16**	**17**	**18** **Confession of Peter** Pastor Tom's Day Off
19 **The 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany** 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 2 2:00 Youth Group Meets to Prepare for Annual Spaghetti Supper 5:00 Annual Spaghetti Supper ***Deadline to Submit Items for February "St. John's Epistle"***	**20** Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off 9:00 Blanket Making LWR 7:30 Dartball Match-Valleys Church at St. John **Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed)**	**21** 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 1:00 Gathering with Our Residents at The Manor at Susquehanna Village 6:15 Worship & Music Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	**22** 6:00 Midweek Bible Study	**23**	**24**	**25** **Conversion of Paul** Pastor Tom's Day Off
26 **The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany** 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	**27** 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Dartball Match - St. John at Faith United Methodist, Fisherville	**28** 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	**29** 6:00 Midweek Bible Study	**30**	**31**	

Pastor Tom off December 31 returning to the office on January 9th

Pastor Tom off December 31 returning to the office on January 9th

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2013

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Jim Watson.

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – Jamie Doyle, Carol Hassinger, Eric Mattern, Sandra Shade, Cheryl Shadle, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences — James Bullock, John Ferree, Karen Gehring, Kris Kell, Ken Koller and Craig Peters

Motion by Sandra Shade, 2nd by Carol Hassinger to accept the September Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: On 10/26 St. John is hosting a Treasurers Workshop for the Lower Susquehanna Synod from 9am -11am.

Pastor's Report: Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by Cheryl Shadle to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports: Motion by Sandra Shade, 2nd by Eric Mattern to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Met 9/24. Ceiling fan installation should occur shortly. Filled oil tank with 370 gallons from Snyder's in Dornsife who had the lowest price. Repair by Brian Barder at the end of the railing on the new ramp. Storm windows are being put down. Stars went up and other winterization occurred. Next meeting in Oct.

Finance Committee: No Report

Worship & Music: Discussion on possibility of rededication of church organ at next meeting in Nov. Motion by Carol Hassinger, 2nd by Cheryl Shadle to approve the outdoor worship schedule for 2014 as follows: May 24, June 15, July 6, July 27, August 3 and August 31. Motion passed unanimously.
Conference worship for Reformation Celebration will be 10/27.

Christian Education: Met and discussed Advent preparation.
Continue to focus on strengthening attendance at Sunday School. Participation is improving.

Stewardship: No report

Evangelism: Met 10/15

Youth Ministry: 10/14 the Youth will load the truck for MD and then take a trip to the Corn Maize. Youth will prepare dinner for All Saints Sunday 11/3.

Mutual Ministry: Met 10/13, next meeting in January.

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report

History Committee: The history booklet are receiving the final editing. Books may possibly be available for the holidays.

Green Team: No report

Other Reports: Prayerful Planning Group- 11/5 is next meeting at 6:15.

Unfinished Business: Mission Statement to be discussed for approval at next meeting. Strawberry Festival meeting will be 3/4/14.

New Business: Discussion on the Usher duties and the location of the Epistle pickup box. The pickup box will be relocated to the top of the stairs so the ushers can give the Epistle's to people as they see them. Heat upstairs set at 68 degrees on days of worship. Once fans are installed, they will force heat down.

Next Council Meeting: November 10, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church

Adjournment: Motion by Carol Hassinger, 2nd by Eric Mattern to adjourn at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

Treasurers Report for

September 2013

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	5,409.72	12,211.55	10,229.35	7,391.92
Benevolence	53.68	1,867.04	1,867.00	53.72
Memorial	26,339.66	770.27	-	27,109.93
Improvement	1,979.54	2,681.00	575.00	4,085.54
Bicent CkAcct	23,977.35	165.81	420.00	23,723.16
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	162.51	102.00	105.00	159.51

Saint John 's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Berrysburg, Pa			
Propsed Budget for 2014 1st Annual Congregation Meeting		*Dec 8,2013*	
Current Expenses:	2012	2013	2014
The Ministry:			
Pastor's Salary & Housing Allowance	55,928	56,487	58127
Social Security	4,278	4,321	4447
Pension (Contribution)& Death Benefits	7,224	7,297	7509
ELCA Medical & Dental Insurance	18,904	19,519	21462
ELCA Disability, Survivor Benefits	1,987	1,399	939
Travel Reimbursement	6,000	6,000	6000
2 Weeks Continuing Education	550	700	700
Book Periodical & Personal Office Exp	300	400	400
Total Ministry:	(2.1%)95,171	(1.0%)96,123	(3.6%) 99584
Worship:			
Organis't Salary	3,120	3,240	3360
Organist Social Security & Medicare	239	248	257
Choir Music & Supplies	250	250	250
Church Bulletins & Insert	250	250	250
Worship Aid & Supplies	1,100	1,100	1100
Offering Envelopes	850	900	900
Printing of Bulletins	2,220	2,340	2460
Printing Social Security & Medicare	170	179	188
Supply Pastor	200	200	200
Youth Ministry	1,000	1,000	1000
"The Lutheran Every Home Plan"	1,050	1,050	1050
Delegates & Convention Expenses	550	550	550
TOTAL	10,999	11,370	11565
Office Expenses:			
Paper,Supplies & Archival Supplies	550	550	650
Postage & Box Rent	700	600	600
Copier Maintenance & Supplies	1,100	1,100	1150
Telephone & Internet	1,900	1,900	1900
TOTAL:	4,250	4,150	4300
Maintenance Expenses:			
Fuel	6,500	7,500	7500
Electricity	2,500	2,500	2300
Insurance Church Property	4,100	4,100	4300
Workman's Compensation	700	700	700
Organ & Public Address System	200	200	200
Janitor's Salary	1,260	1,260	1356
Janitor's Social Security	96	96	103
Janitor's Supplies	150	250	300
Property & Equipment Maintenance	1,400	1,400	1400
TOTAL:	16,906	18,006	18159
TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSES:	(2.1%)127,236	(1.8%)129,586	(3.1%) 133608
BENEVOLENCE-SYNOD & ELCA:	12,000	12,000	12000

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work, Our hands

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. BOX 270
BERRYSBURG, PA 17005

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com.....362-9519 (O)
362-7895 (H)
Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email).....319-0703
Judith Ferree, Organist jjferree@epix.net.....362-4228
Sandra Paul, Secretary rbpaul@epix.net.....362-4117
James Watson, Council President loisbull17@gmail.com.....362-3247
Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email).....362-9108

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Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Thursday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Friday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

(Other times by appointment)

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation

Parish Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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Other Websites of Interest:	Ev. Lutheran Church in America	www.elca.org
	Lower Susquehanna Synod	www.lss-elca.org