

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 270
Berrysburg, PA 17005

St. John's Epistle

December 2016 January 2017



From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

This year, with Christmas Day falling on a Sunday, we will have the opportunity to join in worship on both the Eve of the celebration of Jesus' birth and the day itself.

Our worship celebration will begin at **4:00 P.M.** on Christmas Eve, with a quiet liturgy of Holy Communion. Beloved Christmas carols will make up the majority of our liturgy, and we will get to enjoy all the beautiful Christmas decorations, but there will not be a candlelighting service. We will gather together upstairs near the front of the Nave, so that our typically smaller attendance does not feel “lost” in this large space. This worship opportunity is designed especially for those folks who, for whatever reason, are not able to come to the later traditional worship.

At **8:00 P.M.**, our traditional candlelight festival liturgy of Holy Communion will again take place in the nave with carols galore. For anyone attending the 8:00 worship with portable oxygen, we will again have a special area, with comfortable seating and a great view, set aside on the north side of the back of the balcony, across from the choir. This will keep those with oxygen safe from the candles being held by worshipers on the main floor, as well as those being held by members of the choir. We will again have on hand a number of battery-operated “candles”, with tips that resemble a flame, for use by those in this “flame-free” seating area during the candle lighting. Also, Pastor Tom and his assistants will bring Holy Communion to anyone seated in this special area. Please be in touch with Pastor Tom if you know in advance that you or any of your loved ones will be needing this space.

We will be blessed with special musical preludes to begin both Christmas Eve worship services. Please note that these preludes will begin at 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M., so that the most worshipers can enjoy the music. **If you have music of any kind that you would like to share at either or both services, please contact Pastor Tom as soon as possible if you have not already done so.**

Then, on Sunday morning, Christmas Day, we will not hold our regular Sunday School activities at 9:00 A.M. but will instead gather together for the first time that morning at **10:15** for a simple time of joining in Holy Communion with carols. I would like to encourage everyone to just “come as you are” for this worship. (Seriously! If you have managed to get your eyes open and the presents open, but you are not at your “Sunday best”, that is absolutely no problem!! Just come as you are – sweatpants, bathrobes, wherever you happen to be in your Christmas morning “process”, it's all good!!!) Things will be very laid back, and then it's on to those family dinners, but having first joined in the ultimate “Family Meal” of Bread & Wine, as we come and worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King!!

Pastor Tom

Contact Us

PARISH STAFF

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--|
| The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr. | Pastor | stjohnhill-church@frontier.com | 717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H) |
| Tammy & Bill Becker | Sexton | No Email | 717-319-0703 |
| Judith Ferree | Organist | jjferree@epix.net | 717-362-4228 |
| Rebecca Conte | Secretary | rlkconte06@gmail.com | 570-262-2664 |
| Roy Henry | Council | Webmaster | 717-579-0244 |
| | President | @randrhenry.com | |
| Lorrainer Henninger | Prayer Chain | No Email | 717-362-9108 |
| | Coordinator | | |

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

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

Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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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)

OUR MISSION

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.

Upcoming Events

MEN'S CHOIR MEMBERS WANTED!



A Men's Choir will again be forming to sing for Christmas Eve worship.

Three rehearsals will be held – on Tuesdays, December 6, 13, and 20, from 6:30 to 7:30 each evening. A final rehearsal will be held before 4:00 P.M. worship on Christmas Eve. Since this is a new group that comes together each time, and not a standing choir, all males of any age or experience with singing are especially welcome to join the choir. Please speak with Pastor Tom or Carol Hubler to learn more.

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 11**, we will meet following worship to take action on the election of four members to our Congregational Council and to adopt a Current Fund budget for 2017. On **Sunday, January 15**, we will again meet following worship to receive and act on reports of the ministry of our congregation conducted during 2016, and conduct 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 turn out of voting members! Voting members are confirmed members of the congregation who have communed and made a contribution of record during 2015 and/or 2016.

To aid you in preparing for the December 11 meeting, a copy of the proposed budget for 2017 is included in this *Epistle*. Its projected Current Expenses budget decrease of \$1,681 (from \$146,083 to \$144,402) represents a drop of 1.2% from 2016. This overall decrease is made possible by 1) a \$448 decrease in Pastor Tom's area of the budget (you will notice that this part of the budget shows a substantial savings in medical insurance costs coming from Ann's switching to health insurance coverage through her employer beginning in 2017, which has then made it possible to increase Pastor Tom's actual salary to just \$1,000 under the synod-approved minimum 2017 after being almost \$5,000 under the 2016 minimum), 2) an \$850 decrease in the cost of subscriptions to *The Living Lutheran* after a change in that plan, and 3) a \$1,000 decrease in fuel oil costs, partially offset by smaller increases for electricity and insurance premiums.

With regard to Congregational Council elections, our Nominating Committee is bringing the following four names for congregational action: Henry Henninger, Pat Herb, Dan Langhans, and Donna Rabenold.

Upcoming Events Continued

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 11 and January 15!

WINTER SESSION OF BIBLE STUDY

As we approach a presidential inauguration and other important transitions in the leadership of our nation, and as we as God's People attempt to approach these important events faithfully, Midweek Bible Study this winter will continue the study begun last fall, working through the book *Was America Founded as a Christian Nation? A Historical Introduction*. Written by John Fea, who is a Professor of American History and Chair of the History Department at Messiah College, this book helps us to examine our constitution and national history for answers as we search for a faithful balance in our duties to God and our country. The study will resume on Wednesday, January 11, and then will meet on subsequent



Wednesdays through February 22, when we will take a break for Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week. Class will be held each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. No previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on,

and discuss God's Word together! If you were not a part of the fall study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) no later than Wednesday, January 4 (when he returns to the office), so that the correct number of new study books can be ordered.

SOME UPDATES FROM OUR STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

From Amy Gehring:

I took on a new position at the high school that allows me to use my Special Education certification but also requires me to have a Cooperative Education certification. So back to school I go. . . I will take 2 courses this fall, 2 in the spring, and 2 more next fall. These courses are not available online so I will travel quite a bit as these courses meet twice a week and are in Lancaster and Lebanon. Prayers for safe travels and good and productive study are greatly appreciated!

And From the Denlinger Family:

Rachel has been accepted into the BSN -Bachelor of Science in Nursing accelerated program at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. She starts this 16 month program August 2017. Also, she has received her license as a Registered Dietician.

Our congregational family prayers go with Amy and Rachel!

Children & Youth Ministry

The youth group would like to thank everyone that attended our Annual Chicken and Waffle Dinner with a Special Concert afterwards. We were able to raise over \$600 and are very blessed for the attendance and free will offerings received.

In December, we look forward to caroling to our shut ins on December 11th and to our Advent Program on December 18 at 5:00p.m. We have been practicing hard and look forward to the evening.



John's Facebook:
facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch

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

Pastoral Acts

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for our oldest congregational family member, **John Schade**, following his death at Traditions of Hershey in Campbelltown on October 11. Worship was held at the Ft. Indian-town Gap National Cemetery on October 17. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to John, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to Helen, his wife of almost 76 years, who continues to reside at Traditions of Hershey.



At the Altar

On Reformation Sunday, October 30, three of our young members, **Avery Mace**, **Ashton Schreffler**, and **Madeline Williard** 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 ladies and pray that this will be a blessed day in a lifetime journey of participation in this Sacrament of Love!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Olivia Enders** and her family on the safe and healthy birth of **Sophia Andi** on Thursday, October 20 at Harrisburg Hospital! Sophia weighed in at 6 pounds and 12 ounces and was 20 inches long.

In Other News

LOOKING AHEAD – SUMMER IS COMING!

The date has been set for our Annual Strawberry Festival in 2017. It will take place on Wednesday, June 14, in our grove and pavilion. Serious planning will get underway with a first gathering on Tuesday, March 7, at 6:30 P.M. at the church.

Also, the dates of Vacation Bible School have been set, running Monday, July 17, through Friday, July 21, with the closing program taking place on Sunday, July 23, 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!

PLEASE HELP

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 worshiping 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!

2017 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 Cheryl Shadle (692-2405). Three new 2017 sponsor sheets have also been posted on the foyer bulletin board – two of them for continuing ministry support of the **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month), and **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 a new one for what is actually a return to a popular ministry project of past years, 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,**

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
October 9, 2016

2017 Budget

The Council Meeting was called to order by Vice President Jeff Lehman. Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions.

Present – Carl Baumgardner, Jeff Buffington, Jamie Doyle, Joseph Doyle, Lorraine Henninger, Jeff Lehman, Tamara Spicher and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences – Dale Hassinger, Roy Henry and Sandra Lamenza

Absent – Gail Billow and Karen Paulman

Motion by Tamara Spicher, 2nd by Jeff Buffington to accept the September Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

Pastor Tom presented results from latest water test which we passed.

Pastor shared a letter from the Sextons that early in the morning of 9/24, there was a man in our parking lot passed out at the wheel. 911 and the police were called and the man was arrested for being under the influence.

Pastor's Report:

Motion by Carl Baumgardner, 2nd by Joe Doyle to accept Pastor's report. Motion Passed unanimously.

Children & Youth Coordinator Report:

Carl Baumgardner reported that Amanda Baker is resigning due to scheduling conflicts as she is a full time student at Messiah. The Children & Youth Committee will meet to discuss our future course of action. Amanda's last Sunday will be 10/16. JAM Zone will be covered thru mid-November and then Advent Program practice will begin during regular Sunday School hours.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by Lorraine Henninger to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Met 9/27 and made arrangements for generator for winter as well as had furnace cleaned. Signs were put out to slow down traffic. Vents around church were closed and winterized. Pavilion & cooker were winterized. Stars go up 10/22.

| <i>CURRENT EXPENSES</i> | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| Pastoral Ministry | | | |
| Total: | +7.0% 106,561 | +4.1% 110,922 | -0.4% 110,474 |
| Pastor's Salary & Housing Allowance | 59374 | 60561 | 65700 |
| Social Security | 4919 | 5017 | 5445 |
| Pension (Contribution)& Death bnfts | 7715 | 7869 | 8537 |
| ELCA Medical & Dental Insurance | 24881 | 27674 | 21096 |
| ELCA Disability, Survivor Benefit | 2572 | 2951 | 2846 |
| Travel Reimbursement | 6000 | 5750 | 5750 |
| 2 Weeks Continuing Education | 700 | 700 | 700 |
| Book Periodical & Personal Office Expenses | 400 | 400 | 400 |
| Worship Expenses | | | |
| Total | 11923 | 12132 | 11347 |
| Organist Salary | 3480 | 3600 | 3720 |
| Organist Social Security & Medicare | 266 | 275 | 285 |
| Choir Music & Supplies | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| Church Bulletins & Inserts | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| Worship Ad & Supplies | 1100 | 1100 | 1100 |
| Offering Envelopes | 900 | 900 | 900 |
| Printing of Bulletins | 2580 | 2700 | 1800 |
| Printing of Newsletters | 0 | 0 | 840 |
| Printing Social Security & Medicare | 197 | 207 | 202 |
| Supply Pastor | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Youth Ministry | 1000 | 1000 | 1000 |
| The Lutheran Subscriptions | 1050 | 1050 | 200 |
| Delegates & Convention Expenses | 650 | 600 | 600 |
| Office Supplies | | | |
| Total: | 4300 | 4650 | 4650 |
| Paper, Supplies, & Archival Supplies | 650 | 650 | 650 |
| Postage & Box Rent | 600 | 600 | 600 |
| Copier Maintenance & Supplies | 1150 | 1500 | 1500 |
| Telephone & Internet | 1900 | 1900 | 1900 |
| Maintenance Expenses | | | |
| Total | 18472 | 18379 | 17931 |
| Fuel | 7000 | 7000 | 6000 |
| Electricity | 2300 | 1600 | 2000 |
| Insurance Church Property | 4400 | 4800 | 5000 |
| Workman's Compensation | 700 | 800 | 800 |
| Organ & Public Address System | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Janitor's Salary | 1460 | 1560 | 1608 |
| Janitor's Social Security | 112 | 119 | 123 |
| Janitor's Supplies | 300 | 200 | 200 |
| Property & Equipment Maintenance | 2000 | 2000 | 2000 |
| TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSES | +5.7% 141,256 | +3.4% 146,083 | -1.27% 144,402 |
| BENEVOLENCE-SYNOD & ELCA | 12000 | 12000 | 12000 |

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
October 9, 2016**

Finance Committee: Meeting 10/10 to work on 2017 Budget.

Worship & Music: Met & discussed the 11/23 Thanksgiving Eve worship service which we will host. All Saints Flower sponsorships are due. The 2017 Outdoor Worship schedule was set as follows: 5/28, 6/18, 7/2, 7/23, 8/6, 8/20, 9/3. Motion by the Committee, 2nd by Carl Baumgardner to approve. Motion passed unanimously. Next committee meeting is 11/15.

Christian Education: Met 9/19 and discussed adult Sunday School schedule. First Holy Communion participants met and there are 3 young ladies. Next meeting 10/11.

Youth Ministry: There is a small group of Youth and Advisors headed to New Windsor tomorrow. The Gettysburg Ghost Tour is scheduled for 10/30. Chicken & Waffle dinner is 11/6.

Mutual Ministry: Met today. Discussed Children & Youth Ministry Next meeting 1/8/17 following worship.

Executive: No report

Nominating: Working diligently on the upcoming nominees.

History Committee: Still working on history book.

Green Team: Will be an Ad Hoc committee to work on projects as needed.

Other reports: Prayerful Planning will continue their work at their next meeting on 10/30.

Unfinished Business: The Elizabethville Bicentennial Parade will be held 8/19/17. Pastor Tom will get an information packet for Council's consideration. Suggestions were made to spruce up the float from our Anniversary year or build a new float. The parade is close to the 500th Anniversary year of Reformation which is 10/13/17.

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
October 9, 2016**

Pastor would like to have Rev. Liz Polanzke from the ELCA visit during a Council meeting in February or March to discuss Endowments and other programs that are available to us.

New Business: Pastor Tom is recommending that we increase our Congregational scholarships for graduating high school seniors from \$250 to \$750. Qualification criteria are that recipients be confirmed, active members and can go towards any kind of continuing education. Topic was tabled for prayerful consideration until next meeting.

Pastor Tom reported that the Always Being Made New campaign by the ELCA to boost outdoor ministry, disaster response, hunger ministries, etc has had a low monthly response from our congregation as well as many others because it hasn't really resonated with people the way other campaigns have. 2016 is the first year of what was envisioned to be a 3 year commitment at \$50 per month. Motion by Carl Baumgardner, 2nd by Tamara Spicher to discontinue ABMN after this year and focus on specific initiatives hunger relief. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Council Meeting: November 13, 2016 @ 4:00

Adjournment: Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by Tamara Spicher to adjourn at 5:02pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle

**Treasurers Report for
September 2016**

| | <u>Prior Balance</u> | <u>Receipts</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>EOM</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Current | 14,576.47 | 10,952.05 | 12,009.47 | 13,519.05 |
| Benevolence | 105.37 | 2,312.85 | 2,362.85 | 5,5.37 |
| Memorial | 11,961.55 | 40,004.17 | 40,000.00* | 11,965.72 |
| Improvement | 1,159.95 | 2,435.00 | 443.00 | 3,151.95 |
| Bicent CkAcct | 21,671.21 | 231.71 | 341.82 | 21,561.10 |
| Bicent Svngs | 5,300.91 | - | - | 5,300.91 |
| Flower | 165.06 | 100.00 | 70.00 | 195.06 |
| C&Y Ministry | 4,297.43 | 20.14 | .015.05 | 3,302.52 |

*CD Purchased

Worship Service Schedule

December 2016



Altar Guild for Month of December

Lector for Month of December

Donna Rabenold

The Denlinger Family

Usher's for the Month of December Karen Paulman (L) Roy Henry (E), Robert & Faye Weaver

DECEMBER 4, 2016

2nd Sunday in Advent
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-
Sunday School Pianist-
Greeters-
Acolytes-

Larry Gessner
Judy Ferree
Gary & Betty Leitzel
Owen Mattern & Hoyt Schlegel

DECEMBER 11, 2016

3rd Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent-
Sunday School Pianist-
Greeters-
Acolytes-

Lynn Henninger
Lois Watson
The Eric Mattern Family
Avery Mace & Landon Mace

DECEMBER 18, 2016

4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent-
Sunday School Pianist-
Greeters-
Acolytes-

Jeff Lehman
Louise Baumgardner
Arlene Donnelly
Aiden Roadcap & Cole Roadcap

DECEMBER 24, 2016

Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

Greeters-
Acolytes

Joe & Arlene Doyle
Kelsey Henninger & Owen Mattern

DECEMBER 25, 2016

The Nativity of our Lord/ Christmas Day
Holy Communion

Greeters-
Acolytes-

The Roy Henry Family
Gracie Gehring & Kelsey Henninger

Worship Service Schedule

January 2017



Altar Guild for Month of January

Lector for Month of January

Donna Rabenold

Reyann Cheatham

Usher's for the Month of January Tammy Spicher (L) Sandra Lamenza (E),
Betty Leitzel & Lois Watson (LAY)

JANUARY 1, 2017

Name of Jesus

Greeters-
Acolytes-

John & Connie Shaffer
Ashton Schreffler & Kinsley Schreffler

JANUARY 8, 2017

Baptism of Our Lord
Communion

Greeters-
Acolytes-

Karen Rickert
Madeline Willard & Lilly Boyer

JANUARY 15, 2016

2nd Sunday After Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent
Sunday School Pianist-
Greeters-
Acolytes-

Ken Koller
Carol Hubler
Robert & Faye Weaver
Owen Mattern & Hoyt Schlegel

JANUARY 22, 2016

3rd Sunday After Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent
Sunday School Pianist
Greeters-
Acolytes

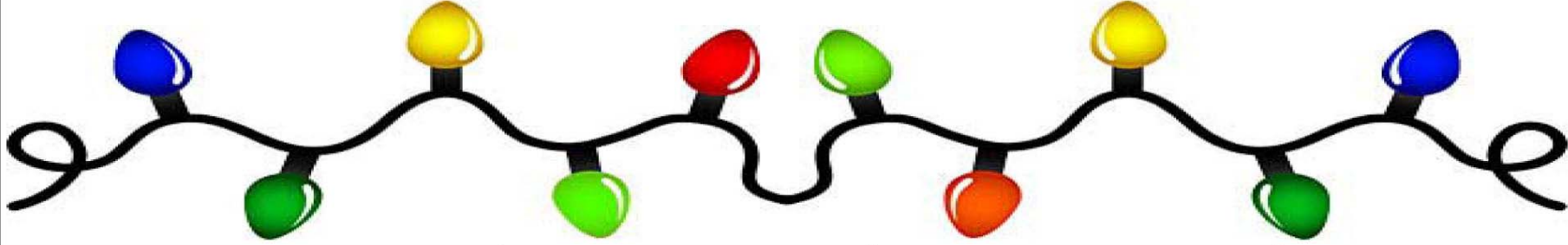
Roy Henry
Lois Watson
Janet & Darel Denlinger
Avery Mace & Landon Mace


JANUARY 29, 2016

4th Sunday After Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent
Sunday School Pianist-
Greeters-
Acolytes-

Larry Gessner
Judy Ferree
Lynn & Henry Henninger
Serene Boyer & R J Henry

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| <div>December 2016</div>  | | | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 Pasto Tom's Day Off |
| 4 The 2 nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Preparation for Advent/Christmas Program 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 11:30 Children & Youth Ministry Task-force Gathering | 5 6:00 Book Discussion Group 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens | 6 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal | 7 | 8 5:30 – 6:30 Free Community Dinner at Salem UCC, Elizabethville | 9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East | 10 Pasto Tom's Day Off 7:00 – 9:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group Meets at the Church |
| 11 The 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Preparation for Advent/Christmas Program 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Reception of New Members 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting – Part 1 11:30 Fellowship Time with Fair Trade Coffee and Tea for Purchase 2:00 Christmas Caroling to Shut-In Members 2:30 Girl Scout Troop Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting 6:00 Women's Group Meeting | 12 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at Valleys E.C. Church, Halifax | 13 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Pasto Tom's Day Off |
| 18 The 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Preparation for Advent/Christmas Program 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 5:00 Annual Advent/Christmas Program and Covered Dish Dinner | 19 No Dartball Match | 20 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal | 21 Winter Begins | 22 | 23 | 24 Pasto Tom's Day Off 4:00 Quiet Liturgy of Holy Communion 8:00 Candlelight Liturgy of Holy Communion Hanukkah Begins at Sundown |
| 25 The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion and Carols | 26 Pastor Tom's Day Off – Instead of 12/24 Stephen, Deacon & Martyr | 27 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off John, Apostle & Evangelist | 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs | 29 <div> <div>Pastor Tom Off Returning to the Office on January 4</div> </div> | 30 | 31 |

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|-----------|---|---|
| January 2017 | | | | | | |
| 1 The Name of Jesus 9:00 Happy Birthday, Jesus! Party (for all ages) 10:15 Liturgy of Lessons and Carols (Guest Worship Leaders Mr. James Watson and Members of the St. John Congregational Family) Hannukah Ends at Sundown New Year's Day | 2 7:30 Dartball Match—St. John at Faith Methodist, Fisherville | 3 7:30—Senior Choir Rehearsal | 4 | 5 | 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord | 7 Pastor Tom's Day Off |
| <div> <div>Pastor Tom Off Returning to the Office on January 4</div> <div></div> </div> | | | | | | |
| 8The 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 Committee Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting 4:30 Youth Group Meeting (to plan Annual Spaghetti Supper) 6:00 Women's Group Meeting | 9Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:00 Book Discussion Group 7:00 4 th Quarter Audit Committee Meeting 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at Lykens United Methodist | 10 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Meeting 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal | 11 6:30 Midweek Bible Study | 12 | 13 | 14 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 |
| 15The 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Annual Blessing of the Lectors 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 2 Deadline to Submit Items for February "St. John's Epistle" | 16 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting at St. Michael Lutheran, Klingerstown 7:30 Dartball Match – Messiah Lutheran at St. John Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (observed) | 17 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal | 18 Confession of Peter 6:30 Midweek Bible Study | 19 | 20 | 21 Pastor Tom's Day Off |
| 22 The 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 2:00 Youth Group Meets to Prepare for Annual Spaghetti Supper 5:00 Annual Congregational Spaghetti Supper, Served by Youth Group | 23 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match—St. Christopher at St. John | 24 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting | 25 Conversion of Paul 6:30 Midweek Bible Study | 26 | 27 | 28 Pastor Tom's Day Off |
| 29 The 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word | 30 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match – Valleys E.C. Church at St. John | 31 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting |  | | | |