

**SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE
FEBRUARY 2013**

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. BOX 270, BERRYSBURG, PA 17005
The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr., Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Well, this is one of those years where we no sooner take away the last greenery of Christmas than we are bringing in the rugged cross of Lent! We will observe **Ash Wednesday**, the traditional beginning of the Season of Lent, on **February 13 at 7:00 P.M.** with a Liturgy of Holy Communion, including the optional imposition of ashes. Those desiring to receive the mark of a cross, traced in ashes on their forehead, will come forward at the appropriate time in the worship, much as we come forward to receive Holy Communion. As is traditional here at St. John, those communing will have the option of receiving the wine from the common cup.

Then, on subsequent Wednesday evenings during Lent, the Lutheran, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist congregations of the Berrysburg and Elizabethville area will again join together for a light supper and worship. The supper, consisting of simple items like soup and sandwiches, will begin at **6:15 P.M.** Following supper, at **7:15 P.M.**, we will join in worship. Worship will end by approximately 8:00 P.M. Once again this year, the host pastor of each congregation will lead the worship, while the pastors will each take turns preaching in a congregation other than their own. Our theme for this year's Lenten series will be *Women of the Bible*. The details for these Wednesday evenings are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Congregation</u>	<u>Preacher/Topic</u>
February 20	<i>St. John</i>	Rev. Susan Halverstadt Sarah
February 27	St. Peter United Church of Christ Crossroads	Rev. Nathan Minnich Ruth
March 6	Salem United Church of Christ Elizabethville	<i>Pastor Tom</i> Esther
March 13	Trinity United Methodist Church Elizabethville	Rev. Daniel Shahan Mary Magdálene
March 20	Salem Lutheran Church Elizabethville	Rev. Jeffrey Wagner The Unnamed Women

Please don't miss these opportunities to have your faith refreshed and deepened, as we journey together through the Season of Lent. May God bless us as we once again make our way along this pathway that leads to the Cross!

And, having mentioned Christmas as I began this letter, I want to, before I close, again join with Ann and Dan and Tim in thanking you, our congregational family, for the many expressions of love we received during the Christmas and Advent seasons. Your kind words, your cards, your gifts and, of course, the congregational gift were truly sources of great joy for us. We are indeed blessed as we approach thirteen years of life and ministry together with you here on "The Hill"!

Pastor Tom

A SWEET TIME FOR ALL

Our Annual Sweethearts Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 16, with dinner at 6:00 P.M. Entertainment will follow the meal. The price for this wonderful evening of fellowship, food, and entertainment is once again just \$15 per person, and you do not have to be part of a couple to attend! Please sign up on the big red heart on the foyer bulletin board and give your payment to Pat Herb as soon as possible!

PLEASE HELP!

As we begin a new year, please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you turn in **at least one communion record card** this year. (If during the year you live and worship out of the area, or if you commune even once at another congregation, please be sure to have that congregation send notice to Pastor Tom.) If you are a contributing member of St. John, please be sure that you **use your offering envelopes at least once** this year, so that you are on record as having made a contribution. Please do your part to make sure that our parish records are as accurate as possible!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, PART ONE

The first part of our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 9, following worship. At that meeting, a 2013 Current Fund Budget was adopted which totals \$129,586 – a 1.8% increase from the 2012 Budget. Please bear this small increase in mind as you plan your giving in 2013 – being, for instance, an increase of just less than \$.40 on a gift of \$20. Our adopted synodical benevolence figure of \$12,000 was unchanged from 2012, but this does not reflect actual giving, which has exceeded this amount by a good margin for the past couple of years. In elections for our Congregational Council, the following persons were elected to a three-year term: Kenneth Koller, Eric Mattern, Sandra Shade, and Cheryl Shadle. We thank these newly-elected Council members, as well as the outgoing members whom they replace—Darrell Denlinger, Michael Henninger, Patricia Herb, and Mary Peters!

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS REELECTED

Congratulations and thank you to the following folks who will again be our congregational officers for 2013: President – Jim Watson, Vice President – John Ferree, Secretary – Jamie Doyle, Current Fund Treasurer – Lorraine Henninger, Benevolence Fund Treasurer – Jim Bullock, Improvement Fund Treasurer – Carol Hassinger, and Financial Secretary – Pat Herb.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The Little Caesar's pizza order forms will be handed out at the spaghetti supper. Our goal is to sell at least 100 items.

Sunday, February 3rd will be our Souper Bowl collection after church. The money collected from this will be going to the Bethesda Men's Shelter when we go down there in March.

Sunday, February 10th is the youth led worship service. Pastor will be in contact with you shortly.

Sunday, February 17th - LYO Volleyball Tournament is being held at Upper Dauphin High School from 2:00-6:00pm. We will be meeting at the school instead of the church. This is always a fun time playing against the other Lutheran youth groups in the area. Pizza will be provided and the cost will be paid out of the youth group treasury. If you could let one of the youth group advisors know if you are going by February 10th.

Sunday, February 24th - 5:00pm-10:00pm. Instead of going snowtubing this year there was a lot of requests from the youth group members to go skiing/snowboarding. SOUNDS GOOD TO ME!!!! In the past we have paid for the youth group members to snowtube which was 25.00. Of course this will be more expensive. The learn to ski or board group rate is \$50.00. This includes a lift ticket, lesson, and rentals.

The only limit on this package is you are limited to the beginner slopes, so if you have not skied before or only went once or twice, this is for you. The other package is \$60.00. This includes a lift ticket, lesson and rental. This package however allows you to go on any slope, so if you have been skiing several times this is for you. Also, they rent helmets for 9.00. This is up to the parent to decide if they want their child to rent a helmet. With the increase in concussions lately it is a great idea. The youth group treasury will be paying \$25.00 toward this trip for youth group members, so depending on which package you decide on, you would need to pay 25.00 or 35.00 plus the 9.00 for helmet. If anyone has their own equipment let me know. This trip is also open to family members, friends and the congregation. I will need to know who is going and have your money by Sunday, February 17th so I can finalize everything at Ski Roundtop. Right now we have it as 5:00pm to 10:00pm. We might change it to 9:00pm. I have attached the rental form needed and permission slip so you have it.

LOOKING AHEAD:

The LYO is scheduling an overnight trip to Baltimore, Maryland for April 5th and 6th. We will be visiting the Lutheran World Relief Headquarters, going to inner harbor, etc. We will be staying at a church. We did this trip several years ago and it was a great weekend. We also went for a tour of the Baltimore Orioles field and watched a game. I am not sure if they are going to do that again. I will let you know. Youth group treasury will be paying a portion of the cost. I will let you know what the final cost is when I find out. It is possible that we are going to need an adult to be an advisor on this trip. If you would be interested let me know. I will be having a sign up sheet at the spaghetti dinner to see how many kids are interested.

We are looking into going to CREATION this year. For those of you who don't know what that is: www.creationfest.com Some of our youth have gone with other congregations. It is held June 26-29 at the Agape Farm in Mt. Union. We are not going for the whole time. We are thinking about going for 2 days, 1 night. It is a christian event that is held every year. I know a lot of Cody and Zach's friends that have gone and they have a great time. We would be staying in tents. I am going to have a sign up sheet at the spaghetti supper for this also. If we are going to do this we would have to make a final decision very soon and get the tickets. Anyone that signs up on Sunday, I will get in touch with the parents and make sure it is ok with them.

Jodi

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Font

On Sunday, December 16, we were blessed to welcome **Eric, Holly, and Isabella Steigman** and **John (J.C.), III and Jennifer Kell** into the St. John congregational family. Pastor Tom presided at Eric and Isabella's baptisms into the faith, while Holly and J.C. came to us by transfer from other Christian congregations – Holly from Neffs Union United Church of Christ in Neffs, PA and J.C. from Trinity United Methodist in Elizabethville. Please add them to the roster section of your congregational directory as follows:

Eric and Holly Steigman
Isabella
917 Small Valley Road
Halifax, PA 17032
362-7995

John (J.C.) Kell, III
Jennifer
PO Box 325
Elizabethville, PA 17023
574-8851

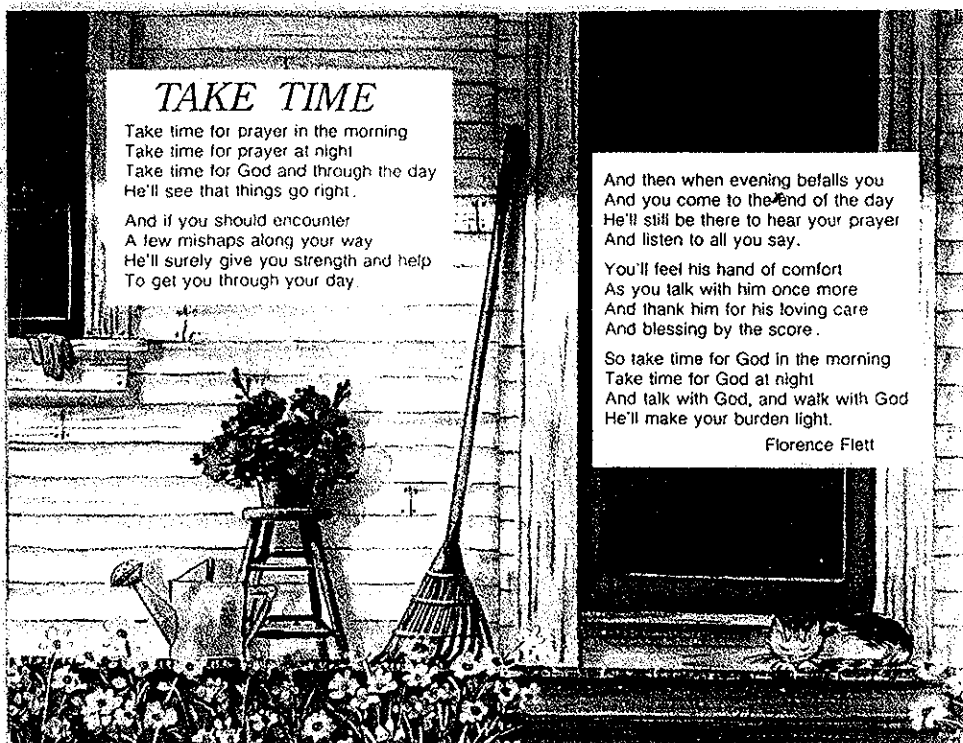
On Sunday, January 13, Pastor Tom presided at the baptism of **Bennett Ray Troutman**, infant son of **Jenna & Jason Troutman**. The following Sunday, January 20, saw the celebration of the baptism of **Jennifer Christine Kell**, daughter of **J.C. Kell**. Welcome to these new sisters and brothers in Christ!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Cory Shade**, who graduated from Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania on December 15 with his Bachelor's Degree in Education (and who is already getting started on his Master's Degree!). May God bless him in his further vocation endeavors!

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

February Meeting - We will be meeting in the fellowship room at 6:00 PM. Helen Henninger will be asking for volunteers for our Bold Women Day/ World Day of Prayer Service. Please be willing to help. Leaders: Janet Denlinger, Fay Nichols, Kris Kell





WORSHIP SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2013

Altar Guild for the Month of February

Ginny and Delmar Enders

Lector for the Month of February

Carol Hassinger

Ushers for the Month of February (L) James Watson, (E) Jamie Doyle, Eric Mattern, and Lois Watson

FEBRUARY 3, 2013

The 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller
Sunday School Pianist- Judy Ferree
Greeters- Ray & Joyce Matter
Acolytes- Cameron Thompson & Gracie Gehring

FEBRUARY 10, 2013

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Sunday School Superintendent- Fay Nichols
Sunday School Pianist- Jean Weaver
Greeters- Harold & Pat Herb
Acolytes- Bryce Roadcap & Owen Mattern

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion

Greeters- Fred & Jean Weaver
Acolytes- Kelsey & Ryan Henninger

FEBRUARY 17, 2013

The First Sunday in Lent

Sunday School Superintendent- Larry Gessner
Sunday School Pianist- Louise Baumgardner
Greeters- The Clint Gehring Family
Acolytes- Katherine Gessner & Cameron Thompson

FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Lenten Worship Service

Greeters – NEEDED

FEBRUARY 24, 2013


The 2nd Sunday in Lent

Sunday School Superintendent- Lynn Henninger
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul
Greeters- The Lehman Family
Acolytes- Blair Warner & Ryan Henninger

February 2013



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 The Presentation of Our Lord Pastor Tom's Day Off Groundhog Day
3 The 4th Sunday after Epiphany, 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion Annual "Souper Bowl" Collection after Worship	4 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Darball Match - St. John at Faith United Methodist	5 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	6 6:00 Midweek Bible Study Mtg.	7 8:00-2:00 Pastor Tom at Synod Office in Harrisburg for Mtg.	8	9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group Pastor Tom's Day Off
10 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Youth Leading Worship Gather to Prepare 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, (led by Youth Group) 2:00 Green Team Gathering 6:00 Women's Group Meeting 7:30 Congregational Council Meeting	11 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Darball Match- St. John at Lyken United Methodist Church	12 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal Shrove Tuesday Lincoln's Birthday	13 Ash Wednesday 7:00 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Optional Imposition of Ashes	14 6:30-8:30 Cub Scout Den Meeting 	15 Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of 2/16)	16 6:00 Annual Sweetheart Banquet
17 The First Sunday in Lent 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 2:00 -6:00 Upper Dauphin Lutheran Youth Organization Volleyball Tournament at Upper Dauphin High School	18 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Darball Match- Messiah Lutheran @ St. John's Presidents' Day	19 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 1:00 Gathering with Residents at the Manor at Susq. Village 6:15 Evangelism Comm Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	20 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at St. Johns <i>Deadline to submit items for March St. John's Epistle</i>	21 Valentine's Day	22 Washington's Birthday	23 Pastor Tom's Day Off
24 The Second Sunday in Lent 9:00 Camping Presentation by Mr. Mike Youse of Lutheran Camping Corp 10:15 Liturgy of the Word Youth Group Outing to Ski Round Top	25 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Darball Match- St. Christopher at St. John	26 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	27 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at St. Peter's (Hoffman's) United Church of Christ, Crossroads	28 6:30-8:30 Cub Scout Den Meeting		

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2012*

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

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, Mike Henninger, Karen Gehring, Carol Hassinger, Pat Herb, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences –Darrell Denlinger, John Ferree, Kris Kell, Craig Peters, Mary Peters

Motion by Carol Hassinger, 2nd by Pat Herb to accept the October Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

Bishop announced that Assistant will be let go due budget constraints as of 11/1/12.

Discussed local congregations looking for Pastors.

Motion by Carol Hassinger, 2nd by Jamie Doyle to give \$3,000 for Hurricane Sandy relief in NY and NJ. The \$3,000 will be comprised of \$1,000 from the Bicentennial Fund, \$1,426 that was already collected for this cause and \$574 of the World Hunger Ingathering which will be designated for this purpose. This will allow us to also give a matching \$1,000 from Thrivent. This will leave \$1,905 remaining from the Ingathering to go towards the purchase of animals for World Hunger. Motion passed unanimously.

We will need to appoint Synod male & female voting members in January which is earlier than usual. Faye Nichols has volunteered and Jim Watson is going to check to see if he is available. Pre-meetings for these representatives will be 1/28/13 and 3/18/13.

Pastor's Report: Motion by Pat Herb, 2nd by Karen Gehring to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports: Motion by Jim Bullock, 2nd by Mike Henninger to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Met in October. Recently received request from congregational member to rotate cushions in the pews. New Albs arrived and one change is needed to an acolyte alb. Next meeting is in January.

Finance Committee: Recommendation from the Finance committee for the 2013 budget was moved by Jamie Doyle with a 2nd from Pat Herb. The motion passed unanimously.

Worship & Music: New Albs will be dedicated on 12/2/12.

Christian Education: Met 11/6/12 – working on setting up camping program during Sunday School in January.

Stewardship: No report

Evangelism committee: No report

Youth Ministry: Halloween Party went very well on October 28th considering the pending hurricane. All Saints Annual Dinner on November 4th with chicken & waffles went very well also.

Mutual Ministry: Next meeting January 13, 2013 following worship.

Executive: Next meeting in January

Nominating: Congregational meeting to vote on the following candidates for election to Council: Ken Koller, Eric Mattern, Cheryl Shadle and Sandra Shade will occur on 12/9/12.

History Committee: Patrons for History Book is being edited. 12/2/12 is the deadline to order St. John shirts.

Green Team: Meeting will be held 12/2/12 at 2:00 to view the 2nd half of “Gasland”.

Other Reports: Long Range Planning committee schedules 1/22/13 at 6:00-7:30pm.

Unfinished Business: Oil painting of St. John Church which was donated is ready to be hung and Pat Herb wrote an article for the Epistle on the painting.

New Business: None

Next Council Meeting: December 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church

Adjournment: Motion by Pat Herb, 2nd by Karen Gehring to adjourn at 3:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

**Treasurers Report for
October 2012**

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	8,522.64	8,784.84	9,094.50	8,212.98
Benevolence	65.89	2,231.06	2,231.00	65.95
Memorial	35,026.10	804.21	333.00	35,497.31
Improvement	3,826.94	529.00	200.97	4,154.97
Bicent CkAcct	20,635.02	270.75	520.00	20,385.77
Bicent Svngs	5,300.19	-	-	5,300.19
Flower	89.36	145.00	140.00	94.36

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2012*

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

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, John Ferree, Mike Henninger, Karen Gehring, Pat Herb, Kris Kell, Mary Peters, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences –Darrell Denlinger, Carol Hassinger and Craig Peters

Motion by Mike Henninger, 2nd by Karen Gehring to accept the November Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

We will need to appoint Synod male & female voting members in January which is earlier than usual. Faye Nichols and Jim Watson have volunteered. Pre-meetings for these representatives will be 1/28/13 and 3/18/13.

We received a Thank you note from Pam Drenner for hosting Synod's Listening post #14 for the Year of Reformation.

Synod has a budget of \$3,500,000, but they've only taken in \$2,800,000 which is a 20% variance. We've already exceeded our contribution goal, but many congregations have not.

Pastor suggested that \$20,000 of his 2013 salary be designated as housing allowance. Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by Kris Kell. Motion passed unanimously.

Devon Radel will be participating in a mission trip to Georgia-Appalachia area with his church at college. Motion by Pat Herb, 2nd by Mary Peters to sponsor him \$125 toward his \$250 cost out of local benevolence. Motion passed unanimously.

Cub Pack #86 whom we sponsor needs a place to meet during cold winter months. Wolf Den requested to use our facilities. They meet on Thursdays (not every Thurs.) and Pastor is getting the exact dates. Motion by Mike Henninger and 2nd by Pat Herb to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Request for non-member wedding because we're mid-way between their families. Request denied.

Annual appeal form Medic 6- motion by Jamie Doyle and 2nd by Jim Bullock to give a gift of \$100 from local benevolence. Motion passed unanimously.

A marketing company contacted Pastor Tom soliciting a 4"x4" paid advertisement for the back of t-shirts which the UDA cheerleaders distribute at games for \$299.50. Request denied.

Pastor's Report: Motion by John Ferree, 2nd by Kris Kell to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports: Motion by John Ferree, 2nd by Kris Kell to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Pew cushions will be rotated. Next meeting is in January.

Finance Committee: No Report

Worship & Music: Advent Night is on December 16th at 6:00pm.

Organ requires repairs to coupler mechanisms to repair pipe leaks. Karl Myers was contacted and provided us with 3 options:

1. For approximately \$4,500, he can repair pieces that have gone bad. Similar repairs would need to be made every 20 years or so.
2. For approximately \$22,627, he can repair an upgrade to digital retaining pipe organ sound, just replacing the linkage from the keys to the pipes with a digital system which eliminates the need to repair every 20 years.
3. For approximately \$32,584, he can do a complete computerization of keyboard and operating system. Nothing changes with pipe organ sounds. More capabilities and includes software updates.

The Worship & Music Committee is recommending Option 3. Council is recommending Option 3 to be paid from interest in the Memorials Fund and for a Congregational vote on January 20th since this is a substantial expense to preserve our historic organ and bring it up to date. Motion by Jim Bullock and 2nd by Mary Peters. Motion passed unanimously. Karl Myers will be invited to attend the January 20th meeting.

2013 Sundays designated for outside worship beginning with Memorial Day weekend and ending with Labor Day weekend have been established.

Christian Education: No report

Stewardship: No report

Evangelism committee: Meeting 12/11/12

Youth Ministry: Youth were very helpful with recent death of UDA student. Also, may Youth participated in caroling.

Mutual Ministry: Next meeting January 13, 2013 following worship.

Executive: No report

Nominating: New Congregational Council members will attend January Council meeting.

History Committee: Patrons for History Book is being edited. Over 100 St. John shirts were ordered.

Green Team: Meeting will be held 2/10/13 at 2:00 to view "Truthland".

Other Reports: Long Range Planning committee schedules 1/22/13 at 6:00-7:30pm.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Discussed peeling paint on the organ pipes and it could be caused by the fluctuations in temperature. It will be brought up at Property Committee.

Next Council Meeting: January 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church

Adjournment: Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by John Ferree to adjourn at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

**Treasurers Report for
November 2012**

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	8,212.98	9,111.57	9,416.60	7,907.95
Benevolence	-	-	-	Not Available
Memorial	35,497.31	743.17	-	36,240.48
Improvement	4,154.97	11,696.99	12,848.90	3,003.06
Bicent CkAcct	20,385.77	0.65	1,800.00	18,586.42
Bicent Svngs	5,300.19	-	-	5,300.19
Flower	94.36	240.75	190.00	145.11



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. BOX 270
BERKYSBURG, PA 17005

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Millersburg, PA 17061

Permit #2

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Non-Profit Org.

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)



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

