

SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE
FEBRUARY 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,

You might be surprised to find that there is no other mention of the Season of Lent in this February *Epistle*, but, due to the very late date of Easter Sunday (April 20), Ash Wednesday also comes quite late this year (March 5). So, stay tuned next month for information on our schedule for Community Lenten worship and supper!

What I did want to mention to you this month is something new that we will be doing as a congregational family, beginning this spring, to honor our high school graduates. Following approval by Congregational Council last fall, we will be presenting to each of our graduating high school seniors each year a scholarship of \$250, toward their higher education expenses. It is our plan that our scholarships will be presented and announced at school class nights or award nights. I and other Council members will see to it that we have someone present at each school each year to make the presentations.

There are a few requirements that must be met by each graduate to receive the scholarship. First, and most obviously, the recipient must be planning on pursuing a degree or certification at a recognized and credentialed institution. (The scholarship will be paid directly to the institution when the young person begins her/his program of study.) Second, and most importantly, it is our intention that the scholarships be given to our young members who are active in the life of our congregational family. At a minimum, this means that the young person needs to be a confirmed member of the congregation, who has been a communing and contributing member of record each and every year since the time of her/his confirmation (or since the time of his/her joining our congregational family if that occurs after confirmation). Obviously, it would be my wish and the wish of Council that each scholarship recipient be active beyond this, for instance in the life of Youth Group.

It is planned that the \$250 scholarships will be paid from our Local Benevolence Fund, which is supported by our earnings from each year's Strawberry Festival – another very good reason to continue to support this important annual event, coming up this year on Wednesday, June 11!

As many of us know first-hand all too well, \$250 doesn't go as far as it once did in covering the ever-increasing costs of higher education. But it is Council's hope and mine that this will be another small but tangible way that we can show our support for our young members as they go forth to meet the challenges of our hurting world and show the light of Jesus in their career endeavors. Please don't hesitate to contact a Council member or me if you would like to know more.

Pastor Tom

PASTOR TOM TO LEAD INQUIRER'S CLASS

An Inquirer's Class will be held at the church on Tuesday, February 4, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. This class is designed for those who are either thinking about or planning on joining the congregation, as well as current congregational members who desire a bit of a refresher in the basics of Lutheran Christian history and belief. Simply speak with Pastor Tom any time prior to the class to register. New members will be received later in February.

A SWEET TIME FOR ALL

Our Annual Sweethearts Banquet will be held on Saturday, February 15, 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 8, following worship. At that meeting, a 2014 Current Fund Budget was adopted which totals \$133,608 – a 3.1% increase from the 2013 Budget. Please bear this small increase in mind as you plan your giving in 2014 – being, for instance, an increase of about \$1.25 on a gift of \$40. Our adopted synodical benevolence figure of \$12,000 was unchanged from 2013, 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: Lorraine Henninger, Roy Henry, Sandra Lamenza, and Jeffrey Lehman. We thank these newly-elected Council members, as well as the outgoing members whom they replace—John Ferree, Karen Gehring, Kris Kell, and Craig Peters. Finally, our congregation took action to officially adopt our new Mission Statement, which you will find on the cover of this and all future issues of our *St. John's Epistle*.

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED

Congratulations to the following persons who will be our congregational officers for 2014: President – Jim Watson, Vice President – Jeffrey Lehman, Secretary – Jamie Doyle, Current Fund Treasurer – Lorraine Henninger, Benevolence Fund Treasurer – Jim Bullock, Improvement Fund Treasurer – Carol Hassinger, and Financial Secretary – Pat Herb. All but Jeffrey Lehman, who replaces outgoing Council member John Ferree, were re-elections. We thank these folks for their service!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Events for February are as follows – Hope you can join us.

February 2- Collection for Souper Bowl Sunday immediately after Worship
February 9 - Youth Led Worship Service. Pastor will be contacting youth group members.
February 16- Volley Ball Game 3-6pm at UDA High School. \$7 per person
February 23 - Ski Roundtop trip for Skiing, Snowboarding, and Snowtubing. Time to be announced. This is again open to the congregation.

NEWS FROM ST. JOHNS WOMEN OF THE ELCA

At our last meeting it was decided to give the proceeds from our "Have-Not Offering to the Upper Dauphin Human Service for their use towards their fuel assistance.

We would like to say Thank You to Faye Weaver and Lois Leshar for the many years of leadership in our monthly programming. The ladies have decided to retire after many years of planning and preparing of programs.

We would also like to say welcome to Rachel Henry for taking the position of secretary.

One of our goals in the LSS -Women of the ELCA is to have some younger women become involved.

For our February meeting the leaders are: Janet Denlinger
Fay Nichols
Kris Kell

Our next meeting will be on February 9, 2014 at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.
All ladies are invited to attend.

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Font

On Sunday, December 8, Pastor Tom presided at the baptism of **Derrick Henry**, young son of **Roy & Rachel Henry**. We welcome this new brother into the Kingdom of God and the St. John's congregational family!

At the Altar

On Reformation Sunday, October 27, Pastor Tom presided as **Kelsey Henninger** received her First Holy Communion. **McKenzie Lower**, who could not be present that morning, received her First Holy Communion on Christmas Eve at the 8:00pm worship. Both girls completed four hours of instruction with Pastor Tom during October. Congratulations to both Kelsey and McKenzie, as well as their families!

At the Graveside

On January 8, funeral worship was held at the church for **Marie Casner**, who died at the Stonebridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Center at Duncannon on January 2, following a lengthy illness. Marie's nephew, Pastor Gavin Whitcomb, presided at the worship, while Pastor Tom was away on vacation. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery, Elizabethville.

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship at the church on January 10 for **John Romberger**, who died at Community General Hospital in Harrisburg, also on January 2 and also after a period of illness. John's interment was also in Maple Grove Cemetery in Elizabethville.

We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Marie and John, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to all of their loved ones.

Little Sermon

Faith means believing in the things
Our eyes can never see.

Of knowing wrongs are righted,
In God's great eternity.

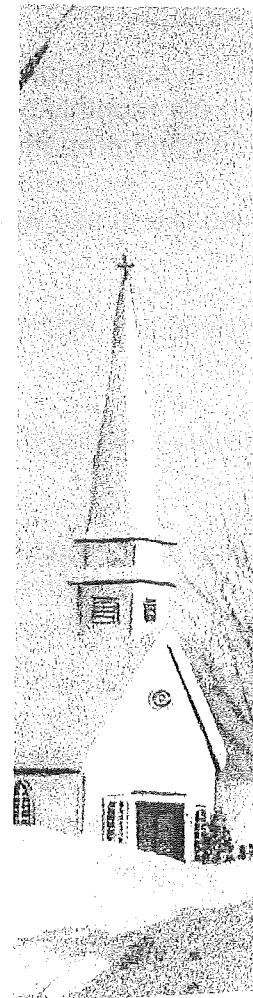
Hope means a constant trusting
That the Lord will show the way,
And that we'll find the answers,
Which were hidden yesterday.

Charity means giving,
Above and far beyond,
It is another name for love,
We all depend upon.

And so these are our guide posts,
In words of purest gold,
Their meaning is the same today,
As in the days of old.

But lest it be forgotten,
'Tis well to call to mind,
This little sermon also has
A most important line.
For He added on a postscript,
Reminding you and me,
... That Love remains the greatest,
Of the three!

Grace E. Easley



*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2013*

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

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, John Ferree, Karen Gehring, Carol Hassinger, Kris Kell, Ken Koller, Eric Mattern, Craig Peters, Sandra Shade, Cheryl Shadle, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences — None

Motion by Cheryl Shadle, 2nd by Sandra Shade to accept the October Council minutes.
Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: “The Lutheran” Every Home plan is experiencing the first cost increase in 10 years and is going from \$7.95 to \$8.95 per household. This increase can be accommodated in the budget.

Lilly Shade has been nominated to serve on Dauphin County Farm Service Administration.
Pastor Tom will submit our affirmative vote for her.

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

Treasurer's Reports: Motion by Ken Koller, 2nd by Craig Peters to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Ceiling fan installation should occur shortly.

There will be a minor increase of approximately \$184 to our Property Insurance Premium.

The winterization of the church is complete.

The Sextons installed digital thermostats to help regulate the temperature of the church more effectively.

The Furnace in the church as well as at the Sexton's has been cleaned.

Twin Valley Flooring repaired the carpet upstairs in the Nave as well as the grouting in the Foyer.

An inspection for our Insurance carrier identified that there is no banister on steps outside to the basement. Property committee will address.

Next meeting before Thanksgiving.

Finance Committee: Motion by Craig Peters, 2nd by Eric Mattern to approve Ministry portion of the proposed 2014 Budget. Motion passed unanimously. Motion by Ken Koller, 2nd by Jamie Doyle to approve the 2014 proposed Budget to be considered by the

Congregation. Motion passed unanimously.

Worship & Music: Discussion on possibility of rededication of church organ in the future.

Christian Education: No report

Stewardship: No report

Evangelism: Met 10/15 Discussed continuing to be an inviting congregation to visitors.

Youth Ministry: Youth hosted a very successful dinner for All Saints Sunday 11/3 and thanked the Congregation for their continued support.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report

Nominating: Motion by Kris Kell, 2nd by Ken Koller to approve the Committee's four candidates for nomination: Lorraine Henninger, Sandra Lamenza, Jeff Lehman and Roy Henry.

History Committee: The history booklet are receiving the final editing. Books most likely will not be available for the holidays.

Green Team: No report

Other Reports: Prayerful Planning Group- Met on 11/5. Four sub-committees gave reports on 11/3 during the All Saints chicken and waffle dinner. A comprehensive plan will be presented to Council by the end of March.

Unfinished Business: Motion by Kris Kell, 2nd by Ken Koller to approve the proposed St. John Mission Statement as prepared by the Adult Sunday School class. Motion passed unanimously.

Strawberry Festival meeting will be 3/4/14.

Motion by Craig Peters, 2nd by Kris Kell to provide \$250 scholarships from Local Benevolence to graduating members of St. John to be presented on class night who meet the following criteria:

1. They are a communing and contributing member of record from confirmation to graduation or upon joining the church.
2. They are attending higher education of some type.

Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Discussion on the Usher duties.

Discussion will be held from month to month on Shaking Hands due to flu season. Common sense should be exercised.

Next Council Meeting: Brief Meeting - December 8, 2013 following worship.
Next full meeting - January 12, 2014 at 7:30pm.

Adjournment: Motion by John Ferree, 2nd by Cheryl Shadle to adjourn at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

Treasurers Report for

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	October 2013 <u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	7,391.92	11,821.78	13,631.63	5,582.07
Benevolence	53.72	3,551.04	3,551.00	53.76
Memorial	27,109.93	738.14	-	27,848.07
Improvement	4,085.54	375.00	116.00	4,344.54
Bicent CkAcct	23,723.16	-	-	23,723.16
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	159.51	115.00	130.11	144.51

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Present – James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, John Ferree, Karen Gehring, Carol Hassinger, Ken Koller, Eric Mattern, Craig Peters, Sandra Shade, Cheryl Shadle, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences — Kris Kell

Worship & Music: New hymnals recommended by Committee “Evangelical Lutheran Worship” at a cost of \$19.50 each which includes a 20% discount offered by Augsburg Fortress until January. 280 copies for a total cost of approximately \$5,500-5,600 is proposed to be paid from the interest in the Memorials account. 100 of the green hymnals will be kept for outdoor services and for Sunday School. We will dispose of old Sunday School hymnals. Blue With One Voice (WOV) will remain in the pews. Motion by Craig Peters and 2nd by Jamie Doyle to ratify the Committee’s recommendation and propose at Part II of the Congregational meeting in January for consideration. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Motion by John Ferree and 2nd by Jim Bullock to designate Pastor’s Housing Allowance at \$20,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion by Karen Gehring, 2nd by Ken Koller to adjourn at 12:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary



WORSHIP SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2014

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 2, 2014

The 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-

Larry Gessner

Sunday School Pianist-

Jean Weaver

Greeters-

The Clint Gehring Family

Acolytes-

Tyler D'Alesandro & R J Henry

FEBRUARY 9, 2014

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent-

Lynn Henninger

Sunday School Pianist-

Louise Baumgardner

Greeters-

The Lehman Family

Acolytes-

Gracie Gehring & Owen Mattern

FEBRUARY 16, 2014

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent-

Jeff Lehman

Sunday School Pianist-

Carol Hubler

Greeters-

The Scott Peters Family

Acolytes-

Aidan Roadcap & Ryan Henninger

FEBRUARY 23, 2014

The Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent-

Ken Koller

Sunday School Pianist-

Sandy Paul

Greeters-

John & Judy Ferree

Acolytes-

Katherine Gessner & Cameron Thompson

February 2014



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Pastor Tom's Day Off
2 The Presentation of Our Lord 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Scout Sunday Flag Ceremony Led by Our Cub Scout Pack 86 Annual "Souper Bowl" Collection after Worship Groundhog Day	3 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Darball Match - St. John at Lykens United Methodist Church	4 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:00-8:00 Inquirer's Class 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	6 6:00 Pastor Tom at Lower-Susquehanna Synod Nomination Comm. Mtg. Harrisburg Office in Harrisburg for Mtg.	7 Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of 2/15)	8 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group Pastor Tom's Day Off
9 The 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Youth Leading Worship Gather to Prepare 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, (led by Youth Group) Fair Trade Coffee and Tea will follow Worship 6:00 Women's Group Meeting 7:30 Congregational Council Meeting Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East	10 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Darball Match- Messiah Lutheran at St. John	11 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	12 6:30 Midweek Bible Study Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 6:00 Annual Sweetheart Banquet
16 The 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 3:00-6:00 Upper Dauphin Lutheran Youth Organization Volleyball Tournament at Upper Dauphin High School	17 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Darball Match- St. Christopher Lutheran at St. John's Presidents' Day	18 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	19 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	20 <i>Deadline to submit items for March <u>St. John's Epistle</u></i>	21	22 Pastor Tom's Day Off Washington's Birthday
23 The 7th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word Afternoon/Evening -Youth Group Outing to Ski Round Top	24 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Darball Match- St. John at Valleys Church, Halifax	25 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	26 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	27	28	



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P. O. BOX 270
BERRYBURG, 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.net362-4117
James Watson, Council President loisbull17@gmail.com..... 362-3247
Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 362-8325

PARISH 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.

