

**SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE
FEBRUARY 2015**

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 it seems as though 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 18 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 Elizabethtown 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 *The Spiritually-Formed Person Loves Jesus by...* The details for these Wednesday evenings are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Congregation</u>	<u>Preacher/Topic</u>
February 25	<i>St. John</i>	Rev. James Lewis "by Believing in Jesus"
March 4	Trinity United Methodist Church Elizabethtown	Rev. Jeffrey Wagner "by Abiding in Jesus"
March 11	St. Peters United Church of Christ Crossroads	<i>Pastor Tom</i> "by Surrendering to Jesus"
March 18	Salem Lutheran Church Elizabethtown	Rev. Ray Holland "by Restoring & Forgiving in Jesus"
March 25	Salem United Church of Christ Elizabethtown	Rev. Nathan Minnich "by Reaching Out in Jesus"

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 fifteen years of life and ministry together with you here on "The Hill"!

Pastor Tom

THIS SUMMER – OUTDOOR MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL!

On Sunday, February 1, a representative of Camp Mount Luther will be present at 9:00 A.M. for the Sunday School hour to share information about all of the exciting outdoor ministry programs that Mount Luther has available for persons of all ages. (Please bear in mind that, for all St. John congregational family members registering, our Sunday School treasury will pay half of the early registration fee, making this a really economical way to spend a week or half week in the beauty of God's Creation!)

A SWEET TIME FOR ALL

Our Annual Sweethearts Banquet will be held on Valentine's Day this year – Saturday, February 14, with dinner at 6:00 P.M. *Vocal music by Alex Ramos, the grandson of Henry & Lorraine Henninger, who has often sung here at St. John, 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 14, following worship. At that meeting, a 2015 Current Fund Budget was adopted which totals \$141,256 – a 5.7% increase from the 2014 Budget. Please bear this increase in mind as you plan your giving in 2015 – being, for instance, an increase of about \$2.25 on a gift of \$40. Our adopted synodical benevolence figure of \$12,000 was unchanged from 2014, but this does not reflect actual giving, which has exceeded this amount by a good margin for the past several years. In elections for our Congregational Council, the following persons were elected to a three-year term: Gail Billow, Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger, and Tamara Spicher. We thank these newly-elected Council members, as well as the outgoing members whom they replace— James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, Carol Hassinger, and James Watson!

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED

Congratulations to the following persons who will be our congregational officers for 2015: President – Roy Henry, Vice President – Jeffrey Lehman, Secretary – Sandra Lamenza, Current Fund Treasurer – Lorraine Henninger, Benevolence Fund Treasurer – Tamara Spicher, Improvement Fund Treasurer – Dale Hassinger, and Financial Secretary – Pat Herb. We thank these folks for their service, as well as outgoing officers James Watson, Jamie Doyle, James Bullock, and Carol Hassinger!

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The St. John's Youth Group is winding up for a busy January and February! Our annual fundraiser Spaghetti Supper will be held on January 25th at 5:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come out to enjoy a spaghetti meal and fun entertainment and fellowship! All youth group members should meet at the church at 2 pm and **bring a dessert**. On Sunday, February 1st the Youth will be holding the "Souper Bowl" collection after worship. The following Sunday, February 8th, is the Youth Led Worship Service. The Youth will take part in all parts of the church service that day. On Sunday, February 15th, the LYO will be holding a Volleyball Tournament at the Upper Dauphin Area High School from 3:00 – 6:00pm. We will end our Winter of Fun, by taking a trip to Ski Roundtop to ski and snowtube. More details about this event will be coming out as plans are finalized.

NEWS FROM THE ST. JOHN WOMEN OF THE ELCA

The next meeting of the St John's Women of the ELCA will be on **February 8, 2015 at 2:30 PM**. The leaders will be Fay Nichols and Kris Kell. The new booklets are ready for you to pick up. If there are none in the narthex area please ask Lorraine Henninger or Fay Nichols. Please make sure you get one. Ladies since the winter has set in on us now it would be a good time to crochet or knit another prayer shawl. FYI, any color is fine but we usually run short on shawls for men. Please remember that the ladies meet on a Monday morning to work on the quilts at 9:00 AM. If you are able to tie a knot you can help. As your Co-Presidents Lorraine and I would like to wish you all a healthy and very happy new year.

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Font

On Sunday, November 23, Pastor Tom presided at the baptism of **Peter Rabenold**, young son of **Adam & Hannah Rabenold**. We welcome this new brother into the Kingdom of God and the St. John's congregational family!

And, on Sunday, December 14, we were honored to welcome **Rebecca Conte** and her stepson, **Elijah, Arlene Donnelly, David & Lori Klotz**, and (Arlene's and Sharon D'Alesandro's parents) **Calvin & Janet Knarr** into the St. John congregational family. Becky, Dave, and Lori came to us by making affirmation of their baptisms, while Pastor Tom presided at Elijah's baptism, and Arlene, Janet, and Calvin came to by transfer from the Klingerstown Lutheran Parish. Please be sure to welcome them and add them to your congregational directory as follows:

Rebecca & (Michael) Conte Elijah, Giuliana 143 S. Main St., PO Box 9 Berrysburg, PA 17005 570-262-2664	Arlene Donnelly 1553 Mountain Road Elizabethville, PA 17023 717-903-1304	H. Calvin & Janet Knarr 203 Watershed Road Klingerstown, PA 17941 570-425-2947
--	---	---

David & Lori Klotz
401 N. Second Street
Lykens, PA 17048
484-553-8221 (D)
610-906-0545 (L)

“FIGHT FOR BRIAN” CAMPAIGN WRAPS UP

Thanks to the generous support of our congregational family and many neighbors in the larger community, we exceeded our \$1,500 goal, and raised a total of \$1,820 from the sale of *Fight for Brian* wristbands and other donations. This, in turn, qualified us for a “1/3” (\$500) match from the Dauphin County Chapter of Thrivent Financial. In December, Pastor Tom delivered to Brian and family a check for half of the money raised – \$910 – after previously delivering the \$500 in matching funds. In keeping with the wishes of Brian and Jodi, a check for the other half of the money raised – \$910 – was sent to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Harrisburg Chapter, where it will be put to use in research and other support for persons dealing with these life-threatening illnesses.

Marlee Mattern, who conceived of and designed the “Fight for Brian” theme and campaign, was recognized at the beginning of worship at 8:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve for a job extremely well and faithfully done!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Jennifer Lehman**, who graduated from the Harrisburg Campus of the Pennsylvania State University in December with her Bachelor's Degree in American Studies (and who will now be pursuing graduate education opportunities). May God bless her in her further vocation endeavors!

And to **Becky & Michael Conte** (and big brother **Eli!**), on the birth of **Giuliana Elizabeth Rose Conte** at 5:30 P.M. on Friday, December 26, at Holy Spirit. Congratulations and all God's Blessings to the Conte Family!



WORSHIP SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2015

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) Eric & Angela Mattern, and Lois Watson

FEBRUARY 1, 2015

The 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion

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

Ken Koller
Louise Baumgardner
The Lehman Family
Ryan Henninger & R J Henry

FEBRUARY 8, 2015

The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Faye Nichols
Sandy Paul
The Scott Peters Family
Cameron Thompson & Owen Mattern

FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Transfiguration of Our Lord/
Holy Communion

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

Larry Gessner
Carol Hubler
John & Judy Ferree
Aidan Roadcap & Eli Conte

FEBRUARY 18, 2015

Ash Wednesday
Holy Communion

Greeters-
Acolytes-

Delmar & Ginny Enders
Gabe & Gracie Gehring

FEBRUARY 22, 2015

The First Sunday in Lent

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

Lynn Henninger
Lois Watson
The Craig Shade Family
Kelsey Henninger & Reyann Cheatham

FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Community Lenten Supper & Worship 6:15 Greeters Needed

February 2015



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 The 4th Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Outdoor Ministry Presentation for all Ages 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion Annual 'Soupier Bowl' Collection after Worship</p>	<p>2 The Presentation of Our Lord 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Dartball Match- Messiah Lutheran @ St. John's</p>	<p>3 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:30 St. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 6:30 Midweek Bible Study Mtg.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>8 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) with Scout Sunday Flag Ceremony Led by Our Cub Scout Pack 86 6:00 Women's Group Meeting 7:30 Congregational Council Meeting</p>	<p>9 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match- St. Christopher at St. John <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i></p>	<p>10 10:00 Pastor Tom's Day off (instead of 2/14) 7:30 St. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 6:30 Midweek Bible Study Mtg.</p>	<p>12 Lincoln's Birthday</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group 6:00 Annual Sweetheart Banquet</p>
<p>15 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion with Young Person Worship Service 3:00-6:00 Upper Dauphin Lutheran Youth Organization Volleyball Tournament at Upper Dauphin High School <i>Deadline to submit items for March St. John's Epistle</i></p>	<p>16 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Dartball Match- St. John at Valleys Church, Halifax</p>	<p>17 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Mtg. 7:30 St. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 Ash Wednesday 7:00 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Optional Imposition of Ashes</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>22 The First Sunday in Lent 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word Youth Group Outing to Ski Round Top Washington's Birthday</p>	<p>23 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Dartball Match- Faith United Methodist @ St. John's</p>	<p>24 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 6:15 Community Lenten Supper & Worship at <u>St. John's</u></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2014

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

Pastor Tom offered prayer and led discussion concerning Same-Gender Marriage. We will be discussing this topic at the next few Council Meetings.

Present - James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, Carol Hassinger, Lorraine Henninger, Ken Koller, Sandra Lamenza, Jeff Lehman, Cheryl Shadle, Sandra Shade, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences – Roy Henry, Eric Mattern,

Larry Gessner gave finance report on investments with Thrivent which is a subaccount of our Memorial Fund. There is approximately \$6,921 in capital gains (interest) available to either be reinvested or can be used to close our 2014 budget deficit. After much discussion, consensus was to pull full amount (approx. \$6,921) and put in Memorial Fund so it can be accessed to close our budget deficit in 2014. Motion by Sandra Shade, 2nd by Lorraine Henninger. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Carol Hassinger, 2nd by Jamie Doyle to accept October Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

Tammy Becker, sexton, shared pictures she took of the church.

A check was received in the mail for \$1,000 which seems like it's from a questionable organization. Sandra Shade will have her Security Department at the bank review it.

Gideons requested to speak during church. Request was denied.

Weekend Snack Pack Program/Ministry is getting started at UDA Elementary School. Any outside organization has to have its own insurance. St. John certificate of insurance will be used.

Survey to be put in bulletin & Epistle asking everyone how they would be willing to participate in Weekend Snack Pack Program by volunteering time and/or resources.

Pastor's Report:

Motion by Ken Koller, 2nd by Sandra Shade to accept Pastor's report. Motion Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Committee is working on a list of projects including checking on heat in new addition which doesn't seem to working correctly.

Finance Committee: Jim Watson went over 2015 proposed budget. Motion by Cheryl Shadle, 2nd by Sandra Shade on the proposed Pastor's salary portion of the budget for presentation to the congregation on December 14, 2014. Motion by Cheryl Shadle, 2nd by Sandra Shade to present the 2015 proposed budget to the congregation on December 14, 2014.

Worship & Music: No report

Christian Education: Planning for Advent program

Stewardship: No Report

Evangelism: Official meetings on hold since Prayerful Planning covers much of this. 4-6 new members to be received into the congregation in December.

Youth Ministry: November 2, chicken and waffle dinner was well received and they are planning "fun" night.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report

Nominating: Dale Hassinger, Tammi Spicher, Gail Billow and Joe Doyle are the proposed nominees for consideration at congregational meeting in December.

History Committee: No report

Green Team: No report

Other reports: Prayerful Planning continues their committee work.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Larry Gessner report on investing at the beginning of the meeting.

Next Council Meeting: December 14, 2014 @ 7:30

Adjournment: Motion by Cheryl Shadle, 2nd by Ken Koller to adjourn at 9:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle

**Treasurers Report for
October 2014**

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	1,874.78	9,123.12	9,835.83	1,162.07
Benevolence	54.19	3,683.06	3,683.00	54.25
Memorial	32,768.75	59.75	-	32,828.50
Improvement	5,564.48	336.00	-	5,900.48
Bicent CkAcct	26,380.42	1,466.65	1,500.00	26,347.07
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	264.86	155.00	109.50	310.36

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2014

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

Pastor Tom offered prayer and led discussion concerning Same-Gender Marriage. After several months of prayerful consideration the ELCA Standards for Same-Gender Marriage were approved by a vote of 9-2.

Present - James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, Carol Hassinger, Lorraine Henninger, Roy Henry, Ken Koller, Sandra Lamenza, Jeff Lehman, Cheryl Shadle, Sandra Shade, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences – Eric Mattern,

Motion by Ken Koller, 2nd by Sandra Lamenza to accept November Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

IRS changed mileage rate to \$0.57 per mile. Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by Carol Hassinger to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor proposed getting a SurfacePro to replace his antiquated laptop which has XP which is no longer supported by Microsoft. Sandra Lamenza suggested he check out a website that offers technology discounts for non-profits.

Pastor Tom gave an update on the Malaria appeal as well as a report on Ingathering and materials transported to New Windsor, MD in October by the Youth Group.

Motion by Lorraine Henninger, 2nd by Sandra Lamenza to approve the designation of \$21,000 as a housing allowance for calendar year 2015.

The \$1,000 check in question was investigated by Sandra Shade and it was a legitimate donation to our Building Fund from Mrs. Reidler. A thank you note will be sent.

Pastor's Report:

Motion by Sandra Shade, 2nd by Roy Henry to accept Pastor's report. Motion Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion by Sandra Shade, 2nd by Sandra Lamenza to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Met 11/25 and confirmed Tim Motter will be available to plow snow at the church. Eric Mattern and his father-in-law will be checking out the heating problem in the new addition which doesn't seem to working correctly.

Finance Committee: Transferred \$5,000 out of Memorial Account to pay the bills with hopes of returning it by the end of December.

Worship & Music: Advent dinner and program Sunday 12/21 at 6pm.

Christian Education: Planning for Advent program

Stewardship: No Report

Evangelism: No report

Youth Ministry: Zach Thompson will be job shadowing Pastor Tom on Tuesday.

Mutual Ministry: Meeting in January

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report

History Committee: No report

Green Team: No report

Other reports: Prayerful Planning continues their committee work. The job description for a Youth Minister is complete. Almost ready to present plan of kitchen and social hall as one with cost estimate. Child Abuse and Criminal History clearances will be required for any individuals working with Youth.

Unfinished Business: Snack Pack program – As of 1/9/15, 76 students were signed up. Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by Lorraine Henninger to send a \$500 Gift of Love to support this program. Motion passed unanimously.

AED on hold due to cost.

New Business: Motion by Lorraine Henninger, 2nd by Carol Hassinger to give annual Christmas gift to Pastor Tom in the same amount as last year.

Next Council Meeting: January 11, 2015 @ 7:30

Adjournment: Motion by Jim Bullock, 2nd by Ken Koller to adjourn at 8:42pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle

**Treasurers Report for
November 2014**

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	1,162.07	13,005.73	9,488.63	4,679.17
Benevolence	54.25	1,392.20	1,392.12	54.33
Memorial	32,828.50	1,008.92	-	33,837.42
Improvement	5,900.48	418.00	13.58	6,304.90
Bicent CkAcct	24,933.68	291.41	300.00	24,925.09
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	310.36	153.00	182.50	280.86

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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
Roy Henry, Council President webmaster@randrhenry.com..... 579-0244
Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 362-9108

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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

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

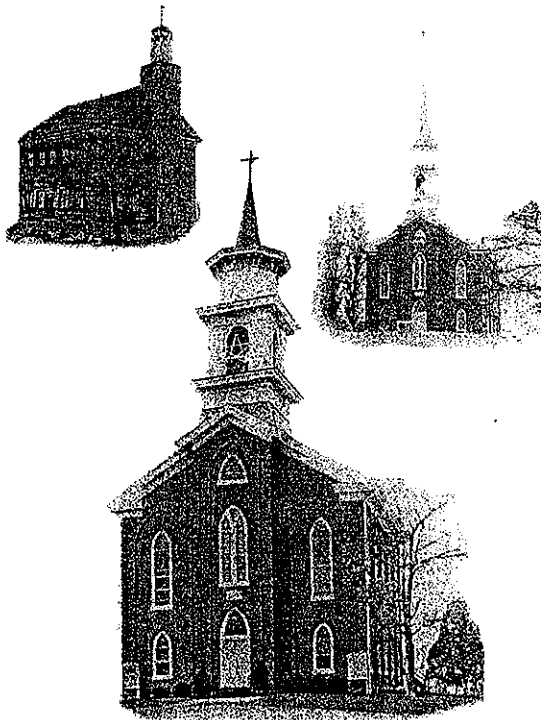
* * * * *

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.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Berrysburg, Pennsylvania
1780-2005

