

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

St. John's Epistle
February 2017



From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

As I write these lines on a morning when everything near and far is coated with a layer of wintry ice, I would invite you to look ahead to warmer times, when we will gather for worship outdoors in the beauty of God's Creation. This coming summer, we will again have the opportunity to worship outside here on The Hill on six Sunday mornings: **May 28, June 18, July 2, July 23, August 6, August 20, and September 3.** But, in this year of Elizabethville's Bicentennial Celebration, we will have an additional opportunity for outdoor worship – one that is literally a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. On **Sunday, August 13**, we will gather with our sisters and brothers in Christ from throughout the area at 10:30 A.M. at the Upper Dauphin Area High School Athletic Field for a special Bicentennial Worship Celebration. (Or, if the weather should prove unsuitable for outdoor worship that morning, the plan at this point is to gather in the High School Auditorium.) At this early stage in the planning process, we five pastors who work together on our popular Wednesdays in Lent are sharing the leadership duties that morning, but many details have yet to be finalized. With our summer Sunday morning schedule in effect at that time, with Sunday School from 8:45 to 9:15 A.M., it will be easy for us to then make our way to Elizabethville in liesurely fashion for what I hope will be a “packed house”. For right now, please just make a note of August 13 and the other dates in your family calendars and “think summer”!

I'm delighted to welcome Laurie Little – Miss Laurie – to the pages of this newsletter, as our new Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministry. Please see her introductory letter, which follows mine, and note her contact and office hours information included herein.

Before I close, I again want to 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 now concluded. 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 seventeen years of life and ministry together with you here on “The Hill”!

Pastor Tom

Contact Us

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	stjohnhill-church@frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Laurie Little	Children & Youth Coordinator	misslaurie.little@gmail.com	717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
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
Daniel Langhans	Council President	langhans@pa.net	717-365-3794
Fay Nichols	Prayer Chain Coordinator	fnichols46@comcast.net	717-599-8990

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

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)

Miss Laurie's Office Hours:

Monday	2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Wednesday	2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Friday	9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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.

In Other News

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, PART ONE

The first part of our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, February 11, following worship. At that meeting, a 2017 Current Fund Budget was adopted which totals \$144,402, a decrease of 1.2% from our 2016 budget. Our adopted synodical benevolence figure of \$12,000 was unchanged from 2016, but this does not reflect actual giving, which generally has exceeded this amount for the past several years. In elections for our Congregational Council, the following persons were elected to a three-year term: Henry Henninger, Pat Herb, Dan Langhans, and Donna Rabenold. We thank these newly-elected Council members, as well as the outgoing members whom they replace—Lorraine Henninger, Roy Henry, Sandra Lamenza, and Jeffrey Lehman!

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED

Congratulations to the following persons who, on January 9, were elected as our congregational officers for 2017: President – Dan Langhans, Vice President – Donna Rabenold, Secretary – Jamie Doyle, 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 willingness to serve throughout the coming year!

AND RECENT GRADUATE!

Devin Radel received his Master of Science in Biology on December 16, 2016 from Shippensburg University. He will be pursuing his career plans in the biology field with the state, federal or county government. Devin would like to thank his St. John's family for their continued thoughts and prayers for him while seeking this degree.

THANK YOU

On behalf of Lifeline Pregnancy Center in Millersburg, I'd like to thank the St. John's Lifelines that have risen to the occasion each time the center was in need the past few months. My cup runneth over. DANA KLOUSER

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!

GATHERING FUNDRAISER FOR YOUTH GROUP

The youth group will once again be doing a Little Caesars Pizza Kit Fundraiser to help assist with the cost for us to attend GATHERING 2018 in Houston, Texas. All youth group members eligible to attend GATHERING should have received their forms, if not please contact Becky Conte. The fundraiser will run from January 22 and will need to be given to Becky Conte no later than February 18. If you are interested in purchasing a Pizza kit please see the bulletin board in the foyer or any youth group member attending.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Book discussion group had a lively meeting and discussion in January, viewing the movie The Red Tent based on the book by Anita Diamant. Please join us for upcoming discussions:

February 6th - 5:30 pm with light supper and movie based on the book - The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd

Future dates for your calendar
March 6th 6:00 pm
April 3rd 6:00 pm
May 1st 6:00 pm

All are welcome!

Upcoming Events

SUMMER CHURCH CAMPING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Even though it is still winter, brochures and registration forms have already begun arriving for summer camping experiences at Mt. Luther, Nawakwa and Kirchenwald and, depending when you read these lines, you may still have time to meet Mr. Mike Youse, the Executive Director of the Lutheran Camping Corporation, our synodical outdoor ministry agency which operates Nawakwa and Kirchenwald. He will be our guest at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday, January 29, for a presentation for all ages about the opportunities that are available at our camps this coming summer – and all year long. Please don't forget that camping experiences are available for all ages and for all tastes in comfort. For St. John members who attend a camping experience, our Sunday School will pay a portion of the registration fee, making an already affordable experience that much more of a bargain!

YOUTH TO ATTEND CAMP HEBRON

Several members of the youth group will be joining with Lykens United Church to attend a weekend retreat at Camp Hebron from the evening of February 10 and returning home on Sunday February 12th. Those attending are Elijah Conte, Gracie Gehring, Kelsey Henninger, Ryan Henning, Bryce Roadcap, and Cameron Thompson. Please keep them in your thoughts during their time of fellowship, bible studies, and developing their life with Christ individually and together as a group.

SWEETHEARTS BANQUET

This year our Annual Sweethearts Banquet will be held on Sunday, February 19th, following the worship service and will be a congregational family event. We invite everyone to attend! All children under age 18, can eat at the KIDS BUFFET LINE FOR FREE! Their menu will be macaroni and cheese with steamed broccoli, a drink and a desert. The ADULT CATERED MEAL will be \$15 per person. The red heart for sign up, and the menu are posted on the bulletin board. Please give your payment to Pat Herb ASAP. For a brief time after the meal, the adults will be entertained by "Daughters of Eden" a women's trio from the First United Methodist Church in Millersburg, and our Youth Coordinator, Miss Laurie, will have an activity for the young persons. Come and join your church family for a wonderful time of fellowship, food and entertainment!



Children & Youth Ministry

Greetings from the Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator

I am Laurie Little, and I am so excited to be your new Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator! I feel like God has led me to this place, and with his help, I hope this is the beginning of a beautiful relationship!!

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I am married to Jack Little; we have two children, Riley and Reagan. Riley is a freshman at Penn College in Williamsport where he is majoring in Cyber Security. Reagan is a sophomore at UDA. We are members of Simeon United Lutheran Church in Gratz, but you will be seeing a lot of us as we join you for worship at St. John's on Sundays.

Many of you know me as "Miss Laurie" because for the past 14 years, I have been the teacher and director of Little Hands Nursery School, a ministry of Simeon Lutheran Church. My new position fits perfectly with my schedule at Little Hands, and I will be able to split my time between the two places.

In addition to Little Hands, I have been teaching Sunday School at Simeon for 15 years. I have also been a VBS teacher at both Lykens Valley Camp Meeting and Simeon where, for the past 10 years, I have been the co-director of the VBS program.

Between church and school, I have been involved in many programs for children. I love kids, and everything I do reflects that love. With your help and God's direction, I hope to bring my experience and enthusiasm to St. John's so that TOGETHER we can build a community where young people love to come to worship and learn about God.

I am looking forward to getting to know all of you as we work together to build the Children and Youth Ministry here at St. John's. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact me at 571-5058 or email me at misslaurie.little@gmail.com. Remember, it takes a village!!!

Wishing you a blessed month!

Miss Laurie



St. John's Facebook:
facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch

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

In Other News

CONGRATULATIONS NEW PARENTS...

It has certainly been "baby time" recently here at the Hill Church. Our prayerful congratulations go to:

+Shayne & Jessica Latsha, as well as proud grandparents **Heidi & Jeff Lehman**, on the birth of **Robyn Lea Latsha** on November 30 at Evangelical Hospital in Lewisburg. Robyn weighed in at 7 lb 9½ oz and was 18½ inches long.

+Holly & Corey Scheib on the birth of **Granger Duane Scheib** at Hershey Medical Center on December 2. Granger was 20½ inches long and weighed 7 lb 2 oz, with grandma **Gail Billow** and great-grandpa **Warren Hassinger** also sharing in the joy.

+Yalonda & Timothy Rabenold, along with the entire **Rabenold Family**, on the December 5 birth of 7 lb 7 oz **Edna Viola Rabenold** at Harrisburg Hospital.

Pastoral Acts

At the Front

Pastor Tom presided on Sunday, November 27, as we welcomed **Kellan Richard Peters**, son of **Alek & Adriane Peters**, into the Kingdom of God and the St. John Congregational Family in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray God's blessings on Kellan, his parents and other family members, and his sponsors as they live out the promises they have made!



At the Altar

On Sunday morning, December 11, Pastor Tom presided as we had the honor of welcoming **J. Ronald Erb; Gary MacCready; Randy Paul; Barry & Kim Williard; and Matthew, Olivia & Madeline Williard** into the St. John congregational family. Ron and Gary came to us from other branches of the one Christian Family, by making affirmation of their baptisms, while Randy and the Williard's came to us by transfer from Simeon United Lutheran Church in Gratz. Please be sure to personally welcome them and to update your congregational directory by removing the non-member brackets from Ron's, Gary's, and Randy's names and adding the Williard's as follows:

WILLIARD, Barry Jr. & Kim
1200 Indian Trail Road
Lykens, PA 17048
717-365-4108

WILLIARD, Matthew & Olivia
Madeline
124 South Edward Street
Lykens, PA 17048
717-453-7501

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
November 2016**

The council meeting was called to order by President, Roy Henry. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

Present: Roy Henry, Lorraine Henninger, Gail Billow, Dale Hassinger, Jamie Doyle, Sandra Lamenza, Carl Baumgardner, Tamara Spicher, Jeff Buffington, Joseph Doyle, Jeff Lehman and Pastor Tom Bruner

Excused Absence: Karen Paulman

Minutes: Motion by Dale Hassinger and seconded by Carl Baumgardner to approve the minutes from the August 2016 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

Deibler, Straub, and Troutman submitted our insurance proposal for 2017 with a 2% increase in value. The added value of the pavilion improvements, the cooler and the cooker added an additional \$44,000 to the overall value.

The water passed the required inspection.

A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Lorraine Henninger to make a \$100 gift to the Pinnacle Health Spiritual Care Services. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Motion made by Jeff Lehman and seconded by Sandra Lamenza to accept the pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously.

Youth Coordinator's Report: Still looking for a replacement for Amanda.

Treasurers' Reports: Motion made by Jeff Buffington and seconded by Tamara Spicher to accept the treasurers' reports. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: The stars have been installed and the potholes were repaired. Outside trim work will need to be painted.

Finance/Stewardship: Roy Henry presented the pastor's 2017 proposed compensation package. Motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Jeff Lehman to approve the compensation package. Motion approved unanimously. The complete budget was reviewed. Motion was made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Lorraine Henninger to approve the budget. Motion approved unanimously.

Worship and Music: No report

Christian Education: They are working on the Advent Christmas Program.

***Worship Service Schedule
February 2017***



Altar Guild for Month of February

Delmar & Virginia Enders

Lector for Month of February

Carol Hassinger

Usher's for the Month of February Donna Rabenold (L) Roy Henry (E), Roni & Lynn Mace

FEBRUARY 5, 2017

5th Sunday after Epiphany
Holy Communion

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

Lynn Henninger
Louise Baungardner
Jeff Buffington
Cole Roadcap & Kelsey Henninger

FEBRUARY 12, 2017

6th Sunday after Epiphany

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

Jeff Lehman
Sandy Paul
Harold & Pat Herb
Gracie Gehring & Gabe Gehring

FEBRUARY 19, 2017

7th Sunday after Epiphany
Youth Led Worship

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

Ken Koller
Carol Hubler
Fred & Jean Weaver
Lily Boyer & Avery Mace

FEBRUARY 26, 2017

Transfiguration of Our Lord
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent
Sunday School Pianist
Greeters-
Acolytes

Roy Henry
Lois Watson
The Clint Gehring Family
Kelsey Henninger & Madeline Williard

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

Youth Ministry: The group has had several successful outings. They have a fun night scheduled.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report.

Nominating: Submitted four candidates for Council. They are: Henry Henninger, Dan Langhans, Pat Herb, and Donna Rabenold.

History: No report

Other Reports: The Local Benevolence committee met to discuss options for the disbursement of the Bicentennial Fund. They will meet again in March to see what the balance is and continue to consider options for sharing. It was decided to increase the congregational scholarship from \$250 to \$750.

Unfinished Business: Pastor Liz Polanzke from the ELCA Foundation will be joining us on March 12 at 4pm to offer insights as to what is available through ELCA.

A motion was made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Jamie Doyle to add a monthly \$50 contribution opportunity for the Konde Diocese for 2017. Motion approved unanimously.

New Business: We will be receiving new members on December 11. They are Ron Erb, Randy Paul, Gary MacCready, and the Williard Family (Barry, Kim, William, Matt, Olivia, and Madeline).

The water system in the sexton's house is failing. We are required to have a warning system since it is considered a public building. The appropriate action is underway to make the necessary improvements.

Next Council Meeting: Next council meeting is scheduled for December 11, 2016 at 4PM

Adjournment: Motion by Jamie Doyle and seconded by Gail Billow to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.


Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Lamenza, Secretary

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

Treasurers' Reports October 2016				
	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	13,519.05	13,348.52	11,954.77	14,912.80
Benevolence	55.43	2596.35	1742.00	909.78
Memorial	11,965.72	4719.19		16,684.91
Improvement	3151.95	403.50	275.00	3280.45
Bicent Ch Acct	21,561.10	.73	492.48	21,069.35
Bicent Svngs	5300.91			5300.91
Flowers	195.06	448.00	542.50	100.56
C&Y Ministry	3302.52	352.12	564.99	3089.65

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
			1 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	2 The Presentation of Our Lord	3	4 Pastor Tom's Day Off
5 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 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 11:15 Annual "Souper Bowl" Collection 2:30 Girl Scout Troop Meeting	6 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 5:30 Book Discussion Group 7:30 Dartball Match—Faith United at St. John	7 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastor Meeting 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	8 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	9 Day of Prayer and Peace Beginning in the Middle East 1:30 Pastor Tom Leads Worship at Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg	10 6:30 Youth Group Members attend Camp Hebron Weekend Retreat	11 Pastor Tom's Day Off 7:00-9:00 Men's Prayer Group
12 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word Fair Trade Coffee and Tea will follow the Worship 2:00 Women's Group Meeting 2:30 Girl Scout Troop Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting Youth Retreat at Camp Hebron Ends	13 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 1:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Reformation Anniversary Quilt Planning Meeting 7:30 Dartball Match – Lykens United Methodist at St. John	14 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastor Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	15 Deadline to submit items for March St. John's Epistle 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	16	17	18 Pastor Tom's Day Off
19 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Youth Leading Worship Gather to Prepare 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, Led by Our Youth	20 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match—St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville	21 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastor Meeting	22 6:30 Midweek Bible Study Washington's	23	24	25 Pastor Tom's Day Off
26 The Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion Afternoon/Evening – Youth Group Outing to Round Top Resort for Tubing/Skiing/Snow Boarding 2:30 Girl Scout Troop Meeting	27 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match—St. John at Christopher Lutheran, Lykens	28 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastor Meeting 6:30 Property Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal				