# ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

# A Letter from The 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 14 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 7:00 P.M., we will join in worship. Worship will end before 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 *Lent with Peanuts*. With a nod to the best-selling book *The Gospel According to Peanuts*, we will take a look each week at one of the characters from the beloved series and what insights for our faith journeys we might gain from her or him. The details for these Wednesday evenings are as follows:



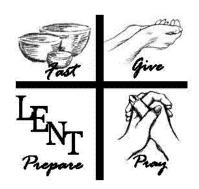
# A Letter from The Pastor.... Cont.

<u>Date</u> February 21	Host Congregation St. John	Preacher/Character Rev. Ray Holland Peppermint Patty
February 28	Peace United Church of Christ Berrysburg	Rev. Nathan Minnich Snoopy
March 7	Trinity United Methodist Church Elizabethville	<b>Pastor Tom</b> Pig-Pen
March 14	Salem Lutheran Church Elizabethville	Rev. Jeff Wagner Linus
March 21	Salem United Church of Christ Elizabethville	Rev. Jim Lewis Sally

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

Pastor Tom



# YOUTH MINISTRY

### News from Miss Laurie

Happy New Year and hello 2018! I can't believe that I've been "at your service" for a whole year now! It seems like it was just yesterday that Pastor Tom was "swearing me in" as your new Young Christians Minister. But in another way, it feels like I've always been a part of the St. John's community. EVERYONE has been so gracious and welcoming and encouraging! I've always felt like part of the team! Thank you all for making my first year at St. John's a remarkable experience! With your support, I'm looking to build on the successes of this first year and do more things to engage our young Christians in ministry and service to God. Together, we can do great things!!!

And the adventure CONTINUES.....

Miss Laurie

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

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



# Youth Group News

On the evening of Sunday, February 25 the Youth Group will be holding their annual Spaghetti Supper. For those interested in donating items for the Spaghetti Supper please see the donation list on the church bulletin board in the foyer. It is planned to be a family fun night of food, games and laughter! A free will offering will be collected to help fund the Youth Groups initiatives.

#### **Important Dates for February**

Feb 11 - Annual Spaghetti Supper Planning Meeting

Feb 18 - Youth Led Worship

Feb 25 - Annual Spaghetti Supper

The Youth Group will be doing several fundraisers to help fund their trip to GATH-ERING. We have been working to collect a number of good fundraisers to help support the 8 youth group members traveling to Houston this June AND to build the treasury we already have for *future events for all*, like youth retreat next year. The first two fundraisers are **Gourmet Creations Dips** & **Desserts** and **Colonnade Coupon Books.** Please see any youth group member or youth group advisor for more information!

#### 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.

# 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. 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 congregational family will pay a portion of the registration fee, making an already affordable experience that much more of a bargain!

# Winter Session of Bible Study

The first part of our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 10, following worship. At that meeting, action was taken to approve a 2018 Current Fund Budget as well as budgets for other funds. In elections for our Congregational Council, the following persons were elected to a three-year term: Barbara Bullock, Darrell Denlinger, Carol Hassinger, and Daniel Maurer. We thank these newly-elected Council members, as well as the outgoing members whom they replace—Gail Billow, Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger, and Tamara Spicher!

# 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!

# Congregational Officers Elected

Congratulations to the following persons who, on January 14, were elected as our congregational officers for 2018: President – Daniel Langhans, Vice President – Donna Rabenold, Secretary – Darrell Denlinger, Treasurer – Jamie Doyle, and Financial Secretary – Pat Herb. We thank these folks for their willingness to serve throughout the coming year!

# Pastoral Acts

#### At the Font

Pastor Tom presided on Sunday, December 10, as we welcomed **Carissa** and **Ashten Barder** into the Kingdom of God and the St. John Congregational Family in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray God's blessings on Carissa and Ashten, their family members, and their sponsors as they live out the promises they have made!



The second "Breaking Bread" fellowship luncheon will be held on Sunday, Feb. 11 immediately following worship. The format will again be come and enjoy homemade soups, bread and dessert. Participants are free to leave after eating or stay to fellowship as their schedule allows. A freewill offering will be taken and given to the elementary school "Snack Pack" program.

Dessert and baked items are needed for the February 11 "Breaking Bread". Please consider providing an item and signing up on the sheet posted in the foyer of the church. Thank you again for your support and generosity.

The St. John's Women's group would also like to thank everyone who donated to the "Fill the Pew" program during the month of December. The response was wonderful and your concern for the needs of children was greatly appreciated. All items were given to the "Snack Pack" program to provide weekend meals for elementary school children in need. It truly does take a community to raise a child......thanks again.

We are always looking for help with the quilting project and our prayer shawl project. If you can help please talk to President Janet Denlinger. Thank you.



#### HOSPITALIZED/RESIDING IN SENIOR LIVING/DEALING WITH ACUTE ILLNESS

 $\bf Margaret\ Enders$  – Rm. #211, Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, 4000 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, 17112

Warren Hassinger – Room #323, Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg

Ronald Hoover - Room #101, The Manor at Susquehanna Village, Millersburg

Sue Lebo – Rm. #203, Heritage Mill Personal Care Home, 846 E. Wiconisco Ave., Tower City, 17980

Cora Mace – Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022 Martha Rebuck – Room #806, The Manor at Susquehanna Village, Millersburg Helen Schade – Rm # 218, Traditions of Hershey, 100 North Larkspur Drive, Palymyra, 17078

#### **Meeting Dates:**

Feb. 11 -2:00 P.M. Leaders - Rachel Henry & Gail Billow

#### St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting Minutes November 12, 2017

The Council Meeting was called to order by Pastor Tom who also offered prayer and devotions.

Present – Carl Baumgardner, Gail Billow, Jeff Buffington, Jamie Doyle, Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger, Patricia Herb, Dan Langhans, Tamara Spicher and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences - Donna Rabenold

Unexcused Absences - Henry Henninger

**Reading of Minutes:** Motion by Carl Baumgardner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale Hassinger to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Reception of Petitions and Communications:**

October Water test results were favorable and system was given clean bill of health.

Cheryl Shadle would like to resign as Chair of the Flower Fund Committee at the end of the calendar year. We need to look for a new Chairperson.

The Women's Group would like to sponsor the Weekend Snack pack program in a bigger way. Every other month they'd like to do a collection "Fill the Pew" for this program beginning in Dec. 2017. A list of what items they need will be posted. They'd also like to sponsor "Breaking Bread Together" which will be a time of fellowship to benefit the Snack Pack Program and will consist of soup, bread and dessert on 1/21/18, 2/11/18 and 3/11/18. A free will offering will be taken for the program. Motion to approve both efforts by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by Tamara Spicher. Motion passed unanimously.

Septic update – going with sand mound as required. Burch & Associates has staked out this week and sent plan to sewage enforcement officer to obtain permit. We did have to pump septic tank again after all the heavy rains.

Had to call for service on elevator again this week. The door connectors required lubrication. Just a reminder, **don'**t hold the door open, push the button to keep the door from closing.

We have occasional issues with member use of the Sunday school fellowship room which is at no cost to members. Adopt usage guidelines much like guidelines already in place for member usage of the pavilion. Ie/ take along your trash and put the room back the way it was found. Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale Hassinger to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Secton has requested permission to get a small dog, 15 lbs or less that doesn't shed. Council discussed granting the request as a onetime exception with the conditions that the dog must be leashed outside, and the property committee will do an annual inspection beginning now with any damage being the sexton's responsibility. Motion by Gail Billow, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carl Baumgardner to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Motion by Pat Herb, 2nd by Joe Doyle to accept Pastor's report. Motion Passed unanimously.

**Children & Youth:** Motion by Jeff Buffington, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail Billow to accept the Children & Youth Ministry report. Motion passed unanimously.

**Report of Treasurers:** Motion by Pat Herb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Doyle to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Congregational Council Meeting Minutes - continued November 12, 2017

#### **Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Church Property**: Big limb snapped off tree by pavilion and is wedged in the tree. Another branch punctured pavilion roof which has since been patched.

**Finance Committee:** Discussed 2018 budget. Pastor left the room while the Pastoral Ministry section of the budget was discussed. Motion by Carl Baumgardner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tamara Spicher to approve the Pastoral Ministry section of the budget. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the draft budget for presentation to the congregation by Joe Doyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tamara Spicher. Motion passed unanimously.

Worship & Music: No report

Faith Formation Team: Met 10/10 and Matt Williard described some special projects including a service project.

Next meeting 11/14/17.

Youth Group: Chicken & Waffle dinner went very well.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report

Nominating: Have 4 names for nomination of new Council members: Barbara Bullock, Darrell Denlinger, Carol Hassin-

ger and Dan Maurer.

**History Committee:** No report

Other reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Next Council Meeting: December 10, 2017 @ 4:00pm.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Pat Herb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tamara Spicher to adjourn at 5:48pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Doyle, Secretary

#### **Treasurers Report for**

#### October 2017

	Prior Balance	Receipts	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	8,604.64	14,003.28*	14,128.97*	8,478.95
Benevolence	6.41	2,734.09	1,234.00	1,506.50
Memorial	12,750.25	5,399.17	2,500.00	15,749.42
Improvement	1,540.93	353.00	150.00	1743.93
Bicent CkAcct	22,547.26	55.79	90.00	22,513.05
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	264.46	115.00	105.00	274.46
C&Y Ministry	1,014.83	213.04	706.24	521.63

\*Council authorized the Children & Youth account to be merged into the Current Fund at the 10/8/17 meeting. Since this occurred mid-month, \$2,844.00 of the Current Fund receipts are allocable to C&Y and \$2,506.03 of the Current Fund Expenses are allocable to C&Y. In November 2017, there will be an accounting entry to transfer these revenues and expenditures to the C&Y category and these funds will be presented on a Fund Accounting basis going forward.

#### St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting Minutes December 10, 2017

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Dan Langhans. Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions.

Present – Carl Baumgardner, Gail Billow, Jeff Buffington, Jamie Doyle, Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger, Henry Henninger Patricia Herb, Dan Langhans, Donna Rabenold, Tamara Spicher and Pastor Tom

**Reading of Minutes:** Motion by Dale Hassinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Rabenold to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Reception of Petitions and Communications:**

Lower Susquehanna Synod –Officers of the Upper Dauphin Conference are looking for Alternate Lay female voting member for the August 2019 church wide Assembly meeting in Milwaukee, WI. Also looking for lay male and young persons. Likewise for Synod Council which is a 3 year term. Let Pastor Tom know if you're interested in being considered.

Date of the Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet (all at 7:00pm):

1/29/18 at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville 3/12/18 at Zion Lutheran, Erdman April/May – TBD 9/10/18 at Zion Lutheran, Rife 11/12/18 at St. John, Berrysburg

Received Annual appeal from Dauphin County Library System. Motion by Gail Billow, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carl Baumgardner to donate same amount as Last year from Local Benevolence (\$100). Motion passed unanimously.

Discussed the Northern Dauphin Crisis Housing Initiative and agreed to give it prayerful consideration.

Received insurance Statement of Values for Property, Liability & Workman's Comp.

Pastor's Report: Motion by Pat Herb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Buffington to accept Pastor's report. Motion Passed unanimously.

**Children & Youth:** Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Doyle to accept the Children & Youth Ministry report. Motion passed unanimously.

**Report of Treasurers:** Motion by Carl Baumgardner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tamara Spicher to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Church Property**: The septic system is completed. Will determine in spring if more dirt is needed. Bob Weis will cut down tree by sexton's house for approximately \$300. Congregation members will be asked if there is anyone interested in cutting up the wood and hauling it away in a timely fashion.

New refrigerator installed in kitchen. Property committee is going to hook up water line to the ice maker.

Matt Williard would like to create a pollinator garden here at the church in the Spring. He will meet with the Property committee to discuss.

#### Congregational Council Meeting Minutes - continued December 10, 2017

Finance Committee: No report

Worship & Music: Wine donated by Broad Mountain Vineyards for communion is very much appreciated. Pianos were tuned. Audio of worship getting set up as link on our website for those who would like to listen to our services. Next meeting in January.

**Faith Formation Team:** Met 11/14/17. Advent Christmas program coming up. Annual Christmas ornament ordered for Sunday School Children. Thanking ahead to Advent program next year and developing activity stations and a possible live nativity scene in our barn.

Youth Group: Getting ready for Ski Round Top outing.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report

History Committee: No report

Other reports: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Next Council Meeting: January 14, 2018 @ 4:00pm.

Adjournment: Motion by Donna Rabenold, 2nd by Gail Billow to adjourn at 5:12pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Jamie Doyle, Secretary

# Treasurers Report for

November 2017

	Prior Balance	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	8,478.95	13,607.88	15,479.26	6,607.57
Benevolence	1,506.50	1,549.10	2,899.00	156.60
Memorial	15,749.42	104.53	600.00	15,253.95
Improvement	1,743.93	1,174.54	375.93	2,542.54
Bicent CkAcct	22,513.05	90.74	480.00	22,123.79
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	274.46	276.50	378.83	172.13
C&Y Ministry	521.63	3,475.00	4,664.75	(668.12)

#### **February Gifts**

**Konde Diocese -**

Jamie Doyle

Celebrate Inserts -

Delmar & Ginny Enders

Tree 4 Hope -

Roy & Rachel Henry

# February Worship Schedule

Altar Guild Virginia & Delmar Enders

Lector Barry Williard

Usher's for the Month of February: Donna Rabenold (L)

Roy Henry (E), Roni and Lynn Mace (LAY)

<u>February 4, 2018</u> Greeter Harold & Pat Herb

Holy Communion Acolytes Aidan Roadcap & Gary Leitzel

Superintendent Jeff Lehman Pianist Carol Hubler that you are

dust you shall

February 11, 2018 Greeter Fred & Jean Weaver

Holy Communion Acolytes Kelsey Henninger & Cole Roadcap

Superintendent Ken Koller Pianist Lois Watson

**February Altar** 

Feb. 11

Henninger

\*as of print date,

Flowers February 14, 2018 Greeter Arlene Donnelly

Ash Wednesday Acolytes RJ Henry & Gabe Gehring

Feb. 4 Holy Communion

Feb. 18 - Arlene Doyle February 18, 2018 Greeter Joe & Arlene Doyle

Youth Led Worship Acolytes Avery Mace & Landon Mace
Feb. 25 - Helen Superintendent Lynn Henninger

Superintendent Lynn Henninger Pianist Judy Ferree

subject to change February 25, 2018 Greeter Joe & Arlene Doyle

Acolytes Haylen Donovan & Gary Leitzel

Superintendent Roy Henry

Pianist Louise Baumgardner

# subject to chang



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Febru	February 2018	<b>∞</b>			Presentation of Our Lord Groundhog Day	3 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off 9:00 – 11:00 Girl Scout Troop Gathering
4 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Scout Sunday Flag Ceremony Led by Our Cub Scout Pack 86 11:15 Annual "Souper Bowl" Collection	5 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 5:30 Book Discussion Group 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Faith United Methodist	6 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:00 Youth Group Advisor Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	7 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	œ	9  Day of Prayer for  Peace with Justice,  Beginning in the  Middle East	Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off 7:00 – 9:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group Meets at the Church – Please Contact Ray Matter for More Information
11 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 11:15 "Breaking Bread" Meal and Fellowship Time 2:00 Women's Group Meeting 2:00 Youth Group Meeting 2:00 Girl Scout Troop Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting	9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – Lykens United Methodist at St. John Lincoln's Birthday	13 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Sen- ior Choir Rehearsal Shrove Tuesday	Ash Wednesday 7:00 Liturgy of Holy Communion with Optional Imposition of Ashes  Valentine's Day	15  Deadline to Submit Items for March "St. John's Epistle"	16	Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
18 First Sunday in Lent 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Youth Leading Worship Gather to Prepare 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, Led by Our Youth 2:00 Girl Scout Troop Meeting	Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville President's Day	20 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship <u>at St. John</u>	92 Washington's Birthday	93	24 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
Second Sunday in Lent 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration (opening downstairs) 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	96 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens	9.30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6.15 Property Committee Meeting 7.30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	98 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Peace United Church of Christ, Berrysburg			

Sat

Fri

Thu

Wed

Tue

Mon

Sun

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Pastor's Office Hours:	The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	Stjohnhillchurch  @frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Mon, Tues - 8:00 A.M 9:30 A.M.	Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little @gmail.com	717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
W l TI	Tammy & Bill Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
Wed, Thurs - 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon	Judith Ferree	Organist	jjferee@epix.net	717-362-4228
Friday 8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.	Carol Hubler	Choir Director	Mchubler @gmail.com	570-758-5052
(Other times by appointment)	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

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