

# *ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE*

## *A Letter from The Pastor.....*

Dear Friends in Jesus,

This February issue of *St. John's Epistle* is a bit more "bare bones" than normal, basically because, here on the monthly deadline to submit items for the newsletter, I am still very much in catch-up mode and I especially want to get the most important monthly information to you without delay. Next month, I will have some other important updates to share with you, for instance about our congregational family members who are engaged in higher education. And next month's *Epistle* will also include the details of our observance of the Season of Lent, which will begin on Ash Wednesday, which is coming up quite late this year on March 6. Stay tuned!

There is absolutely no way that Ann and I will ever be able to adequately express our sense of thankfulness for your love and support in the days and weeks following our January 2 medical emergencies (not to even mention your loving greetings during the Christmas Season now past). I only pray that I, as the person who has the honor of being called here to serve God with you in this wonderful congregational family, will prove worthy of you and all that you have shared with us. It sounds so inadequate but, on behalf of Ann, and Tim and Dan, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

*Pastor Tom*



## *News from Miss Laurie*

### *Young Christians Minister*

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope everyone enjoyed a fantastic holiday and is recovered from the wonderful craziness of the Christmas season!

We shared another great year together at St. John's, and I thought I'd mention some highlights:

SONday Celebration remains strong and we've had LOTS of fun celebrations including the Pajama Party Celebration, Snowman Celebration, Jesus Lives Celebration, 40 Days of Easter Celebration, Noah's Ark Hayride Celebration, Christmas Decoration Celebration, and the Happy Birthday Jesus Celebration. Look for all of these and more in 2019! **SONday Celebration meets each Sunday from 9:00 – 10:00. Please join us for the fun!!**

We had another great Celebration Station during the Strawberry Festival with face painting, jokes with Monsieur Alphie, and stories with Sunny!

Although rain caused some cancellations, we rode the rapids of God's love during our "Rolling River Rampage" VBS adventure! We capped off the program with a "Water Fun Night" with water games and a home-made Slip and Slide!

The Celebration Choir sang during the Strawberry Festival and the Pillow Bicentennial Parade. They joined forces with the "Jingle Elves" and also sang for the Berrysburg Winter Blast and for residents at the Polk Personal Care Facility.

We started the "Celebration Club" which meets the first Wednesday of each month and uses games, crafts, snacks and Bible stories to share God's Word!

We ended the year with a new, interactive Advent activity – "One Starry Night" – and a reenactment of the Nativity Story by children, youth and a few "extras"!

It was an awesome year, and I thank you for allowing me to serve you as the Young Christians Minister! Thanks also to everyone who helps make all the fun activities possible! I am looking forward to even bigger and better things in 2019!

*Miss Laurie*

St. John's Facebook:  
[facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch](https://facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch)

St. John's Children and Youth Ministry:  
[facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry](https://facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry)



Find us on  
**Facebook**



## “Celebration” Calendar

### January:

<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	6:30	Celebration Club
<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00	“Snowman” SONday Celebration

### February:

<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	6:30	Celebration Club
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00	“Pajama Party” SONday Celebration

### March:

<b>13<sup>th</sup></b>	6:30	Celebration Club (week later because of Ash Wednesday)
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	9:00	“Wearin’ of the green” SONday Celebration

## Youth Group News

### Tentative Youth Dates

#### **March:**

17th - Youth Group  
Get Together

#### **April:**

Bass Pro Shop Cookout

19th - Youth Assist with  
Good Friday Service

19th - Annual Easter  
Lock In

20th - Annual Easter  
Egg Hunt

### Upcoming Youth Group Events

***Sunday, February 3rd*** = "Souper" Bowl Sunday - Come help collect donations for our congregation Super Bowl picks, all proceeds benefit local Soup Kitchen initiatives.

***Sunday, February 10th*** = Youth Led Worship - If you have not heard from Pastor Tom, please reach out to him to see if he needs any spots filled for this worship!

***Sunday, February 17th*** = Possible Youth Group Meeting (pencil this one in)... please watch for an email about this!

***Sunday, February 24th*** = Spaghetti Supper/Lunch (now at it's new time right after church). All Youth are asked to arrive for the start of Sunday School to begin prepping for the Dinner.

## Youth Group Service Projects

With almost 50 days until Spring the Youth Group would like to remind our Congregational family that we are always looking for service projects in our community. Specifically this Spring and Early Summer we would like to focus on the Berrysburg Community to help them prepare for their upcoming Bicentennial Celebration and are looking for individuals who are interested in cleaning up/ decorating their property, but are unable too. Something similar to what Elizabethville and Pillow did during their Bicentennials. Please Contact Matt Williard with any suggestions!

### R E M I N D E R S

1. ALL PARTICIPANTS in any Youth Group activity (*Youth members AND friends*) must complete a General Information and Emergency/Medical Form. This form only needs to be completed 1 time each year.
2. Any time a Youth Group activity involves leaving the church, ALL PARTICIPANTS (*Youth members AND friends*) must complete a Permission, Liability, and Travel Form.
3. As we get closer to an organized Youth Group activity, an Activity/Event Sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

NOTE: You will find copies of the above forms posted on the bulletin board at church or on the shelf below the bulletin board. Completed forms may be given to any YG Advisor or to Pastor Tom. Thanks!

The St. Johns Youth Group is hosting their Annual Spaghetti Dinner

# Please Join Us



**When: February 24, 2019**

**Time: Immediately following service!  
(approx. 11:30 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.)**

Please note the time change compared to previous years

Please join us for our Annual Spaghetti Dinner, which includes All You Can Eat Salad, Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, and of course Fresh made desserts. Followed by some fun filled action fit for all ages!

The youth group is asking for the following donations for the Spaghetti Dinner.  
Please look for the sign up sheet on the church bulletin board!

Ground Beef .....	10 Pounds		Celery .....	1 Stalk
Sauce w/ Meat .....	20 Quarts		Red Beets .....	1 Jar
Italian Bread .....	10 Loaves		Salad Dressing .....	10 Bottles (Variety)
Parmesan Cheese .....	2 Cans		Hard Boiled Eggs (peeled).	3 dozen
Lettuce .....	10 heads		Shredded Cheese .....	14 Cups
Carrots .....	2 lbs		Tomatoes .....	13
Cucumbers .....	3 Large		Bacon Bits .....	1 Jar
Onions .....	2 Large		Croutons .....	4 Bags

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**

November 11, 2018

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Dan Langhans. Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions.. Meeting started at 4 PM. All members present.

**Reading of Minutes:** Motion to accept by Donna Rabenold; second by Dan Langhans. Motion passed by all In attendance.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications**

- Annual Appeal letter from Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area – Perry, Cumberland, and Dauphin – has various ministries for prison, hungry, poverty, and homeless. Motion by Carl Baumgardner to give \$100 as a statement of support; second by Barb Bullock; passed by all in attendance.
- Two eager volunteers – Rachel and Roy Henry – will attend the 2019 Synod Assembly. Motion to accept by Carol Hassinger; second by Jamie Doyle; passed by all in attendance.
- Letter from the Department of Environmental Protection; we are a transient water system with an annual fee starting in 2019.
- Water test passed.
- Elevator inspection done by Harry Traugen.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Church attendance was lower in October; acceptable attendance in August. Motion to accept report by Pat Herb; second by Carl Baumgardner; passed by all in attendance.

**Children and Youth:**

- Carl said the hay ride went well.
- 17 attended the first Wednesday night program; Carl said "This was phenomenal attendance".
- Discussion Held - What can be done to encourage more parents and children to stay for church?
- Celebration Book Fair is planned for November 25 and December 2.
- Motion to accept Carl's report by Barb Bullock; second by Dan Langhans; passed by all in attendance.

**Treasurer Report:**

- Report presented by Jamie Doyle. Motion to accept by Donna Rabenold; second by Jeff Buffington; motion passed by all in attendance.

**Church Property:** committee met October 30.

- Henry reported on the new circulator pump for the church furnace.
- Planning for GA GA Pit for youth behind the outside restroom at the pavilion.
- Planning for new paint in the church conference room and offices and children's room. Sandra Lamenza looking at prices.
- The new stars on the church are up to be turned on December 2; 5:30 to 10:30 PM. The LED lights will save electricity.
- Looking into repainting the church ceiling; last painted 25 years ago.

**Worship & Music:** No meeting

**Faith Formation:**

- Advent event planned for December 16.
- Vacation Bible School for 2019 discussed.

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
November 11, 2018

**Mutual ministry:** to meet January 13

**Nominating:**

- Next Council class 2019 – Sandra Lamenza, Matt Williard, Arlene Doyle, and Ron Erb.

**Women's Report:**

- Fall retreat at Camp Hebron; several attended.
- Several ladies volunteered to Help at St. Peters Church with their annual pork and sauerkraut dinner.
- Ladies group will conduct the Thanksgiving Service.

**Other reports:**

- New communion wine pitcher needed. Carol suggested a glass decanter instead of silver plate.
- Change the church yard sale to a soup sale. Motion by Pat Herb; second by Jamie Doyle; passed by all in attendance.

Motion to adjourn by Carl Baumgardner; second by Donna Rabenold; motion passed by all in attendance.

Next meeting scheduled for December 9 at 4 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Darrell Denlinger, Secretary

**Treasurer Report – September 2018**

	<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Balance</b>
Current	\$5,938.04	\$10,984.41	\$9,599.37	\$4,714.58
Benevolence	\$963.68	\$3,203.00	\$3,096.32	\$106.68
Children & Youth	\$(4,145.92)	\$873.08	\$2,785.24	\$(1,912.16)
Flower	\$430.73	\$774.73	\$140.00	\$634.73
Improvement	\$2,855.98	\$4,417.98	\$1036.66	\$3,381.38
Memorial	\$4,957.70	\$6,087.37	\$4,000.00	\$2,087.37



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
December 9, 2018

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

Meeting started at 4:00 pm.

4 members absent (excused): Carl Bumguardner, Donna Rabenhold, Darrell Denlinger, Henry Henninger

Reading of Minutes: Motion to accept by Pat Herb; second by Barb Bullock

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

1. Upper Dauphin Conference Ingathering: Our church contributed quilts.
2. July 28, 2019: Kickoff for Bicentennial at 4:00 or 7:00 pm. It will be held at St. John's or Riegel's. If we are asked, we would be responsible for a church service and an outside ice cream social. If we are selected, we will know by January.

Pastor's Report:

1. Pastor reported that attendance is average with past years.
2. Increasing housing allowances for tax base: Pastor will maintain receipts to show increase. (Pat Herb made the motion to approve; seconded by Jeff Buffington) Motion passed.

Children and Youth:

1. Laurie is preparing for Live Nativity scene; Langhans will work with Laurie to keep animals used for Nativity scene calm, clean, and under control.
2. Young persons sang at Polk Personal Care Center.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Report presented by Jamie Doyle. Motion to accept by Barb Bullock; seconded by Jeff Buffington. Motion passed.
2. Discussion on Lowe's Visa Card; will use for appliances for Kitchen project.

Church Property:

1. Kitchen Project: Lowe's will hold 4<sup>th</sup> of January delivery
2. January 7<sup>th</sup>: Demolition starts; will take roughly one month to complete.
3. Jeff and Sandra will paint the bathroom in the elevator area.
4. Closet door will be getting a new latch.
5. The John Deere is going for total service.
6. Oil price: \$2.30/ gal.; Tank is currently full.
7. Increase in electric allowance to sextons (\$20)



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## February Worship Schedule

### February Gifts

Tree 4 Hope -  
*Joe and Arlene Doyle*

Altar Guild  
Lector

Delmar and Ginny Enders  
Barry Williard

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

### February 3, 2019 Holy Communion

Greeter  
Acolyte  
Superintendent  
Pianist

The Clint Gehring Family  
Gabe Gehring and Aidan Roadcap  
Jeff Lehman  
Lois Watson

### February 10, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist

Heidi and Jeff Lehman  
Hoyt Schlegel and Haylen Donovan  
Ken Koller  
Louise Baumgardner

### Altar Flowers

*Feb 3*

*Heidi and Jeff Lehman*

*Feb 10*

*Feb 17*

*Chris and Dana Klouser*

*Feb 24*

### February 17, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist

Bonnie and Ronald Erb  
Madeline Williard and Caroline DeSoto  
Lynn Henninger  
Sandy Paul

### February 24, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist

Judy and John Ferree  
RJ Henry and Gary Leitzel  
Roy Henry  
Carol Hubler

*\*as of print date,  
subject to change*

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
Psalm 119: 105*

# February 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Jr. High, Sr. High, & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Scout Sunday Flag Ceremony Led by Our Cub Scout Pack 86 11:15 Annual "Souper Bowl" Col-lection	<b>4</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 5:30 Book Discussion Group 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – Lykens United Methodist at St. John	<b>5</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:00 Quarterly Youth Group Advisors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Meeting 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	<b>7</b> 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Meeting 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	<b>8</b> 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Meeting 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	<b>9</b> Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>10 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Youth Leading Worship Gather to Prepare 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, Led by Our Youth 11:15 "Breaking Bread" Meal and Fellowship Time 2:00 Women's Group Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fishersville	<b>12</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Faith Formation Team Gathering 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	<b>14</b> 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	<b>15</b> Deadline to Submit Items for March "St. John's Epistle"	<b>16</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>17 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Jr. High, Sr. High, & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Sunny Sermon by Miss Laurie 2:00 Girl Scout Troop Gathering	<b>18</b> Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match – St. Christopher Lutheran at St. John <b>President's Day</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	<b>21</b> 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	<b>22</b> Washington's Birthday	<b>23</b> 10:00 Youth Group Meets to Prepare for Annual Spaghetti Meal Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>24Seventh Sunday after Epiphany</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Jr. High, Sr. High, & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 11:15 Annual Congregational Spaghetti Meal Served by Youth Group ( <i>note change of time from previous years</i> )	<b>25</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match – Valleys E.C. Church at St. John	<b>26</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	<b>28</b> 5:30 Community Meal at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown	<b>29</b> Happy Valentines Day	<b>30</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Pastor's Office

Hours:

Mon, Tues -  
8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

Wed, Thurs -  
8:00 A.M. – 12:00  
Noon

Friday  
8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.  
(Other times by  
appointment)

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	Stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little@gmail.com	717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
Tammy & Bill Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
Judith Ferree	Organist	jferree@epix.net	717-362-4228
Carol Hubler	Choir Director	Mchubler@gmail.com	570-758-5052
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	717-433-4483

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](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)

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

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE