



**SAINT JOHN'S**  
**EPISTLE**  
JULY / AUGUST 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,

As you might have observed over the years, many christian congregations take a long siesta during the summer months – Vacation Bible School is held, along with regular Sunday morning worship, but not much else (including, usually, Sunday School, which goes on hiatus until the return of September). That is not our experience here on The Hill, with the Annual Strawberry Festival in June and the Annual Yardsale in August, in addition to a very busy week of Vacation Bible School in July and ongoing weekly Sunday School. And I am glad of that! In addition, this summer, the work of the Prayerful Planning Group is pushing forward, and I'd like to share with you a brief report about where things stand.

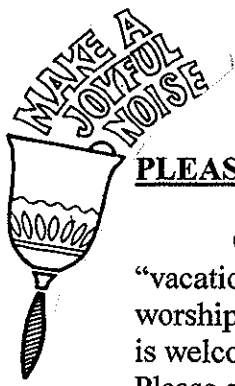
The part of the Group that is focused on strengthening our Sunday School ministry is already looking forward to 2015, and searching for a person or persons who would be willing to coordinate an Easter Program for our children and youth. The hope is to do a program that would be similar in form to our Annual Advent/Christmas Program (Which will be continuing this coming December, just like always – this new program has no effect on that!) but, instead of having the Easter Program in an evening setting, with a dinner, it is planned that the Easter Program would take place during 10:15 A.M. worship on the Sunday following Easter Sunday – the Second Sunday of Easter, (April 12 of 2015) – and hopefully become an annual event. Tentatively, practice would begin during Sunday School on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent (March 8 next year) and then run for four consecutive Sunday School sessions, through Palm Sunday. There would be no practice on Easter Sunday morning, and then final practices would take place one evening during the week following Easter Sunday and during the Sunday School hour on April 12. Want to help, or want to learn more about this or other related Sunday School initiatives? Please speak with Karen Gehring or Roy Henry!

The part of the Group that is focused on “ramping up” our ministry with children and youth by working toward calling a part-time coordinator of these ministries has organized a varied and enthusiastic team of persons (youth, youth advisors, young parents, newer members, long-time members) to come together to start the “nuts and bolts” work of developing a plan of finances, duties, time schedule, etc. that will eventually come before our whole congregational family for action. That team will have its first gathering here at the church on **Wednesday, July 2, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.** Want to help, or want to learn more? Please speak with Carl Baumgardner or Jeff Lehman!

The part of the Group that is focused on our facilities, specifically a new kitchen and onsite preparation area for our Annual Strawberry Festival and the longer-term vision of a new social hall, is working right through the summer to refine the concept of these facilities, prior to the preparation of actual plans and cost estimates that will eventually come before our whole congregational family for action. Want to help, or want to learn more? Please speak with Lynn Henninger or Bob Weaver!

As always, my “door” is also open to hear your dreams, questions, and concerns – about this or anything else! Just stop by during regular office hours or any of the other times that you see my car parked in the south lot, contact me to set up a specific time, give me a call, or send me an email. Thank you for your partnership in this congregational family that is St. John!

Pastor Tom



## PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS!

On Sundays through August 31 (Labor Day weekend), when the Senior Choir is on “vacation”, it would be great to have other St. John family members share their musical gifts in worship during the offering time, when the choir would usually sing. Any type or style of music is welcome, whether vocal or instrumental (or a combination), by one person, a duet, or a group. Please see Pastor Tom or Judy Ferree with any questions, or to “sign up”.

## SUMMER SCHEDULE RETURNS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

As we have done for the past three summers, beginning on the Sunday of Independence Day weekend, July 6, and running through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, August 31, we will gather for **Sunday School** at **8:45 A.M.**, going straight into the lesson of the morning (and skipping the opening time in which we join the rest of the year). These classes will end at 9:15 A.M., with **worship** beginning at **9:30 A.M.** Once again, Pastor Tom will do his best to make sure that worship ends promptly by 10:30 A.M., for those who must travel to family gatherings or work responsibilities.

## IT'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TIME!

A registration form for *Gangway to Galilee*, our 2014 Vacation Bible School, was included in each May and June *St. John's Epistle*. As noted on the registration form, VBS will be held July 21-25, from 6:30 to 8:30 each evening, with a closing program on Sunday morning, July 27. There will be a great mix of learning, storytelling, craft-making, fun with friends, and, yes, the snacks – all of it in the beautiful setting of The Hill. ***Registrations are already due but, if you have not yet gotten yours in, please contact Pastor Tom or any Sunday School teacher as soon as possible.*** We are looking forward to a truly fun and truly inspiring week for all young persons, Nursery through Senior High!

## AND IT'S SOON YARDSALE TIME AGAIN

Once again this year, all proceeds from our Annual Yardsale will go to the Domestic Disaster Fund of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The sale will take place in the pavilion on Thursday, August 7, from 9:00 A.M. - ?; Friday, August 8, from 9:00 A.M. - ?; and Saturday, August 9, from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon. Help will also be needed on Tuesday, August 5, to ready the pavilion for the sale (beginning at 6:00 P.M.); on Wednesday, August 6, to bring out and arrange the items for sale (also beginning at 6:00 P.M.); and on Monday, August 11, to pack up any leftovers (time to be announced). For now, please be thinking about when you might sign up to staff the yardsale and start gathering AND PRICING those treasures that you will have for sale!



## PASTORAL ACTS

### At the Altar

On Saturday, June 21, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Alayna Peters & Brandon Ribovich** at the Priestley-Savidge House in Northumberland in a 3:00 P.M. service. We pray God's blessing on Brandon and Alayna, that they may be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

### At the Font

On the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, June 8, Pastor Tom presided as three of our young members, who had previously completed two years of instruction with him, made affirmation of their baptisms and were confirmed: **Tyler D'Alesandro, Caleb Enders and Austin Specht.**

In addition, on Sunday, June 22, we had the honor of receiving three new persons into the St. John congregational family. **Angela Paul** and her young son, **T.J.**, came to us by transfer from the Dornsife Lutheran Parish, while **James Weaver, Sr.** returned to the congregational family of his roots, after some years away. If you have not already done so, please add Angie, T.J., and Jim to the roster section of your congregational directory as follows:

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Angela & (Todd) Paul     | James Weaver, Sr. |
| Todd, Jr. (T.J.)         | 250 Park Lane     |
| 427 North Road           | Lykens, PA 17048  |
| Elizabethville, PA 17023 | 395-4125          |
| 570-847-2784             |                   |

May God bless this sister and these brothers in these faith milestones!

### At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Dean Radel**, who died at the Harrisburg Hospital on June 10. Worship was held at the Hoover-Boyer Funeral Home in Elizabethville, with interment in our church cemetery on June 17. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Dean, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to all of his family and loved ones.

## **CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!**

We celebrate with seven of our young persons upon their graduation from high school, all of whom received their diplomas on June 5. They are, from Millersburg Area High School, **Payton Stutzman**, and, from Upper Dauphin Area High School, **Kayla Henry, Megan Mench, Shannon Motter, Benjamin Paul, Bobby Paul**, and **Whitni Rudisill**. We pray God's blessing on these young members as they celebrate these milestones and look to new opportunities and challenges!

The congregation's prayers and congratulations also go to our ten graduates from higher education. The details for six of them follow:

**Daniel Bruner** – Received BS in Kinesiology from the Pennsylvania State University, entering the New York Chiropractic College in September to train as a Doctor of Chiropractic.

**Morgan Klinger** – Received BS in Accounting from Susquehanna University, beginning employment in the tax department of KPMG in Harrisburg and working on becoming a CPA.

**Kim Langhans** – Received BS in Animal Sciences, with Minors in Agri-Business Management and Equine Science, from the Pennsylvania State University. After a summer of work with Ag Choice Farm Credit, she will be spending a year in Vermont working at a horse farm called "Friesians of Majesty".

**Blake Maurer** – Received BS in Environmental Science from Messiah College, beginning work at the Susquehanna Valley River Basin Commission in Harrisburg.

**Alayna Peters** – Received BS in Biology and BS in Chemistry from Shenandoah University, entering the Bernard Dunn School of Pharmacy in September to train as a Doctor of Pharmacy.

**Sara Shade** – Received BS in Nursing from Messiah College, beginning employment in the emergency room at the Pinnacle Harrisburg Campus (formerly Harrisburg Hospital).

As information is received on our other four graduates, it will be shared in future *Epistles*.

## **...AND TO THE NEWLYWEDS!**

Congratulations to **Marc Gessner** and **Lynnette Schaefer** who were joined in marriage on May 24 at the Priestley-Savidge House in Northumberland and who have now moved to the Dillsburg Area. May God richly bless them!



**SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JULY 2014**

**(Summer Time Schedule)**

Altar Guild for Month of July Carol & Mike Hubler

Lector for Month of July Carl Baumgardner

Usher's for July are (L) Sandra Lamenza, (E) Sandra Shade, Bonnie Boyer, Henry Henninger,

**JULY 6, 2014**

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost  
Holy Communion

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.**

***Sunday School 8:45 A.M.***

Greeters – Harold & Pat Herb

**JULY 13, 2014**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
***WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.***

***Sunday School 8:45 A.M.***

Greeters- Fred & Jean Weaver

Acolytes- Cameron Thompson & Aidan Roadcap

**JULY 20, 2014**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
***WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.***

***Sunday School 8:45 A.M.***

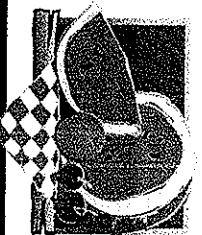
Greeters- The Clint Gehring Family

Acolytes- R J Henry & Kelsey Henninger

**JULY 27, 2014**

***10:00 A.M. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CLOSING PROGRAM AND PICNIC***

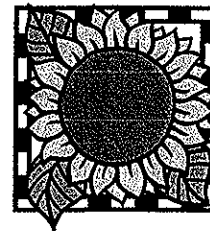
# JULY 2014



**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

| Sun                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Mon                                                                                                                                             | Tue                                                                                                                                                                  | Wed                                                                            | Thu                                              | Fri                                                                     | Sat                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                 | <b>1</b><br>10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf.<br>Pastors Mtg.<br>6:00 Annual Strawberry Festival Wrap-Up Meeting                                                             | <b>2</b><br>6:30 Children & Youth Ministry Study Group Gathering               | <b>3</b> Thomas, Apostle                         | <b>4</b><br>Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off<br>Independence Day | <b>5</b><br>Pastor Tom's Day Off                                                                         |
| <b>6</b> The 4th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:45 Sunday School<br>9:30 <u>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</u> -<br>Holy Communion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>7</b><br>Pastor Tom at Seminary in Gettysburg for Continuing Education Class from the Afternoon of the 7th through the afternoon of the 11th | <b>8</b>                                                                                                                                                             | <b>9</b><br>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East | <b>10</b>                                        | <b>11</b>                                                               | <b>12</b><br>Pastor Tom's Day Off<br>7:00-9:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group Meets at the Church               |
| <b>13</b> The 5th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:45 Sunday School<br>9:30 Liturgy of the Word, with Recognition of Graduate<br>10:30 Mutual Ministry Comm. Mtg.<br>2:00 Green Team -Sponsored Viewing of Queen of the Sun: What are the Bees Telling Us? In Sunday School Room<br>6:30 Youth Group—Swimming Party<br>7:30 Congregational Council Meeting | <b>14</b>                                                                                                                                       | <b>15</b><br>10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf.<br>Pastors Meeting                                                                                                            | <b>16</b>                                                                      | <b>17</b>                                        | <b>18</b>                                                               | <b>19</b><br>Pastor Tom's Day Off                                                                        |
| <b>20</b> The 6th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:45 Sunday School<br>9:30 Liturgy of the Word                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>21</b><br>6:30 —8:30<br>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL                                                                                                | <b>22</b> Mary Magdalene, Apostle<br>10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf.<br>Pastors Meeting<br>1:00 Gathering with Our Residents at the Manor at SV<br>6:30 —8:30 BIBLE SCHOOL | <b>23</b><br>6:30 —8:30<br>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL                               | <b>24</b><br>6:30 —8:30<br>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL | <b>25</b> James, Apostle<br>6:30 —8:30<br>VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL         | <b>26</b><br>Pastor Tom's Day Off<br>9:00 A.M. Pavilion Set-up for Vacation Bible School Closing Program |
| <b>27</b> The 7th Sunday after Pentecost<br>10:00 Vacation Bible School<br>Closing Program<br>11:30 Annual Sunday School Picnic                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>28</b><br>Pastor Tom on vacation through Tuesday, August 12 returning to the office on Wednesday, August 13                                  | <b>29</b>                                                                                                                                                            | <b>30</b>                                                                      | <b>31</b>                                        |                                                                         |                                                                                                          |





**SUNDAY SERVICE FOR AUGUST 2014**

**Summer Time Schedule**

Altar Guild for Month of August

Jean & Fred Weaver

Lector for Month of August

The Ray & Joyce Matter Family

Usher's for August are (L)—James Bullock (E)—Lorraine Henninger, Martha Rebeck & Lois Leshar

**AUGUST 3, 2014**

The 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.**

Hymn Sing

***Sunday School 8:45 A.M.***

Greeters-

The Scott Peters Family

**AUGUST 10, 2014**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

***Worship 9:30 A.M.***

***Sunday School 8:45 A.M.***

Greeters -

John & Judy Ferree

Acolytes-

Aidan Roadcap & Gracie Gehring

**AUGUST 17, 2014**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

***Worship 9:30 A.M.***

***Sunday School 8:45 A.M.***

Greeters -

Delmar & Ginny Enders

Acolytes-

R J Henry

**AUGUST 24, 2014**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

***Worship 9:30 A.M.***

***Sunday School 8:45 A.M.***

Greeters -

The Craig Shade Family

Acolytes-

Ryan Henninger & Reyann Cheatham

**AUGUST 31, 2014**

The 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.**

Holy Communion

***Sunday School 8:45 A.M.***

Greeters -

The Lynn Mace Family

# August 2014

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat



**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

|                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                                                       |                                                                                |                                                                                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                |                                                                                                       |                                                                                |                                                                                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>3</b> The 8th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:45 Sunday School<br>9:30 <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b> –<br>Old Fashioned Hymn Sing<br>(Guest Worship Leader –<br>Mr. James Watson) | <b>4</b>                                                       | <b>5</b><br>6:00 Pavilion Set-up for<br>Congregational Yardsale                                       | <b>6</b><br>6:00 Yardsale Items<br>Arranged in the Pavilion                    | <b>7</b><br>9:00-?? Annual<br>Congregational<br>Yardsale<br>Domestic Disaster<br>Relief | <b>8</b><br>9:00-?? Annual<br>Congregational<br>Yardsale<br>Domestic Disaster<br>Relief | <b>1</b> Pastor Tom on<br>Vacation through<br>Tuesday, August 12,<br>returning to the<br>office on<br>Wednesday,<br>August 13 | <b>2</b><br><br><b>9</b> Day of Prayer for Peace<br>with Justice, Beginning in the<br>Middle East<br>9:00 – 12:00 Annual<br>Congregational Yardsale<br>Concludes<br>7:00-9:00 A.M. Men's Prayer<br>Group Meets at the Church |
| <b>10</b> The 9th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:45 Sunday School<br>9:30 Liturgy of the Word (Guest Worship<br>Leader – Mr. James Watson)                                   | <b>11</b>                                                      | <b>12</b>                                                                                             | <b>13</b><br>Pastor Tom Returns<br>to the Office                               | <b>14</b>                                                                               | <b>15</b> Mary, Mother of<br>Our Lord                                                   | <b>16</b><br>Pastor Tom's Day off                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>17</b> The 10th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:45 Sunday School<br>9:30 Liturgy of the Word                                                                               | <b>18</b>                                                      | <b>19</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at<br>Cont. Pastors Mtg.<br>6-15 Sunday School Teachers<br>& Officers Mtg. | <b>20</b> Deadline to<br>Submit Items for<br>September<br>"St. John's Epistle" | <b>21</b>                                                                               | <b>22</b>                                                                               | <b>23</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>24</b> The 11th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:45 Sunday School<br>9:30 Liturgy of the Word                                                                               | <b>25</b> Bartholomew, Apostle<br>(transferred from August 24) | <b>26</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Cont.<br>Pastors Mtg.                                                   | <b>27</b>                                                                      | <b>28</b>                                                                               | <b>29</b>                                                                               | <b>30</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>31</b> The 12th Sunday after Pentecost<br>8:45 Sunday School<br>9:30 <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b> with<br>Holy Communion (instead of August 3)                               |                                                                |                                                                                                       |                                                                                |                                                                                         |                                                                                         |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



## EXPLORING THE PLIGHT OF THE HONEY BEES

In recent years, it has become commonplace to hear news reports about declining bee populations and the struggles of honey bees – vitally important partners with us in the stewardship of God’s good Creation.

The Hill Church **Green Team** of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Invites you to join us to watch and discuss the movie  
**Queen of the Sun: What are the Bees Telling Us?** Admission is free.

When: Sunday, July 13 at 2:00pm

Where: The Hill Church, St. John, Berrysburg  
1 mile south of Berrysburg, just west of Rt. 225

We also invite you to attend a Public Forum with Bee Experts as well as  
Government Officials to View & Discuss this Important Topic

When: Weds. September 24, 2014 at 6:30pm

Where: The Hill Church, St. John, Berrysburg



**QUEEN OF THE SUN: What Are the Bees Telling Us?** is a profound, alternative look at the global bee crisis. Taking us on a journey through the catastrophic disappearance of bees and the mysterious world of the beehive, this alarming and ultimately uplifting film weaves together a dramatic story of the heart-felt struggles of beekeepers, scientists and philosophers around the world. This spellbinding film explores the long-term causes that have led to one of our most urgent global food crises, illuminating the deep link between humans and bees. The story unveils 10,000 years of beekeeping, highlighting how that historic and sacred relationship has been lost. Inspiring and entertaining, **QUEEN OF THE SUN** uncovers the problems and solutions in renewing a culture in balance with nature.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BERRYBURG, PA 17005  
P. O. BOX 270

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**PARISH STAFF**

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 362-7895 (H)

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Sandra Paul, Secretary [rbpaul@epix.net](mailto:rbpaul@epix.net) .....362-4117

James Watson, Council President [loisbull17@gmail.com](mailto:loisbull17@gmail.com)..... 362-3247

Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 362-9108

**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://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.*