

ST. JOHN'S

EPISTLE

A Letter from The Pastor.....

Dear Friends in Jesus,

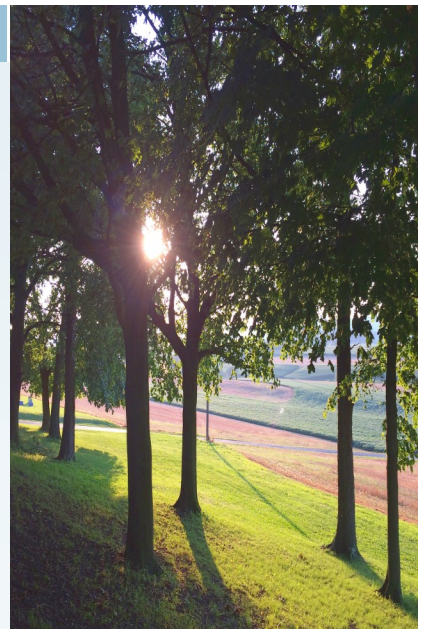
In these summer months, with all of their associated outdoor activities, I wanted to share with you the following story that was passed along to me many years ago:

Brenda wanted to learn rock climbing. Although she was somewhat fearful, after some time in preparation, she made plans with several others to scale a challenging cliff of rock. Arriving at the base, she strapped and clipped into the gear, took hold of the rope, and began climbing up the face of the rock. After pulling her way up for some time, she came to a ledge where she could take a well-deserved breather.

Then it happened: as she was resting, someone above her moved and snapped the rope against Brenda's eye, knocking out one of her contact lenses. Now, contact lenses are almost impossible to find in the best of circumstances. But, here she was high up on a rock ledge, far from home, now with blurry sight. She searched and searched again, going over her clothing and equipment and the rock surface around her, hoping against hope that she would find the lens. With her hope diminishing, she prayed that the Lord could come to her aid. Her only other hope was that, perhaps, when she got to the top of the cliff, one of the other climbers might be able to find the lens where she had missed it. But, after a friend did a thorough check, there was no lens to be found. And so she sat down, waiting for the others to come up the face of the rock. She didn't relish the thought of making the descent with only one good eye.

While waiting, she looked out over range after range of mountains, thinking of the Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, you can see all of these mountains. You know every single stone and leaf that is on these mountains and you know exactly where my contact lens is."

Finally, the time came for her to head back down the cliff. On the descent, a new part of rock climbers was coming up.



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.

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

Suddenly, a climber stopped on the face of the cliff and shouted, “Hey, you guys! Did anybody lose a contact lens?” The fact that she had found the lens was startling in itself, but how she found it was all the more so: an ant was carrying the contact lens, moving slowly across the face of the rock in plain view.

What does this tell us about the God of the universe? That God is in charge of the tiniest things? That ants matter to God? Of course God is and they do! But, as it so happened, Brenda’s father was a cartoonist. Upon hearing the incredible story, he drew a picture of the ant lugging the contact lens with the caption: “Lord, I don’t know why you want me to carry this thing. I can’t eat it and it’s awfully heavy. But, if this is what you want me to do, I’ll carry it for you.”

Let’s all be sure to be on the lookout this summer, wherever we may be, for those God-moments. The Bible makes clear that God delights in speaking to us in the most unexpected ways and places, maybe most especially when the way is difficult and we don’t understand just where we are heading. May God bless you and yours in your journeys in God this summer!

Pastor Tom

News from Miss Laurie

Summer is here, hooray! I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather and the beauty of God's well-watered creation! Things are so green and healthy looking – it's like looking into Oz! Enjoy this weather while you can, because I'm sure the "heat" is coming!!

Even though it started out rainy, we finished another successful Strawberry Festival! The "Celebration Station" was hopping from 1:00 to closing! The line for face painting was long, but with the amazing artwork Missy (and Reagan) created, it was definitely worth the wait! While they waited, Sunny read some great books and Monsieur Alphie shared some "hysterically funny jokes" (HIS words, not mine) with the children. And the Celebration Choir did a FANTASTIC job during their performance! It was an amazing day!

Our next BIG event is VBS from July 23rd – 27th! Mark your calendar and join us for "Rolling River Rampage" where we'll experience the ride of a lifetime with God! You can register on-line, through my weekly e-mail or by hard copy (available in the vestibule). Please let me know if you'd like to help! We'll wrap things up on Sunday, July 29th, with our VBS Closing Program followed by the Sunday School picnic! **And if I'm not mistaken, Jim Watson plans to resurrect** the "Water Balloon Extravaganza" afterward as well!!

In August, we'll be selling Subway cards as a fundraiser for the Knoebel's trip in September. With the money we raise, we'll purchase ride tickets for all the children who attend as well as some 3 foot subs for everyone to enjoy at the picnic. The date for the Annual Congregational Picnic and Knoebel's Outing is September 9th! Mark your calendars and join us for the fun!!

Also in August, we're planning a "Drive-in Movie Night" for Saturday, August 18th. As we get closer, I'll keep you posted with more information in my weekly e-mail.

With all the holiday outings and summer travels, be safe, and have an awesome summer!

Miss Laurie

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

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



Find us on
Facebook

Outdoor Schedule

*July 1 - Colonial
Order for Holy
Communion*

July 15

*July 29 - VBS Closing
Program and Annual
Picnic*

*Aug 19 - Annual Old
Fashioned Hymn Sing*

*Sept 2 - Holy
Communion*

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

In addition to our two new doctors reported last month, we celebrate with our high school graduates – **Caleb Enders** and **Austin Specht** from Upper Dauphin Area High School on May 30 and **Tyler D'Alesandro** and **Tanner Schlegel** from Line Mountain Area High School on May 24, as well as with our recent graduates receiving undergraduate degrees:

+**Benjamin Paul** and **Bobby Paul** who received their Bachelor's Degrees from Bloomsburg University on May 12.

+**Whitni Rudisill** who also graduated from Bloomsburg University on May 12 with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree and who has now accepted a position as a Registered Nurse on a cardiac floor at UPMC Pinnacle in Harrisburg.

+**Cody Thompson** who received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy from Elizabethtown College on May 19.

In addition, **Brianna Henry** graduated from the University of South Dakota on May 5 with her Master's Degree in Biology. Bri has now taken a position as a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Fort Collins, CO.

We pray God's blessing on these folks and their families as they celebrate these milestones and look to new opportunities and challenges. If we have missed any congregational family graduates, or if there are corrections or additional information to be shared, please contact Pastor Tom and it will be included a future *Epistle*.

Annual Yard sale!

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 9, from 9:00 A.M. - ?; Friday, August 10, from 9:00 A.M. - ?; and Saturday, August 11, from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon. Help will also be needed with setting up for the Yardsale, traditionally on the preceding Tuesday and Wednesday, as well as with the packing up of any leftovers, traditionally on the following Monday, but please contact Fay Nichols (717.433.4483) for details on these times. 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 Font

On the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 20, Pastor Tom presided as **Kelsey Henninger**, who had previously completed two years of instruction with him, made affirmation of her baptism and was confirmed. May God bless our Sister in Christ in this faith milestone!



VBS Registration Form

Student's Name _____

Parent/Family/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Numbers Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____

Last school grade completed _____

Home Church _____

Friends of your child at this church _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Dismissal Information

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Other Information (church use only)

Hero Group _____

Are parents/guardians/family members helping with VBS Hero Central? _____

If yes, where? _____

★ IF your child has Special Needs, please also fill out the form on the back! ★

Youth Group News

As our High School youth are returning from Houston, our Junior youth are recovering from a long fun yet productive day! The Junior youth participated in a project here at the church, fueled up on some pizza and headed out to Adventure Sports in Hershey!

We would like to take this moment to thank the whole congregation for always supporting us in any and all ways possible.

Our Little Caesars helped our Houston kids cut the cost of their daily expenses and we were able to feed the younger youth through donations during their service project/fun day on June 30.

Looking forward Vacation Bible School will be starting July 24, from 6:30 -8:45 all week long. The high school kids will be doing an outdoor service project on the church grounds and we need all the help we can get! We will be using paint so if you attend please remember to wear old clothes!! The closing program and the Annual Church Picnic will be held on July 29! Hope to see you there!!

If anyone has leftover outdoor paint they would like to donate we would greatly appreciate the contribution!

Emergency Contact Papers

We are asking all youth group members to fill out the forms located on the bulletin board! They are for gathering contact information for our youth so in the event of an emergency the youth group advisors have all necessary information needed to provide the proper care for our youth!

Service Projects

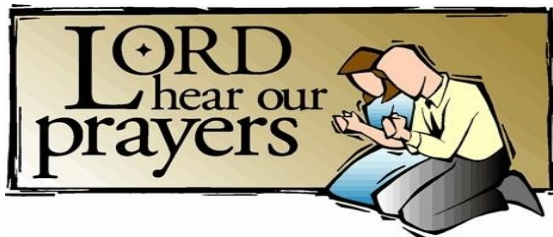
The Youth Group is always looking for service projects within our community. If you know someone or something that is in need please let any Youth Group Advisor know!

Help Needed!

Our Altar Guild is seeking new members to help with the preparation of our altar and baptismal font for worship. It is hoped that, with the addition of some new members, each person or couple would be responsible for no more than one month each year, and training is provided. To learn more, please speak with Carol Hassinger or Pastor Tom.

WELCA News

The Women of the church have had a busy summer!! Jammin with Jam at the Strawberry Festival was a great success. Thank You to everyone who participated in any way! Please stay tuned for what's ahead and ways to get involved!!



HOSPITALIZED/RESIDING IN SENIOR LIVING/DEALING WITH ACUTE ILLNESS

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

Warren Hassinger – Room #107, Providence Place, 24 Hikes Hollow Road, Pine Grove, 17963

Marzette Hoffman – Room #105, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg

Ronald Hoover – Room #101, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg

Marlin Koppenhaver - Room #12, Green Valley Skilled Nursing & Rehab. Center, 200 Taylorsville Road, Pitman, 17964

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

Cora Mace – Rm. #2822, Ben Franklin, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022

Martha Rebuck – Rm. #36, Stonebridge Health and Rehab. Center, 102 Chandra Drive, Duncannon, 17020

Helen Schade – Rm # 218, Traditions of Hershey, 100 North Larkspur Drive, Palmyra, 17078

July Worship Schedule

July Gifts

Konde Diocese -

Altar Guild
Lector

Mike and Carol Hubler
Carl Baumgardner

Celebrate Inserts -

Tom & Donna
Rabenold

Tree 4 Hope -

Kim & Bob Hassinger

Altar Flowers

July 1

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

July 8

Rebecca Conte

July 15

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

July 22

*Lynn and Helen
Henninger*

July 29

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

**as of print date,
subject to change*

Usher's for the Month of July: Darrell Denlinger (L)
Cheryl Shadle (E), Barry Williard and Kim Williard (LAY)

July 1, 2018

Colonial Order

Holy Communion

Greeter

Robert and Faye Weaver

July 8, 2018

Greeter

Lynn and Helen Henninger

July 15, 2018

Outdoor Worship

Greeter

Janet and Darrell Denlinger

July 22, 2018

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Greeter

Jeff Buffington

July 29 2018

Outdoor Worship

VBS Closing Program

Greeter

Harold and Pat Herb



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
July 2018						
1 6th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP – Colonial Order with Holy Communion 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger Late Day – St. John Delegation returns from National Youth Gathering	2	3 Thomas, Apostle 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting	4	5	6	7 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
8 7th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger 10:30 Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting 7:30 Congregational Council Meeting	9 <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i> Pastor Tom at Seminary in Gettysburg for Contin- uing Education Class from the Afternoon of the 9 th Through the Evening of the 12 th	10	11	12	13	14 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
15 8th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger 10:30 Covered Dish Dinner Mark- ing Pastor Tom's 30 th Anniversary of Ordination	16	17 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting	18	19	20	21 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
22 9th Sunday after Pentecost/ Mary Magdalene, Apostle 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word, with Sacrament of Holy Baptism 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger	23 6:30 – 8:45 Vacation Bible School	24 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:30 – 8:45 Vacation Bible School	25 James, Apostle 6:30 – 8:45 Vacation Bible School	26 6:30 – 8:45 Vacation Bible School	27 6:30 – 8:45 Vacation Bible School	28 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
29 10th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 OUTDOOR WORSHIP – Vacation Bible School Closing Program 11:30 Annual Sunday School Pic- nic	30	31				

August Worship Schedule

August Gifts

Konde Diocese -

Altar Guild
Lector

Jean and Fred Weaver
The Ray and Joyce Motter Family

Celebrate Inserts -

Usher's for the Month of August: Carol Hassinger (L)
John Ferree (E), Dale Hssinger and Randy Paul (LAY)

Matt & Olivia Williard

Tree 4 Hope -

August 5 2018
Holy Communion

Greeter Fred and Jean Weaver

August 12, 2018

Greeter The Clint Gehring Family

Altar Flowers

August 5

August 19, 2018
Outdoor Worship

Greeter The Lehman Family

August 12

Matt Williard

August 26, 2018
Holy Communion

Greeter Ronald and Bonnie Erb

August 19

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

August 26

Hassinger Reunion

**as of print date,
subject to change*

August 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
5 11 th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger	6	7 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting	8	9 <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i> 9:00 – ?? Annual Congregational Yardsale for Domestic Disaster Relief	10 9:00 – ?? Annual Congregational Yardsale for Domestic Disaster Relief	11 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off 9:00 – 12:00 Annual Congregational Yardsale Concludes
12 12 th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger	13	14 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Faith Formation Team Gathering 7:15 Youth Group Advisor Quarterly Meeting	15 Mary, Mother of Our Lord <i>Deadline to Submit Items for September "St. John's Epistle"</i>	16	17 Rehearsal for Feidt/Paul Wedding	18 Marriage of Sara Feidt and Joshua Paul
19 13 th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger	20 <i>Pastor Tom on Vacation today through Wednesday, August 29, returning to the office on Thursday, August 30</i>	21	22	23	24 Bartholomew, Apostle	25 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
26 14 th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger	27	28	29 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.	30 <i>Pastor Tom Returns to the Office</i>	31	

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE