

ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BERRYSBURG, PA JULY/AUGUST 2021



Dear Friends in Jesus,

By the time you are reading these lines, we will be in the thick of summer. With so many of us now fully vaccinated and so many COVID-related restrictions being eased or lifted, and after the strangeness of last summer, I'm guessing that is going to mean increased travel, especially on the weekends, for many of us – maybe more traveling than we've done for many years. Heading north to a family cottage, taking the camper to a favorite campground, even heading across the country – the change of pace and scenery are the stuff of wonderful summer memories! But as you enjoy that change of pace and scenery, one thing that shouldn't and doesn't have to change is the weekly rhythm of worship with fellow Christians. This summer more than ever before, being too far away to make it back here to your congregational family home for worship doesn't mean that you have to miss being fed in worship.

For one thing, even in the most remote places, we are never more than a reasonable drive from a Sunday in-person gathering of fellow Christians. And many state parks, national parks, and private campgrounds offer Sunday worship opportunities - Ann and I spent several summers in our younger years involved in this work. Please let me know if I can ever be of help in locating a Lutheran Christian congregational family near where you are headed (or you can use the congregational locator tool on elca.org). And if there isn't a Lutheran Christian gathering nearby, no problem! It can be a great and invigorating experience to be in worship with Christians from another branch of the One Christian Family. Please let me know about the experiences you have and bring along a bulletin if you think of it.

AND, now that our Sunday morning congregational family worship is available on Zoom as well as in person, as long as you have access to a device that is connected to the internet in some fashion, you can stay right where you are – jammies and all, if you wish 😊 – and be present in worship here at St. John across the miles, even across the country (or world).

Whatever you do, please don't miss out, and may your travels be safe ones, and your homecomings joyful ones!

Pastor Tom

News from Miss Laurie, Young Christians Minister

Happy super summer, everyone! I hope everyone is enjoying all the summer-time fun! Here are a few activities you'll want to work into your busy schedules:

- Pastor Tom and I will be doing 2 **Drive-through Communion**s in July – July 4th and July 11th. Come and partake of the sacrament on either or BOTH Sundays!
- Knights of North Castle will be taking over the grounds of St. John's on **July 19th through the 23rd!!** Join us each evening from 6:30 – 8:45 as we “armor up” to be strong in the Lord!! **Pre-registration for our adventure is required** – a registration form is included in this newsletter. I will also attach a form to my weekly email. Because VBS will be outside, our committee decided that **masks will be optional** – you can decide for your child what you are comfortable with.
- We're wrapping up the week of VBS with another “**Drive-in Movie Night**” on Friday, **July 23rd!**
- Make sure your plans include our “**Voices and Vittles**” **Celebration** on **July 25th** – it's our VBS Closing during worship followed by a covered-dish luncheon!
- The fun continues in August as we bring back one of our favorite activities – “**Water Fun Night**”! Join us on **Friday, August 6th** at 6:00 and prepare to get a good soaking!
- The **Drive-through Communion** for August is Sunday, **August 15th**.
- On **Friday, August 27th**, we'll say goodbye to summer with a final “**Drive-in Movie Night**”!

We hope you'll be able to join us for ALL of our fun activities! Have a GREAT summer and be SAFE!! See you at the Celebration!!

Miss Laurie

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

We celebrate with our newest high school graduates, all from Upper Dauphin Area High School this year – **Lilly Boyer, Serene Boyer, Gracie Gehring, Owen Mattern, and Kinsley Schreffler**. Lilly had the honor of being named Class Valedictorian, holding the highest grade point average in her graduating class, while Gracie, Owen, and Kinsley qualified for and were presented with our **St. John Scholarship for Faith and Education** on their (virtual) class award night, held June 2. In addition, Owen held the office of Class President and Lilly the office of Class Secretary for their senior year.

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



Join us for VBS!

July 19th – 23rd

6:30 – 8:45 pm

on the grounds of St. John's





VBS Registration Form

Knight's Name _____

Parent/Family/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____ Last school grade completed _____

Home Church (if any) _____

Friends of your child at this church _____

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other: _____

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

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

Photo Release: _____ Church/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____

----- (for church use only) -----

Assigned to Knight Group: _____

Are family members helping with Knights of North Castle? _____ If yes, where? _____

St. John's Youth Group

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

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

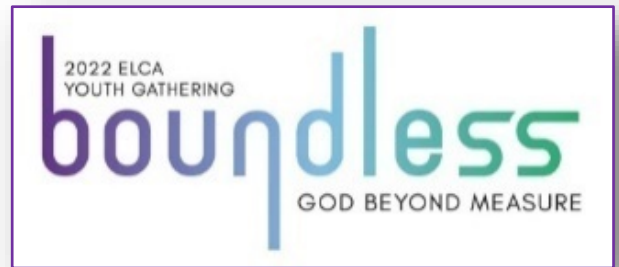
ELCA Gathering Website: www.elca.org/youthgathering



Remember: Masks are required at all church / youth group in-person events!!!

Happy Summer, everyone!!! The following are some youth group items to consider and mark on your calendar:

The Gathering: Planning is underway here on The Hill for the 2022 ELCA National Youth Gathering. *Any youth group member just finishing 8th through 12th grade in the spring of 2022 are eligible to attend the Gathering in 2022.*



The Gathering will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota from Sunday, July 24, 2022 to Thursday, July 28, 2022. This 5-day adventure is filled with many faith formation opportunities. We will engage in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service, and fellowship time. Every evening we gather in our small group for the Final 15. This is a time to talk about our day, our experiences, and just enjoy each other's company. It promises to be a life-changing, faith-strengthening, fun time. We suggest visiting the ELCA Youth Gathering website for more information, signing up for their newsletter, and liking their Facebook page.

Knoebels Tickets: We still have Knoebels ride ticket books available if you know of anyone interested in purchasing some. They are \$18.00 each for a \$20.00 book. Your summer isn't complete without a trip to Knoebels! Don't forget!! The tickets never expire!! Please contact Olivia Williard for tickets.

Youth Group Meetings: The summer youth group meetings are set for Tuesday, June 22nd and Tuesday, July 13th. There will not be a meeting in August. The meetings will run from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Watch your email for more details about the meetings.

Fundraising: With the Gathering just over a year away and many other fun outings planned as things open back up again, we will be doing a lot of fundraising. What are your ideas?! Send any fundraising ideas to one of the youth advisors.

JULY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Thomas, Apostle Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
4 6 th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study on Zoom 9:30am - Outdoor Worship (Both In-Person and on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person at the Church) 10:30am - Pavilion/Drive Through Holy Communion with Pastor Tom & Miss Laurie Independence Day	5 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours	6 9:30am - Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting	7 7pm - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals	8	9 <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	10 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
11 7 th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study on Zoom 9:30am – Outdoor Worship (Both In-Person and on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person at the Church) 10:30am - Pavilion/Drive Through Holy Communion with Pastor Tom & Miss Laurie <i>(Mutual Ministry Committee will meet in the pavilion immediately following serving of Holy Communion)</i> <i>(The Women of the ELCA of St. John will meet in the conference room immediately following serving of Holy Communion)</i> 7pm - Congregational Council Midsummer Meeting	12	13 6-8pm - Youth Group Outing	14 7pm - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals	15	16	17 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off 10am - Lower Susquehanna Synod Womens' Organization Convention Planning Committee Meeting
18 8 th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study on Zoom 9:30am - Worship (Both In-Person and on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person at the Church)	19 6:30-8:45pm - Vacation Bible School <i>Knights of the North Castle</i>	20 6:30-8:45pm - Vacation Bible School <i>Knights of the North Castle</i>	21 6:30-8:45pm - Vacation Bible School <i>Knights of the North Castle</i> 7pm - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals	22 Mary Magdalene, Apostle 6:30-8:45pm - Vacation Bible School <i>Knights of the North Castle</i>	23 6:30-8:45pm - Vacation Bible School <i>Knights of the North Castle</i>	24 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
25 9 th Sunday after Pentecost/James, Apostle 10am – Outdoor Worship – Celebration Worship with Vacation Bible School Closing Program 11:15am - Annual "Voices & Vittles" Covered Dish Picnic	26	27	28 7pm - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals Set-Up for Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims	29 Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims	30 Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims	31 Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

AUGUST 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study on Zoom 9:30am - Worship (<u>Both</u> In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person at the Church)	2 Tear-Down from Congregational Yard Sale to Benefit Disaster Victims	3	4 7pm - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals	5	6 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours Water Fun Night with Miss Laurie	7 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
8 11th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study on Zoom 9:30am - Worship (<u>Both</u> In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person at the Church)	9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East	10	11 7pm - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals	12	13	14 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
15 12th Sunday after Pentecost/Mary, Mother of Our Lord 8:45am - Adult Bible Study on Zoom 9:30am - Outdoor Worship (<u>Both</u> In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person at the Church) 10:30am - Pavilion/Drive Through Holy Communion with Pastor Tom & Miss Laurie Deadline to Submit Items for September "St. John's Epistle"	16	17 6:30pm – Faith Formation Team Gathering	18 7pm - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals	19	20	21 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
22 13th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study on Zoom 9:30am - Worship (<u>Both</u> In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person at the Church)	23	24 Bartholomew, Apostle	25 7pm - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals	26	27	28 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
29 14th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study on Zoom 9:30am - Worship (<u>Both</u> In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person at the Church)	30	31				

Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday: 8am – 9:30am

Wednesday, Thursday: 8am – 12 noon

Friday: 8am - 9:30am

(Other times by appointment)

Contact Information

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Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch