

SAINT JOHN'S EPISTLE

JUNE 2012

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. BOX 270, BERRYSBURG, PA 17005

The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr., Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Well, June is almost upon us and that means it's Strawberry Festival time! That's right – as your family calendar hopefully already indicates, June 13 is the big day. But, as with any event of this size, there is a lot more going on than the actual hours of serving on June 13. Again this year, the following are some of the details to bear in mind:

+June 4, starting at 6:30 P.M. – the first work night to begin getting the pavilion cleaned up and ready for the Festival

+June 11, starting at 6:00 A.M. – the preparation of the barbecue and chicken corn soup at the home and shop of Henry & Lorraine Henninger (also note that, at approximately 6:00 P.M. that day, there is wrap-up work to be done as well – call Lorraine if you can help)

+June 12, starting at 6:00 P.M. – the cleaning and preparation of the strawberries at the home and shop of Henry & Lorraine Henninger

+June 12, starting at 6:30 P.M. – the final work night to finish the preparation of the pavilion and grove

+June 13, starting at 7:30 A.M. – food and other supplies are loaded up at the Henninger's for transportation to the pavilion

+June 13, starting at 8:30 A.M. – all of the final "moving around, hooking up, and plugging in" takes place at the grove and pavilion

+June 13, starting at 12:00 P.M. – we welcome our guests from the Manor at Susquehanna Village and prepare to open to the public

+June 13, starting at 1:00 P.M. – WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

+June 13, starting at 2:30 P.M. – entertainment by Brad Crum, appearing as Elvis

+June 13, starting after 4:30 P.M. – entertainment by gospel group, The Wehry Family

If all this seems like a lot of work, it is. But it is also a time period during which our congregational family comes together to share in the fellowship and laughter that go with that work, perhaps more than at any other time during the year. The Strawberry Festival is an event by which our caring and hospitality are known far and wide. The Strawberry Festival is an event by which we serve as Jesus served – on June 13 by providing a warm and loving and safe time of fun for the whole family, and throughout the following year by using the proceeds to help our neighbors in need and to do many benevolent projects that would not be possible otherwise. Please remember that this annual tradition belongs to all of us and requires the support of all of us. If for some reason you cannot help on June 13, please consider helping on some of the other important dates. If physical limitations prevent you from providing that kind of support, please provide your financial support, especially with the donations chart that will be posted in the foyer by the time you receive this *Epistle*. Just as there are many parts of the one Body – all of them needed – so too there are many kinds of help and support that make up the Strawberry Festival – all of them needed as well. Please see the list of committee assignments that was included with the May *Epistle*. If by chance you have lost or misplaced yours, please don't hesitate to contact me for another one.

Pastor Tom

SEARCH FOR NEW SEXTONS UNDERWAY

After 3½ years of faithful service, Carrie & Steve Schlegel will be ending their work as our sextons, effective June 4, to make a move to a new home in Pine Grove. Congregational Council is looking to fill this position as quickly as possible, ideally with a person/family from within our congregational family or with a person/family related to and recommended by someone within our congregational family. The position requires living in the sexton house, and provides that housing rent-free, along with a cash stipend of approximately \$100 per month. To learn more, please speak with Council President Jim Watson or Pastor Tom.

A LOOK TO THE FUTURE

Congregational Council is looking to form a group to provide prayerful study of our present building facilities and reflection on what God may be calling us to be and do in the future. It is planned that the group will begin its work first thing in the fall. If you would be interested in serving, or to learn more, please speak with President Jim Watson or Pastor Tom.

AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME A PART OF HISTORY

The May *St. John's Epistle* included a form with which anyone (including family members or friends of congregational members – even out of the area) can sign up and donate to be a patron of our forthcoming History Booklet, which will cover the years 1980 to 2010. Extra copies of the form are also available at the display in the foyer. The form is self-explanatory, but please don't hesitate to direct any questions to any member of the History Committee or to Pastor Tom. The Committee hopes to really get the word out about this opportunity to support the publication of the book throughout the summer, and especially at the Strawberry Festival, and would sure appreciate your help in passing the word along to anyone you know who might be interested and who wouldn't already have a form.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE

A registration form for *Amazing Desert Journey*, our 2012 Vacation Bible School, was included in each May *St. John's Epistle*. VBS will be held July 9-13, from 6:30 to 8:30 each evening, with a closing program on Sunday morning, July 15. Please observe the **earlier cut-off date for registrations – June 3** – which will help in planning and ordering materials. Please feel free to copy the registration form as many times as necessary, and don't hesitate to contact any member of Sunday School Teachers & Officers or Pastor Tom with any questions. We are looking forward to a truly fun and truly *Amazing Desert Journey* for all young persons through Grade 9!

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS!

On Sundays from June 3 through September 2 (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. A sign-up sheet is posted in the foyer. 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 with any questions.

SUMMER SCHEDULE RETURNS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

Based on the very positive feedback received last summer, Congregational Council, with the recommendation of Worship & Music Committee and Sunday School Teachers & Officers, has again approved the use of the “summer” Sunday morning schedule that we used last year on a trial basis. **Beginning on Sunday, July 1**, and running through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 2, we will gather for **Sunday School at 8:45 A.M.**, going straight into the lesson of the morning instead of our traditional opening. 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.

OUR FAITH ACTIVE IN OUR FINANCIAL GIVING – AS OF APRIL 30

In recent years, Congregational Council has asked that we all periodically receive an update in the *Epistle* about how we are doing in meeting our ministry commitments adopted in our annual budget.

First, our Current Fund... (The Current Fund is the fund from which most day-to-day bills get paid, much like your home’s checking account.) With 18 of 52 Sundays behind us as of April 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received and spent **\$44,074** out of our total 2012 budget of \$127,326. We have **actually received \$46,455** in offerings and other income, placing us \$2,381 over budget – the second year in a row – and only the second time in recent history – that our offerings have exceeded our budget goal at this point in the year. Our **expenses** as of the end of April total **\$45,030** and are \$956 over budget (mostly due to the timing of certain expenses, like synod assembly registrations and an end-of-season heating oil purchase). Since we have taken in more than we have spent, we are running a **surplus of \$1,425** as of April 30 – also for the second year in a row.

As to our benevolence offerings which we share with our Lower Susquehanna Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to be exactly on **budget** as of April 30, we would have received and forwarded **\$4,154** out of our total 2012 commitment of \$12,000. As of April 30, we have **actually received and shared a total of \$5,867**, meaning that we are **ahead** of our commitment by **\$1,713**.

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of St. John, and for your financial stewardship, as we have now moved past the 1/3 point in the year. Please watch for future updates every few months, and please feel free at any time to ask questions of or share ideas with Pastor Tom or any member of Council!

PASTORAL ACTS

At Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Betty Hassinger**, who died on April 26 at the Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, after an extended illness. Worship was held at the church on April 30, with interment in our church cemetery.

We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Betty, and the hope and joy of Jesus’ Easter Victory to Warren, Gail, Holly and the rest of Betty’s loved ones.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

In 1996, the LWR Coffee project was born. 16 years later, Lutherans' Commitment to Fair Trade is as strong as the coffee they drink.

Every time Lutherans use Fair Trade coffee in congregations, sell it to members and drink it at home, they minister to their coffee-growing neighbors around the world.

Here's what Lutherans have done through the LWR Coffee project:

- Drank 2.5 million pounds of Fair trade Coffee
- Raised \$566,000 for LWR Small Farmer Fund

Here at St John's our 1st order went out in Aug, 1999.

We have recently added Tea to our purchase orders and a few Chocolate candy bars in past years..

I've had to reduce the types of coffee I buy because mixing types in 1 box cost about 30% more than a single flavor in one box. With many flavors available a simple request to me and I would include yours on new orders.

We will continue our coffee/tea sampling program on the 2nd Sunday of each even month .

Our total orders since 1999 have now exceeded \$9,000 for St. John's.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to "help our neighbor to improve and protect his property and business". The bulk of the coffee is now being grown in an organic environment with limited destruction to the Tropical rain forest cover.

— Larry Glessner,
Coordinator



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JUNE 2012

Altar Guild for Month of June

Carol & Mike Hubler

Lector for Month of June

Lorraine Henninger

Ushers for June (L) Kris Kell, (E) Dan Langhans, Jean & Fred Weaver

JUNE 3, 2012

The Holy Trinity

Holy Communion

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Sunday School Superintendent-

Ken Koller

Sunday School Pianist-

Carol Hubler

Greeters-

Mike & Carol Hubler

JUNE 10, 2012

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent-

Fay Nichols

Sunday School Pianist-

Sandy Paul

Greeters-

The Tim Motter Family

Acolytes

Bryce Roadcap & Nick D'Alesandro

JUNE 17, 2012

OUTDOOR Worship

Father's Day

Sunday School Superintendent-

Larry Gessner

Sunday School Pianist-

Lois Watson

Greeters-

Gary & Betty Leitzel

JUNE 24, 2012

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost

John the Baptist

Sunday School Superintendent-

Lynn Henninger

Sunday School Pianist-

Judy Ferree

Greeter-

The Eric Mattern Family

Acolytes

Ryan Henninger & Bryce Roadcap


In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

June 2012



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 The Holy Trinity 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 OUTDOOR WORSHIP – Holy Communion</p>	<p>4 6:30 Pavilion Cleaning Night for Strawberry Festival</p>	<p>5 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.</p>	<p>6 Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of June 2)</p>		<p>1 Pastor Tom, Fay Nichols, & Nicholas Motter at Synod Assembly at Messiah College</p>	<p>2 Pastor Tom, Fay Nichols, & Nicholas Motter at Synod Assembly at Messiah College</p>
<p>10 The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word with (Guest Worship Leader – Mr. Ray Bush) Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Sunday</p>	<p>11 Barnabas, Apostle 6:00 A.M. – Soup and BBQ Preparation for Strawberry Festival at Henningers 6:00 P.M. Soup Wrap-up at Henningers Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off</p>	<p>12 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:00 Preparation of Strawberries for Festival at Henningers 6:30 Final Pavilion and Grove Set-Up for Strawberry Festival</p>	<p>13 ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 7:30 A.M. Set-up begins 1:00 P.M. Open to the Public </p>	<p>14 Flag Day</p>		<p>9 <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i> Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>17 The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 OUTDOOR WORSHIP Father's Day</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg. 1:00 Gathering with our Residents at The Manor at Susq. Village</p>	<p>20 <i>Deadline to Submit Items for July/August "St. John's Epistle"</i> Summer Begins</p>		<p>15 Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of June 23)</p>	<p>16 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>24 John the Baptist 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Honoring of High School Graduates</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg.</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Peter & Paul Apostles</p>	<p>30 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
						<p>23 St. John Hostis Annual Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Convention, Beginning with Worship at 10:00, Led by Bishop Pen Hoover and Pastor Tom</p>

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2012*

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Jim Watson.

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Daryl Denlinger, Jamie Doyle, Karen Gehring, Mike Henninger, Pat Herb, Craig Peters, Mary Peters and Jim Watson

Excused Absences – John Ferree, Carol Hassinger, and Kris Kell

Motion by Pat H., 2nd by Mike H. to accept the March Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: Thank you note from Ray & Vickie Bush for congregational support and Pastor & Jim W. completed congregational registration form.

Thank you from World Hunger Committee of Lower Susquehanna Synod for our contributions.

Thank you and Certificate from Bishop Hoover for our support and for meeting and exceeding our benevolence goal.

Request to tweak approval of Bryce W. 5 K to use church property including the use of the Sunday School room on 4/14. Council agreed.

Pastor's Report: Motion by Jamie, 2nd by Mike H. to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports: Motion by Craig P., 2nd by Mary P. to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Met 2/28 and discussed Air Pear fans for energy efficiency. Committee concerned due to horsehair ceiling and think that no fans should be put on the ceiling. Recommending that we just don't put in any fans not even window fans since services is in the morning when it's cooler.

Finance Committee: Dan Langhans & Lorraine Henninger led discussion on proposed investments from March meeting: \$50,000 in Mission Int'l ELCS which invests in other churches and \$50,000 in Lutheran Community Foundation which does not invest in other churches. Motion by Jim B to rescind this investment decision from March and 2nd by Jamie. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to put \$100,000 in Mission Investment Fund for 6 years at 3% APY by Finance Committee, 2nd by Pat H. Motion passed unanimously.

Worship & Music: Committee would like to pursue getting new robes for acolytes and Jim Watson. Louise, Lois and Sandy Paul will research and make recommendation or future action.

We will have special musical guest Dr. Bill Adams on clarinet at a future service.

Recommending earlier summer schedule from July to Labor Day consisting of Sunday School at 8:45 and church from 9:30-10:30am. This schedule was very positively received last year. Motion by Committee and 2nd by Committee. Motion passed unanimously. Committee will next meet in Sept.

Christian Education: Rachel's Day planning is underway for (1st Sunday in May) the linking of prayer partners. All children in the congregation would be linked with an adult for prayers for the coming year.

Bible School – Concordia material will be used again and “Amazing Desert Journey” is the theme.

Stewardship: No report

Evangelism committee: Looked at test website for the church which will be up and running in the next few weeks.

Carol Hassinger is working on time and talent sheet.

Youth Ministry: No report

Mutual Ministry: Had short meeting, no issues to report.

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report

History Committee: Working on patrons/ sponsors for history booklet which should be out by the 1st of the year.

Green Team: Working with Festival Committee to purchase biodegradable bowls for the upcoming Strawberry Festival.

Other Reports: Strawberry Festival Committee: Next meeting is 5/7 @6:30. Suggestion to video tape Festival preparation process and plan for transition in the future. Doing small amount of corn this year.

Unfinished Business: Jim W. conveyed our information over to Bergey Water to handle for the 2nd Quarter.

Pastor reported that the design was finalized for our presence on the placemats at the Hut Restaurant. It's a little larger than a business card and \$149 for 6 months of exposure. Should be in place in next month or so.

New Business: Discussion on need for Facilities Vision Group to explore the need for a Fellowship Hall, Strawberry Festival preparation facility and other spatial needs. The Council will give prayerful thought for the next meeting.

Pastor's vacation time will be:

Sunday, June 10, 2012 and a few days around that time

July 22 – National Youth Gathering, New Orleans

Monday July 30-Tuesday August 14

Tuesday Dec. 25 – Tuesday January 1, 2013

Jim Watson is available to cover all dates above.

Motion by Jamie, 2nd by Craig P. to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor looking into color copying capability for discussion at future meeting.

Next Council Meetings: May 6, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at the Church

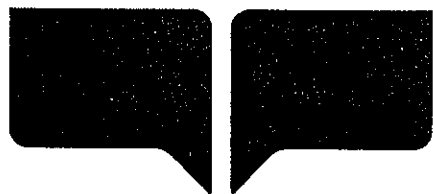
Adjournment: Motion by Mary, 2nd by Mike to adjourn at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

Treasurers Report for March 2012

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	7,851.80	10,604.32	11,611.28	6,844.84
Benevolence	65.67	1,520.00	1,520.00	65.67
Memorial	35,751.61	93,728.70	12.75	129,467.56
Improvement	2,777.30	2,348.00	1,723.40	3,401.90
Bicent CkAcct	12,280.57	.43	195.00	12,086.00
Bicent Svngs	5,300.19	-	-	5,300.19
Flower	179.21	220.00	80.00	319.21

Date	CHALLENGE	SURVEY	SAMPLER
June 1	Matthew 6:5--7:29	Matthew 6:5-15	Matthew 6:5-6
June 2	Matthew 8:1--9:34	Matthew 7:24-29	Matthew 9:27-31
June 3	Matthew 9:35--11:30	Matthew 9:35--10:9	Matthew 9:35-38
June 4	Psalms 78; Proverbs 24:1-34	Proverbs 24:1-24	Psalms 78:1
June 5	Matthew 12:1--13:52	Matthew 12:22-37	Matthew 13:1-9
June 6	Matthew 13:53--15:39	Matthew 13:44-52	Matthew 14:13-21
June 7	Matthew 16:1--17:27	Matthew 16:13-20	Matthew 16:24-25
June 8	Matthew 18:1--19:30	Matthew 18:21-35	Matthew 18:12-14
June 9	Matthew 20:1--21:22	Matthew 20:17-28	Matthew 20:25-28
June 10	Matthew 21:23--23:39	Matthew 22:15-33	Matthew 22:34-40
June 11	Psalms 80,81,82,84	Matthew 24:23-44	Psalms 84:1-4
June 12	Matthew 23:37--24:51	Matthew 25:31-46	Matthew 23:11-12
June 13	Matthew 25:1--26:46	Matthew 26:59-69	Matthew 26:47-50
June 14	Matthew 26:47--27:61	Matthew 27:24-54	Matthew 28:5-10
June 15	Matthew 27:62--28:20	Matthew 28:1-20	Matthew 28:19-20
June 16	1 Samuel 1:1--2:36	1 Samuel 1:1-28	1 Samuel 1:27-28
June 17	1 Samuel 3:1--4:22	1 Samuel 3:1--4:1	1 Samuel 3:10
June 18	Psalms 85, 86, 87, 88	Psalms 86:1-17	Psalms 86:15-17
June 19	1 Samuel 6:1--7:17	1 Samuel 7:2-17	1 Samuel 7:3-4
June 20	1 Samuel 8:1--9:26	1 Samuel 10:1-24	1 Samuel 9:15-17
June 21	1 Samuel 10:1--11:15	1 Samuel 13:1-14	1 Samuel 11:15
June 22	1 Samuel 12:1--14:52	1 Samuel 16:1-23	1 Samuel 14:52
June 23	1 Samuel 15:1--17:58	1 Samuel 17:12-58	1 Samuel 15:26
June 24	1 Samuel 18:1--19:24	1 Samuel 18:1-16	1 Samuel 16:1
June 25	Psalms 89; Proverbs 25:1-28	Psalms 89:19-37	Psalms 89:19-21
June 26	1 Samuel 20:1--21:15	1 Samuel 20:12-42	1 Samuel 16:6-12
June 27	1 Samuel 22:1--24:22	1 Samuel 24:1-22	1 Samuel 16:21-23
June 28	1 Samuel 25:1--26:25	1 Samuel 28:3-19	1 Samuel 17:25,31-37
June 29	1 Samuel 27:1--28:25	1 Samuel 28:3-19	1 Samuel 17:25
June 30	1 Samuel 29:1--31:13	1 Samuel 31:1-13	1 Samuel 17:38-47

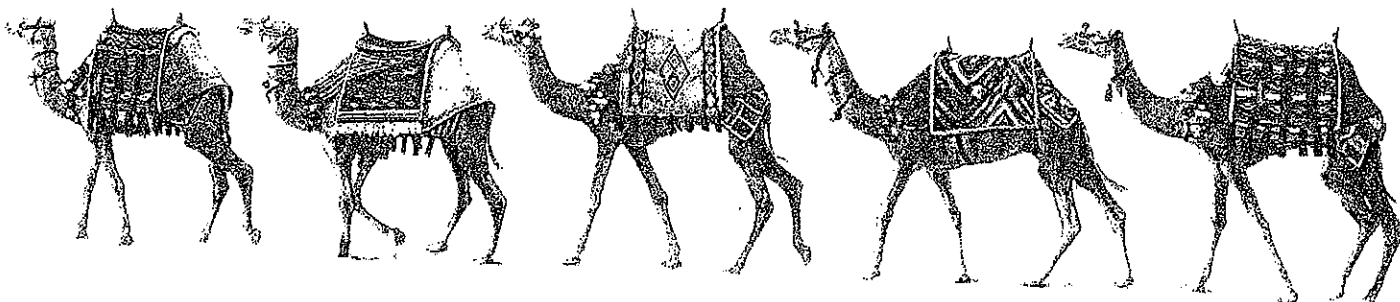


book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

AMAZING DESERT JOURNEY

Where Jesus Leads Us Home



Vacation Bible School Registration

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church

P O Box 270

Berrysburg, PA 17005

July 9 - 13, 2012

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Child's Name _____

Complete Address _____

Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Grade Completed _____ Phone Number _____

Parent's Signature _____

Classes are for students from Pre-school through ninth grades. All students under the age of three should be accompanied by an adult. If you bring a friend please have them fill out a registration form also. Additional forms can be attained by contacting Pastor Tom or Fay Nichols or your Sunday School Teacher. **Return the registration by May 31, 2012.**



U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit #2
 Millersburg, PA 17061
 Non-Profit Org.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. BOX 270
 BERRYSBURG, PA 17005

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

PARISH STAFF

**The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com.....362-9519 (O)
362-7895 (H)**

Sexton Position – Vacant as of June 4

Judith Ferree, Organist jjferree@epix.net.....362-4228

Sandra Paul, Secretary rbpaul@epix.net.....362-4117

James Watson, Council President loisbull17@gmail.com.....362-3247

Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator 362-9108

* * * * *

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)

Web sites of Interest: St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church www.stjohnhillchurch.org
 Ev. Lutheran Church in America www.elca.org
 Lower Susquehanna Synod www.lss-elca.org