

Greeting from your President:

We will be celebrating a special day in the life of our congregation!!

On Sunday, June 23rd we will join with Pastor Tom and his family to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his Ordination. The actual date was June 26, 1988. We invite our church family and friends to join in the celebration during the worship service, and also a covered dish social following the service in our pavilion. Please bring your favorite dish to share and join in the festivities.

Our congregation has been so blessed have Pastor Tom and his family spend over half of his time after his ordination with us at St. John's. Pastor Tom has devoted many years to the spiritual care of all our members and friends her at St. John's and in our community. Please join your church family to show him and his family our appreciation, and join in the fellowship to celebrate his wonderful occasion!

Very Truly Yours, Jim Watson, President

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

June is almost upon us and that means it's Strawberry Festival time! That's right – as your family calendar hopefully already indicates, <u>June 12</u> 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 12. Again this year, the following are some of the details to bear in mind:

- +June 3, starting at 6:30 P.M. the first work night to begin getting the pavilion cleaned up and ready for the Festival
- **+June 10, 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 11, starting at 6:00 P.M. the cleaning and preparation of the strawberries at the home and shop of Henry & Lorraine Henninger
- +June 11, starting at 6:30 P.M. the final work night to finish the preparation of the pavilion and grove
- +June 12, starting at 7:30 A.M. food and other supplies are loaded up at the Henninger's for transportation to the pavilion
- +June 12, 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 12, starting at 12:00 P.M. we welcome our guests from the Manor at Susquehanna Village and prepare to open to the public
 - +June 12, starting at 1:00 P.M. WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 - +June 12, starting at 2:30 P.M. entertainment by Brad Crum, appearing as Elvis
- +June 12, 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 12 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 12, 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 Pastor Tom for another one.



HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES TO BE HONORED

During worship on Sunday, June 16, we will take time to recognize our 2013 high school graduates. We look forward to honoring: from Halifax Area High School, Cody Thompson, and, from Upper Dauphin Area High School, Timothy Bruner, Olivia Enders and Kaylene Maurer. Please plan to be present that morning, to add your personal congratulations and prayers!

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS!

On Sundays from June 2 through September 1 (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".

GREEN TEAM

The Green Team invites you to participate in a field trip to the home of Dennis and Mary Ann Smeltz to learn about their Solar energy system on Sunday, July 14, 2013. We will meet at the church at 1:30pm to carpool over to their home which is located outside of Dalmatia. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the church foyer if you are interested.



SUMMER SCHEDULE RETURNS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

As we have done for the past two summers, beginning on Sunday, July 7, and running through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 1, 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.



Taking Root

Hunger
Causes
Hunger
Hopes

Vacation Bible School Registration

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church P O Box 270 Berrysburg, PA 17005

July 15 - 19, 2013

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Complete Address

Child's Name

Date of Birth _____ Age ____

Grade Completed _____ Phone Number ____

Parent's Signature

Classes are for students from Pre-School through Jr & Sr. High 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 June 17, 2013.

TIME TO SIGN UP FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

A registration form for Vacation Bible School (VBS) is included later in this *Epistle*. VBS will be held July 15-19, from 6:30 to 8:30 each evening, with a closing program on Sunday morning, July 21. We are using a new and exciting curriculum this year, which has been prepared by the World Hunger Appeal of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, entitled Taking Root: Hunger Causes, Hunger Hopes. As is the case each year, there will be classes available for young persons from Pre-School through Senior High (note that this latter category is a slight change - no longer cutting VBS off at Grade 9 for older youth would like to participate). 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. Planning is well underway, including help from some brand new faces, the excitement is building, and now your help is needed. Please "talk it up" and share the enclosed registration form with your young persons and their friends. Feel free to make as many copies of the form as you need, or see Pastor Tom for more, and please do your best to return your registrations to Pastor Tom or to any Sunday School teacher by mid-June. And please 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 inspiring week for all young persons!

BIBLE STUDY

The bible study class is currently studying the book of John. One of the sessions was on John 13: 1-35. If you are not familiar with this scripture, it pertains to Jesus washing the disciples' feet and giving them a new commandment to love one another.

It was suggested in the workbook that we could write a poem pertaining to this scripture. I decided that I would do this and I would like to share it with you in this epistle. It reads as follows:

Living To Serve

Jesus came to earth to serve His love and compassion we don't deserve He was sent by God from heaven above To show us examples of unconditional love

He loved his disciples from beginning to end He was their teacher but called them friends He humbled himself and washed their feet An act of Godly love so sweet

He gave us a new commandment for today To love each other which is God's way May we always remember His love so deep And do our best His commandments to keep

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Pat Herb



BIB APRONS

The Bicentennial Committee has recently agreed to purchase bib aprons to be used by members of St. John's for various church functions such as the Strawberry Festival, Lenten Supper, Youth Group dinners, funeral luncheons, etc.

The committee decided to make them available for members wishing to purchase their own. The cost of the apron would be \$7.00.

The apron has three divided pockets, adjustable neck strap, and 36" ties. The color of the apron will be slate with three lines of embroidery which will be in red. The three lines on the apron will read as follows:

St. John Church The "Hill" Church Berrysburg, PA

If anyone is interested in purchasing their own, someone will be available in the Sunday School room immediately after the worship service on the following Sundays; May 26, June 2, June 9.

If you have questions regarding the aprons please contact Pat Herb. Thank you.



CONGRATULATIONS, NEW PARENTS!

The congregation's prayers and congratulations go to Roy & Rachel Henry and their family upon the birth of Derrick Bradley Henry at 11:38 P.M. on May 15 at Harrisburg Hospital. Although he was born more than four weeks prematurely, Derrick weighed in at 8.8 pounds and was 20¾ inches long! Having been born prematurely, it is planned that Derrick will spend one to two weeks in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Harrisburg Hospital, where he is as this *Epistle* goes to press. Congratulations!

UPDATES FOR CONGREGATIONAL DIRECTORY

To keep your congregational pictorial directory up to date, please make the following third set of changes in the address section. If you would like another copy of the first set of changes, published in the February, 2012 *St. John's Epistle*, or the second set of changes, published in the October, 2012 *Epistle*, please contact Pastor Tom (further updates will be published periodically in future issues of the *Epistle*):

Additions

If you haven't already, please add the new members we received since the second update:

KELL, John (J.C.) III

Jennifer

PO Box 325

Elizabethville, PA 17023

717-574-8851

STEIGMAN, Eric & Holly

Isabella

917 Small Valley Road

Halifax, PA 17032

717-362-7995

Other Changes/Corrections

- 1. Ned Weaver deceased on September 24
- 2. New address for Ryne Crabb: 32 P. St. #1, Boston, MA 02127
- 3. New address for Marie Switzer and for Gwen Switzer: 27 Shartlesville Road, Bernville, PA 19506
- 4. New address for Miana Erdman: 517 W. Main St., Valley View, PA 17983
- 5. New address for Natalie Matter DeSoto: 247 West Broad St., Elizabethville, PA 17023
- 6. Sara Neagley deceased on January 14
- 7. Shirley Henninger deceased on January 30
- 8. Remove Kris Poole transferred membership
- 2. Remove Byron Hoover resigned membership

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.

Regarding 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 17 of 52 Sundays behind us as of April 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received and spent \$42,364 out of our total 2013 budget of \$129,586. We have actually received \$43,817 in offerings and other income, placing us \$1,453 ahead of budget – the third year in a row – and only the third 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 \$41,619 and are \$745 under budget. Since we have taken in more than we have spent, we are running a surplus of \$2,198 as of April 30 – also for the third year in a row.

Three observations from Pastor Tom (the old accountant) about these financial results at this 1/3 point in the year: First, the amount by which our giving exceeds budget (\$1,453) is less than it was at this point last year, which in turn was less than it was at the same point in 2011. This means that, while our giving continues to exceed our budget commitments, it is increasing more slowly than our budget (which increased 2.1% in 2012 and 1.0% this year), which, in turn, means that, should this pattern continue, at some point down the road our giving will not cover the ministry commitments in our budget. Second, while it is always great to have expenses running under budget, this is more a result of the timing of our expenses, with some large bills that don't hit until the end of the year. The reality is that we have a very tight budget, with very little in the way of cushion, so we will almost certainly have expenses which equal our budget by December 31. Third, and most importantly, the bottom line is that our ministry here together continues to be very blessed, especially in light of the continued struggles of our economy and this year's increase in social security tax withholding, so these are merely things of which we should be aware as we go forward together in faith!

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 \$3,923 out of our total 2013 commitment of \$12,000. As of April 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of \$4,575, meaning that we are **ahead** of our commitment by \$652.

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of St. John, and for your financial stewardship. 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 the Font

Pastor Tom presided as four of our young members affirmed their baptisms and were confirmed on The Day of Pentecost, May 19. Having completed catechetical instruction with Pastor Tom, Hanna Houtz, Allison Mace, Bryce Roadcap and Blair Warner made their promises during 10:15 A.M. worship. Afterward, they were each honored with, among other things, copies of our two past congregational history books and a decorative keepsake cross provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. We pray God's blessings upon these young persons, that they may be faithful and active servants of God through the coming years!



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JUNE 2013

Altar Guild for Month of June

Carol & Mike Hubler

Lector for Month of June

Lorraine Henninger

Ushers for June (L) Karen Gehring, (E Ken Koller, Jean & Fred Weaver

JUNE 2, 2013

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-

Larry Gessner

Sunday School Pianist-

Lois Watson
The Eric Mattern Family

Greeters-Acolytes

Ryan Henninger & Cameron Thompson

IUNE 9, 2013

The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent-

Lynn Henninger

Sunday School Pianist-GreetersJudy Ferree

Acolytes

The D'Alesandro Family
Gracie Gehring & Allison Mace

IUNE 16, 2013

The 4th Sunday after Pentecost

OUTDOOR Worship

Father's Day

Sunday School Superintendent-

Sunday School Pianist-

Jeff Lehman

Jean Weaver

Bob & Faye Weaver

TUNE 23, 2013

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-

Ken Koller

Sunday School Pianist-

Louise Baumgardner

Greeter-

Greeters-

Lynn & Helen Henninger

Acolytes

Tyler D'Alesandro & Bryce Roadcap

JUNE 30, 2013

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent-

Fay Nichols

Sunday School Pianist-

Sandy Paul

Greeter-

The Denlinger Family

Acolytes

Owen Mattern & Cameron Thompson

June 2013



ST. JOHN'S EVENGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed		Thu	Fri	Sat
								3:00 Marriage of Holly Billow & Corey Scheib
e N	2 The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	3	4	5	2	6 Evening -	7	8 Fay Nichols and Jim
7:0:5	10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 7:00 Pastor Tom Speaks at Upper	for Strawberry Festival	Conf. Pastors Mtg.	(instead of June 1)	me 1)	Watson at Lower Susq. Synod	Watson at Lower Susq. Synod Assembly at	Watson at Lower Susq. Synod Assembly at Messiah College
	Dauphin Area High School Baccalaureate			3-4		Assembly at Messiah College	Messiah College	7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church Pastor Tom's Day Off
<u> </u>	9 The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	10 6:00 A.M Soup and BBQ Preparation for Strawberry	11 Barnabas, Apostte 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mig.	12 ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL	RRY	13	14	15 Pastor Tom's Day Off
Dey Dey	Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, \Beginning in the Middle East	Festival at Henningers 6:00 P.M. Soup Wrap-up at Henningers	6:00 Preparation of Strawberries for Festival at Henninger's	7:30 A.M. Set-up beging 1:00 P.M. Open to the Public	up begins to the Public			
	5 THE STATE OF THE		6:30 Final Pavilion and Grove Set-Up for Strawberry Festival				Flag Day	
99 60	16 The 4th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School	17 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly	18 10:00 Pastor Tom at	ಹ		20	21	22 Pastor Tom's Day Off
<u>7</u> 5	10:15 <u>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</u> Including Recognition of High School Graduates	Extra Day Off	1:00 Gathering with our Residents at The Manor at Suson Village			Items for July/August "St. John's Epistle"		Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Convention
Ŋ	23 The 5th Sunday after	24 John the Baptist	25 10:00 Pastor Tom at	26		27	28	29 Peter and Paul, Apostles
 	Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Litural of Holy Communion		Conference Pastors Mtg.	······································				Pastor Tom's Day Off
≒ , 5	with Recognition of Pastor Tom's 25th Anniversary of Ordination 11:15 Anniversary Covered Dish							
90 3	30 The 6th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School							
10: Pas	10:15 Liturgy of the Word Guest worship Leader – Jim Watson Pastor Tom's Day Off							

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting Minutes April 14, 2013

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

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Karen Gehring, Carol Hassinger, Kris Kell, Craig Peters, Jim Watson, John Ferree, Cheryl Shadle and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences - Eric Mattern, Jamie Doyle, Ken Koller, and Sandra Shade

Motion by John Ferree, 2nd by Cheryl Shadle to accept the March Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: Motion by Karen Gehring, 2nd by Jim Bullock to give \$200 gift to Sing for Joy. Motion passed unanimously.

Henry Henninger stated that the Property committee had its' meeting and discussed planning for finishing the barn on the south side. Mike Leitzel and his father will do it for no charge while they are doing the siding. The Property Committee wanted council's permission to leave the East side doors open as well as the big sliding doors, while closing the two smaller doors. The materials were purchased two years ago, although it was not completed. Craig Peters made the motion to accept Property Committee recommendation to leave the East side doors open as well as the big sliding doors, while closing the two smaller doors, 2nd by Carol Hassinger. Motion passed unanimously.

Henry Henninger also discussed that the Bicentennial Fund pays for all paper products used all year long, although they are currently stored at his shop and brought to the church as they need replenished. He proposed that cabinets with shelves be built in the nursery up to 5 ft. high to store the paper products. Carol Hassinger made a motion to approve building the cabinets to store the paper products, 2nd by Cheryl Shadle. Motion passed unanimously. Henry will be bringing an estimate to the next meeting for the cost of the cabinets.

Thank you from Lower Susquehanna Synod for exceeding our contributions.

Motion was made by John Ferree, 2nd by Craig Peters to approve a \$200 gift to YMCA for their capital campaign. This is an increase from previous \$100 gift. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Motion by John Ferree, 2nd by Karen Gehring to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports: Motion by John Ferree, 2nd by Kris Kell to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Above information from Henry Henninger, with a meeting being held tomorrow at 7:00 pm

Finance Committee: No meeting

Worship & Music: Discussion of video of worship on the church website, decision tabled until next meeting. Pastor Tom will obtain information from other churches on what they do.

Christian Education: Cody Thompson and Mike Foltz will be back for the Congregational picnic. The committee is looking for teachers for Sunday School. Summer Sunday School will be comprised of three classes: K-4, 5-Sr. High, and one adult class. The week of July 4th Sunday School start time will be changed to beginning at 8:45. The congregational square dance will be held September 29, 2013. Ann Bruner will be getting the library committee together. Walk in the Woods will be held on October 6, 2013. It will be combined with a ride on the Millersburg Ferry. Sunday School hour activities on Christmas and Easter are being modified.

Stewardship: No report

Evangelism committee: No report Next meeting Tuesday April 16th

Youth Ministry: Winding down for the end of the year. Sunday May 5th they will be serving a banquet at the Berrysburg community center as a fund raiser.

Mutual Ministry: Ken Koller asked about having an AED installed due the decrease in price and ease of operation. He would like one in place, as well as people trained.

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report

History Committee: Lois Lesher and Helen Henninger are coordinating the history booklet which is in the final editing. It will sell for \$5 per book. It has a glued binding, up to 10 pages of colored photos, is 176 pages long, 9"x 6". Orders and money can placed with the book arriving around the holidays.

Green Team: Meeting April 28th

Other Reports: Prayerful Planning Group- Synod handouts on attendance over the past 10 years were reviewed. They will be meeting next month.

Unfinished Business: Craig Peters made a motion, 2nd by Karen Gehring, that a \$300 gift be made to the Gettysburg Seminary Ridge Foundation in honor of Pastor Tom's 25th year of ordination. Motion passed unanimously.

Congregational covered Dish Dinner Celebration will be held June 23rd in honor of Pastor Tom's 25th year of ordination.

Handshaking will be reinstated this coming Sunday at each person's discretion.

DVDs of the Strawberry Festival will a \$1 charge, limit of one per family. They will be at a higher price at the Strawberry Festival. Larry will put it on the computer after worship beginning the first Sunday of May so that it can be viewed before purchase.

New Business: Jim Watson will be the male voting member for Synod Assembly. Faye Nichols will be the female voting member. Pastor Tom will be unable to attend due to graduation activities and a family wedding.

Motion by Karen Gehring, 2nd by John Ferree, to approve Thrivent Choice dollars designated for the congregation from the Bullocks towards new stoles for the Pastor.

Confirmation Sunday is May 19th with two boys and two girls being confirmed.

Next Council Meeting: May 5, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church

Adjournment: Motion by Cheryl Shadle, 2nd by John Ferree to adjourn at 8:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kris Kell. Assistant Secretary

Treasurers Report for

	<u>Prior Ba</u>	<u>lance</u>	Receipts	Expenses	<u>EOM</u>
Current		3,317.63	14,207.58	9,674.18	7,851.03
Benevole	ence 1 st c	quarter53.30	5,187.80	5,134.50	53.53
Benevole	ence	53.48	2,675.48	2,622.48	53.53
Memoria	1	37,400.29	742.50	18,000.00	20,142.79
Improve	ment	3,556.56	2,745.00	2,720.62	3,580.94
Bicent C	kAcct	15,614.28	.48	1,263.52	14,351.24
Bicent S	vngs	5,300.91	•	•	5,300.91
Flower		130.76	259.30	280.55	109.51

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

BERRYSBURG, PA 17005 P.O. BOX 270

St. John s Evangelical Lutheran Church

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com362-9519 (O)											
							362-7895 (H)				
Tammy & Bill Becker, Sex	******	319	-0703								
Judith Ferree, Organist jj	ferree@epix.r	et				362-4228					
Sandra Paul, Secretary rb	362-4117										
James Watson, Council Pr	261 2247										
Lorraine Henninger, Pray	er Chain Coor	dinato	r (no e	moil)			367	-5247 6169			
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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										
	8:00 /	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon 8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. les by appointment)				book of faith Open Scripture, Join the Conversation.					
Parish Website:	www.stjohnhi	illchurc	h.org								
* * * *	* *	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
Other Websites of Interest:	Ev. Lutheran Church in America Lower Susquehanna Synod				www.elca.org www.lss-elca.org						