

**SAINT JOHN'S  
EPISTLE**  
JUNE 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,

It is certainly graduation time here at the Hill Church! As I write these lines in mid-May, we have eleven young persons who are receiving their undergraduate degrees from no less than eight different universities and colleges – **Daniel Bruner, Rose Kell, Morgan Klinger, Kimberly Langhans, Jennifer Lehman, Blake Maurer, Alayna Peters, Courtney Rudisill, Kerilyn Schaeffer, Sara Shade, and Callie Spicher**. Many of them will, in turn, very soon begin work on graduate degrees. Watch for further details about these graduates in the July/August *St. John's Epistle*.

We also celebrate with seven of our young members who are graduating from high school in early June, and this will mark the first time that we as a congregational family are awarding the *St. John's Scholarship for Faith and Education* to those graduates. You might remember from several months ago that Congregational Council had approved the idea of providing a one-time \$250 scholarship to those high school graduates who have been communing and contributing members of our congregational family ever since their confirmation (or since becoming members of our congregational family, if that took place when they were already confirmed).

The \$250 scholarship, which will come from our Local Benevolence Account (which is largely supported through our Annual Strawberry Festival) will be remitted directly to any recognized and credentialed college or university or trade school selected by the graduate, after we have received documentation of successful enrollment. The scholarship recipients will be recognized, however, at their respective Awards or Class Nights. This means that, this year, Council Secretary Jamie Doyle and I will be attending the Awards Night at Millersburg Area High School on Tuesday, June 3, to recognize **Payton Stutzman** with a scholarship. The next night, Wednesday, June 4, Council President Jim Watson and I will be present at Upper Dauphin Area High School's Class Night, where we will recognize **Kayla Henry, Megan Mench, Shannon Motter, Benjamin Paul, Bobby Paul, and Whitney Rudisill** with this honor.

As I write these lines, I am also working to arrange for our traditional recognition of our high school graduates during Sunday morning worship – stay tuned for a date or dates for this.

Please remember all of our graduates and their families in your prayers. We can all certainly be very proud of these young persons and their achievements and look forward eagerly to the ways in which they will make God's world a better place!

**Pastor Tom**

## 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, June 11 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 11. Again this year, the following are some of the details to bear in mind:

**+June 2, starting at 6:30 P.M.** – the first work night to begin getting the pavilion cleaned up and ready for the Festival

**+June 9, 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 10, starting at 7:00 A.M.** – the preparation of the popular strawberry pies at the home and shop of Henry & Lorraine Henninger

**+June 10, starting at 6:00 P.M.** – the cleaning and preparation of the strawberries at the home and shop of Henry & Lorraine Henninger

**+June 10, starting at 6:30 P.M.** – the final work night to finish the preparation of the pavilion and grove

**+June 11, starting at 7:30 A.M.** – food and other supplies are loaded up at the Henninger's for transportation to the pavilion

**+June 11, 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 11, starting at 12:00 P.M.** – we welcome our guests from the Manor at Susquehanna Village and prepare to open to the public

**+June 11, starting at 1:00 P.M.** – WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**+June 11, starting at 2:30 P.M.** – entertainment by Brad Crum, appearing as Elvis

**+June 11, 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 11 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 11, 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.

# Gangway to Galilee

AMAZING GRACE ADVENTURES



Vacation BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION

July 21 - 25, 2014

6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

All children under the age of 3 must be accompanied by an adult. Also if there are any food allergies please tell the teacher. If you are in need of more registration forms please talk to Pastor Tom, Fay Nichols or one of the Sunday School Teachers. Please return this form on or before June 30,

## **TIME TO SIGN UP FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

A registration form for *Gangway to Galilee*, our 2014 Vacation Bible School, is included on the previous page of this *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. Please "talk it up" and share the 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 or to any Sunday School teacher by the end of June. Contact any member of Sunday School Teachers & Officers or Pastor Tom with any questions. We are looking forward to a great week for all young persons through Senior High!

## **LOAVES & FISHES EVENT TO BE HELD**

From 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 5, Lutheran Christians from our Lower Susquehanna Synod are joining together at Messiah College the day before our Annual Assembly begins to pack approximately 300,000 meals for needy persons here in Central Pennsylvania. We have already sent a requested congregational gift of \$325, from our Local Benevolence fund (provided mainly through our Annual Strawberry Festival), toward the \$75,000 total cost of the project, and Barb & Jim Bullock, Larry Gessner, and Fay Nichols will be helping during the 4-7pm "shift". (Larry Gessner, Fay Nichols, and Pastor Tom will be representing our congregational family during the Annual Assembly at Messiah on June 6 & 7.)

## **CONFIRMATION TO BE CELEBRATED**

On the Day of Pentecost, June 8, we will have the honor and great joy of joining in celebrating the confirmation of three of our young members. **Tyler D'Alesandro, Caleb Enders**, and **Austin Specht** have completed catechetical instruction with Pastor Tom and are now ready to take this new step in their faith journeys—saying "yes" to the baptismal promises made for them by their parents and sponsors many years ago. Confirmation will take place during the regular 10:15 A.M. worship. Please don't miss this opportunity to celebrate this milestone in their lives and in our life as a congregational family!

## **PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS!**

On Sundays from June 15 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".

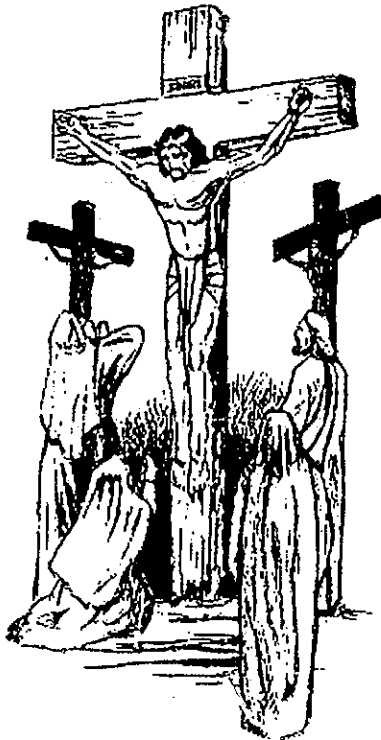
## SUMMER SCHEDULE RETURNS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

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.

## EXPLORING THE PLIGHT OF THE HONEY BEES

In recent years, it has become commonplace to hear news reports about declining bee populations. With this in mind, Green Team has adopted as its next project a three-part examination of the struggles of honey bees – vitally important partners with us in the stewardship of God's good Creation. On **Sunday, July 13**, our whole congregational family is invited to the Sunday School Room at 2:00 P.M. to watch and discuss the movie *Queen of the Sun: What are the Bees Telling Us?* Next up, on **Wednesday, September 24**, a public forum is being planned, to be held at the church beginning at 6:30 P.M., involving experts on bees as well as government officials. Finally, it is planned that our Annual Walk in the Woods, coming up this year on **Sunday afternoon, October 5**, will have a bee-related theme and focus. Please mark these dates on your family calendar and please stay tuned for more information!

*Thank you to Dianne Schell for sharing the following:*



### Mary Had a Little Lamb

Mary had a little lamb,  
His fleece was white as snow.  
And everywhere that Mary went,  
The Lamb was sure to go.  
He followed her to school each day,  
Twasn't even in the rule.  
He made the children laugh and play,  
To have a Lamb at school.  
And then the rules all changed one day,  
Illegal it became;  
To bring the Lamb of God to school,  
Or even speak his Name.  
Everyday got worse and worse,  
And days turned into years.  
Instead of hearing children laugh,  
We heard gun shots and tears.  
What must we do to stop the crime,  
That's in our schools today?  
Let's let the Lamb come back to school,  
And teach our kids to pray!

## 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 \$43,680 out of our total 2014 budget of \$133,608. We have **actually received** \$44,945 in offerings and other income, placing us \$1,265 ahead of budget – the fourth year in a row – and only the fourth 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 \$47,176 and are \$3,496 over budget (largely due to much larger heating oil expenditures than we expected). Since we have spent more than we have taken in, we are running a **deficit** of \$2,231 as of April 30.

Several observations from Pastor Tom (the old accountant) about these financial results at this 1/3 point in the year: First, the fact that our offerings and other income are again exceeding our budget goal by a good amount is especially good financial stewardship news this year, after a January and February that saw some of our worst results ever, due to wintry weather and sickness. Second, the amount by which our income exceeds budget (\$1,265) is almost the same amount that it was at this point last year, which means that our giving this year has increased to match the amount of increase called for in our 2014 budget – 3.1% - a testament to faith and trust in God expressed through our pocketbooks in these uncertain financial times. Third, our higher-than-budget expenses from heating costs will mean that we will be especially challenged to end the year with total spending at or below budget. Finally, 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!

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 2014 commitment of \$12,000. As of April 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of \$4,352, meaning that we are **ahead** of our commitment by \$429.

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



**SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JUNE 2014**

Altar Guild for Month of June

Carol & Mike Hubler

Lector for Month of June

Lorraine Henninger

Ushers for June (L) Roy Henry, (E) Ken Koller, Jean & Fred Weaver,

**June 1, 2014**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-

Jeff Lehman

Sunday School Pianist-

Judy Ferree

Greeters-

The Roy Henry Family

Acolytes-

Kelsey Henninger & R J Henry

**JUNE 8, 2014**

The Day of Pentecost  
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-

Ken Koller

Sunday School Pianist-

Jean Weaver

Greeters-

Bob & Faye Weaver

Acolytes

Cameron Thompson & Tyler D'Alesandro

**JUNE 15, 2014**

OUTDOOR Worship  
The Holy Trinity  
Holy Communion  
Father's Day

Sunday School Superintendent-

Fay Nichols

Sunday School Pianist-

Louise Baumgardner

Greeters-

Lynn & Helen Henninger

**JUNE 22, 2014**

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent-

Larry Gessner

Sunday School Pianist-

Sandy Paul

Greeter-

The Denlinger Family

Acolytes

Cameron Thompson & Aidan Roadcap

**JUNE 29, 2014**

The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent-

Lynn Henninger

Sunday School Pianist-

Carol Hubler

Greeter-

Ray & Joyce Matter

Acolytes

Gracie Gehring & Katherine Gessner

# June 2014



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

| Sun   | Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri   | Sat   |
|---|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>1</b> The 7th Sunday of Easter<br/>9:00 Sunday School<br/>10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion<br/>7:00 Pastor Tom Speaks at Upper Dauphin Area High School Baccalaureate</p>  | <p><b>2</b> 6:30 Pavilion Cleaning Night for Strawberry Festival</p>   | <p><b>3</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.<br/>7:00 Jamie Doyle &amp; Pastor Tom Present Congregational Scholarship at Millersburg Area H.S. Awards Night</p>  | <p><b>4</b> 7:00 Jim Watson &amp; Pastor Tom Present Congregational Scholarships at Upper Dauphin area H.S. Awards Night</p>          | <p><b>5</b> 4:00-7:00 Barb &amp; Jim Bullock, Larry Gessner and Fay Nichols Serve at Lower Susq. Synod "Loaves &amp; Fishes" Event at Messiah College</p> | <p><b>6</b> Larry Gessner and Fay Nichols and Pastor Tom at Lower Susq. Synod Assembly at Messiah College</p>   | <p><b>7</b> Larry Gessner and Fay Nichols and Pastor Tom at Lower Susq. Synod Assembly at Messiah College</p> |
| <p><b>8</b> The Day of Pentecost<br/>9:00 Sunday School<br/>10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, With Rite of Confirmation<br/><i>Fair Trade Coffee &amp; Tea Available for Sampling and Purchase following Worship</i></p> | <p><b>9</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off<br/>6:00 A.M. – Soup and BBQ Preparation for Strawberry Festival at Henningers<br/>6:00 P.M. Soup Wrap-up at Henningers<br/><i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i></p> | <p><b>10</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.<br/>7:00 A.M. Strawberry Pie Preparation at Henningers<br/>6:00 Preparation of Strawberries at Henningers<br/>6:30 Final Pavilion and Grove Set-Up for Strawberry Festival</p> | <p><b>11</b> Barnabas, Apostle<br/><b>ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL</b><br/>7:30 A.M. Set-up Begins<br/>1:00 P.M. Open to the Public</p> | <p><b>12</b></p>  | <p><b>13</b></p>  | <p><b>14</b><br/>Pastor Tom's Day Off<br/>7:00A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church</p>                       |
| <p><b>15</b> The Holy Trinity<br/>9:00 Sunday School<br/>10:15 <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b>—Holy Communion<br/>Father's Day</p>   | <p><b>16</b></p>   | <p><b>17</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg.<br/>1:00 Gathering with our Residents at The Manor at Susq. Village</p>   | <p><b>18</b></p>  | <p><b>19</b></p>  | <p><b>20</b> <i>Deadline to Submit Items for July/August "St. John's Epistle"</i><br/>6:00 Rehearsal for Peters/ Ribovich Wedding (in Northumberland)</p> | <p><b>21</b> 3:00 Marriage of Alayna Peters &amp; Brandon Ribovich (in Northumberland)<br/>Summer Begins</p>  |
| <p><b>22</b> The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost<br/>9:00 Sunday School<br/>10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Reception of New Members</p>   | <p><b>23</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of June 21)</p>   | <p><b>24</b> John the Baptist<br/>10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg.</p>  | <p><b>25</b></p>  | <p><b>26</b></p>  | <p><b>27</b></p>  | <p><b>28</b><br/>Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>   |
| <p><b>29</b> The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost<br/>9:00 Sunday School<br/>10:15 Liturgy of the Word Guest worship Leader – Jim Watson<br/>Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>   | <p><b>30</b> Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off</p>   |  |   |   |   |   |



*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2014*

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

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, Carol Hassinger, Lorraine Henninger, Roy Henry, Ken Koller, Sandra Lamenza, Jeff Lehman, Sandra Shade, Cheryl Shadle, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences — Eric Mattern

Motion by Sandra Shade, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Koller to accept the March Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Other Reports: Prayerful Planning Group**

Sub-Committee #2 – Carl Baumgardner reported on Growth in Community/ Youth Outreach. After a discussion on the future of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, there was a motion by Jamie Doyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Koller to have this committee continue to investigate this need.

Sub-Committee #1 – Roy Henry discussed an action Plan and the strategy behind the plan for Growth in the Sunday School Program.

Sub-Committee #3 – Sandra Lamenza discussed the possibility of the Pavilion/Kitchen project as Phase 1 and a Social Hall as Phase 2. Motion by Lorraine Henninger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Henry to have the committee continue to explore this 2 Phase project.

Sub-Committee #4 – Pastor Tom reported on the success of the Greeters program.

There will be a Covered dish dinner to present the Prayerful Planning Committee reports to the congregation for discussion and informational sharing following church service on May 4, 2014.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:** April 28<sup>th</sup> is the Conference Spring Assembly.

“Always Being Made New” ELCA campaign designed to create endowment to provide stability for ministry that we do. The Malaria campaign is folded into this.

Bergey's Water completed our quarterly testing and everything checked out fine. They provide this service free of charge.

St. John Women's Group provided prayer shawl for Pastor Tom to give to Pastor Beth George who is taking a call in New Oxford.

Our sound system has an issue with recording our services. Larry Gessner is looking into it.

**Pastor's Report:** Motion by Jim Bullock, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Henry to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Reports:** Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandra Shade to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Church Property:** Committee met on April 12<sup>th</sup> and took down the stars and completed other maintenance work. They are looking into replacing the storm door on the Sunday School entrance.

**Finance Committee:** No report

**Worship & Music:** Storage tubs for LBW for out in pavilion. Meeting April 29<sup>th</sup> @ 10am to replace old hymnals with new for Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>

**Christian Education:** Bible School preparation under way. Theme is "Gangway to Galilee".

**Stewardship:** No report

**Evangelism:** Next meeting 4/29/14

**Youth Ministry:** Starting to plan for next National Youth Gathering in Detroit.

**Mutual Ministry:** Children's church was great.

**Executive:** No report

**Nominating:** No report

**History Committee:** The history booklet continues in process.

**Green Team:** Next field trip may be done in conjunction with Walk in the Woods in October.

**Unfinished Business:** Strawberry Festival next meeting 5/5 @ 6:30pm.

Scholarships for graduating seniors – Pastor Tom will present 1 scholarship at Millersburg on 6/3 and 6 scholarships at Upper Dauphin on 6/4.

**New Business:** Ken Koller working on AED information as well as a "Food Awareness and

Preparation” course presented by the Dept. of Agriculture. Sandra Lamenza indicated a willingness to seek “Safe Serve Certification” since we serve food at many functions including the Strawberry Festival.

Pastor Tom indicated that Bishop Dunlap in encouraging continuing education and Pastor Tom would like to take a week long course at Gettysburg, “Acts of the Apostles: The 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church” from Monday afternoon, July 7- July 11<sup>th</sup> for a discounted price of \$475 all inclusive. Motion by Sandra Lamenza, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy Henry to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**Next Council Meetings:** May 4, 2014 at 7:30pm and May 4, 2014 @ 7:30pm.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ken Koller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheryl Shadle to adjourn at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

### Treasurers Report for

|               | <u>Prior Balance</u> | March 2014<br><u>Receipts</u> | <u>Expenses</u> | <u>EOM</u> |
|---------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Current       | 3,344.12             | 13,951.13                     | 13,078.72       | 4,216.53   |
| Benevolence   | 53.92                | 2,980.07                      | 2,980.00        | 53.99      |
| Memorial      | 35,996.25            | 57,781.13                     | 60,025.00       | 33,752.38  |
| Improvement   | 5,486.89             | 2,811.00                      | 1,817.63        | 6,480.26   |
| Bicent CkAcct | 20,481.73            | 230.73                        | 644.62          | 20,067.84  |
| Bicent Svngs  | 5,300.91             | -                             | -               | 5,300.91   |
| Flower        | 190.66               | 160.00                        | 105.00          | 245.66     |



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
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*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor [stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com](mailto:stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com).....362-9519 (O)  
362-7895 (H)  
Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email).....319-0703  
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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.*