

SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE
JUNE 2015

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 10* 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 10. Again this year, the following are some of the details to bear in mind (underlining indicates a change from previous years):

+June 1, starting at 5:30 P.M. – combined first work night to begin getting the pavilion cleaned up and ready for the Festival and church outside property work night (for the first time, we are trying to consolidate what have been two annual work nights into one slightly longer evening, but lots of help will be needed – raindate is June 2, also at 5:30 P.M.)

+June 8, 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 9, starting at 7:00 A.M. - the preparation of the popular strawberry pies at the home and shop of Henry & Lorraine Henninger

+June 9, starting at 6:00 P.M. – the cleaning and preparation of the strawberries at the home and shop of Henry & Lorraine Henninger

+June 9, starting at 6:30 P.M. – the final work night to finish the preparation of the pavilion and grove

+June 10, starting at 7:30 A.M. – food and other supplies are loaded up at the Henninger's for transportation to the pavilion

+June 10, 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 10, starting at 11:30 A.M. – we welcome our guests from the Manor at Susquehanna Village and the Kepler Home and prepare to open to the public

+June 10, starting at 12:00 P.M. – ***WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC***

+June 10, starting at 2:30 P.M. – entertainment by Brad Crum, appearing as Elvis

+June 10, starting after 4:30 P.M. – entertainment by the group Shotgumm (which includes our own Darrell Denlinger on trombone!)

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 10 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 10, 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

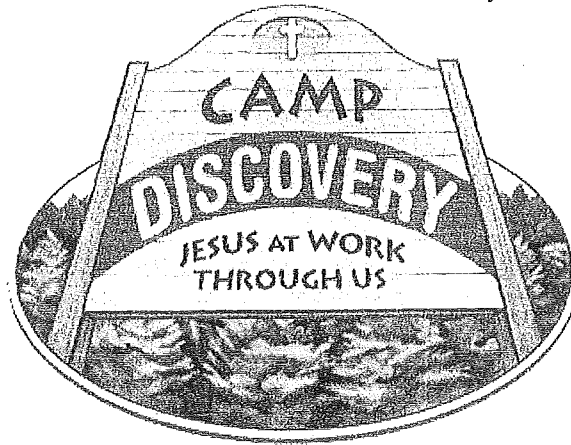
Vacation Bible School

This summer, St. John Lutheran Church is sponsoring Camp Discovery, a Vacation Bible School program each evening from Monday, July 20 to Friday, July 24.

At Camp Discovery, we will learn about Jesus, our Savior, meet new friends, do fun activities, sing great songs, make crafts, play games, eat snacks, and more! It's going to be fun, but it will be more fun with you there.

Look for a registration form for you and your friends in Sunday School, and tell your parents to look for one soon in their e-mail inbox.

Summer memories are made at VBS, so mark your calendars today!



PASTORAL ACTS

At the Font

On Sunday, March 15, Pastor Tom presided at the baptisms of **Emily Rabenold**, daughter of **Timothy & Yalonda Rabenold**, and **Alex Adams**, son of **Justin & Lacy Adams**.

On Sunday, May 10, Pastor Tom also presided at the baptism of **Owen Langhans**, son of **Ryan & Courtney Langhans**.

We welcome these new brothers and new sister into the Kingdom of God and the St. John's congregational family!

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Zachery Donnelly**, the 23-year-old son of **Arlene Donnelly**, who died suddenly at the home of his father in Elizabethville on April 28. Worship was held at the Shultz Funeral Home in Lykens, with interment in Oak Hill Cemetery in Millersburg, on May 4.

Pastor Tom also presided at funeral worship for **Brian Thompson**, who died at Hershey Medical Center on May 1, following a courageous battle with leukemia. Brian's funeral worship was held at the church on May 9, with interment in our church cemetery. (Please remember that gifts in memory of Brian are encouraged to the Thompson College Trust, which has been established at: Susquehanna Bank, Mail Code – 91, PO Box 1000, Lititz, PA 17543, and that a Relay for Life team, **Brian's Faithful Fighters**, has been formed in Brian's memory for the relay to be held June 19-20. See the foyer bulletin board for more information.)

We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Zachery and Brian, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to all of their family and loved ones.

DONATIONS NOW WELCOME FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL FLEA MARKET

The left side of the garage (next to the sexton house and across from the pavilion) will be open between now and June 10 for those wishing to drop off flea market items for the Annual Strawberry Festival. *Please remember that we do not accept clothes or shoes for this flea market.* Items for the bake sale should be delivered the morning of the Festival.

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS!

On Sundays from June 7 through September 6 (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”.

BLOOD DRIVE TO BE HELD IN MEMORY OF BRIAN THOMPSON

On Wednesday, June 24, we will be hosting a Central PA Blood Bank blood drive in the church from 3:00 to 8:00 P.M., in memory of Brian, who received many transfusions of whole blood and other blood components during his battle with leukemia. *Sign up for donation appointments is now open – please call 1.800.771.0059 to make yours!* If you would be willing to be an on-site helper on June 24, or to help with publicity or other “advance jobs”, please speak with Mary Ann Smeltz, blood drive coordinator. Catch her in person or call her on her cell phone at: 717.514.4083.

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 **\$46,180** out of our total 2015 budget of \$141,256. We have **actually received \$45,315** in offerings and other income, placing us slightly behind budget, by \$865. (This result places us solidly in the top half of results for the past 15 years, and is especially nice to note following our worst-ever results back as of the end of February!) Our **expenses** as of the end of April total **\$45,429** and are \$751 under budget (chiefly reflecting the fact that, while there was lots of heating required this past winter, each gallon of heating oil was less expensive than expected). Since we have spent more than we have taken in, we are running a very small **deficit of \$114** as of April 30. 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 2015 commitment of \$12,000. As of April 30, we have **actually received and shared a total of \$3,467**, meaning that we are **slightly behind** our commitment by **\$456**. We will want to be sure to close this gap as the year goes along.

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!

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
April 12, 2015**

The council meeting was called to order by President, Roy Henry.

Pastor Tom opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

Present: Lorraine Henninger, Sandra Lamenza, Cheryl Shadle, Gail Billow, Tamara Spicher, Roy Henry, Ken Koller, Sandra Shade, Pastor Tom Bruner

Excused Absence: Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger

Absent: Jeff Lehman

Minutes: Motion by Lorraine Henninger and seconded by Sandra Shade to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2015 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: The church received a thank you letter from Community Life Team for the \$100 donation to the emergency medical services program.

The church received a thank you letter from the Lutheran Camping Corporation for the \$500 gift. This is the second installment of a \$1500 pledge St John made to the organization.

We received notification that the web domain name is up for renewal. The fee is \$101 per year. We are asking Rachael Henry to look into other options for a more reasonable cost.

Dave Klotz has volunteered to be the male representative to the Synod Assembly Meeting in June. A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Cheryl Shadle that we approve Dave as our male representative. Motion approved unanimously. Pastor Tom will make the arrangements for Sandra Lamenza, Dave Klotz and himself to attend the meetings.

Pastor's Report: Motion made by Ken Koller and seconded by Tamara Spicher to accept the pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurers' Reports: Motion made by Ken Koller and seconded by Gail Billow to accept the treasurer reports. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees: *Church Property:* The church oil tank was filled the end of March. The heating system in the shaft of the elevator is not functioning properly. It will be addressed at the next scheduled elevator service. Tammy Becker will be on vacation the third week of May. Her family will fill in for her with the necessary church responsibilities. The spot light on the north side of the church is not working. Plans to have it repaired are in motion. Clean up day at the church is scheduled for Saturday, April 18.

We offer our sincere thanks to Tim Motter for donating his time and equipment to plow our snow throughout this long winter.

Finance: No report

Worship and Music: Plans were finalized for Holy Week worship. Pastor Tom is reviewing changes to the Good Friday Service for 2016. The experimental skype system set up for worship has been successful and we are reviewing options for making it a permanent addition to our service for those who are homebound.

Our most grateful thanks to Amy Gehring and Louise Baumgartner for the wonderful children's Easter Program they produced.

Christian Education: Met to discuss the Easter Program, Vacation Bible School, the Walk in the Woods (October 4) and Rachael's Day (May 3).

Stewardship: No report

Youth Ministry: Many thanks to our youth group with worship and the egg hunt during Holy Week.

Mutual Ministry: Met on April 12. Discussions involved ways to improve the sound quality of our children's programs, ways to improve attendance at the Saturday night vigil during Holy Week, and the improvement in financial contributions toward the end of the first quarter.

Executive: No report.

Nominating: No report

History: Still working on the history book.

Green Team: The group is looking into the possibilities for electronic giving.

Other Reports:

Prayerful Planning Group: The group is developing a policy for those working with children in our ministry that will protect the children from abuse and comply with laws regarding background checks and mandatory reporting etc.

Cemetery Association: The cemetery association met in March. They looked at options for building an entrance to the cemetery at two of the roads; one adjacent to the front to the church and one on St John Road. They also discussed the increase in cremations and some of the things we need to address to react to this change including things like a creating a cremation garden and possible benches that hold ashes. The association will contact the grave digger to confirm that all casket graves must be at least 6' deep. They will address some of the trees with dead limbs and other landscaping issues. They are also getting estimates on repairing some of the damaged tombstones.

Unfinished Business: There are 56 remaining green hymnals. We need to decide an appropriate distribution of the hymnals.

A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Ken Koller that we discontinue the "no touch" policy at the May 3 service. Motion approved unanimously

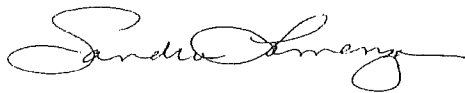
New Business: Confirmation Services will be held on May 24. All council members should be there at 9:50 am to participate in the processional.

A motion was made by Tamara Shade and seconded by Sandra Lamenza to hold a blood drive in the name of Brian Thompson. Dates being considered are Wednesday June 24 and Tuesday June 30. Pastor Tom and Mary Ann Smeltz will finalize the details.

Next Council Meeting: May 17, 2015 at 4:00PM. The May meeting will be the third Sunday because of Mother's Day.

Adjournment: Motion by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Gail Billow to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sandra Lamenza,

Secretary

Treasurer Reports March 2015

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	1234.35	18,033.73	11,811.05	7457.03
Benevolence	54.42	1686.50	1686.53	54.45
Memorial	35,672.56	9.71	2500.00	31,182.27
Improvement	5311.01	2348.50	1945.54	5713.97
Bicent Ck Acct	19,768.38	.70	1500.00	18,269.08
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91			5,300.91
Flower	400.81	288.60	235.55	453.86



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JUNE 2015

Altar Guild for Month of June

Carol & Mike Hubler

Lector for Month of June

Lorraine Henninger

Ushers for June (L) Roy Henry, (E) Eric Mattern, Jean & Fred Weaver,

June 7, 2015

The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Greeters-
Acolytes-

Lynn & Helen Henninger
Gracie Gehring & Cameron Thompson

JUNE 14, 2015

OUTDOOR Worship

The Third Sunday After Pentecost

Greeters-

The Denlinger Family

JUNE 21, 2015

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day

Greeters-
Acolytes

Ray & Joyce Matter
Gebe Gehring & R J Henry

JUNE 28, 2015

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost


Greeter-
Acolytes

Harold & Pat Herb
Owen Mattern & Ryan Henninger

June 2015



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30 <i>Combined Pavilion Cleaning Night for Strawberry Festival and Church Outside Property Work Night</i>	2 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 5:30 Rain date for 6/1 Property and Pavilion Work Projects	3 7:00 Roy Henry & Pastor Tom Present Congregational Scholarships at Upper Dauphin area H.S. Awards Night	4	5 Dave Klotz, Sandra Lamenza, and Pastor Tom at Lower Susq. Synod Assembly at Messiah College	6 Dave Klotz, Sandra Lamenza, and Pastor Tom at Lower Susq. Synod Assembly at Messiah College
7 The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly Concludes 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion	8 6:00 A.M. – Soup and BBQ Preparation for Strawberry Festival at Henningers 6:00 P. M. Soup Wrap-up at Henningers Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of June 6)	9 7:00 A.M. Strawberry Pie Preparation at Henningers 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:00 Preparation of Strawberries at Henningers 6:30 Final Pavilion and Grove Set-Up for Strawberry Festival <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	10 ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 7:30 A.M. Set-up Begins 12:00 P. M. Open to the Public 	11 Barnabas, Apostle	12	13 Pastor Tom's Day Off 7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church
14 The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP —with Recognition of High School Graduates Flag Day	15 <i>Deadline to Submit Items for July/August "St. John's Epistle"</i>	16 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg.	17	18	19 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off	20 Pastor Tom's Day Off
21 The 4th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word. (Guest Worship Leader—James Watson) Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Sunday Father's Day Summer Begins	22 Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day	23 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg.	24 John the Baptist 3:00-8:00 Central PA blood Bank Blood Drive in Memory of Brian Thompson	25 1:30 Pastor Tom Leads Worship at Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg	26	27 Pastor Tom's Day Off
28 The 5th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word 2:00 Marriage of Bonnie Boyer and Ronald Erb	29	30 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg.				

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com.....362-9519 (O)
 362-7895 (H)
 Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email).....319-0703
 Judith Ferree, Organist jjferree@epix.net.....362-4228
 Sandra Paul, Secretary rbpaul@epix.net362-4117
 Roy Henry, Council President webmaster@randrhenry.com..... 579-0244
 Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 362-9108

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

Physical Address (for deliveries): 215 St. John Road Elizabethville, PA 17023

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 270 Berrysburg, PA 17005

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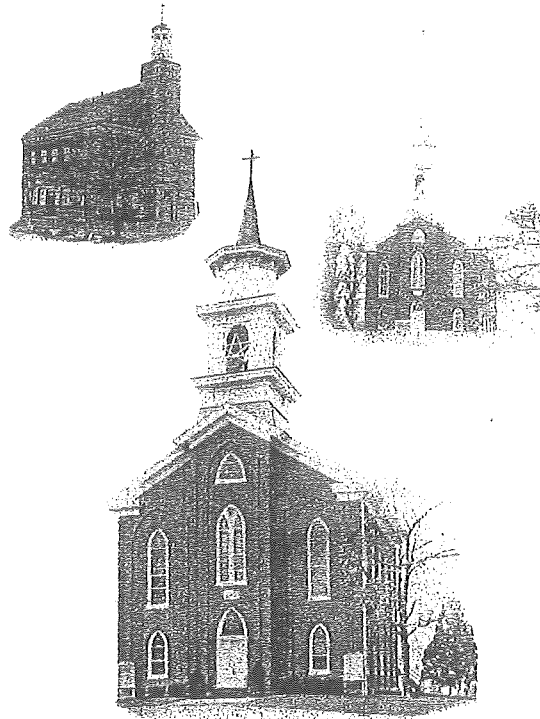
Pastor's Office Hours:

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.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Berrysburg, Pennsylvania
 1780-2005

