

**SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE
JUNE 2016**

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 8* 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 8, this year with pretty much everything taking place at our newly refurbished pavilion! Here are most of the details to bear in mind (underlining indicates a change from previous years):

+May 24, starting at 6:15 P.M. – first work night to begin getting the pavilion cleaned up and ready for the Festival, with lots of help needed especially following this year's pavilion renovation work (*I realize this evening may well be done and over by the time you read these lines*)

+June 4, starting at 7:00 A.M. - first day of soup preparation in the pavilion kitchen

+June 6, starting at 7:00 A.M. – second day of soup preparation and preparation of the barbecue in the pavilion kitchen (*please also note that, at approximately 6:00 P.M. that day, there is wrap-up work to be done as well – call Lorraine Henninger or Sandra Lamenza if you can help*)

+June 7, starting at 7:00 A.M. - the preparation of the popular strawberry pies in the pavilion kitchen

+June 7, starting at 6:00 P.M. - the cleaning and preparation of the strawberries and the covering of the pies in the pavilion kitchen

+June 7, starting at 6:30 P.M. – the final work night to finish the preparation of the pavilion and grove

+June 8, starting at 8:00 A.M. – all of the final “moving around, hooking up, and plugging in” takes place at the grove and pavilion

+June 8, starting at 11:30 A.M. – we welcome our guests from the Kepler Home and prepare to open to the public

+June 8, starting at 12:00 P.M. – **WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

+June 8, starting at approx. 2:30 P.M. – entertainment by Brad Crum, appearing as Elvis

+June 8, starting after 4:30 P.M. – entertainment by the group Shotgunn (which includes our own Darrell Denlinger on trombone!)

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 8 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 8, 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

NEWS FROM AMANDA

Hello Everyone!

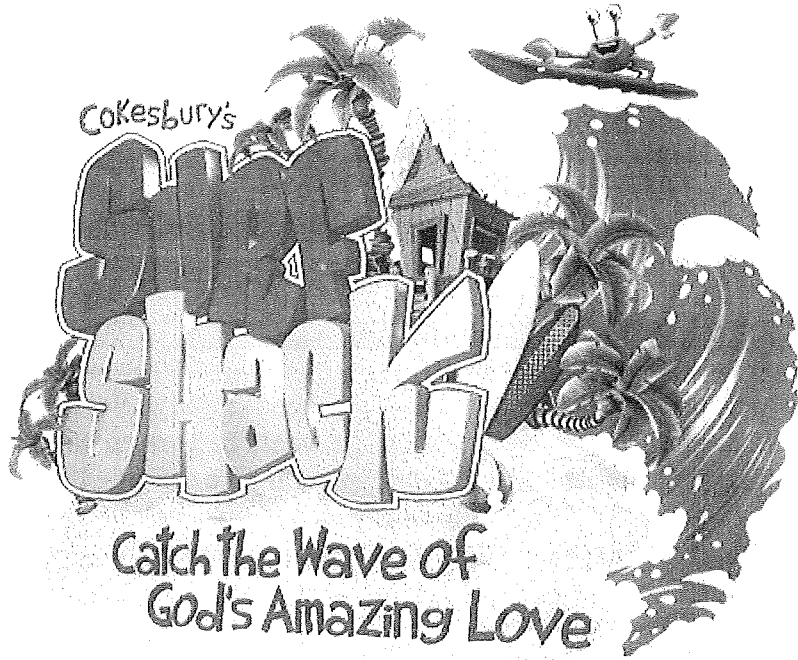
I can't believe we are almost done with this school year already! Congratulations to all those who have graduated college and all those who are getting ready to graduate from high school! With all of these events coming up, I want to remind everyone that the summer Sunday School program begins on May 29th, and will go until September 4th. In this time we will be changing things up a bit. Come summer, the kids will no longer have Sunday school during the earlier time slot, but instead will be having it during church. We wanted to make this change to allow parents the greater opportunity to be in church without any distractions and to allow the kids the chance to have their very own time of fun and learning. We hope this change brings good reviews and ask for your patience as we transition into this new season. Anyone who is looking to be a part of the Sunday School teacher roster for the summer months, please contact me at 717-802-5672 or at either my school or home emails which I will have listed below.

Parents of 4 years old- 8th grade students, beginning June 12th we will be having breakfast and an outside fun day for the kids on every second Sunday of the month. This day there will be no lesson, instead a time of fellowship for the kids and any teachers who wish to be involved. I have done this in the past and have watched it grow into something greater than just breakfast and fun. The kids have a chance to talk to each other about their week, school, sports, church, and whatever may come up. Because of this they create bonds that are made stronger every time they get together to talk. I will be there to supervise but the kids are the ones who come together and make breakfast together. It takes patience with one another, and gives them a chance to work together. So while these weeks are fun and less structured, they will also help the kids learn to talk things out with one another, and in return, creating greater bonds than any one of the teachers, myself included could ever try creating. I hope you will consider allowing your children to be a part of this time. I hope you all have a great rest of your week! Kids keep pushing you are almost there, push through school and finish strong!

Blessings,

Amanda Baker :)

VBS REGISTRATION



**Summer memories are made at VBS.
So mark your calendars today!**

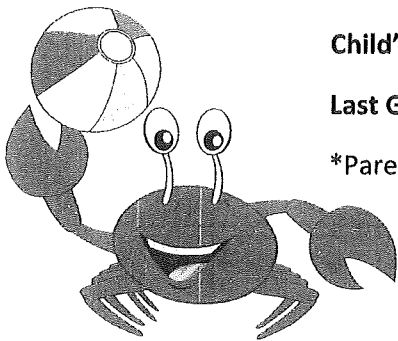
WHEN: Monday, July 18 to Friday, July 22 – 6:30-8:30

WHERE: St. John Lutheran Church, The “Hill Church,” in Berrysburg, PA

WHAT: *SURF SHACK*

At the Surf Shack, kids encounter God’s awesomeness through Bible stories and learn how we’re meant to experience an epic adventure each day.

The SURF SHACK is the place to be, DUDES!



Child’s Name _____ Age _____

Last Grade Completed _____

*Parent’s Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

*Alternate Name and Phone # in case of Emergency _____

*Please indicate any allergies or medical concerns _____

**All children under the age of 3 must be accompanied by an adult.
Please return this form before July 10, 2016.**

DONATIONS NOW WELCOME FOR STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL FLEA MARKET

The upper level of the barn (not the garage next to the sexton house as you may have previously read) will be open between now and June 8 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, on June 8.

PLEASE CONSIDER SHARING YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS!

On Sundays from May 29 (Memorial Day weekend) through September 4 (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”.

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 **\$47,758** out of our total 2016 budget of \$146,083. We have **actually received \$48,231** in offerings and other income, placing us slightly ahead of this goal, by \$473. (This result is one of our best in the past 16 years, and is especially nice to note following our actually “losing” a Sunday back in January and with the special appeals that we have also been conducting for Amanda's ministry with us and the pavilion work.) Our **expenses** as of the end of April total **\$46,641** and are \$1,117 under budget. Since we have taken in more than we have spent, we have a small **surplus** of **\$1,590** as of April 30 – again one of our best results at this point in the year. The bottom line is that our ministry here together continues to be very blessed, especially in light of the continued uncertainties 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 2016 commitment of \$12,000. As of April 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of **\$3,789**, meaning that we are **slightly behind** our commitment by **\$134**. 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 10, 2016**

The council meeting was called to order by President, Roy Henry. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with a prayer.

Present: Roy Henry, Lorraine Henninger, Gail Billow, Dale Hassinger, Carl Baumgardner, Sandra Lamenza, Tamara Spicher, Jeff Buffington, Joseph Doyle, Jeff Lehman and Pastor Tom Bruner

Excused Absence: Jamie Doyle, Karen Paulman

Minutes: Motion by Dale Hassinger and seconded by Tamara Spicher to approve the minutes from the March 2016 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: We received a request from Shannon Motter to hold a spaghetti supper and several other fund raising activities to finance the cost of her missionary trip to Guatemala through the "Tree for Hope" program. A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Carl Baumgardner to approve the use of the Social Hall on May 22 for the dinner and to support her other fund raising efforts as necessary. Motion approved unanimously.

A request was made for financial support for the radio station "Sing for Joy". A motion was made by Jeff Lehman and seconded by Jeff Buffington to continue our annual gift of \$300. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Motion made by Lorraine Henninger and seconded by Dale Hassinger to accept the pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously.

Youth and Children's Coordinator Report: Carl Baumgardner reported on the activities of the Youth and Children's Coordinator. Amanda Baker was installed during Sunday services on April 10. Beginning immediately through Memorial Day, Amanda will lead the youth Sunday School with some opening activities. Memorial Day through Labor Day Sunday School will be held at the same time as church. Details on how this program will work will follow.

Treasurers' Reports: Motion made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Jeff Buffington to accept the treasurers' reports. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Additional work on the porch of the sexton home and some necessary landscaping work was completed. Most of the work on the pavilion was completed. Two outside work nights have been scheduled for April 26 and May 24.

Finance/Stewardship: No report

Worship and Music: The committee is looking into local vineyards as a resource for communion wine. An outside service was added for Sunday August 21. Possibility of children providing music during the church service under the direction of Amanda Baker.

Christian Education: No report

Youth Ministry: There were many positive comments about the youth participation in the Good Friday service. The lock-in and the Easter Egg hunt went well. Dan and Angie Mauer will be retiring next

month as youth advisors. Becky Conti will take over as lead advisor and Jodi Thompson as Support Advisor.

Mutual Ministry: Discussed the many positive things happening in the church. Also discussed the possible need for an Inquirer's Class.

Executive: No report.

Nominating: No report.

History: No report

Green Team: No report

Other Reports: The Cemetery Association approved the construction of an entrance to the cemetery being built at the first road on the north side of the church. Many of the broken tombstones have been repaired. Dead trees were removed from the south side of the cemetery.

Progress continues on getting all the proper background checks completed for those working with children.

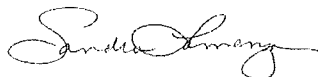
Unfinished Business: The local benevolence group will be taking on the task of identifying opportunities for utilizing our "Gifts of Love" funds. They will meet September 6, 2016.

New business: Pastor Tom and Roy Henry will attend a Halifax High School graduation ceremony on June 7 to present Zach Thompson with the St John Christian Leadership Scholarship.

Next Council Meeting: May 15, 2016 at 4:00PM and mid-summer meeting is August 1 at 7PM.

Adjournment: Motion by Dale Hassinger and seconded by Gail Billow to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Lamenza. Secretary

Treasurer Reports				
March 2016				
	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	13,851.21	13,620.30	11,511.53	15,959.98
Benevolence	165.14	1529.06	1529.00	165.20
Memorial	34,523.53	6060.10	13,209.98	27,373.65
Improvement	5877.73	2522.00	1824.51	6575.22
Bicent Ch Acct	25,956.33	1.38	1032.50	24,925.21
Bicent Svngs	5300.91			5300.91
Flower	287.56	216.00	215.56	279.56
C&Y Ministry	2500.00	575.00	1920.00	1155.00



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JUNE 2016

Altar Guild for Month of June

Carol & Mike Hubler

Lector for Month of June

Lorraine Henninger

Ushers for June (L) Roy Henry, (E) Karen Paulman, William Paulman & Karen Gehring

June 5, 2016

The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Greeters-
Acolytes-

John & Connie Shaffer
Gracie Gehring & Gabe Gehring

JUNE 12, 2016

The 4th Sunday After Pentecost

Greeters-
Acolytes

Karen Rickert
Cameron Thompson & Aidan Roadcap

JUNE 19, 2016

OUTDOOR Worship

The 5th Sunday after Pentecost
Father's Day

Greeters-

Maryjane Zelter

JUNE 26, 2016

The 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Greeter-
Acolytes

Robert & Faye Weaver
Ashton & Kinsley Schreffler

June 2016



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 The 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 9:30 Young Persons Sunday School Jesus And Me Zone Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly Concludes</p>	<p>6 7:00 A.M. – Soup and BBQ Preparation for Strawberry Festival at the Pavilion Kitchen 6:00 P.M. Soup Wrap-up Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>	<p>7 7:00 A.M. Strawberry Pie Preparation at the Pavilion Kitchen 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:00 P.M. Preparation of Strawberries & Covering Pie at Pavilion Kitchen 6:30 Final Pavilion & Grove Set-up 6:30 Cub Scout Mtg. 7:00 Roy Henry & Pastor Tom Present Congregational Scholarship at Halifax Area HS</p>	<p>8 ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 8:00 A.M. Set-up Begins at the Pavilion 11:30 A.M. Serving Personal Care Home Residents 12:00 P.M. Open to the Public</p>	<p>9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</p>	<p>3 Lower Susquehanna Synod Assemble Begins at Messiah College</p>	<p>4 7:00 A.M. Soup Preparation for Strawberry Festival at the Pavilion Kitchen Larry Gessner & Pastor Tom at Lower Susq. Synod Assembly</p>
<p>12 The 4th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word with Recognition of High School Graduates 9:30 Young Persons Sunday School Jesus And Me Zone</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. Flag Day</p>	<p>15 Deadline to Submit Items for July/August "St. John's Epistle"</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off</p>	<p>11 Barnabas, Apostle 7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>19 The 5th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP (Guest Worship Leader-James Watson) 9:30 Young Persons Sunday School/ Jesus And Me Zone Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Sunday Father's Day</p>	<p>20 Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Summer Begins</p>	<p>21 Pastor Tom Taking Vacation</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 John the Baptist</p>	<p>18 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>26 The 6th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word, 9:30 Young Persons Sunday School/Jesus And Me Zone</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg.</p>	<p>29 Peter & Paul Apostles</p>	<p>30</p>		<p>25 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Amanda & Jordan Dresel** on the birth of **Hayden William** on Wednesday, April 20, at Harrisburg Hospital. Hayden weighed in at 8 pounds and 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. We especially give thanks that Amanda and Hayden are well after some very anxious and trying days following his birth! Congratulations, too, to proud older brother Brady!

And to **Rachel Denlinger**, who graduated *Magne cum Laude* on April 29 from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor's Degree in Dietetics and Nutrition. Rachel will soon be taking the test to become a Registered Dietician, as she seeks work in a hospital setting and considers pursuing further education in the medical field. Congratulations!

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Font

On the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 15, Pastor Tom presided as two of our young members, who had previously completed two years of instruction with him, made affirmation of their baptisms and were confirmed: **Elijah Conte** and **Cameron Thompson**. May God bless these brothers in this faith milestone!

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Donald Neagley**, who died on April 27 at Stonebridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Duncannon, where he had been a resident for a number of years. Worship was held at the church on May 2, with interment in the church cemetery.

Pastor Tom also presided at funeral worship for **Andrew Nichols**, husband of **Fay Nichols**, who died at his home in Berrysburg on April 28. Andy's funeral worship was held at the church on May 6, with interment in Indiantown Gap National Cemetery.

We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Don and Andy, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to all of their family and loved ones!

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com.....717-362-9519 (O)
 717-362-7895 (H)

Amanda Baker, Children's & Youth Ministry Coordinator, girwildcat@aol.com...717-802-5672

Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email).....717-319-0703

Judith Ferree, Organist jjferree@epix.net.....717-362-4228

Sandra Paul, Secretary rbpaul@epix.net717-362-4117

Roy Henry, Council President webmaster@randrhenry.com..... 717-579-0244

Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 717-362-9108

Find Us on Facebook

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.

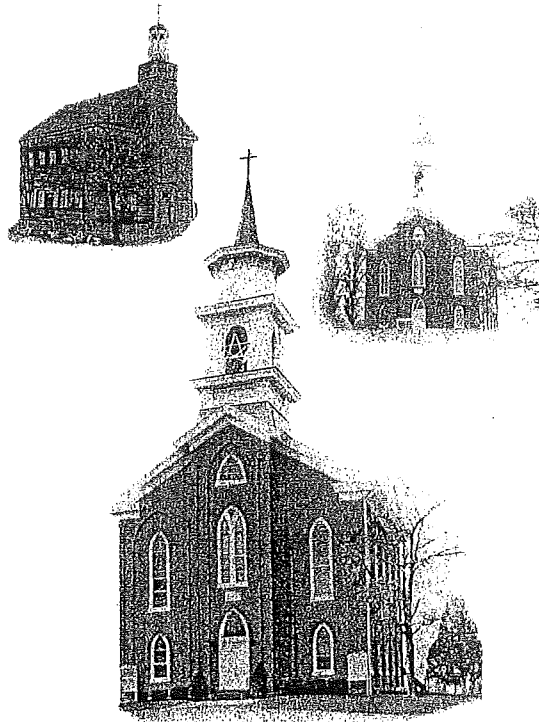
(Other times by appointment)

Amanda's Office Hours:

Monday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.
Wednesday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

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