

# ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

## *A Letter from The 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 14** 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 14. Here are most of the details to bear in mind:

**+May 30, 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 spring property work accomplished (as we did successfully two years ago, we are consolidating what have traditionally been two annual work nights into one slightly longer evening, but lots of help will be needed – raindate is May 31, also at 5:30 P.M.)

**+June 10, starting at 8:00 A.M.** - first day of soup preparation

**+June 12, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – second day of soup preparation, preparation of the barbecue, and baking of short-cakes *(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 13, starting at 6:30 A.M.** - the preparation of the popular strawberry pies

**+June 13, starting at 6:00 P.M.** - the cleaning and preparation of the strawberries and the covering of the pies

**+June 13, starting at 6:30 P.M.** – the final work night to finish the preparation of the pavilion and grove



## *A Letter from The Pastor..... Cont.*

- +**June 14, 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 14, starting at 11:30 A.M.** – we welcome our guests from the Kepler Home and prepare to open to the public
- +**June 14, starting at 12:00 P.M.** – ***WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC***
- +**June 14, starting at approx. 2:30 P.M.** – entertainment by Brad Crum, appearing as Elvis
- +**June 14, starting at 4:00 P.M.** - brief concert by our own young persons, the Celebration Choir, under the direction of Miss Laurie
- +**June 14, starting after 4:30 P.M.** – entertainment by the group Shotgun (which includes our own Darrell Denlinger and Barry Williard!)

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 14 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 14, 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 is posted on the foyer bulletin board. 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*

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*“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 “*

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## *News from Miss Laurie*

I can't believe I'm beginning my sixth month of service here at St. John's! What an incredible experience it has been thus far!

I hope you're all planning on attending the Family Luncheon on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Weather permitting, we're planning a little nature walk around the grounds. We'll also be making picture frames and decorating them with items we find on the walk. To cap off the entertainment, Sunny's brother, Monsieur Alphie (he's French), will be sharing his "incredibly funny" jokes with the group. Come join us for an afternoon of fun, family fellowship!

Then on June 14<sup>th</sup>, during the Strawberry Festival, we'll be having a "Celebration Site" with activities for children. The schedule of activities will be as follows:

3:00 – Site opens

4:00 – Celebration Choir sings

5:00 – Candy Scramble

6:00 – Celebration Ring Toss

Throughout the festival, we'll be offering tattoos, simple face-painting, and balloons!

And don't forget to mark your calendar for VBS, July 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8:30 pm. Let me know if you're interested in helping!

Just a reminder, the summer schedule for SONday Celebration has begun! We meet from 9:30-10:30 (the same time as church). As much as possible, we'll be enjoying our story and activities outside!

Wishing you all an awesome beginning to your summer!

*Miss Laurie*

St. John's Facebook:  
[facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch](https://facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch)

St. John's Children and Youth Ministry:  
[facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry](https://facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

Miss Laurie's Office Hours:

Mon., Wed 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Friday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

## *Youth Group News*

The youth group advisors will be reaching out to all youth group members eligible to attend GATHERING 2018, to discuss the preparation / registration of the event. We have a few service projects lined up for the summer months and hope to have as many youth participate as possible.

Miss Laurie, on behalf of the Elizabethville Bicentennial Committee has asked that we assist with her project in helping the committee run a few activities during the week of events they have planned. Any youth group member interested in assisting the events, please see Becky Conte for more information.

Last but not least, please remember the Strawberry Committee relies on the youth to help with serving the attendees of the festival. If you have any family or friends that are willing to help serve that day please bring them along!

## *We Celebrate Together!!*

During our morning worship on the Day of Pentecost, June 4, we will have the honor and great joy of joining in celebrating the confirmation of five of our young members. **Lilly Boyer, Serene Boyer, Gracie Gehring, Owen Mattern,** and **Kinsley Schreffler** have completed two years of catechetical instruction with Pastor Tom and are now ready to take this new step in their faith journeys—

saying “yes” to the baptismal promises previously made for them by their parents and sponsors. Please don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate this milestone in their lives and in our life as a congregational family!!



## *Sharing your Musical Gift*

On Sundays from June 11 through September 3 (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”.

## *Interested in Membership? Or Maybe Just a Refresher*

An Inquirer’s Class will be held at the church on Tuesday, June 6, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. This class is designed for those who are either thinking about or planning on joining the congregation, as well as current congregational members who desire a bit of a refresher in the basics of Lutheran Christian history and belief. Simply speak with Pastor Tom any time prior to the class to register. New members will be received later in June, tentatively on June 25.

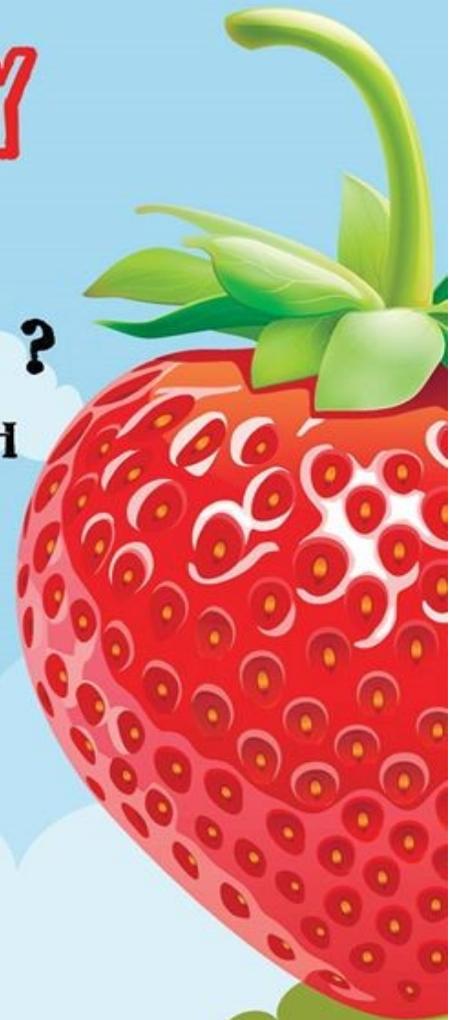
2017

# STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

**JUNE 14, 2017 | NOON - ?**

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
(THE HILL CHURCH)  
BERRYSBURG, PA**

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE | ICE CREAM  
STRAWBERRY PIE | STRAWBERRY SUNDAES  
CHICKEN CORN SOUP | BEAN SOUP  
BBQ | SAUSAGE | HOT DOGS | HOT DOGS W/BBQ  
COFFEE | COLD DRINKS



**ENTERTAINMENT BY:**

**BRAD CRUM**

**SHOTGUNN**

**ST. JOHN CELEBRATION CHOIR**

**PETTING ZOO**

**PONY RIDES**

**CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES**

**BAKED GOODS**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN CHAIR  
FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT**

**St. John's 225th Anniversary & History 1980-2010 Books will be Available for Sale.**

## 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.*

# Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

The Women of St. John are planning a Family Picnic Celebration on Sunday, June 4, in place of the annual Mother/Child Banquet. Those attending are asked to bring a covered dish and come expecting to have fun with Miss Laurie and the young persons. This will take place in the downstairs Sunday School Room. Please see Janet Denlinger or Barb Bullock with any questions.

## *Congratulations to Our College Graduates*

To **Timothy Bruner**, who graduated *Magne cum Laude* on May 14 from West Chester University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry-Biology (Pre-Medical). In the fall, Tim plans to begin work on his Doctorate in Physical Therapy at Arcadia University in Southeastern PA.

And to **Shawnita Latsha** who received her Associate's Degree in Ultrasound from Harrisburg Area Community College's DMS (Diagnostic Medical Sonography) Program in ceremonies held May 11 at the Giant Center in Hershey. Proud parents Heidi and Jeff Lehman add: "Shawni has taken the three board certification exams for Ultrasound (Physics, Abdomen and OB) and passed! She recently accepted a position within the Pinnacle Health System at the Fredricksen Outpatient Center. Many thanks to her college buddy, Pat Herb, who kept her up to date with our Church family and also gave her extra support knowing that she was praying for her during her stressful class and clinical times!"



## *Pastoral Acts*

### At the Altar

Pastor Tom presided during worship on Sunday, April 23, as **Rachel & (a very surprised!) Roy Henry** made affirmation of their marriage vows before their congregational family on this day before their 13<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. We pray God's continued blessings on them for all the years to come!

## *Our Faith Active in Our Financial Giving -*

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 18 of 52 Sundays behind us as of April 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received and spent \$49,985 out of our total 2017 budget of \$144,402. We have **actually received \$58,077** in offerings and other income, or \$8,092 more than this goal. (It is important to note that this offering total includes the very nice effect of one congregational family member having made their entire annual gift at the beginning of the year. But, even taking out the 2/3 of that very kind gift that we would not typically have received by the end of April, we are still **ahead of our budget goal by over \$3,000** – one of our best results ever.) Our **expenses** as of the end of April total \$50,343 and are \$358 over budget. Even adjusting for the effects of that large early-year gift, we have a **surplus** of **around \$3,000** as of April 30 – again one of our very best results at this point in the year.

As to the Children & Youth Ministry Fund, through which Miss Laurie's ministry with us is being funded, we have **received \$4,157** in offerings and Thrivent Choice Dollars as of the end of April which, while not enough money to completely cover the expenditures, is still well ahead of where we projected we might be at this point in this first year of ministry together. (Please remember that, if you would like to use your regular offering envelope to make a gift toward supporting Miss Laurie's ministry, you can simply use one of the pre-printed blocks on the envelope by very carefully and clearly changing the printed caption to "C&Y Ministry" and then writing your gift amount in the block. In 2018, we will have new offering envelopes which will include a separate block for these gifts.)

And, with regard to our benevolence offerings which we share with our Lower Susquehanna Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to be exactly on **budget** as of April 30, we would have received and forwarded \$4,154 out of our total 2017 commitment of \$12,000. As of April 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of \$3,627, meaning that we are **a bit behind** our commitment by \$527. 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's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2017

The Council Meeting was called to order by Pastor Tom who also offered prayer and devotions.

Present – Carl Baumgardner, Gail Billow, Jeff Buffington, Jamie Doyle, Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger, Henry Henninger, Patricia Herb, Dan Langhans, Donna Rabenold, Tamara Spicher and Pastor Tom

**Reading of Minutes:** Motion by Dale Hassinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tamara Spicher to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:** Pastor indicated that we passed our most recent monthly and quarterly water tests conducted by Pure Test Labs (Martin).

**Pastor's Report:** Motion by Pat Herb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Buffington to accept Pastor's report. Motion Passed unanimously.

**Children & Youth:** Program is going very well. Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail Billow to accept the Children & Youth Ministry report. Motion passed unanimously.

**Report of Treasurers:** Motion by Pat Herb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Rabenold to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Church Property:** Getting estimate on outside painting project as well as new storm windows for Council's consideration at the May meeting & then it will be brought before the congregation for a vote due to the amount of the expenditure.

Looking at water pump at the sexton's house because on 2 occasions there has been no water. Zimmerman's & property committee looked at everything on the surface and the pump may need to be replaced.

**Finance Committee:** No report

**Worship & Music:** August 13 Bicentennial Worship will include an area wide children's choir led by Miss Laurie. Adult choirs will also be recruiting members. Contemporary worship was discussed and committee went over the upcoming wedding schedule to make sure there was organist coverage. Next meeting is May 23, 2017.

**Faith Formation Team:** Working on survey for Vacation Bible School and are looking for feedback on whether moving it to daytime would increase or decrease attendance of children and teachers. Rachel's Day is May 7.

**Youth Group:** The Youth are leading Good Friday worship followed by a lock-in on Friday night to prepare for the egg hunt on Saturday.

**Mutual Ministry:** Met 4/9 and discussed sound system dysfunction on Palm Sunday. Consensus to get the sound system checked and evaluated after Easter. There were many positive comments about the Senior Choir singing up front. Next meeting is July 9 at 10:30am.

**Executive:** No report

**Nominating:** No report.

**History Committee:** The history book is at the printer. It will be a softcover book.

**Other reports:** There was a Local Benevolence Committee meeting on March 13. The committee evaluated the balance of the fund. There is a large turnout going to camp this summer and they will be supported by this fund. Next meeting is March 12, 2018.

**Unfinished Business:** Still need 1 male and 1 female voting member to attend Synod Assembly on 6/2-6/3 at Messiah. Pastor Tom can't make it this year due to performing a wedding rehearsal and ceremony.

Discussed filling out the form to participate in the Elizabethtown Bicentennial Parade and showcase our children singing & our Children & Youth program.

Need wireless printer for printing offering reports. Carl Baumgardner is checking to see if he has one to donate.

**New Business:** 3 graduating seniors from UDA are eligible this year to receive congregational scholarships of \$750 each. UDA's graduation is June 5.

**Next Council Meeting:** May 7, 2017 @ 4:00pm due to Mother's Day falling on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday which is the normal meeting date.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Carl Baumgardner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gail Billow to adjourn at 5:04pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

Treasurers Report for  
March 2017

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	13,086.33	13,395.62	13,731.49	12,750.46
Benevolence	206.09	1,248.05	1,348.00	106.14
Memorial	35,364.85	25.00	5,390.70	29,999.15
Improvement	1,580.80	2,643.00	2,100.12	2,123.68
Bicent CkAcct	17,663.96	170.58	2,422.68	15,411.86
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	312.41	142.00	264.55	189.86
C&Y Ministry	1,787.99	2,451.77	1,975.04	2,264.72



## *June Worship Schedule*

### Summer Schedule

***Adult and Jr./Sr. High  
Sunday School at 8:45***

*A.M., with no opening, so  
that we simply join in the  
regular half-hour Bible  
Study session, ending by  
about 9:15 and*

***Worship at 9:30 A.M.,  
ending promptly by 10:30 so  
that everyone can get on to  
those reunions and other  
summer Sunday plans***

Altar Guild for Month of June  
Lector for Month of June

Carol & Mike Hubler  
Lorraine Henninger

Usher's for the Month of June: Henry Henninger (L) Judy Cheatham(E),  
Faye Weaver and Robert Weaver(LAY)

**June 4, 2017  
OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Greeter  
Acolyte

The Eric Mattern Family  
Hoyt Schlegel and Gabe Gehring

**June 11, 2017  
Holy Communion**

Greeter

Arlene Donnelly

**June 18, 2017  
OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Greeter

Joe & Arlene Doyle

**June 25, 2017**

Greeter

The Roy Henry Family

# June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>4 Day of Pentecost</b>            8:30 Confirmands Meet with Pastor Tom            8:45 Adult and Jr./Sr. High Sunday School            9:00 Congregational Council Meets to Prepare for Confirmation            9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration of Confirmation            9:30 SONDAY Celebration (Sunday School for Grades 6 and Younger)            10:45 Family Picnic Celebration, sponsored by the Women of St. John,</p>	<p>5            7:00 Council President Dan Langhans and Pastor Tom Attend Upper Dauphin Area High School Class Night to Present Congregational Scholarships</p>	<p>6            9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 Inquirer's Class            6:30 Cub Scout Pack Committee Meeting</p>	<p>7            Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of June 3)</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9  <b>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</b></p>	<p>10            7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church            8:00 A.M. Soup Preparation for Strawberry Festival            Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p><b>11 The Holy Trinity</b>            8:45 Adult and Jr./Sr. High Sunday School            9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion            9:30 SONDAY Celebration</p>	<p>12            8:00 A.M. Soup and BBQ Preparation for Strawberry Festival            6:00 P.M. Soup Wrap-up</p>	<p>13            6:30 A.M. Strawberry Pie Preparation for Strawberry Festival            9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting            6:00 P.M. Preparation of Strawberries and Covering Pies for Festival            6:30 Final Pavilion and Grove Set-Up for</p>	<p>14  <b>ANNUAL STRAW-BERRY FESTIVAL</b>            8:00 A.M. Set-Up Begins at the Pavilion            11:30 A.M. Serving Personal Care Home Residents            12:00 P.M. Opening to the Public</p>	<p>15  <b>Deadline to Submit Items for July/August "St. John's Epistle"</b></p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17            Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p><b>18 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>            8:45 Adult and Jr./Sr. High Sunday School            9:30 <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b>            9:30 SONDAY Celebration</p>	<p>19            Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off</p>	<p>20            9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23            4:00 Marriage of Timothy Enders &amp; Dianne Bender</p>	<p>24  <b>John the Baptist</b>            Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p><b>25 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b>            8:45 Adult and Jr./Sr. High Sunday School            9:30 Liturgy of the Word, with Recognition of New Members and Recognition of High School Graduates</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27            9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29  <b>Peter &amp; Paul, Apostles</b></p>	<p>30</p>	

Pastor's Office Hours:  Mon, Tues - 8:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.  Wed, Thurs - 8:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon  Friday 8:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M. <i>(Other times by appointment)</i>	The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	Stjohnhilchurch@frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O)
	Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little@gmail.com	717-362-7895 (H) 717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
	Tammy & Bill Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
	Judith Ferree	Organist	jjferree@epix.net	717-362-4228
	Carol Hubler	Choir Director	Mchubler@gmail.com	570-758-5052
	Rebecca Conte	Secretary	Rlkconte06@gmail.com	570-262-2664
	Daniel Langhans	Council President	langhans@pa.net	717-365-3794
Fay Nichols	Prayer Chain Coordinator	Fnichols46@comcast.net	717-599-8990	

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

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

Church Website: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE