

ST. JOHN'S

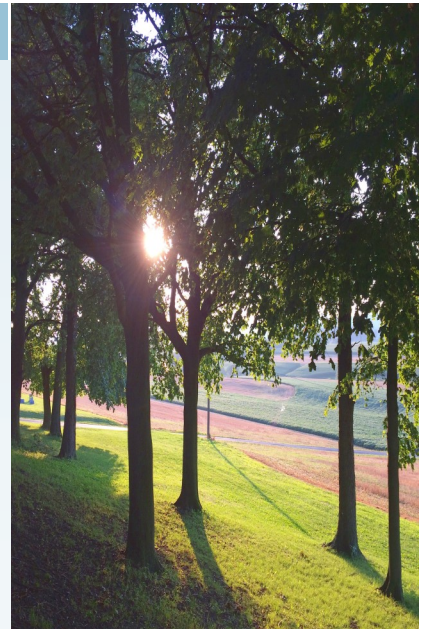
EPISTLE

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 13** 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 13. Here are most of the details to bear in mind:

- +**May 29, 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 last year, we are consolidating what have traditionally been two annual work nights into one slightly longer evening, but lots of help will be needed.)
- +**June 8, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – ham and bar-b-que preparation
- +**June 9, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – chicken corn soup preparation
- +**June 11, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – bean soup preparation, filling quart containers with soup, and baking shortcakes
- +**June 12, starting at 6:30 A.M.** - strawberry pie preparation
- +**June 12, starting at 6:00 P.M.** - cleaning and preparation of strawberries and the covering of the pies
- +**June 12, starting at 6:30 P.M.** – the final work night to finish the preparation of the pavilion and grove.
- +**June 13, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – all of the final “moving around, hooking up, and plugging in” takes place at the grove and pavilion.



A Letter from The Pastor..... Cont.

+June 13, starting at 11:30 A.M. – we welcome our guests from Premier at Susquehanna and prepare to open to the public

June 13, starting at 12:00 P.M. – *WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC*

June 13, starting at approx. 2:30 P.M. – entertainment by Brad Crum, appearing as Elvis

+June 13, starting at 4:00 P.M. – brief concert by our own young persons, the Celebration Choir, under the direction of Miss Laurie

+June 13, 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 13 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 13, 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

News from Miss Laurie

I can't believe school is over! We wrapped things up at Little Hands on May 22nd. We're only a couple weeks out, and I already miss my little friends! But like one wise preschooler told me, "Don't be sad, Miss Laurie, there will be other kids coming to take our place!" So true, and such is the cycle of life (and preschool).

With school over and summer on the way, I just wanted to list a few upcoming events to look forward to in the coming months:

Wednesday, June 13th – Strawberry Festival - This year at the "Celebration Site" we're featuring Face Painting with Missy, Jokes with Monsieur Alphie, and Story Time with Sunny! Stop by and check it out!

CALLING ALL KIDS!!! *The Celebration Choir is also going to be singing at the Strawberry Festival (at 4:00). People love to hear the kids, so please lend your voices as we lift them up to God!*

July 23rd – July 27th -Vacation Bible School - Join us for "Roaring River Rampage" and experience the ride of a LIFETIME with God!! Registration will again be available through our website, through my weekly email, or by hard copy (copies will be available in the lobby).

Sometime in August, I want to have another "Drive-in Movie Night"! I'll keep you posted on a date for this one!!

Throughout the summer, join us for SONday Celebration from 9:30 – 10:30! I'm planning several cool events including a "Science with Jesus" series!!!

Mark your calendars and be part of the Celebration for all our upcoming events! Wishing you all a fantastic summer!!

Miss Laurie

St. John's Facebook:
facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch

St. John's Children and Youth Ministry:
facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry



Find us on
Facebook

Outdoor Schedule

June 17

*July 1 - Colonial
Order for Holy
Communion*

July 15

*July 29 - VBS Closing
Program and Annual
Picnic*

*Aug 19 - Annual Old
Fashioned Hymn Sing*

*Sept 2 - Holy
Communion*

Congratulations to Our New Doctors!

It isn't often that we have one, let alone two, of our congregational family members who have placed over their shoulders the traditional hood that comes with the completion of a doctoral degree but, this spring, both **Daniel Bruner** and **Alayna (Peters) Ribovich** achieved this high honor as they both begin careers in the healing arts. Please read on for some of the details of Dan's and Alayna's experiences (and please note that the July/August newsletter will contain a full report on our May and June high school and undergraduate diploma recipients):

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On March 31, **Daniel Bruner** completed four years of study and clinical work and graduated from New York Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls, NY with his Doctorate in Chiropractic. Dan's work at NYCC followed the completion of his Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology at the Pennsylvania State University in 2014. During his last year of schooling for the doctorate, Dan had the pleasure of being accepted to an honors clerkship that placed him in a Neurology based chiropractic office in Lindenhurst, NY on Long Island. His focus in Chiropractic has related to ergonomics and workplace injury, injuries in athletes, neurology and geriatric care. Recently, Dan had the pleasure of accepting a position at Altland Chiropractic in Millersburg and is very much enjoying being back in The Valley.

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After eight years, her time as a student is finally over. On May 13th, **Alayna Ribovich** received a doctorate of pharmacy degree from Shenandoah University. Alayna always intended to pursue pharmacy when thinking about college as a high school student. Her initial plan upon graduating high school was to attend Temple University in Philadelphia for seven years, three years to complete undergraduate coursework, and four years of pharmacy school. At 18, the idea of leaving Berrysburg for "city life" in Philadelphia was intoxicating, but soon after her first semester started she realized Temple and Philadelphia were just not the place for her.

After finishing her freshmen year, she then transferred to Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia. Shenandoah is a small, private university located in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley with about 4,000 students. From her first visit on campus, Alayna loved everything about it. She continued her undergraduate work by studying biology and chemistry. During her senior year she applied to several pharmacy schools and was accepted at the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy at Shenandoah. Alayna finished her Bachelor of Science degree majoring in biology and chemistry, graduating in May 2014.

The four years of pharmacy school challenged Alayna in new ways. She had always been an excellent student, and her undergraduate studies gave her an advantage in the classroom, but the expectations for professional students far exceeded the expectations she had previously experienced as an undergraduate student. It wasn't enough to just get good grades; you needed to be a well-rounded individual. To thrive in pharmacy school required work experience, getting involved with student organizations, taking on leadership roles, volunteering in the community, and networking within the profession of pharmacy whenever possible. Over time, Alayna rose to this new challenge. Some of Alayna's most notable accomplishments while in pharmacy school include holding several leadership positions in various student organizations, completing two internships, serving in a medical mission trip with Shenandoah to Haiti, and presenting a research poster on blood thinners at a national meeting while maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

2018

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

JUNE 13, 2018 | 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.

Seeking Musicians for Summer Services

On Sundays from May 27 through September 2 (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”.

Inquirer's Class

An Inquirer's Class will be held at the church on Sunday, June 17, beginning immediately after worship and ending by 12:30 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 at a later date, tentatively on July 1.

Congratulations to Our New Doctors - Continued

For Alayna, the importance of being well rounded was even greater, as she found she wanted to pursue a career in clinical pharmacy, which requires residency training. Pharmacy residency programs are extremely competitive, with only about 65% of applicants earning a position. Pharmacy residency training is a postgraduate training program that allows you to practice as a licensed practitioner, but also to train under the supervision of an experienced preceptor. This allows the resident to develop skills in various hospital settings and accelerate professional growth.

The entire residency application and interview process was brutal, one of the most stressful things she's ever done. You constantly had to prove why you were better than all the other applicants, who were all also incredible students and it really shook her self-confidence. Luckily she had her husband Brandon, her parents, and her faith to help her through the times when she didn't believe in herself. After months of applications and interviews, Alayna was accepted into her top choice of pharmacy residency programs. Starting on July 2, 2018, Alayna will be one of the pharmacy residents at Meritus Medical Center in Hagerstown, Maryland. After her year of residency training she hopes to pursue a clinical pharmacist position at one of the many hospitals in central Pennsylvania in order to move closer to home.

Our Faith Active in our Financial Giving - As of April 30

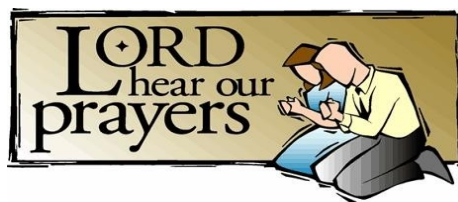
In recent years, Congregational Council has asked that we all periodically receive an update in the *Epistle* about how we are doing in meeting our ministry commitments adopted in our annual budget.

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 **\$50,160** out of our total 2018 budget. Adjusting for the effects of some lump-sum gifts at the beginning of the year, we have **actually received \$50,168** in offerings and other income, meaning we have just **slightly exceeded our goal by \$8**. This very small surplus is one of our 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 \$5,763** in offerings and Thrivent Choice Dollars as of the end of April (again adjusting for some lump-sum gifts at the beginning of the year) which, while not enough money to completely cover our expenditures, is still **almost \$3,000 ahead** of where we projected we might be in our giving at this point in this second year of ministry together (which is very important because we will need to continue to grow together in order to fully cover expenditures in coming years as planned, without the help of interest from our Memorials Account).

Finally, as to the gifts 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 2018 commitment of \$12,000. As of April 30, we have **actually received and shared a total of \$5,677**, meaning that we are **ahead of** our commitment by **\$1,754**.

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 Treasurer Jamie Doyle, Pastor Tom or any member of Council!



HOSPITALIZED/RESIDING IN SENIOR LIVING/DEALING WITH ACUTE ILLNESS

Margaret Enders – Rm. #211, Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, 4000 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, 17112

Warren Hassinger – Room #323, Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg

Elaine Henninger – Recovering from 5/25 Outpatient Orthopedic Surgery

Ronald Hoover – Room #101, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg

Marlin Koppenhaver - Room #12, Green Valley Skilled Nursing & Rehab. Center, 200 Taylorsville Road, Pitman, 17964

Sue Lebo – Rm. #203, Heritage Mill Personal Care Home, 846 E. Wiconisco Ave., Tower City, 17980

Cora Mace – Rm. #2822, Ben Franklin, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022

Martha Rebuck – Rm. #36, Stonebridge Health and Rehab. Center, 102 Chandra Drive, Duncannon, 17020

Helen Schade – Rm # 218, Traditions of Hershey, 100 North Larkspur Drive, Palmyra, 17078

Doris Schaffer – Recovering from 5/22 Outpatient Skin Cancer Surgery



VBS Registration Form

Student's Name _____

Parent/Family/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Numbers Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____

Last school grade completed _____

Home Church _____

Friends of your child at this church _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other _____

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Dismissal Information

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS

Other Information (church use only)

Hero Group _____

Are parents/guardians/family members helping with VBS Hero Central? _____

If yes, where? _____

★ IF your child has Special Needs, please also fill out the form on the back! ★

Youth Group News

Friday, June 8th: We will be meeting at the church at 6:00 p.m. to assemble 50-60 goodie bags for the homeless. Around 7:00 p.m., we will split up into two groups: the first group goes to Harrisburg and the second group stays at the church. The first group are the older youth members who are invited to go along to Harrisburg with the Bethesda Mobile Mission to hand deliver the goodie bags. Anyone heading to Harrisburg, will leave the church around 7:00 p.m. and return around 12:00 midnight. Please keep in mind that any youth participating in the trip to inner city Harrisburg need to see a youth advisor to sign up and also need to complete and return a permission slip. Please see Amy or Clint Gehring with any questions.

Wednesday, June 13th: Annual Strawberry Festival!! All youth members are encouraged to help with this important day in the life of our congregation...your help is greatly needed and appreciated!!!!

June 26 to July 1st: The Gathering. Remember to pray for all the youth members and leaders attending The Gathering.

Friday, June 29th: The plan is to gather at the church at 8:00 p.m. for an opportunity to experience The Gathering right along with those attending via live streaming of the evening worship service in Houston. This is open to all members of the congregation. How awesome is that?! More information to follow.

Saturday, June 30th: Youth Fun Day!!! Any youth NOT attending The Gathering are invited for a day of service, food, fun, and fellowship. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and head out to do a service project in the community. After lunch, we will head to Hershey, to Adventure Sports, for some friendly competition of bumper boats, mini golf, and go karts. We will finish up our day at the church with pizza and a movie. Please remember that any youth participating must see a youth advisor to sign up and also need to complete and return a permission slip. Please see Matt or Olivia Williard with any questions.

Did you know...?

1. Close to 75 percent of the flowering plants on the Earth rely to some degree on pollinators in order to set seed or fruit.
2. From these plants comes one-third of humankind's food and even greater proportions of the food for much of our wildlife.
3. European bees are the most efficient pollinators. They can carry 90 times their weight in pollen.
4. The Rusty Patched Bumblebee is on the Endangered Species List and the Monarch Butterfly might be added.

As was mentioned in an earlier edition of *The Epistle*, we in the high school Sunday School class decided to plant a pollinator garden right here at St. John's. Hopefully you have all taken notice to it on the right side at the front doors to the church. While it may not be a lot to look at yet, the hope is to have a garden full of color and teeming with bees and butterflies later this summer. We planted five varieties of perennials including: Creeping Phlox, Lavender, Lupine, Coneflower and Butterfly Weed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Youth Members who helped bring this project to life (literally): Gracie Gehring (planning and planting), Reyann Cheatham (planning), Gabe Gehring (planning), Kelsey Henninger (planting) and RJ Henry (planting). I hope you will all take some time to stop and smell the roses (err...I mean coneflowers) this summer!

Yours in Christ,
Matt Williard

Reminder to youth group members:

We have our meetings every third Sunday of the month 6p-8p, for the month of June, those not attending GATHERING, the advisors have planned a fun filled day on June 30!

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2018

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Dan Langhans. Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions.

9 members present; excused absence – Carol Hassinger and Jamie Doyle

Reading of Minutes: Motion to accept by Pat Herb; second by Dan Langhans. Motion passed by all in attendance.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

1. Water tests passed.

Pastor's Report: Gettysburg and Philadelphia Seminaries will merge into one seminary with two campuses to be known as United Lutheran Seminary.

- Mutual Ministry meeting next Sunday

Motion to accept by Donna Rebenold; second by Jeff Buffington; passed by all in attendance.

Children and Youth: Carl reported the special service on April 8 was very nice; the church is blessed.

Motion to accept report by Barbara Bullock; second by Pat Herb; motion passed by all in attendance.

Treasurer Report – This has been a solid giving year- about \$2000 ahead of expectation. Motion to accept report by Carl Baumgardner; second by Donna Rebenold; motion passed by all in attendance.

Church Property Report by Henry Henninger

- Pavilion roof go over; some nails loose
- Night light for the elevator hallway
- Church grounds to be put shape after the winter

Worship and Music:

- Meeting in April
- Faith Formation Team met March 13; next meeting May 8.

Youth:

- BASS PRO fund raiser event went well; fund raising for Texas Trip.
- Good Friday eve worship and overnight

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes - continued
April 8, 2018

Strawberry Festival:

- Meeting of the Benevolence Committee held March 12 which is part of the Strawberry Festival Fund

Women:

- 3 women helping to make Quilts Of Valor for veterans.
- \$1700 raised by 3 Breaking Bread events.
- 4 women to help prepare for election day at St. Peters Lutheran Church.
- Flower refrigerator now in elevator hallway

New Business:

- Discussion about Pastor Tom's 30th Anniversary of his ordination
- Planning to recognize Pastor Tom at a covered dish event July 15.
- Plan to discuss the kitchen project at the next meeting on May 20.
- Motion to accept pastor's vacation by Dan Langhans; second by Jeff Buffington; passed by all in attendance.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Carl Baumgardner; second by Donna Rebenold; passed by all in attendance.

Next Meeting May 20

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell Denlinger, Secretary

June Worship Schedule

May Gifts

Konde Diocese -

Celebrate Inserts -

Mike & Carol Hubler

Tree 4 Hope -

Faye & Bob Weaver

Altar Flowers

June 3

*Winifred & Merle
Romberger Memorial*

June 10

Chris & Dana Klouser

June 17

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

June 24

*Mary Ann & Dennis
Smeltz*

**as of print date,
subject to change*

Altar Guild
Lector

Mike and Carol Hubler
Lorraine Henninger

Usher's for the Month of June: Barbara Bullock (L)
Lois Watson (E), Faye Weaver and Robert Weaver (LAY)

June 3, 2018
Holy Communion

Greeter Arlene Donnelly

June 10, 2018

Greeter Joe & Arlene Doyle


June 17, 2018
Outdoor Worship

Greeter The Roy Henry Family

June 24, 2018
Holy Communion

Greeter John & Connie Shaffer



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> <div>  </div> <div> <h1>June 2018</h1> </div> </div>						
3 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 9:30 SONday Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger	4 	5 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting	6 	7 	8 8:00 (A.M.) Ham & Bar-B-Que Preparation for Annual Strawberry Festival 6:00 (P.M.) Youth Group Gathering at the Church, including Service Project for/with Bethesda Mobile Mission	9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East 8:00 Chicken Corn Soup Preparation for Festival
10 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word, with Blessing of Prayer Shawls 9:30 SONday Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger	11 8:00 (A.M.) Bean Soup Preparation, Filling Quart Containers with Soup, and Baking Shortcakes for Festival	12 6:30 (A.M.) Strawberry Pie Preparation for 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 Festival	13 ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 8:00 A.M. Set-Up Begins at the Pavilion 11:30 A.M. Serving Premier at Susquehanna Residents 12:00 P.M. Opening to the Public	14 Flag Day	15 Deadline to Submit Items for July/August "St. John's Epistle" Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off	16 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
17 4th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP (with Sunny Sermon) 9:30 SONday Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger 10:45 – 12:30 P.M. Inquirer's Class Led by Pastor Tom	18 	19 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting	20 	21 Summer Begins	22 Rehearsal for Thompson/Simonetti Wedding (Time TBA)	23 11:00 Marriage of Cody Thompson & Maura Simonetti
24 John the Baptist 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion 9:30 SONday Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger	25 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off (instead of Saturday, June 23)	26 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting	27 St. John Delegation Departs for ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX (early morning)	28 5:30 Community Meal at Trinity United Methodist Church, Elizabethtville	29 Peter & Paul, Apostles 8:15 – 10:15 (P.M.) Live Streaming of Stadium Gathering at National Youth Gathering at the Church (for all ages!)	30 Youth Group Service Day Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

<u>Pastor's Office Hours:</u> 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	Stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
	Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little@gmail.com	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

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE