

ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BERRYSBURG, PA | JUNE 2023

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

- **Tuesday, May 23, 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 have done so successfully in recent years, we are consolidating what were formerly two annual work nights into one slightly longer evening, but lots of help will be needed.)
- **Saturday, June 3, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – food preparation
- **Monday, June 5, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – food preparation
- **Monday, June 5, starting at 6:00 P.M.** – strawberry preparation
- **Tuesday, June 6, starting at 8:00 A.M.** - strawberry pie preparation
- **Tuesday, June 6, starting at 6:00 P.M.** – final cleanup of the pavilion and grove
- **Wednesday, June 7, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – all of the final “moving around, hooking up, and plugging in” at the grove and pavilion
- **Wednesday, June 7, starting at 12:00 P.M.** – **WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
- **Wednesday, June 7,** afternoon and evening musical entertainment by **Brad Crum, appearing as Elvis;** by our own young persons, **the Celebration Choir**, under the direction of Miss Laurie; and, new this year, by local group **Shannon**

Our Strawberry Festival is an event by which our caring and hospitality are known far and wide. (I can still remember how, 23 years ago now, when I would tell someone just where I was serving as the brand-new pastor, many would recognize “St. John Evangelical Lutheran”, even more would recognize “The Hill Church”, but if all else failed, they would for sure recognize “The Strawberry Festival Church”!) The Strawberry Festival is an event

by which we serve as Jesus served – on June 7 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 you can't be present during the day on June 7, please come after work or your other day's responsibilities – there will still be plenty of need for your help. If for some reason you cannot help at all on June 7, 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 to provide for the good stewardship of bulk purchasing of needed ingredients.*** 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, Young Christians Minister

Happy summer, everyone! Graduation days are over; school is done for the year. It's time to grab those calendars and reserve these dates for some fun, summertime faith formation!

- First of all, make note of the time change for SONday Celebration. During the summer schedule, **SONday Celebration meets from 9:30 – 10:30** and because we meet concurrently with church, there is no Celebration Time.
- Come check out the Celebration Station at the **Strawberry Festival** on **Wednesday, June 7th**! Join us from 2:00 – 5:00 for stories, games, and jokes with Sunny! And there will be face-painting too!!
- Calling all heroes – it's time for "**Hero Hotline**" VBS! The fun runs from **July 17th through July 21st** and we'll meet from 6:30 to about 8:45 each evening. Join us as we answer the call to serve God by working together to bring peace, by building each other up, and by sharing the great story of God's love!
- **Friday, July 21st** – It's closing night of VBS and **Drive-In Movie Night!!**
- **Sunday, July 23rd** – Join us for "**Voices and Vittles**" – VBS Sunday followed by our congregational picnic!
- Back by popular demand, it's our annual **Water Fun Night!!** Join us on **Friday, August 11th** for the fun!!

Wishing you all a fantastic and safe summer! I hope you'll allow us to be part of your plans!!! See you at the summer celebrations!

Miss Laurie

Join us for VBS!

Save the date: July 17th – 21st

6:30 – 8:45 pm

All children 2 years – 12th grade
welcome!



VBS Registration Form

Hero's Name _____

Parent/Family/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

Date of birth _____ Age _____ Last school grade completed _____

Home Church (if any) _____

Friends of your child at this church _____

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Other: _____

Emergency Contacts

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

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

Photo Release: _____ Church/VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. I also understand that no royalty, fee, or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent/Guardian's signature _____

----- (for church use only) -----

Assigned to Hero Group: _____

Are family members helping with Hero Hotline? _____ If yes, where? _____

Confirmation

During our morning worship on the festival day of The Holy Trinity, June 4, we will have the honor and great joy of joining in celebrating the confirmation of **Cole Roadcap**, who has completed two years of catechetical instruction with Pastor Tom and is now ready to take this new step in his faith journey—saying “yes” to the baptismal promises previously made for him by his parents and sponsors. Please don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate this milestone in Cole’s life and in our life as a congregational family!

Congregational Yard Sale!

The Event You’ve All Been Waiting For!

Our annual congregational yard sale is back for 2023.

Please donate your gently used items and/or your time to support the *Lutheran Disaster Response* of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The sale will take place in the pavilion on Thursday, August 3, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Friday, August 4, also from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; and Saturday, August 5, from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Donations for the yard sale may be delivered directly to the pavilion beginning on Monday, July 31. Please place donations in the front part of the pavilion, near the kitchen. *Please do not bring donations to the church before Monday, July 31 and please do not place them anywhere but directly in the pavilion.* Stay tuned for more information about helping to set up and/or staffing for the yard sale, and please contact Sheila Barder or Tam Spicher with any questions.



Book Group - Summer 2023

Join us for some light summer reading! We'll read the first 3 titles in each of these 2 series, and then we'll discuss them at an evening picnic on Monday, August 21, 6:30 pm in the pavilion.

The Mitford Years Series by Jan Karon:

1. At Home in Mitford
2. A Light in the Window
3. These High, Green Hills

The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series by Alexander McCall Smith:

1. The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency
2. Tears of the Giraffe
3. Morality for Beautiful Girls

Choose to read one of the series ... or all 6 books. A few copies are available for sharing in the church library -- and more at your local public library, both physical copy and ebook. If you have questions or need to locate a book, please contact Ann (rahbruner@gmail.com).



St. John's Youth Group

**JUNE
2023**

JUNE YOUTH GROUP MEETING

Monday, June 19th at 6:00 p.m. - Outdoor game night!!! Bring your favorite outdoor game to play, and a drink or snack to share. Parents can pick up their youth members at 8:00 p.m.

SUMMER CAMP OUT

July 21-22 - Camp Out: We will meet immediately following the close of VBS on Friday night, July 21st. It's our first **Camp-Out!** Weather permitting, we will sleep outside, have a campfire, play camp games, tell Bible ghost stories, and more! Watch your email for more details!

The camp out is open to all members of St. John youth group currently in 5th through 12th grade. All St. John's permission slips and medical papers must be handed in before the camp out.



September 22-24 - Alive Junior High Retreat at Camp Nawakwa: Registration deadline is August 27th. All St. John youth group members currently in 5th through 7th grade are invited to attend. More information to follow!!

Upper Dauphin Area Archery Season

The 2023 U.D.A. Archery season began with 38 High School Archers and 52 Middle School Archers. That included from St. John's congregation; RJ Henry, Gabe Gehring for HS and Brayden Bender and Brianna Radel for MS. What a year it was! The HS broke the State record 3 times this season with the 3rd coming at the State Tournament, which UDA won again for the 5th time, shooting a state record of 3361. The team was led by Kyra Grace Tomlinson shooting a 287 which was good enough for 5th place in the State girl's division. Gabe Gehring and RJ Henry both contributed with their personal best scores of 275 and 270 respectfully. This win of the State title capped off an undefeated 8 – 0 tournament record.

The season for the MS was quite different. Capturing 2nd place in 6 State Qualifiers earning them a 4th place overall ranking going into the State Championship. Not to be out done by their upper-class comrades MS captured the one that counted the most, the Pa State Championship with a score of 3249. Eighth grader Gary Leitzel shot his personal best of 286 earning him 2nd in the State for MS boys.

This is the 1st time the same school has won both the MS and HS State Championship!

Next by virtue of the State Championship both teams qualified for the National Championship in Louisville, Kentucky. The bus left UDA MS on May 10th to shoot on May 11th. The HS was ranked 37th in the nation out of 728 high schools. The Trojan archers did not disappoint shooting 3412 surpassing their old State record by 51 points to secure 10th position out of 253 competing high schools. Senior Kyra Grace Tomlinson shot a 297 out of a possible 300 securing her the 2nd spot in the nation! In the boy's division freshman, Austin Heim finished with a 295 to capture 10th place. The MS team also performed beyond expectations shooting their season's best score of 3291. Beating their State Championship score by 42 points. This earned them 14th place out of over 250 schools. The MS team was led by Gary Leitzel shooting 288 for 26th place out of 2767 MS boys. The teams had 2 All American Academic Archers (qualifications being top 24 in the nation combined with scholastic and GPA guidelines); Kyra Tomlinson and Austin Heim HS.

Based on individual scores of 280 and above for HS and 275 and above for MS the Trojans have 9 HS archers and 5 MS archers qualify for the Open World Championship at Myrtle Beach S.C. to be held on June 8th – 10th.

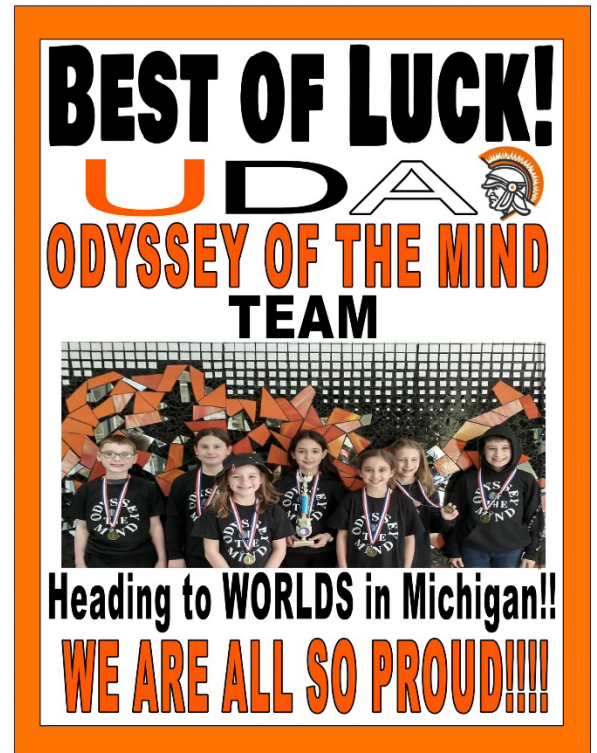
Congratulations to all our archers, parents, grandparents and even great grandparents!



Upper Dauphin Odyssey of the Mind

The Upper Dauphin Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind Upper Elementary team has qualified for Worlds Competition at Michigan State University in May. They earned this opportunity by scoring first place out of twelve teams in their division at the state Odyssey of the Mind competition held at Lock Haven University on April 1. The team will represent Pennsylvania in their problem and division against teams from across all 50 states and countries from around the world!

Odyssey of the Mind teaches students how to develop and use their natural creativity to become problem-solvers. It also emphasizes teamwork, budgeting, time management, public speaking, and more. Team members include Garrison Reiner, Sophia Reiner, Brooklyn Bender, Cora Welker, Kinsley Skelton-Crosby, Ava Zerbe and Calder Witmer.



Congratulations Reagan!

Reagan Little graduated with a bachelor of science degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from Lebanon Valley College on May 13th. She graduated summa cum laude and with Phi Alpha Epsilon honors. She is continuing her education at Lebanon Valley College to pursue her Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. During her time at LVC, she participated in a variety of service opportunities, including two service trips. In addition, she co-created and led *Girls Are...*, a social group for middle school-aged girls that teaches empowerment and confidence. In the upcoming year, she will have a medical placement at Lehigh Valley Hospital in Pottsville and a school placement at Tri-Valley School District. After receiving her Master's degree, she hopes to find employment at a school district working with elementary-aged students.

Eagle Scout Ceremony for RJ Henry

A Court of Honor ceremony was held at St. John's Hill Church pavilion on May 7th in recognition of Roy Henry, Jr. earning his Eagle Scout rank. Thank you to all those who attended and helped with his accomplishment of Eagle Scout through the work of the church Prayer Garden.



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregational Council Minutes

April 2, 2023

The council meeting was called to order by President Joshua Paul. Devotions were offered by Pastor Tom.

Present: Pastor Tom Bruner, Christie Kahler, Joshua Paul, Ira Antes, Dana Klouser, Sheila Barder, Craig Peters, Michael Henninger, Sandra Lamenza, and Courtney Foreman.

Excused: Jeff Lehman, Ty Troutman

Absent: Gail Billow

Minutes: Motion by Dana Klouser to accept the February 2022 minutes as read. Second by Sheila Barder. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

Request received for a donation to the annual YMCA Campaign. Motion to donate \$300 made by Craig Peters. 2nd by Sandra Lamenza. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Motion to accept Pastor Tom's reports from February and March 2023 was made by Sandra Lamenza. 2nd by Christie Kahler. Motion approved unanimously.

Children and Youth Ministry Report: Motion to accept Miss Laurie's report for February by Dana Klouser. 2nd by Sandra Lamenza. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Pastor provided a summary. Motion to accept the treasurer's reports for February and March by Christie Kahler. 2nd by Mike Henninger. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: February's meeting was cancelled. Next meeting is planned for the end of April. Barn cleanout is planned for Spring. Coat racks are to be painted. The outer door that leads to the Sunday School room is to be replaced. There is a door in stock at Klinger Lumber for \$410. Will probably be addressed at the next meeting. There is a steeple light that is burned out. May get an LED insert from OptiLumen. More to come.

Finance Committee: No report.

Worship and Music: Confirmation Sunday, June 4th.

Bulletin Covers: Continuing with the custom design will cost \$650. The ELCA bulletin service is available at \$375. The Henninger and Hassinger families have offered to make up the difference to continue with the custom design. The Worship and Music committee recommends accepting the offer. Council agreed unanimously.

Thursday, May 18th: Gathering at Salem UCC in Elizabethtown for fellowship and worship on Ascension Day.

Cemetery Committee: Met at end of March to review prices of plots and adjust guidelines. Only 2 cremains per plot. Will have an area for cremains only. No pets or animals to be buried in cemetery. No spreading of ashes. Matt Riland is going to assist in creating a computer program to track plots.

Faith Formation: No report.

Mutual Ministry: Next meeting will be April 16th.

Executive: No report.

Nominating: No report.

History and Archive: No report.

Women of the ELCA: Meeting scheduled for April 16th to determine the future ministry of the group.

Youth Group: Prepared for Easter Egg Hunt on April 8th at 10 am.

8 youth will lead the Good Friday worship on April 7th.

Strawberry Festival Committee: First meeting for this year was on March 7th to form committees and gather volunteers. Next meeting will be Monday, April 24th at 7 pm.

Unfinished Business:

Josh is working with PSP to get security suggestions.

Discussion was held regarding the options for CPR training that are available. Courtney will provide more information about the Hands only option and let Matt know that we are considering the class available through LifeTeam.

New Business:

Tiffany Brosius proposed participating in the Baby Bottle Campaign for LifeLine Pregnancy Center again this year. Discussion was held. Motion to give permission to Miss Laurie and Tiffany to do the "Battle to fill the Bottle" again this year if wanted by Dana Klouser. 2nd by Sandra Lamenza. Motion approved unanimously.

Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, June 2nd via Zoom and in person at Trinity Lutheran in Camp Hill on Saturday, June 3rd. Sandra Lamenza volunteered as the female representative of St. John's. A male representative is still needed to attend.

Confirmation is set for June 4th. Motion for Council to process with the confirmand and sit together during the service made by Sandra Lamenza. 2nd by Mike Henninger. Motion approved unanimously. Council will gather at 9:15.

Next Council Meeting: May 7, 2023, at 4 PM.

Adjournment: Motion by Craig Peters, 2nd by Mike Henninger to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Foreman, Secretary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					Evening – Pastor Tom and Sandra Lamenza Attending (Zoom) Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly	8am - Food Preparation for Annual Strawberry Festival All Day – Pastor Tom and Sandra Lamenza Attending (In-Person) Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
The Holy Trinity 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:15am - Congregational Council Members Meet 9:30am - Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion and Rite of Confirmation (In-Person and On Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)	8am - Food Preparation for Annual Strawberry Festival 6pm - Cleaning of Strawberries for Annual Strawberry Festival Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off (instead of Saturday, June 3)	8am - Pie Preparation for Annual Strawberry Festival 9:30am - Pastor Tom at Upper Dauphin Conference Pastors Gathering 6pm - Final Set-up of Pavilion and Grove	ANNUAL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL 8am - Final Setup for Opening Begins at the Pavilion and Grove 12pm - WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC		<i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2nd Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - OUTDOOR WORSHIP (Both In-Person and on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)				<i>Deadline to Submit Items for July/August "St. John's Epistle"</i>		Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
			Flag Day			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
3rd Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - OUTDOOR WORSHIP , Including Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie (Both In-Person and on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person) Father's Day					Drive-In Movie Night with Miss Laurie	John the Baptist Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
			Summer Begins			
25	26	27	28	29	30	
4th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - OUTDOOR WORSHIP (Both In-Person and on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)				Peter & Paul, Apostles		

Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday: 8am – 9:30am

Wednesday, Thursday: 8am – 12 noon

Friday: 8am - 9:30am

(Other times by appointment)

Contact Information

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor	pt@stjohnhillchurch.org	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Laurie Little, Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little@gmail.com	717-571-5058
Lewis Weaver, Sexton	bootsdagreat@gmail.com	570-809-1014
Grace Weaver, Sexton	No Email	570-809-1510
Judith Ferree, Organist	jjferree@epix.net	717-362-4228
Ty Troutman, Choir Director	kimjtroutman@gmail.com	717-686-2758
Rachel Henry, Secretary	henryfamily2004@gmail.com	717-439-3897
Joshua Paul, Council President	joshpaul1995@gmail.com	717-460-0670
Fay Nichols, Prayer Chain Coordinator	fnichols46@comcast.net	717-329-7447

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

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For US Mail Deliveries:

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Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch