



ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
BERRYSBURG, PA | JUNE 2024

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

- **Tuesday, May 28, 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 (once again we are consolidating what were formerly two annual work nights into one slightly longer evening, but lots of help will be needed.)
- **Saturday, June 8, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – food preparation
- **Monday, June 10, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – food preparation
- **Monday, June 10, starting at 5:30 P.M.** – strawberry topping for pie making
- **Tuesday, June 11, starting at 6:30 A.M.** - strawberry pie preparation
- **Tuesday, June 11, starting at 6:00 P.M.** – final cleanup of the pavilion and grove
- **Tuesday, June 11, starting at 6:00 P.M.** – strawberry preparation for Festival day
- **Wednesday, June 12, starting at 8:00 A.M.** – all of the final “moving around, hooking up, and plugging in” at the grove and pavilion
- **Wednesday, June 12, starting at 12:00 P.M.** – **WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Our Strawberry Festival is an event by which our caring and hospitality are known far and wide. (I can still remember how, 24 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 12 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 12, 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 12, 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 June, friends – and hello summer! I hope everyone had a great end to their school year! And congratulations to all you graduates out there from preschool through college! Best of luck with your new endeavors!!

As we approach the “official” beginning of summer, please note in your calendars the following:

- The **Summer Schedule for SONday Celebration** has begun! Join us every Sunday from **9:30 – 10:30** for some summertime faith formation! There is no Celebration Time throughout the summer, as SONday Celebration runs concurrently with the church service.
- **Wednesday, June 12th** – It's time again for the annual St. John's **Strawberry Festival!** Join us at the “Celebration Station” for some games and activities with “Sunny and Friends”! The fun runs from around 1:30 to 4:30! Plan to stop by!
- The “Strawberry Jammers” will be taking the stage at the Strawberry Festival at 1:15! The “Celebration Station” will open after we're done performing!
- **July 15th – July 19th** - Looking ahead, make sure you're saving the date for VBS! This year, we're doing “Camp Firelight” - a summer camp adventure with God! All children 2 years old through 12th grade are invited! Join us each evening from 6:30 – 8:45 for the fun!! If you're interested in helping, let me know – everyone is welcome to be part of the team!
- **Friday, August 9th** – Back by popular demand, it's our annual “Water Fun Night”! Join us at 6:00 for some fun water activities and the best darned “slip-n-slide” ever!!

There will be a lot of fabulous summer faith formation here on “the Hill”! Plan to be part of the fun!!

Miss Laurie

It's YARD SALE Time Again!

Our annual congregational yard sale 2024 will soon be here.

Its time to begin to gather your gently used items for donation to support the Lutheran Disaster Response of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The sale will take place in the pavilion:
Thursday, August 1, from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Friday, August 2, also from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 3, from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Donations will be accepted beginning on Monday, July 29. Please place donations in the front part of the pavilion, near the kitchen. Please do not bring donations to the church before Monday, July 29 and please do not place them anywhere but directly in the pavilion. Watch your July newsletter and bulletins for details on ways you can volunteer your time help make the yard sale a big success!

Questions should be directed to Sheila Barder or Tam Spicher.



YARD SALE

Pastoral Acts

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Timothy Enders**, who died at the Lehigh Valley Medical Center in Allentown on April 11. Worship took place at the church on Monday, April 22, with interment in our cemetery. We pray God's comfort in the Easter Promise of Resurrection for **Ginny & Delmar**, for **Caleb** and **Olivia & Sophia** and for Tim's entire family in their ongoing walk of grief.

Book Group - Summer

We've had great spring discussions! Book Group will take a June break, and a special outing is being planned for July. Watch the bulletin for details, and as usual, all are invited and welcome to join in the fun, fellowship and food!

Creation Care Team

Creation Care Team will be actively improving recycling during the Strawberry Festival. Watch for recycling signage and help us keep recyclable items separated and out of the landfill. If you have questions - or ideas - about future creation care efforts, please talk with any member of the team. So far those involved are: Christie Kahler, Olivia Williard, Matt Williard, Lois Watson, Tam Spicher, Lori Motter, Helen Henninger, Jamie Doyle, Louise Baumgardner, and Ann Bruner. Consider joining us and watch future newsletters and bulletins for our next meeting time.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Congregational Council Minutes

April 14, 2024

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

Present: Pastor Tom Bruner, Joshua Paul, Ty Troutman, Jeff Lehman, Sandra Lamenza, Justin Adams, Matthew Riland, Karen Gehring, Gail Billow, Christie Kahler, Craig Peters, and Courtney Foreman.

Excused: Sandra Paul

Guests: Lewis Weaver (in person) and Barry Williard (via Zoom)

Minutes: Correction to last month's minutes: Joshua Paul checked with Jamie Doyle about the question he had about the calculation of the totals for the Benevolence Fund. Jamie explained the calculations and her original totals were correct. Motion by Joshua Paul to accept the March 2024 minutes as read. Second by Christie Kahler. Motion approved unanimously.

Guest Presentations: Lewis Weaver provided information about the additional security cameras that he and Grace installed after the January 1, 2023 vehicle break ins at the church. The area for surveillance that MIS recommended is already covered by these cameras. The recordings are stored in the cloud for several months.

Barry Williard provided information about the current sound system in the pavilion (which is the same as the old system in the church building prior to the upgrade). Barry is proposing upgrading to a system that will link to the iPad for controls and will be compatible with the new system in the church. The mixer will have WiFi connection to connect to the system. The quote of \$3,178.00 includes a wireless microphone (value \$279), all equipment needed for the upgrade, and installation. A few extra cables will be needed as well. The system will use the existing camera for Zoom worship. Pastor Tom mentioned that the Memorial donations that we have received recently would cover the cost of the upgrade and he is willing to speak with the families to assess if they would approve of the funds being used for this purpose. Sandra Lamenza made a motion to move forward with the upgrade. Motion seconded by Craig Peters. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

- Thank you to Sandra Lamenza for stepping into the Financial Secretary role. The envelopes have been moved to the archive room. We keep four years of envelopes in document storage.
- Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 19, 2024. There will be six confirmands. Council typically processes together at the beginning of the service. Please mark your calendars and meet at 9:45 upstairs.

Pastor's Report: Motion to accept Pastor Tom's reports for March was made by Matthew Riland. 2nd by Karen Ghering. Motion approved unanimously.

Children and Youth Ministry Report: Motion to accept Miss Laurie's reports for March by Sandra Lamenza. 2nd by Christie Kahler. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Pastor provided a summary of the March report provided by Jamie Doyle. Motion to accept the treasurer's reports by Justin Adams. 2nd by Jeff Lehman. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: There was a discussion about the pavilion project during the last property committee meeting. All paperwork has been submitted to the township. We should hear news about the permit next week. The paperwork then gets submitted to the company that does the inspections for the Department of Labor and Industry. Ty is proposing waiting until after the Strawberry Festival to break ground on the project due to the tight

timeline. Motion to wait to break ground on the project until after the Festival made by Sandra Lamenza. Motion seconded by Joshua Paul. Motion passed unanimously. The next Property Committee meeting will be held on April 23, 2024, at 6:15.

Worship and Music: Discussed the May 9th Ascension Day service and the Creation Care service coming up next week. Next meeting will be May 21, 2024.

Cemetery Committee: Walk through is scheduled in June. Will probably be looking for another director to fill Pat's position.

Faith Formation: VBS planning is underway.

Mutual Ministry: Will meet at the end of the month.

Executive: No report.

Nominating: No report.

History and Archive: No report.

Bell Ringing: No report.

Creation Care: Creation Care Sunday will be held next week. Discussing ideas to improve recycling program.

Strawberry Festival: First planning meeting was held on March 11, 2024. Committee chairs are in place. April 29, 2024, is the next meeting.

Women of the ELCA: Jelly jar and ingredient supply donations are needed for the Festival.

Youth Group: Serving food at the Henninger sale in April. The Easter egg hunt was successful again this year. Will meet at the end of the month.

Unfinished Business:

- Pastor Tom is willing to speak with the person that was willing to donate toward the installation of security cameras about Lewis' presentation and to ask if they would be willing to help cover some (or all) of the cost. Sandra Lamenza made a motion to reimburse Lewis and Grace Weaver \$1000.00 for the cost of the two additional cameras that they installed in 2023 (after the January 1st incident) and 2 years of the yearly subscription. Motion seconded by Ty Troutman. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- Sandra Shade is willing to take over as lead cashier for the Strawberry Festival.
- The auditing committee is moving forward. Louise Baumgardner will be the de facto chair. Ginny Enders and Sheila Barder also serve on the committee.
- The Dining Room committee is needing to be determined.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 6 PM.

Adjournment: Motion by Justin Adams to adjourn the meeting. 2nd by Matthew Riland. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Foreman, Asst. Secretary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 All Day – Pastor Tom Attending (In-Person) Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2nd Sunday after Pentecost 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion (In-Person and On Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person)		9:30am - Pastor Tom at Upper Dauphin Conference Pastors Gathering				8am - Food Preparation for Annual Strawberry Festival Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
3rd 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>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	8am - Food Preparation for Annual Strawberry Festival 5:30pm - Strawberry Preparation for Festival Pie Making	6:30am - Pie Preparation for Annual Strawberry Festival 6pm - Strawberry Preparation for Festival Day 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		Flag Day	Deadline to Submit Items for July/August "St. John's Epistle" Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
4th 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				Summer Begins	Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off (instead of 6/1)	Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
5th 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)	John the Baptist					Peter & Paul, Apostles Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
30						
6th 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)						

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

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Grace Weaver, Sexton	No Email	570-809-1510
Judith Ferree, Organist	jferree@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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Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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