



# ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BERRYSBURG, PA | JUNE 2022

## Letter from the Pastor

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, especially as we return this year to a “normal” Festival but with some important improvements gleaned from last year's unique Festival day. Here are most of the scheduling details to bear in mind:

- **Tuesday, May 24, 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 in several past years, we are consolidating what were formerly two annual work nights into one slightly longer evening, but lots of help will be needed.)
- **Friday, June 3, starting at 8:00 A.M. –** food preparation
- **Saturday, June 4, starting at 8:00 A.M. –** food preparation
- **Monday, June 6, starting at 8:00 A.M. –** food preparation
- **Monday, June 6, starting at 6:00 P.M. –** strawberry preparation
- **Tuesday, June 7, starting at 8:00 A.M. –** strawberry pie preparation
- **Tuesday, June 7, starting at 6:00 P.M. –** final cleanup of the pavilion and grove
- **Wednesday, June 8, starting at 8:00 A.M. –** all of the final “moving around, hooking up, and plugging in” at the grove and pavilion
- **Wednesday, June 8, starting at 12:00 P.M. – WE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
- **Wednesday, June 8, 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 *The Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band*.**

Our 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 you can't be present during the day on June 8, 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 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 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 end of the school year, everyone! Congrats to all our grads out there from preschool through college and beyond! I hope you all are ready for an AMAZING summer!

Speaking of summer, here are a few activities that will add to the fun! Grab your calendars and SAVE THESE DATES:

- **Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** – It's the annual **Strawberry Festival** at the Hill! After Covid put us out of commission for a couple of years, the **Celebration Station** is BACK! Join us for "Fun with Sunny and Friends" and face painting with Reagan! Also, the Celebration Choir will be back to sing a couple of songs!!
- **Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>** – It's the first **Drive-In Movie Night** of the season! Join us at sunset (time to be announced) for the fun!
- **July 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>** – Come and be part of the fun at "**Food Truck Party**" VBS!! All kids ages 2 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited! The fun starts at 6:30 and runs until about 8:45 pm! Join us as we get "on a roll" with God!
- **Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup>** – It's closing night of VBS and **Yo Momma's Lunch Box** will be providing treats! There will also be a **Drive-In Movie** as soon as it gets dark enough!! Don't miss our amazing finale!!
- **Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>** – It's the **VBS Closing** service followed by the **Voices and Vittles** Congregational Picnic.
- **Friday, August 12** – Grab your bathing suits, and join us for **Water Fun Night** with the BEST Slip-N-Slide around!!
- **Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>** – It's the end of summer **Drive-In Movie Night**!

As you can see, there are a lot of opportunities for faith formation this summer! We hope you can be part of the fun!

Wishing you all a joyous June! See you at the celebrations!!

**Miss Laurie**

## St John Restoration 250

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*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock,  
in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers,  
to care for the church of God,  
which he obtained with his own blood. Acts 20:28*

On Sunday morning May 1, 2020, the St John congregation voted in favor of moving forward with the proposed Restoration 250, a project focused on the preservation and restoration of the historic building that functions as our church and gathering place for worship.

Over three years ago the property committee was tasked with addressing the deteriorating plaster issues and the need of a fresh coat of paint. It has been over 40 years since the church was painted, and the challenge was to find a contractor who was willing to provide an appropriate and practical solution to the deteriorating plaster issue. After much prayerful research we agreed on moving forward with Bahret Church Interiors.

Because of the nature of the work, the property committee discussed other things that we should be addressing before the plaster repair and painting were completed, and established the following objectives of the St John Restoration 250 project to include:

1. *Repair the plaster in a way that would be a long-term solution while giving the church a fresh coat of paint.*
2. *Improve the worship experience through better lighting and sound.*
3. *Make the first-floor vestibule entrance more welcoming with a clear message of our mission.*
4. *Improve the Zoom worship experience through better visual and sound quality.*

Based on these objectives, the following improvements are included in the proposal.

- Plaster work will include the repair of serious cracks, removal of loose paint and plaster, and finishing walls with a flexible primer.
- Walls will be painted with two coats of quality paint in a buttery cream color. with two additional deeper shades used for accent in various places.
- All the wood trim, except for the pews, will be painted white.
- The ceiling stencil detail will be replaced with moulding that will coordinate appropriately with our Colonial Revival Architecture.
- The carpet will be replaced with a deep Cathedral Red 36# nylon carpet. The main entrance vestibule floor will be replaced with commercial grade vinyl wood panels.
- Additional lighting will be added under the balcony. Accent and task lighting will be added to the altar and organ spaces. Lighting will be improved in the vestibule areas and all lighting will be converted to cost-efficient LED lighting.
- The current sound system will be replaced with new speakers, new microphones, and a digital control panel.
- The current screen in the altar area will be replaced with a motorized screen and a ceiling mounted projector.
- Zoom equipment and cameras will be relocated to the balcony with a digital control system that will improve our Zoom worship.

The total project will cost approximately \$220,000. The financial committee outlined a financial plan for paying for the project which includes interest money from the Memorial Fund and money already contributed or pledged to the project. The financial committee has recommended we maintain a \$100,000 Memorial Fund interest

reserve (to, among other things, allow us to address the replacement of our steeple base roof as soon as possible). This lets us with a need to generate an additional \$65,000. Therefore, we are calling on all of us together to consider making a financial contribution or pledge to the project.

We hope everyone will accept the financial responsibility to help. Regardless of how small or large a contribution may be, we can all be a part of this important restoration project. All contributions will be recorded in our Memorial Records. They can be “dedicated” to someone or something, they can be made “in memory of” someone, or they can simply be a “gift” from an individual or a family. The contribution period will be two years, the commitment/pledge period will be two months. The attached contribution/pledge form should be included with your commitment and returned by July 30, 2022.

As we prepare to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St John Lutheran Church, we can all be proud of the fact that as overseers of this historic building, we have restored and preserved the heritage of both the building and the congregation.

Thomas Bruner  
Pastor

Roy Henry  
Council President

Lynn Henninger  
Finance Chairman

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## St John Restoration 250 Contribution/Pledge Form

### My Pledge

☐ I have included a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution to the St John Restoration 250 project.

☐ I am pledging \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution to the St John Restoration 250 project. This contribution will be made throughout the two-year contribution period ending May 30, 2024.

I would like my contribution to the St John Restoration 250 project to be recorded in the Memorial Record Book as:

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- ***All checks should be made out to St John Lutheran Church with Restoration 250 in the memo line.***
- ***Please return your completed form with your check or your pledge by July 30, 2022. The contribution period will extend two years until May 30, 2024***

# St. John's Youth Group

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)

ELCA Gathering Website: [www.elca.org/youthgathering](http://www.elca.org/youthgathering)



## Youth Group Meeting

Our next youth group meeting is **Wednesday, June 1st from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.!!** Weather permitting, we will dust off the gaga pit and the disc golf for some outdoor gaming fun!!

## Strawberry Festival

The strawberry festival is Wednesday, June 8th. If you haven't already signed up to help, please see Jeff Lehman to find out where he can use additional support. Or, if you want to walk away from the strawberry festival with a nice tan, Matt is always looking for help parking cars.

## Confirmation

During our morning worship on the Day of Pentecost, June 5, we will have the honor and great joy of joining in celebrating the confirmation of two of our younger members. **Allysa Rabenold** and **Sarah Riland** have completed 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 Allysa's and Sarah's lives and in our life as a congregational family!

## Congratulations

Our prayers and congratulations go to **Whitni & Mackenzie Ney**, and to the Rudisill and Ney families, following the safe and healthy birth of **Raelynn Elaine** on the morning of Tuesday, April 26. Raelynn weighed 6 pounds 7 ounces and was 20 inches long.

## News from The St Johns W-ELCA

This year as we prepare for the Strawberry Festival. We again are having an area for "Jammin with the Ladies". We will have jams and jellies as well as the home-made breads. If anyone wants to help with items needed, Sugar, Sure Jell, Jars and lids, or financial help please contact Fay Nichols.

We are planning a Mission Event this year also. The ladies are packing 500 Personal Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief. We have not done this project in years, but in talking with Janel Johnson-Momanyi at LWR I have learned these kits are so badly needed and we can make a difference. These will be sent to New Windsor, Maryland in the fall and then onto where they are really needed. **One of the things we will need your help with is collecting bars of soap that are 4-5 ounces. It doesn't matter what the brand name is just the weight.** We will have a container for the soap setting in the front of the church for your donation. We will need 1000 bars of soap. Up front I will say for myself and the ladies Thank You for your help.

St. Johns W-ELCA President Fay Nichols

## Pastoral Acts

### At the Font

On Sunday morning, April 24, Pastor Tom presided as we had the honor of welcoming into congregational family membership **Sandy Bixler; Denise Howard; Matthew, Brandi, Mary & Sarah Riland; Ty & Kim Troutman;** and **Mary Yeager**. The Rilands and Mary came to us from sister Lutheran Christian congregations (St. Paul, Millersburg and St. Christopher, Lykens, respectively) while Sandy, Denise, Kim & Ty were received by making

Affirmation of their Baptism. Please be sure to personally welcome them and to add Denise to your new congregational directory as follows:

**HOWARD**, Denise  
18 W. Broad Street, Apt. #109  
Elizabethville, 17023  
570-590-6349

Pastor Tom also presided on Sunday, May 15, as we welcomed **Kyrah Elaine-Marie Gessner**, daughter of **Miana & Matthew Gessner**, into the Kingdom of God and the St. John Congregational Family in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray God's blessings on Kyrah, her parents and other family members, and her sponsors as they live out the promises they have made!

## At the Altar

On Saturday afternoon, May 14, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Shannon Motter** and **Aaron Troutman** at the church, following a rehearsal the evening before. We pray God's blessing on Shannon and Aaron, that they may each be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

## At Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Warren Hassinger**, who died at the Lehigh Valley Medical Center in Pottsville on May 6. Worship took place at the church on May 12, with interment in our church cemetery. We pray God's comfort in the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus for **Gail** and for all of Warren's other family members and loved ones!

## Our Faith Active in Our Financial Giving – As of April 30

After concluding the past two years with very strong giving of tithes and offerings, despite all of the COVID-related impacts to our congregational family life together, the first third of 2022 has likewise seen us all pulling together in solid fashion in giving to God's work in this place as a congregational family. Here are summaries of our three largest funds for the first four months of 2022 – the **Current Fund** (much like your main checking account at home, from which most of the day-to-day bills of ministry get paid), the **Children & Youth (C&Y) Fund** (through which Miss Laurie's ministry is funded), and our **Larger Church Benevolence** (through which our congregational family supports the work of our Lower Susquehanna Synod and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on all of our behalf):

	Current	C & Y	Larger Church Benevolence
April 30 Budget Goal	\$51,090	\$8,234	\$3,923
April 30 Total Giving*	\$65,726	\$9,531	\$5,025
April 30 Giving Adjusted for Lump Sum Gifts*	\$52,787	\$7,108	\$3,679
April 30 Total Expenses	\$48,821	\$8,369	\$5,025 <sup>^</sup>

\* Our April 30 Total Giving reflects the kindness of several folks who shared all of their 2022 offerings right at the beginning of the year. The "Adjusted" line subtracts out the 2/3 of these advance gifts which applies to the months May through December still to come.

<sup>^</sup> With our Larger Church Benevolence, we simply send on exactly what we receive each month, and so the Total "Expenses" always equal the Total Giving.

The above information is based on a summary which Pastor Tom (putting on his "CPA Hat") shares each month with Congregational Council. Please don't hesitate to ask him any questions you might have about these numbers. For questions about the details of our giving or our expenses, please speak with **Treasurer Jamie Doyle**. Thank you for your partnership in this wonderful ministry which is St. John, and especially for your kindness in "going the extra mile" to mail or drop off your offerings in these challenging times! Please watch for future updates every few months.



Ready to cook up some fun?

Join us at St. John's for:



July 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

6:30 - 8:45 pm

All children aged 2 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
are invited!



# Chef 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 (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: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Assigned to Chef Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Are family members helping with Food Truck Party? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_





2022

# STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

**June 8, 2022**  
**Noon - ?**

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
**(The Hill Church)**

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville

Strawberry Shortcake | Ice Cream

Strawberry Pie | Strawberry Sundaes

Chicken Corn Soup

BBQ | Hot Sausage | Hot Dogs

Cold Drinks | Coffee

Entertainment By:

**Brad Crum & Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band**

Please bring your own chair for the entertainment.

**Petting Zoo | Childrens Activities | Baked Goods**

Find us online at [stjohnhillchurch.org](http://stjohnhillchurch.org) or on Facebook @stjohnhillchurch



### 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	<a href="mailto:stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com">stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com</a>	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Laurie Little, Young Christians Minister	<a href="mailto:misslaurie.little@gmail.com">misslaurie.little@gmail.com</a>	717-365-5099 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
Lewis Weaver, Sexton	<a href="mailto:bootsdagreat@gmail.com">bootsdagreat@gmail.com</a>	570-809-1014
Grace Weaver, Sexton	No Email	570-809-1510
Judith Ferree, Organist	<a href="mailto:jiferee@epix.net">jiferee@epix.net</a>	717-362-4228
Carol Hubler, Choir Director	<a href="mailto:mchubler@gmail.com">mchubler@gmail.com</a>	570-758-5052
Rachel Henry, Secretary	<a href="mailto:henryfamily2004@gmail.com">henryfamily2004@gmail.com</a>	717-439-3897
Roy Henry, Council President	<a href="mailto:henryfamily2004@gmail.com">henryfamily2004@gmail.com</a>	717-215-9837
Fay Nichols, Prayer Chain Coordinator	<a href="mailto:fnichols46@comcast.net">fnichols46@comcast.net</a>	717-329-7447

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

Mailing Address: PO Box 270 | Berrysburg, PA 17005

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch)