

**SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE
MARCH 2015**

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. BOX 270, BERRYSBURG, PA 17005
The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr., Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

First this month, I wanted to share with you a message from Congregational Council about the financial stewardship of our congregational family that you may have already seen in the February 15 bulletin or in one of my pastoral email messages:

As you might have already noticed in the Sunday bulletins, the month of January was a rough one for our congregational giving. While our expenses ended up just a little bit under budget for the month, our giving fell short of our budget goal by \$3,700. Thanks to a "cushion" provided by a substantial amount of accumulated interest in our Memorials Account, we are not about to run out of money, but we obviously cannot sustain those kinds of shortfalls indefinitely, nor would we want to, in the name of being faithful stewards.

Those first weeks of the year were rough ones, with many health and weather issues. In addition, a good many folks have been traveling and enjoying the cold and snow on weekends. Thankfully, the first two Sundays in February saw our giving actually exceed our budget goal by a little over \$100, but these first weeks of the month are often our best ones, with a drop off in the later Sundays. Congregational Council is asking that we all might examine our own giving thus far in 2015, to see if our own personal shortfalls have contributed to this overall shortfall. Please bear in mind that, back in December, we all decided to adopt a 2015 budget containing an ambitious 5.7% increase over 2014. This means that, just to keep pace, a 2014 weekly gift of \$40, for instance, would have to increase by \$2.25.

With all this said, please remember that we do not give as Christians because of budgets and bank accounts. We thankfully give back a portion of what God has first given to us. Please examine your weekly giving thus far in 2015, and please help us to truly reflect that thankfulness to God in our St. John family financial stewardship!

By the time you are reading these lines near the end of February, we all will already have seen how things have gone on subsequent Sunday mornings, but thank you in any case for prayerfully considering your own financial support of this ministry that we share together in Jesus' name!

Second, as I write these lines on a day when the weather forecast is calling for a "wintry mix", it is my pleasure to remind you of a detail about our worship on March 29 that is also a reminder that warmer days are just around the corner. On March 29, we will observe the **Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday**, which means that, following a very well-received first run last year, we will again begin our worship outside in the pavilion (or, if the weather turns out to be severe, in the Sunday School Room downstairs) and join in a genuine procession of palms, led by our young persons. (Folks who feel unsure for any reason about joining in the procession up the stairs will simply go upstairs in advance just like normal and be able to follow along through the sound system.) As we process, we will again carry the beautiful "fair trade" palm fronds that provide just compensation for the small family farms who grow them. Once we are all assembled upstairs, we will again be inspired by a dramatic reading by Vincent Lamenza of The Passion of Jesus – according to St. Mark this year.

Thank you for reading, and for all that you do in making the St. John congregational family a true light on the Hill!

Pastor Tom

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PLANNING TO GET UNDERWAY

The first planning meeting for the 2015 Strawberry Festival will be held on Tuesday, March 3, from 6:15 to 7:30 P.M. at the church. All interested persons are invited to attend. (As previously announced, the Festival itself is coming up on Wednesday, June 10 – please mark your family calendars as we begin to prepare for this annual event by which we are so well known in our community, near and far!)

MEN'S CHOIR TO SING

In preparation for Easter Sunday morning, our Men's Choir will be holding two rehearsals, which are open to male voices of all ages and levels of experience. These rehearsals will take place on Wednesday, March 4, from 8:00 to 9:00 P.M. (*following the Community Lenten Worship at Trinity United Methodist, from which participants will likely need to leave a little bit early*) and Wednesday, April 1, from 8:00 to 9:00 P.M. In addition, the men will hold a final, shorter rehearsal on Easter Sunday morning, April 5. To learn more, or to "sign" up, please speak with Carol Hubler or Pastor Tom.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER CAMPAIGN

To all our members, youth, children and friends:

We will be having our annual ELCA World Hunger kick off campaign for this year in Sunday School on March 15, 2015 during our regular service. This has been a tradition starting sometime in the 1980's during the Lenten Season.

We have decided that with the success of our God's Global barnyard program since 2011 that those coin boxes will be what we will use again during the year 2015. New God's Global Barnyard Coin Boxes will be provided that Sunday to any one of any age. As a reminder these boxes are always available on the shelves just inside the church entrance and in the Sunday school room. Feel free to take one or more home with you at any time.

As in the past we will receive those boxes, other containers of your own choosing, or envelopes back during our in ingathering Sunday on Oct 18th, 2015 during the regular church service. You also have the option of providing any offerings to the World Hunger cause during regular offerings through out the year. The weekly bulletin provides weekly offerings with a final tally at the end of each year in the Benevolence portion of the Bulletin of Reports in January. Any one desiring to have this special contribution recorded in the annual financial record will need to provide me your name or envelope number on coin boxes or special envelopes that Sunday.

St. John's since 1979 has provided \$ 76,015.88 to the ELCA World Hunger program through Dec 31, 2013. New numbers closing out 2014 will be provided on 15 March.

We want to personally commend all of you for continuing to support this very worthwhile cause of our National Church the 'ELCA' in Chicago.

Yours in Christ's Service,

Larry Gessner, Fay Nichols, Pastor and Council

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes, January 11, 2015**

The council meeting was called to order by Vice President, Jeffery Lehman.

Pastor Tom welcomed the new council members. He opened the meeting with a prayer and reviewed the obligations and responsibilities of the council members.

Present: Dale Hassinger, Lorraine Henninger, Sandra Lamenza, Joseph Doyle, Jeffrey Lehman, Sandra Shade, Gail Billow, Tamara Spicher, Roy Henry, Pastor Tom Bruner.

Excused Absences: Cheryl Shadle, Eric Mattern

Absent: Ken Kohler

Motion by Roy Henry and seconded by Lorraine Henninger to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2014 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers:

President: Roy Henry – Motion by Lorraine Henninger, seconded by Sandra Lamenza. Motion approved unanimously.

Vice President: Jeffery Lehman – Motion by Dale Hassinger, seconded by Lorraine Henninger. Motion approved unanimously

Secretary: Sandra Lamenza – Motion by Sandra Shade, seconded by Roy Henry. Motion approved unanimously.

Assistant Secretary: Sandra Shade – Motion by Lorraine Henninger, seconded by Tamara Spicher. Motion approved unanimously

Treasurer: Lorraine Henninger – Motion by Sandra Shade, seconded by Roy Henry. Motion approved unanimously.

Assistant Treasurer: Sandra Shade – Motion by Dale Hassinger, seconded by Sandra Lamenza. Motion approved unanimously.

Farm and Improvements Treasurer: Dale Hassinger – Motion by Tamara Spicher, seconded by Roy Henry. Motion approved unanimously.

Benevolence Treasurer: Tamara Spicher – Motion by Dale Hassinger, seconded by Sandra Lamenza. Motion approved unanimously.

Cemetery Board: Sandra Lamenza and Lorraine Henninger – Motion by Sandra Shade, seconded by Roy Henry. Motion approved unanimously.

Usher Chairpersons: Louise Baumgartner, Lois Watson, Tamara Spicher – Motion by Lorraine Henninger, seconded by Sandra Lamenza. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Secretary: Pat Herb – Motion by Roy Henry, seconded by Lorraine Henninger. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

The church received a letter from Cub Scout Pack 86 requesting financial assistance for the re-charter amount of \$736.00. As Roy Henry is a scout master, he abstained from voting on any issues regarding the Cub Scout Pack 86. Motion to pay the full amount of \$736.00 from the local benevolence fund made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Lorraine Henninger. Motion approved unanimously.

The Cub Scouts also expressed an interest in using the Sunday School room and the kitchen for their Blue and Gold Banquet scheduled on March 1, 2015 at 2:00PM. Motion made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Sandra Lamenza, to approve the use of the facility at no charge with the exception of the honorarium of \$50 for the sexton. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor Tom reported that we received a new service contract from Kone Elevator. It reflects a 3.5% increase. Pastor Tom recommended we continue utilizing their services.

We received a Thank You note from the Malaria Campaign of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

We received a notification regarding the second \$500 payment of a \$1500 pledge we made to support the Lutheran Camping Corporation. The bill will be paid from the local benevolence fund.

The Women's Group made a request to place a tree in the lobby of the church later this year with requests for gifts for needy children in the area. This is a program they have supported in the past and are looking for additional assistance from the congregation to fulfil this need. Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Tamara Spicher to approve the request. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report:

Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Roy Henry to accept the pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurers' Reports:

Motion made by Roy Henry and seconded by Sandra Shade to accept the treasurers' reports. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: No report

Finance: No report

Worship and Music: Meeting in January

Christian Education: Meeting in January

Stewardship: No report

Evangelism: No report

Youth Ministry: Met Sunday, January 11, 2015. Scheduled several events.

January 25, 2015 – Spaghetti Dinner

February 1, 2015 – Superbowl Collection

February 8, 2015 – Youth led worship

Later in February – Volley Ball Tournament and Skiing and Tubing Outing.

Also discussed – Little Caesar's Fundraiser and a Bethesda Mission trip.

Mutual Ministry: Brief Meeting January 11, 2015. The group will meet again in April.

Executive: Met on January 11, 2015 to review changes to standing committees.

Nominating: No report

History: No report

Green Team: No report

Other Reports:

Prayerful Planning sub committees will meet on Monday and Wednesday of this week.

Sandra Shade showed a sample of a Snack Pack. The committee distributed 72 snack packs the first week.

New Business:

Motion made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Joseph Doyle to refrain from hand shaking during service until we are past the cold and flu season. Motion approved unanimously.

Next Council Meeting: February 8, 2015 at 7:30 PM

Adjournment: Motion by Roy Henry and seconded by Joseph Doyle to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandra Lamenza , Secretary

**Treasurers Report
December 2014**

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	4,679.17	18,189.57	18,295.25	4,573.49
Benevolence	54.33	1,472.04	1,472.00	54.37
Memorial	33,837.42	9.70	5,000.00	28,847.12
Improvement	6,304.90	454.00	425.00	6,333.40
Bicent Ck Acct	24,925.09	313.40	3186.00	22,052.49
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91			5,300.91
Flower	280.86	225.00	167.75	338.11

BISHOP DUNLOP AT ST. JOHN

Our Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop, the Rev. James Dunlop, will be present for the meeting of the Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet which will be held at St. John on Monday, March 23, beginning at 7:00 P.M. This is a great opportunity to meet the Bishop, hear his thoughts on the synodical ministry we share, and ask questions. All are welcome to attend!

SUMMER CHURCH CAMPING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Even though it is still winter, we were treated on February 1 to a delightful summer camping presentation by Mr. Chad Hershberger, the Executive Director of Camp Mt. Luther, and we have a good supply of brochures and registration forms for summer camping experiences at Mt. Luther, Nawakwa and Kirchenwald. Please don't forget that camping experiences are available for all ages and for all tastes in comfort. For St. John members who attend a camping experience, our Sunday School will pay a portion of the registration fee, making an already affordable experience that much more of a bargain! Please see our Camperson, Angie Maurer, for more information.

NEWS FROM ST JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Our next meeting will be held on March 8, 2015 at 6:00 PM in the fellowship room. Our leaders for the program are Ann Bruner, Heidi Lehman and Jean Weaver. If you have not come to our meeting before please join us.

Ladies please remember to keep up the mission work. Our quilts and prayer shawls are needed desperately. If you need yarn there is a supply at the church to use. Contact Barbara Bullock with any questions.

ANNUAL REPORTS STILL AVAILABLE

Copies of the 2014 Annual Congregational Report are available in the foyer. If you have not already done so, please be sure to pick up yours, and perhaps one for a friend or neighbor as well. *The Annual Report once again contains the "Ways to Serve" form, which can be returned to either Pastor Tom or Council President Roy Henry.*

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MARCH 2015

Altar Guild for March

Ginny and Delmar Enders

Lector for March

Judith Cheatham

Ushers for March Carol Hassinger (L), Dale Hassinger (E) Bill & Karen Paulman

MARCH 1, 2015

The 2nd Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Jeff Lehman
Sunday School Pianist- Judy Ferree
Greeters- The Lynn Mace Family
Acolytes- Reyann Cheatham & McKenzie Lower

MARCH 8, 2015

The 3rd Sunday in Lent

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller
Sunday School Pianist- Jean Weaver
Greeters- The Baumgardner Family
Acolytes- Ryan Henninger & Aiden Roadcap

MARCH 15, 2015

The 4th Sunday in Lent

Sunday School Superintendent- Fay Nichols
Sunday School Pianist- Louise Baumgardner
Greeter- The Maurer Family
Acolytes- Eli Conte & Cameron Thompson

MARCH 22, 2015

The 5th Sunday in Lent

Sunday School Superintendent- Larry Gessner
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul
Greeter- The Jim Watson Family
Acolytes- Gabe Gehring & R J Henry

March 29, 2015


The Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Jeff Lehman
Sunday School Pianist- Carol Hubler
Greeters- The Brian Thompson Family
Acolytes- Owen Mattern & Kelsey Henninger



**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 The 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 2:00 Cub Scout Pack #86 Blue & Gold Banquet</p>	<p>2 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match-Lykens United Methodist at St. John</p>	<p>3 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Strawberry Festival Planning Mtg #1 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 6:15 Lenten Supper and Worship at Trinity United Methodist Church Elizabethville 8:00-9:00 Men's Choir Rehearsal</p>			<p>7 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>8 The 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting 6:00 Women's Group Meeting Daylight Savings Time Begins</p>	<p>9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match -- St John at Messiah Lutheran, Fishersville</p>	<p>10 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officer Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 6:15 Lenten Supper and Worship at St. Peters United Church of Christ, Crossroads (Pastor Tom Speaking)</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off</p>	<p>14 7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>15 The 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 World Hunger Appeal Kickoff Event, for All Ages (Followed by Regular Sunday School & Confirmation Class) 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Sacrament of Holy Baptism and <u>Youth Person's Worship</u> <i>Deadline to Submit Items for April "St. John Epistle"</i></p>	<p>16 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR</p>	<p>17 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Worship & Music Comm Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal  St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18 6:15 Lenten Supper and Worship at Salem Lutheran Church Elizabethville</p>	<p>19 Joseph, Guardian of Jesus</p>	<p>20 Spring Begins</p>	<p>21 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>22 The 5th Sunday in Lent 8:30 Meeting of Sunday School Superintendents 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 1:30 Church Dartball League Tournament at Valleys Church, Halifax 3:00 Joint Choir Rehearsal at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville to Prepare for Joint Choir Anthem on 3/25</p>	<p>23 9:00 Blanket Making 3:00 Conference Pastors Meeting with Bishop Dunlop 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conf. Cabinet Mtg. at St. John, with Special Guest <u>Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop James Dunlop</u></p>	<p>24 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 1:00 Gathering with Our Residents at the Manor at Susq. Village 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 Annunciation of Our Lord 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>29 The Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Palm Procession and Dramatic Passion Story Reading by Vincent Lamezza</p>	<p>30 9:00 Blanket Making 7:00 Church Dartball League Banquet at Lykens United Methodist Church</p>	<p>31 Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of 4/4) - No office Hours</p>				

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com.....362-9519 (O)
362-7895 (H)
Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email).....319-0703
Judith Ferree, Organist jjferree@epix.net.....362-4228
Sandra Paul, Secretary rbpaul@epix.net362-4117
Roy Henry, Council President webmaster@randrhenry.com..... 579-0244
Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 362-9108

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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

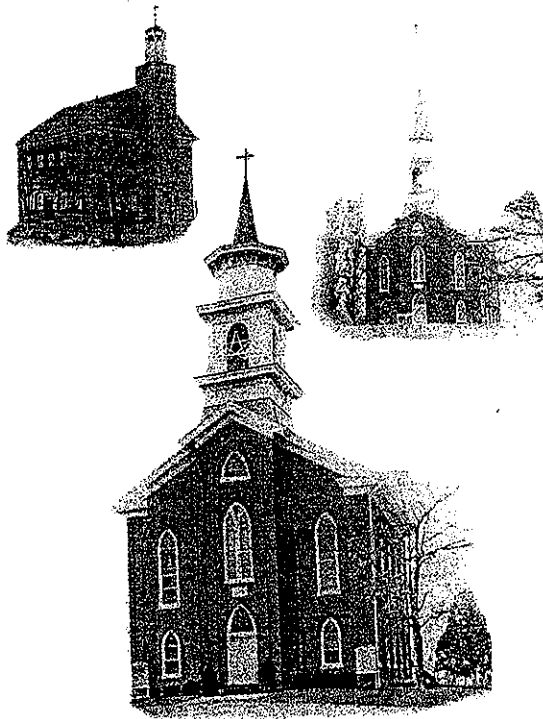
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 270 Berrysburg, PA 17005

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Pastor's Office Hours: Monday 8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
 Tuesday 8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
 Wednesday 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
 Thursday 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
 Friday 8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
 (Other times by appointment)

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.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Berrysburg, Pennsylvania
1780-2005

