

**SAINT JOHN'S  
EPISTLE  
MARCH 2016**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Later this month, we come again to our observance of Palm/Passion Sunday and the "Three Days" or "Triduum" – the ancient title for the period that begins on Maundy Thursday evening and ends on Easter Sunday evening. If you have never taken the time to experience the power of these holy days focusing on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus, why not make this the year? Our schedule of worship and related activities will be as follows:

**-Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, March 20:**

We will 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. Luke this year.

**-Maundy Thursday, March 24:**

At 7:00 P.M., we will gather for a Liturgy of Holy Communion, sharing in the mystery and the meaning of that Upper Room – the body and the blood given for us – the betrayal and desertion of our Lord. Reflecting that betrayal and desertion, our worship will end with the solemn stripping of the altar by members of altar guild as the senior choir intones the haunting words of Psalm 22.

**-Good Friday, March 25:**

At 7:00 P.M., we will gather for the Liturgy of Good Friday – a dark and solemn, and yet hopeful, time when we hear again of the extent of Jesus' great love and sacrifice for you and me

**-Holy Saturday, March 26:**

At 9:00 A.M., members of Youth Group will gather to set up for our annual Easter Egg Hunt, with the hunt getting underway at 10:00 A.M. for children in four age groups: preschool, grades K-1, grades 2-3, and grades 4-5.

At 7:00 P.M., we will continue our worship downstairs with a Liturgy of Readings and Prayer. This liturgy, a part of the Liturgy of Easter Vigil, features a series of lengthy readings from the Old Testament, telling of the creative and saving actions of God, beginning with Genesis 1, that point the way to the ultimate creative and saving action of Easter. There will be no music and no offering – only my reading by the light of a single candle, silence for meditation, and prayer.

**-The Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day, March 27:**

Following Easter Sunday tradition at St. John, a very brief Sunrise Worship will take place outdoors (weather permitting) from 6:30 – 6:45 A.M. From 6:45 – 7:00, all interested men of the church will prepare and set up for Easter breakfast, which will be served from 7:00 – 8:00. Following some clean-up time, and a Men's Choir rehearsal at 8:15, regular Sunday School will follow at 9:00. Our morning will conclude with a Liturgy of Holy Communion, featuring the great hymns of Easter, at 10:15 A.M. A special musical prelude, including Men's Choir, will precede this worship, so please plan to come approximately 15 minutes early.

And, looking ahead just a bit to April, please don't forget that **the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 3**, will be the date of our **Easter Program, during 10:15 A.M. worship**. While the rest of the world will have already stored away the Easter decorations, concluding that Easter is over and done, we choose to live the truth that Easter is, in fact, a “week of weeks” – 49 days plus 1 – and our young persons, guided by Amy Gehring and Louise Baumgardner, will lead us in continuing that celebration. Please see Amy's article later in this *Epistle* for further information.

Before I close, I want to welcome **Amanda Baker** to our congregational family as she has recently begun her duties as our **Coordinator of Childrens and Youth Ministry**. Please read on below for the first of what will be monthly letters from Amanda!

*Pastor Tom*

Hello!

My name is Amanda Baker. I am 20 years old. I am a 2014 graduate of Halifax High School. I have one younger sister, her name is Alissa and she is 16 years old. My parents names are Darren and Rhonda. We have one adorable little puppy named Lily; she is a Shetland sheep dog. My family happens to own Baker's Archery Supply in Halifax. Because of this I was raised with a bow and arrow in my hand and I have been hunting ever since. I also have a passion for volleyball. I played varsity volleyball all four years of high school and continue to play now whenever I get the chance. But if there is one thing I love to do more than anything, that would be singing. I sing all the time! People always tell me they can hear me coming before they see me because I sing wherever I go.

I just finished up my time at Harrisburg Area Community College, and am currently attending Messiah College as a Youth Ministry major. I love working with kids! I have been a Sunday school teacher for two years at Halifax United Methodist Church, the church I have been attending my entire life. I have also had two internships with my church. During both of them I was able to work closely with the children and youth, and planned all events pertaining to both children and youth. I have been leading my churches youth praise band since the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. It has been one of the greatest blessings in my life because I have had the chance to meet some of my best friends through the time I have been leading this group.

I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with everyone! I can't thank you all enough for this chance, and I can't wait to share my ideas and hear the ideas of all of you. I believe working together is the key to any successes. But above all I pray for God to be at the center of everything we do. Thank you so much for your continued prayers. I truly believe God is working in amazing ways in this church family. I can't wait to meet everyone!

Blessings,

Amanda

## STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL PLANNING TO GET UNDERWAY

The first planning meeting for the 2016 Strawberry Festival will be held on Tuesday, March 1, 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 15 – 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!)

## AND COMING IN TIME FOR THE FESTIVAL...

As you have probably already noticed, work is underway to modify our pavilion to allow us to handle all of our Annual Strawberry Festival preparation on-site, beginning this summer. Gifts are still needed to cover the full cost of the additional equipment which will be needed. If you would like to make a gift toward the project, all you need do is write a check payable to “St. John Lutheran Church”, making the notation “Pavilion Project” on the memo line. Please place your check in a plain envelope that is also marked “Pavilion Project” and which includes your offering envelope number if you would like your gift to appear on your annual giving statement. You can then either give that envelope directly to Lorraine Henninger (the treasurer of the Memorial Fund, through which project monies are being routed) or mail it here to the church at PO Box 270, Berrysburg, PA 17005-0270, whichever is easiest for you.

## 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 Monday, March 14, at 6:15 P.M. and Wednesday, March 23, from 8:00 to 9:00 P.M. In addition, the men will hold a final, shorter rehearsal on Easter Sunday morning, March 27. To learn more, or to “sign” up, please speak with Carol Hubler or Pastor Tom.

## CHILDRENS EASTER MUSICAL

As part of the ongoing efforts to create additional opportunities for the young persons of St. John, a Children's Easter Musical is scheduled for the Sunday following Easter during the church hour. Starting Sunday, February 28, bring your children, your grandchildren, your nieces and nephews, your neighbor's little one who thinks you are AWESOME--and their friends-- to Sunday School. During the Sunday School hour the young persons will sing songs and participate in activities preparing them for the Easter Musical.

### SCHEDULE:

Join us each Sunday @9:00 a.m., starting February 28 for singing songs to prepare for the musical & learning about Jesus through storytelling and fun activities within a shortened Sunday School program.

**Sunday, March 27:**

Easter

**Wednesday, March 30:**

Dress Rehearsal @ 6:30

**Sunday, April 3:**

Children's Easter Musical @ 10:15

## CHURCH CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Now is the time to be planning how you might take advantage of summer church camping opportunities of all kinds which are available for people of all ages. Schedules and registration information are available in the foyer for the camps of our Lower Susquehanna Synod, Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, and information is available online for Camp Mt. Luther in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Please bear in mind that, for members of St. John, camping scholarships are provided from the Sunday School treasury, making any week-long experience a great value as well as a life-changing experience. *Special discounts are available for those who register by the beginning of April!*

## THANK YOU!

To the following persons who directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John during 2015: **Sheila Barder, Jim & Barb Bullock, Delmar & Ginny Enders, Larry Gessner, Carol Hassinger, Harold & Pat Herb, Robin Nestor, Fay Nichols, Mary Peters, and Pastor Tom.** A total of \$1,907 was received and passed on to the support of such ministries as ELCA Disaster Relief, youth group, and our ELCA World Hunger Appeal. If you are a Thrivent member – holding Thrivent insurance and/or investments – you may also be able to direct Choice Dollars in this way. Please speak with Thrivent agent Brian Novinger or Pastor Tom to learn more.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Alek & Adriane Peters** on the safe and healthy birth of **Kellan Richard** on December 16 at Harrisburg Hospital. Kellan weighed in at an even 9 pounds and was 20 ¾ inches long. Congratulations, too, to proud older brother Kyan!

## ANNUAL REPORTS AND DIRECTORIES ARE AVAILABLE

Copies of the 2015 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. Also, a new Congregational Directory is included with this year's Annual Report.* And, while you are picking up your copy of the 2015 Annual Report, please be sure to also pick up your copy of the 2016 Women's Directory, also on the shelf in the foyer!

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MARCH 2016

Altar Guild for March

Ginny and Delmar Enders

Lector for March

Judith Cheatham

Ushers for March Dale Hassinger (L), Gail Billow (E) Jean & Fred Weaver

MARCH 6, 2016

The 4th Sunday in Lent  
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Lynn Henninger  
Sunday School Pianist- Judy Ferree  
Greeters- The Lynn Mace Family  
Acolytes- R J Henry & Aiden Roadcap

MARCH 13, 2016

The 5th Sunday in Lent  
Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday School Superintendent- Jeff Lehman  
Sunday School Pianist- Louise Baumgardner  
Greeters- The Baumgardner Family  
Acolytes- Eli Conte & Cameron Thompson

MARCH 20, 2016

Palm Sunday  
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller  
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul  
Greeter- The Maurer Family  
Acolytes- Gabe Gehring & R J Henry

MARCH 24, 2016

Maundy Thursday  
Holy Communion

Greeter- The Jim Watson Family  
Acolytes- Owen Mattern & Kelsey Henninger

MARCH 25, 2016

Good Friday

Greeters- The Thompson Family

March 27, 2016

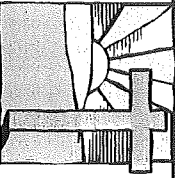


The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day  
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Roy Henry  
Sunday School Pianist- Carol Hubler  
Greeters- Barb & Jim Bullock  
Acolytes- Lilly & Serene Boyer

# MARCH 2016



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>6 The 4th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 5:00 Cub Scout Den Meeting	<b>7</b> 7:30 Dartball Match – St John at St Christopher's Lykens,	<b>8</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officer Mtg. 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:15 Lenten Supper and Worship at Salem Lutheran Church Elizabethville	<b>10</b> 6:30 Cub Scout Den Mtg.	<b>11</b> 7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church Pastor Tom's Day Off	<b>12</b> 7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church Pastor Tom's Day Off
<b>13 The 5th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Children-Church and Special Guest Jennifer Crist of Tread-Hope Ministry 12:00 Book Discussion Group Gathering 2:00 Women Group Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meetings <b>Daylight Savings Time Begins</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Worship & Music Comm Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal <b>Deadline to Submit Items for April "St. John Epistle"</b>	<b>16</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:15 Lenten Supper and Worship at Salem United Church of Christ Elizabethville	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 	<b>18</b> 6:30 Cub Scout Den Mtg.	<b>19</b> <b>Joseph, Guardian of Jesus</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off
<b>20 The Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday</b> 9:00 World Hunger Appeal Kickoff Event, for All Ages (Followed by Regular Sunday School & Confirmation Class) 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Palm Procession and Dramatic Passion Story Reading by Vincent Lamenza 1:30 Church Dartball League Tournament at Valleys Church, Halifax 5:00 Cub Scout Den Mtg. <b>Spring Begins</b>	<b>21</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of 3/26- No Office Hours)	<b>22</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:00 Youth Group Meets to prepare for Easter Egg Hunt 7:00 Maundy Thursday Liturgy Practice 8:00 Men's Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 7:00 Holy Communion, concluding with Solemn Stripping of the Altar 8:00 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00 Good Friday/Annunciation of Our Lord 6:15 Practice for Evening Worship	<b>25</b> <b>Good Friday/Annunciation of Our Lord</b> 7:00 Good Friday Liturgy	<b>26</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> 9:00 Youth Group Meet to Set Up for Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 Annual Easter Egg Hunt 7:00 Easter Eve Liturgy of Reading and Prayer 
<b>29 The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day</b> 6:30 Brief Outdoor Easter Sunrise Worship 7:00-8:00 Easter Breakfast served by the Men of St. John 8:15-9:00 Men's Choir Rehearsal 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Festival Prelude 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion	<b>28</b> 7:00 Church Dartball League Banquet at St. Christopher Lutheran Church, Lykens Pastor Tom's Day Off	<b>29</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off - No office Hours	<b>30</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR	<b>31</b>		

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Minutes  
January 10, 2016**

The council meeting was called to order by President, Roy Henry

Pastor Tom opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

**Present:** Roy Henry, Lorraine Henninger, Jeff Lehman, Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger, Sandra Lamenza, Tamara Spicher, Jeff Buffington, Karen Paulman, Carl Baumgardner, Jamie Doyle and Pastor Tom Bruner

**Excused Absence:** Gail Billow

**Minutes:** Motion by Joseph Doyle and seconded by Jeff Buffington to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2015 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:** A request was made by Cub Scout Pack 86 to use the Sunday School room on Sunday January 31 from 12 Noon to 3PM. A motion was made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Jamie Doyle to honor their request. The motion approved unanimously.

Jennifer Crist, representing Tree 4 Hope, requested an opportunity to speak to the congregation on Sunday, March 13, 2016 about the missionary work they are doing in Guatemala. A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Tamara Spicher to accept her offer. The motion approved unanimously.

Bishop Dunlop requested that Pastor Tom take on the responsibility of Conference Dean. After careful consideration he declined in light of all the new things we are taking on in our ministry at this time.

Mike Hubler will be at the February council meeting to talk about the local ministry needs.

**Pastor's Report:** Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Jeff Buffington to accept the pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously.

**Treasurers' Reports:** Motion was made by Lorraine Henninger and seconded by Karen Paulman to designate the benevolence contributions for "Always Being Made New" to go to "where needed most". Motion approved unanimously.

Motion made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Jamie Doyle to accept the treasurer reports. Motion approved unanimously.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

*Church Property:* No report

*Finance:* No report

*Worship and Music:* No report

*Christian Education:* No report

*Stewardship:* No report

*Youth Ministry:* No report

*Mutual Ministry:* Discussed the good year-end financial news, the new youth coordination position, and several concerns regarding congregation interaction.

*Executive:* No report.

*Nominating:* No report.

*History:* No report

*Green Team:* No report

*Other Reports:* The search committee for the youth coordinator position is planning a final interview with Amanda Baker. A motion was made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Jeff Lehman to give the committee the authority to make an offer and negotiate the compensation based on the general guidelines outlined in the proposal. The motion was approved unanimously.

**New business:** Election of Officers for 2016

President: Motion for Roy Henry made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Lorraine Henninger  
Motion for Jamie Doyle made by Jeff Lehman. Jamie declined.

Motion to close the nominations made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Jeff Lehman. Motion approved unanimously.

Vice President: Motion for Jeff Lehman made by Lorraine Henninger and seconded by Jamie Doyle.

Motion to close the nominations made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Joseph Doyle. Motion approved unanimously.

Secretary: Motion for Sandra Lamenza made by Jamie Doyle and seconded by Karen Paulman.

Motion to close the nominations made by Jeff Lehman and seconded by Carl Baumgardner. Motion approved unanimously.

Asst. Secretary: Motion for Jamie Doyle made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Dale Hassinger.

Motion to close the nominations made by Jeff Lehman and seconded by Dale Hassinger. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer: Motion for Lorraine Henninger made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Tamara Spicher.

Motion to close the nominations made by Jamie Doyle and seconded by Dale Hassinger. Motion approved unanimously.

Asst. Treasurer: Motion for Karen Paulman made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Jeff Lehman.

Motion to close the nominations made by Jamie Doyle and seconded by Dale Hassinger. Motion approved unanimously.

Farm and Improvement Treasurer: Motion for Dale Hassinger made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Carl Baumgardner.

Motion to close the nominations made by Jeff Lehman and seconded by Jamie Doyle. Motion approved unanimously.

Benevolence Treasurer: Motion for Tamara Spicher made by Lorraine Henninger and seconded by Carl Baumgardner.

Motion to close the nominations made by Joseph Doyle and seconded by Jamie Doyle. Motion approved unanimously.

Cemetery Board: Motion for Sandra Lamenza and Lorraine Henninger made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Dale Hassinger.

Motion to close the nominations made by Joseph Doyle and seconded by Tamara Spicher. Motion approved unanimously.



Usher Chairpersons: Motion for Tamara Spicher, Lois Watson and Louise Baumgardner made by Lorraine Henninger and seconded by Karen Paulman.  
 Motion to close the nominations made by Joseph Doyle and seconded by Jeff Lehman.  
 Motion approved unanimously.  
 Financial Secretary: Motion for Pat Herb made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Karen Paulman.  
 Motion to close the nominations made by Joseph Doyle and seconded by Carl Baumgardner. Motion approved unanimously.

**Next Council Meeting:** February 14, 2016 at 4:00PM

**Adjournment:** Motion by Dale Hassinger and seconded by Joseph Doyle to adjourn the meeting.  
 Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lamenza



Secretary

**Treasurer Reports  
 December 2015**

	<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>EOM</b>
Current	16,979.28	14,013.02	19,135.06	11,857.24
Benevolence	55.02	1928.05	1818.00	165.07
Memorial	32,396.48	5082.33	3075.00	34,403.81
Improvement	8127.23	346.00	2964.00	5509.23
Bicent Ck Acct	29,566.05	226.77	120.00	29,672.82
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91			5,300.91
Flower	247.21	212.75	280.75	179.21

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com.....717-362-9519 (O)  
 717-362-7895 (H)

Amanda Baker, Children's Youth Ministry Coordinator, girwildcat@aol.com...717-802-5672

Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email).....717-319-0703

Judith Ferree, Organist jferree@epix.net.....717-362-4228

Sandra Paul, Secretary rbpaul@epix.net .....717-362-4117

Roy Henry, Council President webmaster@randrhenry.com..... 717-579-0244

Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 717-362-9108

**Find Us on Facebook**

**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://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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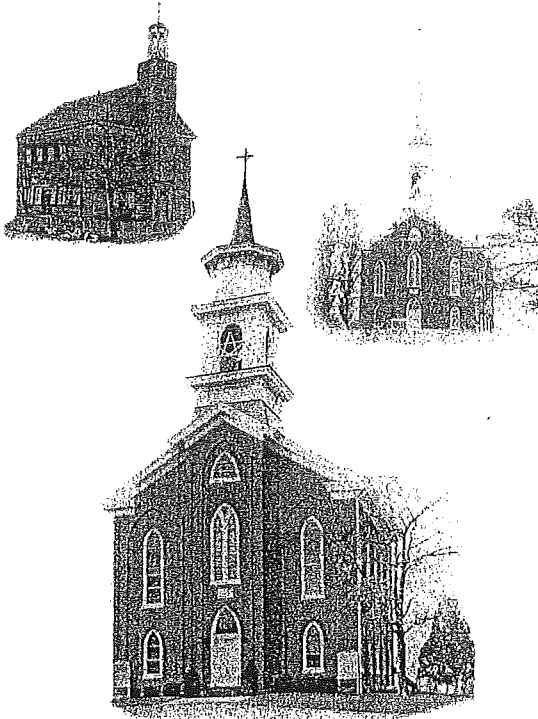
Pastor's Office Hours:

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