

ST. JOHN'S

EPISTLE

A Letter from The 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 25:
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 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.*

-Maundy Thursday, March 29:

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.

A Letter from The Pastor..... Cont.

-Good Friday, March 30:

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. Members of Youth Group and Pastor Tom will again lead us in our worship drama. Following the conclusion of worship, the Youth Group will begin their overnight lock-in.

-Holy Saturday, March 31:

At 9:00 A.M., members of Youth Group will wrap up their overnight lock-in and 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, April 1:

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 SONDay Celebration/Sunday School for all ages 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, featuring Men's Choir, will precede this worship, so please plan to come approximately 15 minutes early.

And, looking just a little further ahead, please don't forget that **the 2nd Sunday of Easter, April 8**, will be the date of our special **Easter Program**. 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 Miss Laurie, will lead us in continuing that celebration. As Miss Laurie and the young persons recently reminded us, our God Is a Great Big God! Let's prepare to celebrate together just How Great and just How Big!!



Pastor Tom

News from Miss Laurie

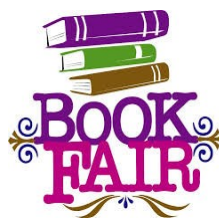
Time keeps on rolling along.....Lent has started, and we're already looking toward Easter! It will be here sooner than we think!!

With that said, there are a few things coming up in March that I'd like you to remember:

Sunday, March 4th will be another special SONday Celebration! This one is a "Pajama Party" Celebration!! Join us in your pajamas as we praise the Lord "pajama party" style!!

Sunday, March 4th is also Preview Day for the "Celebration" Easter Book Fair. Check out samples of the cool books for Easter in the corner classroom.

Sunday, March 11th is the "Celebration" Easter Book Fair. Have lunch at the last "Breaking Bread" luncheon then stop by the corner classroom and shop for some Christian-themed Easter books for the kids!



Saturday, March 24th the Celebration Choir will be singing for the residents at Polk Personal Care Center. I hope we can get an even bigger group together this time – the residents SO appreciated our visit at Christmas!

Sunday, April 1st will be our "Jesus Lives" SONday Easter Celebration! There will be lots of activities, a craft, and treats as we celebrate our Risen Savior!!

I hope you'll mark your calendars and plan to join us for ALL these fun activities and be part of our faith-filled March!!

Miss Laurie

St. John's Facebook:
facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch

St. John's Children and Youth Ministry:
facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry



Find us on
Facebook

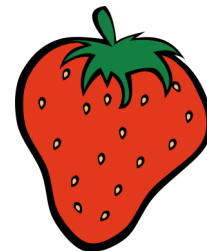
YOUTH MINISTRY

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.

Strawberry Festival Planning to get underway!

The first planning meeting for the 2018 Strawberry Festival will be held on Tuesday, March 6, beginning at 6:30 P.M. at the church. All interested persons are invited to attend. (As previously announced, the Festival itself is coming up on Wednesday, June 13 – 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 three rehearsals, which are open to male voices of all ages and levels of experience. These rehearsals will take place on Wednesday, March 14, at 8:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 20, at 6:30 P.M., and Wednesday, March 28, at 6:30 P.M. In addition, the men will hold a final, shorter rehearsal on Easter Sunday morning, April 1. To learn more, or to "sign" up, please speak with Carol Hubler or Pastor Tom.

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 by our congregational family, 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!**

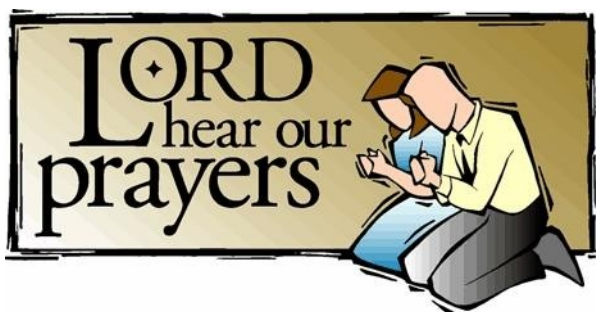


Women of the ELCA

The next meeting of St Johns Women of the ELCA will be held on March 11, 2018 at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Room. All women are invited to join us. If you want to know what the St Johns women are doing come join us at a meeting and see what you too can do. The leaders for this meeting are Ann Bruner and Jean Weaver.

Our next Breaking Bread meal will be held on March 11, 2018 following worship service. A free-will offering will be taken to help the funding of the Pack Pack Program supporting the children of the Upper Dauphin Area Elementary School. As we continue the quilting project and prayer shawl programs please remember if you can help in any way please talk to President Janet Denlinger. She will direct you as to whom to speak to for information.

Coming up on May 6, 2018 we will be celebrating Mother's and Father's Day on the same day. This is our Family Fun Day; mark your calendar. This is a covered dish event and everyone is invited. Miss Laurie and her puppets will be entertaining us. There will also be a craft to do and take home.



HOSPITALIZED/RESIDING IN SENIOR LIVING/DEALING WITH ACUTE ILLNESS

Margaret Enders – Rm. #211, Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, 4000 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, 17112

Warren Hassinger – Room #323, Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg

Ronald Hoover – Room #101, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg

Sue Lebo – Rm. #203, Heritage Mill Personal Care Home, 846 E. Wiconisco Ave., Tower City, 17980

Joann Leitzel – Room #11, Green Valley Skilled Nursing & Rehab. Center, 200 Taylorsville Road, Pitman, 17964

Cora Mace – Rm. #2822, Ben Franklin, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022

Martha Rebuck – Rm. #40, Stonebridge Health and Rehab. Center, 102 Chandra Drive, Duncannon, 17020

Helen Schade – Rm # 218, Traditions of Hershey, 100 North Larkspur Drive, Palmyra, 17078

Dawn Warner – Rm #505, Harrisburg Hospital

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2018

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Dan Langhans. Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions.

One excused absence – Carl Baumgardner; all other members present; no unexcused.

Reading of Minutes: Motion by Jeff Buffington; second by Pat Herb to accept the minutes. Motion passed by all in attendance.

Officers: President – Dan Langhans,
Vice-President – Donna Rabenold,
Secretary – Darrell Denlinger,
Assistant Secretary – Carl Baumgardner
Treasurer – Jamie Doyle
Assistant Treasurer – Dan Maurer
Cemetery Board Representatives – Jamie Doyle and Pat Herb
Usher Chairs – same
Financial Secretary – Pat Herb

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

1. Communication from the KONE Elevator Company., notice of a 3/5% cost increase.
2. Water tests passed by Pure Test Laboratory
3. Thank you letter received from the Dauphin County Library for the \$100 donation.
4. Cub Scout Pack 86 re-charter fee is \$1750; 48 scouts & 8 adults. Motion to pay \$1500 towards this fee with this cap on future donations by Pat Herb; second by Jamie Doyle; passed by all present.
5. Request from the Women's Group to provide a small refrigerator for flowers – approved.
6. Communication from the Berrysburg / Mifflin Township Bicentennial Committee to put a picture of St. John's Church on a collector's Henry rifle.
Motion to decline this offer by Darrell Denlinger; second by Barb Bullock; the vote was 5 for and 5 against – no decision; item tabled to next meeting.
7. UDA PTAC request for support for the Post Prom; Motion to give \$100 by Jamie Doyle, second by Dan Langhans, motion passed.

Pastor's Report: A good year! Motion to accept by Donna Rabenold; second by Jeff Buffington; motion passed by all present.

Children and Youth Report: Motion to accept by Pat Herb; second by Jamie Doyle; motion passed by all present.

Treasurer Report: The church's treasurer is Jamie Doyle.

- Recommendation by Jamie to copy the church deed and post the copy in the church. The original church deed to be put in the safe. Close the bank safety deposit box. Also, report on Benevolence Fund.
- Motion to accept report by Pat Herb; second by Barb Bullock; motion passed by all present.

Church Property Report: by Henry Henninger. – Jeff stated that soda cans exploded in the pavilion refrigerator. – The Christmas Star timer needs adjustment.

Youth Ministry Report by the Pastor.

Mutual Ministry met today.

No New Business.

Overview of the Annual Report by Jamie Doyle.

Motion to adjourn by Donna Rabenold; second by Jeff Buffington; motion passed by all present.

Next meeting February 11, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Darrell Denlinger, Secretary

Annual Reports and Directories are available

Copies of the 2017 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. **Please note that this year's Annual Report includes our newly-updated congregational directory, as well as the "Ways to Serve" form, which can be returned to either Pastor Tom or Council President Dan Langhans.** And, while you are picking up your copy of the 2017 Annual Report, please be sure to also pick up your copy of the 2018 Women's Directory, also on the shelf in the foyer!

Thank You!

To the following persons who directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John during 2017: Sheila Barder, Fay Bixler, Barb Bullock, Delmar Enders, Larry Gessner, Carol Hassinger, Harold & Pat Herb, Mary Peters, Matthew Williard, and Olivia Williard. A total of \$2,591 was received and passed on to the support of such ministries as children and youth ministry, youth group, and our ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you! **(And a reminder to all Thrivent members that a simple phone call to Thrivent – or logging in to the Thrivent website – is all that it takes to find out about and direct Choice Dollars, with some "unclaimed" Choice Dollars set to expire on March 31.)**

Pastoral Acts

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for Mervin Mace, following his death at the Masonic Village in Elizabethtown on January 18. Worship was held at Reed's Funeral Home in Pillow on January 22. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Mervin, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to Cora, who continues to reside at the Masonic Village, and his other loved ones!

Congratulations

To **Bryan & Rita Henninger** on the safe and healthy birth of **Ayden Lin Henninger** on February 10 at 7:49pm local time in Taiwan, 6:49am here. Ayden weighed in at 6.8 pounds and he was 19.7 inches long. (Interestingly, "Lin" is Rita's family name, which is pronounced the same as "Lynn".) Congratulations, too, to proud grandparents Helen and Lynn!

Youth Group News

Hello fellow friends, On behalf of the Youth Group I would like to thank all those that donated food items and towards our good will offering at our recent Spaghetti Dinner, we are grateful to have such an amazing congregational family!

March is going to be a good one for the youth group and I'm looking forward to it. At the last meeting we received two fundraisers. One of these was the Gourmet Creations Dips and the other was the TVP Colonnade Coupon Books. These fundraisers are due March 4. Remember, the movie tickets from the TVP Colonnade Fundraiser Coupon Book can not be used during the first week of a first movie run. The movie coupons are \$15.00 a booklet and the dip prices are \$5.00 or 3 for \$14.00. The fundraisers can be handed to any youth advisors or Pastor Tom. Many of you thought the dips tasted good so they should be easy selling!

On March 24 we are going down to Bass Pro in Harrisburg to sell food items in front of the store as an additional fundraiser! The time sheet was passed around at the meeting. For those who would like to help with the food stand and didn't sign up on the timesheet please contact Amy Gehring to settle a time that is best for you.

Also on March 30, the youth group will be assisting Pastor with the Good Friday Worship Service and then we are having our annual Lock-In, where we will also be planning and preparing for and hosting the Easter Egg Hunt the next morning, Saturday March 31.

I can't wait for the fun filled events coming up in youth group. We'll have lots of Christian experience under our lord. Hope all of you will have a great month!

Owen Mattern
Youth Group Vice President



The Youth Group is always looking for ways to serve our Congregational Family and Community. If you know of a service project or someone in the community that could use a few extra hands please reach out to Matt Williard, or any Youth Group advisor.

We encourage all youth who are attending GATHERING, to take time regularly and review the resources available to you on the ELCA website

<http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>



March Worship Schedule

March Gifts

Konde Diocese -

Lynn & Helen
Henninger

Celebrate Inserts -

Roy & Rachel Henry

Tree 4 Hope -

Delmar & Ginny Enders

March Altar

Flowers

Mar. 4 - John & Judy
Ferree

Mar. 11 - Elwood &
Mildred Boyer
Memorial

Mar. 18 - Arlie &
Jennie Koppenhaver
Memorial

Mar. 25 - Roy & Rachel
Henry
Palm Sunday

**as of print date,
subject to change*

Altar Guild
Lector

Virginia & Delmar Enders
Judy Cheatham

Usher's for the Month of March: Daniel Maurer (L)
Judy Cheatham (E), Gail Billow and Angie Maurer (LAY)

March 4, 2018 **Holy Communion**

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Greeter | John & Judy Ferree |
| Acolytes | Cole Roadcap & Hoyt Schlegel |
| Superintendent | Larry Gessner |
| Pianist | Sandy Paul |

March 11, 2018

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Greeter | Delmar & Ginny Enders |
| Acolytes | Kelsey Henninger & Allysa Rabenold |
| Superintendent | Lynn Henninger |
| Pianist | Carol Hubler |

March 18, 2018

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|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Greeter | The Craig Shade Family |
| Acolytes | Madeline Williard & Cole Roadcap |
| Superintendent | Jeff Lehman |
| Pianist | Lois Watson |

March 25, 2018 **Holy Communion** Palm Sunday

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|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Greeter | The Lynn Mace Family |
| Acolytes | Haylen Donovan & Hoyt Schlegel |
| Superintendent | Ken Koller |
| Pianist | Judy Ferree |

March 29, 2018 **Holy Communion** Maundy Thursday

March 30, 2018 Good Friday



March 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| 4- 3rd Sunday in Lent Easter Book Fair Preview 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay "Slumber Party" Celebration (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 2:00 Girl Scout Troop Meeting | 5 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 5:30 Book Discussion Group 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at Valleys E.C. Church, Halifax | 6 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:30 Strawberry Festival Planning Meeting #1 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal | 7 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Trinity United Methodist Church, Elizabethville (<u>Pastor Tom Speaking!</u>) | 8 | 9 <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i> | 10 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off |
| 11 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 Easter Book Fair 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay "Slumber Party" Celebration (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Observance of Girl Scout Sunday and Sunny Sermon 11:30 "Breaking Bread" Meal and Fellowship Time 2:00 Women's Group Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting Daylight Saving Time Begins | 12 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Spring Assembly at Zion Lutheran, Erdman 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at Faith United Methodist, Fisherville | 13 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Faith Formation Team Gathering 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal | 14 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Salem Lutheran, Elizabethville 8:00 Men's Choir Rehearsal | 15 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours <i>Deadline to Submit Items for March "St. John's Epistle"</i> | 16 | 17 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off St. Patrick's Day |
| 18 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00 World Hunger Appeal Kickoff Event, For All Ages (Followed by SONDay Celebration, Confirmation Class, Sr. High Sunday School and Adult Sunday School) 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 1:30 Church Dartball League Tournament at Valleys E.C. Church, Halifax | 19 Joseph, Guardian of Jesus 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR | 20 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal Spring Begins | 21 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville | 22 | 23 | 24 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off 2:00 Celebration Choir & Miss Laurie at Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg Youth Group Hot Dog Sale Fundraiser at Bass Pro Store, Harrisburg |
| 25 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday – Annunciation of Our Lord 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay "Slumber Party" Celebration (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Palm Procession and Dramatic Passion Story Reading by Vincent Lamenza 2:00 Girl Scout Troop Meeting | 26 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off – Instead of 3/31 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR | 27 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Committee Meeting | 28 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Maundy Thursday Liturgy Practice/Senior Choir Rehearsal | 29 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Liturgy of Holy Communion, concluding with Solemn Stripping of the Altar | 30 Good Friday 6:15 Practice for Evening Worship 7:00 Solemn Good Friday Liturgy 8:00 Youth Group Overnight Lock-in Begins | 31 Holy Saturday 9:00 Youth Group Overnight Lock-in Ends and Members Set Up for Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 Annual Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 Marriage of Jennifer Lehman & Alexis Bershaw |

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|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Pastor's Office Hours:</u> Mon, Tues - 8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. Wed, Thurs - 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon Friday 8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. <i>(Other times by appointment)</i> | The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr. | Pastor | Stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com | 717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H) |
| | Laurie Little | Young Christians Minister | misslaurie.little@gmail.com | 717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C) |
| | Tammy & Bill Becker | Sexton | No Email | 717-319-0703 |
| | Judith Ferree | Organist | jjferree@epix.net | 717-362-4228 |
| | Carol Hubler | Choir Director | Mchubler@gmail.com | 570-758-5052 |
| | Rebecca Conte | Secretary | Rlkconte06@gmail.com | 570-262-2664 |
| | Daniel Langhans | Council President | langhans@pa.net | 717-365-3794 |
| | Fay Nichols | Prayer Chain Coordinator | Fnichols46@comcast.net | 717-599-8990 |

Physical Address (for deliveries): 215 St. John Road Elizabethville, PA 17023
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 270 Berrysburg, PA 17005
Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 270
Berrysburg, PA 17005

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE