

## *ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE*

### *A Letter from The Pastor.....*

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Our journey through the Season of Lent begins this month, with our observance of **Ash Wednesday on March 6 at 7:00 P.M.** with a Liturgy of Holy Communion, including the optional imposition of ashes. Those desiring to receive the mark of a cross, traced in ashes on their forehead, will come forward at the appropriate time in the worship, much as we come forward to receive Holy Communion. As is traditional here at St. John, those communing will have the option of receiving the wine from the common cup.

Then, on subsequent Wednesday evenings during Lent, the Lutheran, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist congregations of the Berrysburg and Elizabethville area will again join together for a light supper and worship. The supper, consisting of simple items like soup and sandwiches, will begin at **6:15 P.M.** Following supper, at **7:00 P.M.**, we will join in worship. Worship will end before 8:00 P.M. The host pastor of each congregation will lead the worship, while the pastors will each take turns preaching in a congregation other than their own. Our theme for this year's series will be ***A Journey of Forty... Why Lent?*** in which we will take a look each week at a different significant forty-day period in the Bible and what each might say about our forty-day (not counting Sundays) journey through the Season of Lent. The details for these Wednesday evenings are as follows:

Please don't miss these opportunities to have your faith refreshed and deepened, as we journey together through the Season of Lent. May God bless us as we once again make our way along this pathway that leads to the Cross!



<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Congregation</u>	<u>Preacher/Character</u>
March 13	<b><i>St. John</i></b>	Rev. Ray Holland Forty Days: Moses on the Mountain
March 20	St. Peters United Church of <b>Christ</b> Crossroads	Rev. Jim Lewis Forty Days: Elijah Fleeing
March 27	Trinity United Methodist Church Elizabethville	Rev. Dr. Nathan Minnich Forty Days: Noah and the Flood
April 3	Salem Lutheran Church Elizabethville	<b><i>Pastor Tom</i></b> Forty Days: Israelites Camping
April 10	Salem United Church of Christ Elizabethville	Rev. Jeff Wagner Forty Days: Jesus Tempted

Please don't miss these opportunities to have your faith refreshed and deepened, as we journey together through the Season of Lent. May God bless us as we once again make our way along this pathway that leads to the Cross!

***Pastor Tom***

## **PASTORAL ACTS**

### **At the Graveside**

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Helen Schade**, following her death at Traditions of Hershey in Palmyra on December 5. Worship was held at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery on December 13. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Helen, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to her loved ones!

*News from Miss Laurie*  
*Young Christians Minister*

Well, I'm thinking Mr. Groundhog really DID see his shadow after all, because on this snowy day, spring feels awfully far away! Those few days of spring-like temperatures have given me "Spring Fever" in a BIG way! I suppose we'll have to hang on to the old adage, "Good things come to those who wait." As for me, I'm WAITING for SPRING!!!

The Lenten season is upon us, and because Ash Wednesday falls on the first Wednesday of March (and since the first Wednesday of the month is our usual meeting time), Celebration Club will meet on THURSDAY, March 7<sup>th</sup>! If Wednesday hasn't worked for you, come out on the first Thursday of March for all the fun! In February, we had 20 friends participate (our largest crowd so far)! This month, we'll be talking about how Jesus is stronger and more powerful than any storm we face! Join us for Celebration Club – it's a great evening and an amazing time of young Christian fellowship!

Also mark your calendars for a special "Wearing of the Green" SONday Celebration on March 17<sup>th</sup>! Wear something green and join us at 9:00 for some St. Patrick's Day fun!

As we begin this new season of Lent, may your journey bring you closer to God and the awareness of how much we need Him in our lives. "Celebrate" the season (and the coming of spring)!!

*Miss Laurie*

## OUR MISSION

*St. John  
congregation,  
responding to  
the call of the  
Holy Spirit  
through the Gos-  
pel, unites to-  
gether to preach  
and teach the  
Word, adminis-  
ter the sacra-  
ments, 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 togeth-  
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peace, and car-  
ing for those in  
need in our com-  
munity and  
world. We in-  
vite everyone  
to join us wher-  
ever you are on  
your faith  
journey.*

## *First Strawberry Planning Meeting*

The first planning meeting for the 2019 Strawberry Festival will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 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 12 – 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!)

## *Summer Church Camping*

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 at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and Mt. Luther. Please contact our congregational Camperson, Amy Gehring, if you would like to learn more, and 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 also 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 2018: Sheila Barder, Fay Bixler, Barb Bullock, Delmar Enders, Larry Gessner, Carol Hassinger, Michael Henninger, Harold & Pat Herb, Mary Peters, Doris Schaffer, and Olivia Williard. A record total of \$4,350 was received and passed on to the support of such ministries as Lutheran World Relief, 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.)***

## *Congregational Officers Re-elected*

Congratulations to the following persons who, on January 13, were re-elected as our congregational officers for 2019: President – Daniel Langhans, Vice President – Donna Rabenold, Secretary – Darrell Denlinger, Treasurer – Jamie Doyle, and Financial Secretary – Pat Herb. We thank these folks for their willingness to serve throughout the coming year!

## *Annual Congregational Meeting*

The first part of our Annual Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, December 9, following worship. At that meeting, action was taken to approve a 2019 Current Fund Budget as well as budgets for other funds. In elections for our Congregational Council, the following persons were elected to a three-year term: Arlene Doyle, Ronald Erb, Sandra Lamenza, and Matthew Williard. We thank these newly-elected Council members, as well as the outgoing members whom they replace—Carl Baumgardner, Jeffrey Buffington, and Jamie Doyle!

*And following the second part of our Annual Meeting on January 13, copies of the 2018 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 it includes the annual “Ways to Serve” form, which can be returned to either Pastor Tom or Council President Dan Langhans.*

## *From the President of Our Women of the ELCA...*

The ladies are in need of 8 oz. jars for their jam and jelly project in connection with our Annual Strawberry Festival. All donations would be greatly appreciated. Jars can be dropped off at the church or given to one of the ladies of St. John's Women.

Desserts are needed for the next Breaking Bread on March 10. Please check the bulletin board for a sign-up sheet.

Thank You  
Janet

## *A Friendly Reminder...*

A reminder in these late winter days, where unpredictable weather can make it very difficult or even just plain unsafe for some in our congregational family to gather here on The Hill for worship, that you can listen to our worship each Sunday morning through a link found on our congregational website. (And, of course, you can access this same audio any time for any reason, including when you just want to hear again something you already heard on a previous Sunday!) To tune in, you will need some kind of electronic device that is able to connect to the internet – or someone handy who has such a device. With that device nearby, simply follow these instructions:

- +Go to our congregational website – [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org).

- +When you arrive on our website homepage, scroll about halfway down to the item on the right that says “St. John’s Service Recordings” where you will find a green link that says “St. John’s YouTube Channel”. Clicking this green link will take you to our very own St. John channel on the YouTube website.

- +Once there, you simply click on the particular date you are interested in, at which point a new blacked out (remember we have only sound, no video) window will appear and that Sunday’s worship audio will begin to play. The first thing you will likely hear is the murmur of our gathering congregational family before the Announcements. And you may need to turn up your sound a bit, depending on your device.

- +You can then use the cursor that appears at the bottom of that blacked out window to go forward or backward as needed – or just sit back and listen to the whole thing!

Thank you to Rachel and Roy Henry who oversee our recording ministry, and to the folks who help them on Sunday mornings. Please report any problems or difficulties to Rachel or Roy or to Pastor Tom.

## *Congratulations!*

To **Alex & Robin Langhans** on the safe and healthy birth of **William Henry “Hank”** on November 22. Hank weighed in at a “bouncing” 9 pounds 2 ounces!

And to **Shayne & Jessica Latsha** on the January 30 safe and healthy birth of **Harper Marie**, who was 19 inches long and weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces.

Congratulations, too, to all the proud grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins!



It is always a joy to share news about our congregational family members who are engaged in the hard work of higher education. Please note the following updates to the information that was shared back in the October ***St. John's Epistle*** and please update your prayers for the following folks:

**Caleb Enders** who has begun a three-year program in Computer Drafting which will allow him to earn twin Associate Degrees in Computer Drafting and 3D Computer Design at the Commonwealth Technical Institute at the Hiram G. Andrews Center in Johnstown. Caleb's address is: Box #188, Commonwealth Technical Institute, Hiram G Andrews Center, 727 Goucher Street, Johnstown, PA 15905-3092;

**Benjamin Paul** who is now engaged in pursuing his Master of Science degree in Biology at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania;

**Jacob Paul** who is working part-time on his Master of Business Administration degree at the Harrisburg Campus of the Pennsylvania State University in addition to holding down his full-time position;

**Kristen Spicher** who has completed her Bachelor of Science degree and is now hard at work on her Master of Science degree as a Certified Nurse Practitioner through the University of Southern California;

and **Rachel Denlinger** who kindly agreed to put together the following report on her education endeavors and achievements for sharing with the readers of this ***Epistle***:

*Greetings and many blessings to you all!*

*Pastor Tom so graciously requested my putting together a synopsis of my educational pursuits thus far, as I am yet again approaching another graduation in the near future! As many of you may know, I graduated from high school back in 2009 with high hopes of pursuing a career in classical music, more specifically, classical violin performance with a concentration in piano performance. After the successful completion of two years of music performance study at the conservatory level, I elected to change career paths. I did this for a multitude of reasons, with my primary reasoning being that the life of a musician did not offer me the kind of stability that I longed for in a career.*

*Consequently, I transitioned to the major of dietetics and nutritional science, where I completed a four-year academic curriculum with an additional year reserved for the completion of a professional dietetic internship. Seven long years after moving to Cincinnati, I was awarded my Bachelor's of Science Degree in Dietetics in May of 2016, and I later sat for the registration/licensure exam in August of 2016, awarding me with the title of Registered, Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN, LDN). It was at this point that I decided to move back home to Pennsylvania to pursue a career in healthcare, and I began working for Pinna-  
cleHealth Systems as an RDN, providing nutrition education to patients concerning the implementation of health-specific diets, participating in community outreach programs, etc.*

*Although I found fulfillment in my work as a nutrition educator, I knew that something was still missing in terms of my professional career, and given that I had always had such respect for the nurses I worked alongside during my dietetic internship, I looked into the possibility of going back to school for nursing. At this point, I had essentially deemed myself “too old” to pursue yet another degree, but luckily for me, I was blessed with a great opportunity to complete what would have been a four-year nursing program in 16-months time, an accelerated nursing program only offered to persons already holding a degree in another discipline. I began this arduous, highly intensive educational pursuit in August of 2017, and now today, some 16 months later, I stand on the cusp of my second university graduation, where I will be awarded a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, with my graduation date and pinning ceremony being set for December 14, 2018.*

*The second-degree program that I pursued in nursing was probably the hardest thing that I have ever done. Completing what would be a four-year program in sixteen months called for almost constant studying, days without sleep, long clinical hours, not to mention, a severe strain on my relationships with loved ones. Factor in the fact that I held a steady job during the course of the program, working night shift, and one might almost go so far as to label the whole program as slightly maddening! My last semester consisted almost exclusively of clinical time, with my being responsible for the completion of a 360-hour capstone experience, where I was assigned to work in the adult oncology unit over at Hershey Medical Center, an experience that brought to the forefront the fact that I am tremendously blessed and fortunate enough to have been awarded good health. If it hadn't been for the power of prayer and the belief that God could see me through anything, I never would have made it through the program, and I am thankful everyday for having a strong faith base and a family that never failed to support me along the way.*

*Upon my graduation, I will be working at Lancaster General Hospital, where I have been offered a position in their Emergency Department Observation Unit. This particular unit is a location where patients stay when they require further evaluation of their present condition before either returning home or being admitted to the hospital. It is a fast-paced unit and I am eagerly anticipating my start date in February of 2019 after successfully passing my nursing boards and obtaining state licensure.*

*Although the road has been long and winding, I could not have asked for a more rewarding career than the one I am about to embark on. The immense satisfaction that accompanies the profession of nursing is one that I treasure, as I am fortunate enough to be awarded the opportunity to share in times of what can prove to be extreme happiness or insurmountable sorrow. Again, I cannot stress how incredibly lucky I am, and I find it no accident that God called me to this profession, knowing well that I can and will make a difference, all while continuing to grow in both wisdom and gratitude.*

*Thank you for reading, and for the many prayers along the way!*

*Rachel Denlinger*

## Youth Group News

### Tentative Youth Dates

#### March:

24th - Youth Group  
Fun Night;  
6:00 - 8:00

30th - Bass Pro Shop  
Fundraiser

#### April:

19th Assist with Good  
Friday Worship  
19th - Annual Lock In  
20th - Annual Easter  
Egg Hunt; 10:00

The Youth Group and the Youth Group Advisors would like to thank everyone that donated whether by food donation or through the good will offering at our annual spaghetti meal!! We continue to be grateful for such a supportive congregational family!

The Youth Group will be holding their monthly fun night on **March 24th** from 6:00 p.m. til 8:00 p.m.. **Bring** a game, bring a spoon.... Hope to see as many youth as possible attend!! Please bring a snack!

The Annual Lock in is scheduled for April 19th, immediately following The Good Friday Worship Service, and preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for the following morning!

The Youth Group Advisors decided to cancel the originally postponed trip to Get Air... We have some other ideas in the works for spring/ summer activities that we hope you'll be excited for!



### BASS PRO SHOPS FUNDRAISER

We will be having a fundraiser on March 30, at the Bass Pro Shops, Harrisburg.

Look for a sign up sheet on the church bulletin board. We are asking that all youth donate baked goods for this event.

## *Summer Lutheran Baseball Nights*

The dates for this years Lutheran Baseball Nights at the Harrisburg Senator home games are **May 3** and **Aug 24!** Look for more info on the church bulletin board soon!!



# Easter Egg Hunt



April 20, 2018

10:00

All Kids Welcome!!

## *Youth Group Service Projects*

With Spring around the corner the Youth Group would like to remind our Congregational family that we are always looking for service projects in our community. Specifically this Spring and Early Summer we would like to focus on the Berrysburg Community to help them prepare for their upcoming Bicentennial Celebration and are looking for individuals who are interested in cleaning up/ decorating their property, but are unable too. Something similar to what Elizabethtown and Pottsville did during their Bicentennials. Please Contact Matt Williard with any suggestions!

## R E M I N D E R S

1. ALL PARTICIPANTS in any Youth Group activity (*Youth members AND friends*) must complete a General Information and Emergency/Medical Form. This form only needs to be completed 1 time each year.
2. Any time a Youth Group activity involves leaving the church, ALL PARTICIPANTS (*Youth members AND friends*) must complete a Permission, Liability, and Travel Form.
3. As we get closer to an organized Youth Group activity, an Activity/Event Sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

NOTE: You will find copies of the above forms posted on the bulletin board at church or on the shelf below the bulletin board. Completed forms may be given to any YG Advisor or to Pastor Tom. Thanks!

## March Worship Schedule

### March Gifts

Konde Diocese -  
*Joe and Arlene Doyle*

Celebrate Inserts -  
*Chris and Dana Klouser*

### Altar Flowers

*Mar 3*

*John & Judy Ferree*

*March 10*

*Elwood and Mildred Boyer*  
*Memorial*

*March 17*

*Arlie and Jennie*  
*Koppenhaver Memorial*

*\*as of print date,  
subject to change*

Altar Guild  
Lector

Delmar and Ginny Enders  
Judy Cheatham

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

### March 3, 2019 Holy Communion

Greeter  
Acolyte  
Superintendent  
Pianist

Ginny and Delmar Enders  
Gary Leitzel and Hoyt Schlegel  
Larry Gessner  
Judy Ferree

### March 6, 2019 Ash Wednesday Holy Communion

Greeter  
Acolytes

The Craig Shade Family  
Allyssa Rabenold and Lilly Rabenold

### March 10, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist

The Lynn Mace Family  
Gabe Gehring and Gary Leitzel  
Lynn Henninger  
Lois Watson

### March 17, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist

The Jodi Thompson Family  
Landon Mace and Avery Mace  
Jeff Lehman  
Louise Baumgardner

### March 24, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist

Daniel and Angela Maurer  
Cole Roadcap and Haylen Donovan  
Ken Koller  
Sandy Paul

### March 31, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist

James and Lois Watson  
Gabe Gehring and Cole Roadcap  
Roy Henry  
Carol Hubler



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>March 2019</b>						
<b>3 Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 2:00 Girl Scout Troop Meeting	<b>4</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 5:30 Book Discussion Group 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at Faith United Methodist, Fisherville	<b>5</b> 9:00 Pastor Tom at Berrysburg/Mifflin Twp. Bicentennial Worship Planning Meeting 6:30 Strawberry Festival Planning Meeting #1 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal <b>Shrove Tuesday</b>	<b>6 Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00 Liturgy of Holy Communion with Optional Imposition of Ashes	<b>7</b> 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Meeting ( <b>note change of evening due to Ash Wednesday worship</b> )	<b>8</b>	<b>9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>10 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Observance of Girl Scout Sunday 11:30 "Breaking Bread" Meal and Fellowship Time 2:00 Women's Group Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:00 Local Benevolence Committee Annual Meeting 7:30 Dartball Match – St. John at Lykens United Methodist	<b>12</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship <b>at St. John</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Deadline to Submit Items for April "St. John's Epistle"</b>	<b>16</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>17 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 World Hunger Appeal Kickoff Event, For All Ages (Followed by SONday Celebration, Confirmation Class, Youth Sunday School and Adult Sunday School) 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Sunny Sermon by Miss Laurie <b>St. Patrick's Day</b>	<b>18</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting at St. Peter Lutheran, Halifax	<b>19 Joseph, Guardian of Jesus</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at St. Peter (Hoffman's) United Church of Christ, Crossroads <b>Spring Begins</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>24 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 1:30 Church Dartball League Annual Tournament at Valleys E.C. Church, Halifax 2:00 Girl Scout Troop Meeting 6:00 – 8:00 Youth Group Fun Night Activity at the Church	<b>25</b> Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR	<b>26</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Trinity United Methodist Church, Elizabethville	<b>28</b> 5:30 Community Meal at Trinity United Methodist Church, Elizabethville	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off



**31 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
 9:00 SONday Celebration  
 9:00 Confirmation Class  
 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School  
 10:15 Liturgy of the Word  
 7:00 Easter Eve Liturgy of Readings and Prayer (downstairs in the chapel)

<u>Pastor's Office</u> <u>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 Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
	Judith Ferree	Organist	jferree@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	717-329-7447

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](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)

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

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE