



St. Johns Epistle

St. Johns Lutheran
Church
Berrysburg, PA

March 2020



Dear Friends in Jesus,

Once again this year, on 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 ***Preachers of the Gospel*** in which the preacher of the evening will share his story of a Person of the Faith, from recent times or from ancient times or from some time in between, whose words have been especially influential in his faith journey and ministry as a pastor. The details for these Wednesday evenings are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host Congregation</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
March 4	<i>St. John</i>	Rev. Nathan Minnich
March 11	Peace United Church of Christ Berrysburg	Rev. Jim Lewis
March 18	Trinity United Methodist Church Elizabethville	Rev. Ray Holland
March 25	Salem Lutheran Church Elizabethville	Rev. Jeff Wagner
April 1	Salem United Church of Christ Elizabethville	<i>Pastor Tom</i>

Please don't miss these opportunities to have your faith refreshed and deepened, as we journey together through the Season of Lent. (And, depending on what day you find yourself reading these lines, please don't forget that our journey through the Season of Lent begins with our observance of **Ash Wednesday on February 26** with worship at **7:00 P.M.**) May God bless us as we once again make our way along this pathway that leads to the Cross!

PASTOR TOM

2020 Strawberry Festival

The first planning meeting for the 2020 Strawberry Festival will be held on Tuesday, March 3, beginning at 7:00 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!)

Spring / Summer dates for your calendar

And, staying on the subject of summer dates and activities, some other dates for your family calendars:

- +**May 24** – the first Sunday of early summer (9:30am) worship
- +**May 24, June 21, July 5, July 12, July 26, August 16, and September 6** – the dates of worship outdoors in our beautiful pavilion setting
- +**June 20** – Drive-in Movie Night with Miss Laurie
- +**June 28** – the annual return of the *Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band* to our worship
- +***Knights of North Castle*** Vacation Bible School – Monday, **July 20**, through Friday, **July 24**, with a drive-in movie on closing night and the closing program on Sunday, **July 26**, followed by “Voices and Vittles”
- +**August 7** – (tentative) Water Fun Night with Miss Laurie

Book your Camping trip now!

And with summer not that far away, now is also 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 look for “temple talks” in worship on March 8 and 22 from our Congregational Camperson, Amy Gehring, or contact her directly at any time 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 for camping experiences by the beginning of April!*

THANK YOU!!

To the following persons who directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John during 2019: Louise Baumgardner, Fay Bixler, Barb Bullock, Larry Gessner, Harold & Pat Herb, Mary Peters, and Olivia Williard. A total of \$2,011 was received and passed on to the support of such ministries as Lutheran World Relief, domestic disaster relief, WELCA blanket making, children and youth ministry, youth group, and our ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you! *(And a reminder to all Thrivent members that March 31 will be the cutoff for designating 2019 Choice Dollars. A phone call to Thrivent – or logging in to the Thrivent website – is all that it takes to find out about and direct Choice Dollars.)*



News from Miss Laurie Young Christians Minister

I'm starting to think the groundhog got his prediction correct this year with all the warmer temperatures we've been having. Either that, or he's just lulling us into a feeling of "early spring" and then WHAMO – we'll get hit with a late season arctic blast! I guess we'll just have to wait until the 19th (the first day of spring) and see how it plays out!!

While you're waiting, take out your calendars and jot down the following dates: Because St. John's is hosting the Lenten Service on March 4th, Celebration Club will be meeting on **THURSDAY, March 5th**! Join us from 6:30 – 8:30 for "Moses Madness"!

Sunday, **March 8th**, is Girl Scout Sunday and Sunny will be joining us in worship with a Sunny Sermon! It's also another "Breaking Bread" Luncheon and this time the ladies are making pot pie!! You won't want to miss THIS one!!

Sunday, **March 15th**, we'll be celebrating St. Patrick's Day SONday Celebration style! Join us for a little "wearin' of the green" fun!!!

This month, we'll also be reuniting the "Cotton Tails"! So that we'll be ready to sing during the Easter season, we're kicking things off with practice and a Pizza Party on **Sunday, March 22nd**! I'll keep you posted on more details in my weekly emails.

No matter what the weather is like outside, you can count on "cool" things happening on "the Hill"! Have an awesome March, and join us for the fun!!

Miss Laurie

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

BEYOND BINARY: "GETTING" SEX AND GENDER

APRIL 19
1^{PM} - 3^{PM}

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

215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown



Speaker

Debra Doubrava PhD LPC RPT-S

More & more we are living in a beyond-binary world in terms of understanding sex & gender. Yet many of us feel like we just do not "get it" when it comes to these controversial & confusing concepts. Our speaker Debra, a mental health professional with expertise in working with youth and families, who is also an active Lutheran Christian, will discuss these concepts from a clinical perspective, common biases associated with them, and ways to honor, serve and LOVE those who challenge binary ideas around sex & gender.

**Come join us early!! Church Services begin at 10:15am.
Stay for a Spaghetti Dinner provided by our youth group @ 11:30am
(free will offering accepted but not necessary)
There will also be a separate celebration time for young persons with
Miss Laurie, our Young Christians Minister**

Registration is required!

**Register on our facebook page: @stjohnhillchurch
or call Rebecca at 570-262-2664**

St. John's Youth Group

March Events

Sunday, March 7 (*Service Hour Opportunity*)- The Order of the Eastern Star asked if our youth group would be able to help serve and clean-up at a small banquet being held at the New Life Center in Millersburg (behind the Mid Penn Bank, near the firehouse). Several youth group members would help serve a buffet dinner, while other youth group members help in the kitchen to clean up. We have to be in Millersburg by 12:15 p.m. They expect the meal to last until 3:30 p.m. All the youth members would help with the tear down and clean up until around 4:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in helping, please see Amy. We will provide transportation for any youth interested in helping. Keep in mind: this will count toward NJHS and NHS service hours.

Saturday, March 21 - Hot Dog Sale @ Mid Penn Bank - The Youth Group will be holding their annual hot dog sale again at the MidPenn Bank in Elizabethville. We will be asking youth to sponsor baked goods for this fundraiser. All monies earned will be going towards our GATHERING trip!

Saturday, March 28 - WINTER JAM - Winter Jam 2020 will take place on Saturday, March 28th. It's a concert featuring several different Christian artists. It is held at Bryce Jordan Center in State College, PA. It starts at 6:00 p.m. Trinity in Elizabethville and the Peace United Church of Christ in Berriesburg are putting a bus trip together. *This isn't a St. John's Youth Group event.* If you are interested in going, any advisor can get you in touch with someone from one of these churches.

Mark Your Calendars

Friday, April 10 - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE / YOUTH GROUP LOCK IN - The youth of St. John's will assist in leading the annual Good Friday Service, if you are interested in participating and haven't yet heard from Pastor Tom please contact him or get in touch with any of the youth advisors. After the service the youth group will gather for their annual lock in... food, friends, fun, and dying A LOT of eggs. Sounds like an eggcellent time!

Saturday, April 11 - ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT - The Youth Group will host the Annual St. Johns Easter Egg Hunt, where we welcome kids of all ages from throughout the community to participate! If you are not able to attend the lock in but would like to help with the Easter Egg Hunt please arrive at the church by 9:00 am and wear your youth group shirt, if you don't have a shirt or need a new size please let one of the advisors know!

ALL YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS

must complete a General Information and Emergency/Medical Form. This form only needs to be completed 1 time each year and this is the annual renewal time! Please check the bulletin board for copies and return to one of the Youth Group Advisors.

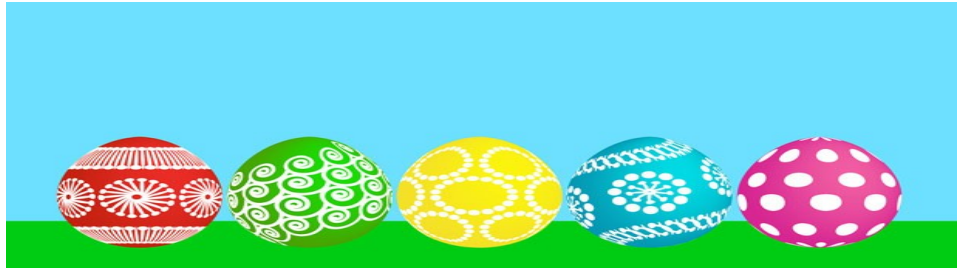
The ELCA has announced the theme for the 2021 Gathering in Minneapolis!! All Youth Group members who will be going into 9th Grade and above as of June 2021 will be eligible to attend GATHERING. Please see any youth group advisor if you would like more information.

YOUTH GROUP ADVISORS

◇ Pastor Tom Bruner	◇ Becky Conte	◇ Amy Gehring	◇ Clint Gehring
◇ Jodi Thompson	◇ Matt Williard	◇ Olivia Williard	



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



Easter Egg Hunt

Kids of all ages are welcome

The Annual St. John's Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by the Youth Group will be held Saturday April 11, 2020. The egg hunt will begin at 10:00 a.m., once all eggs are collected we will hand out prizes, winners in every age group! Please see any youth group advisor if you have any questions!

Why Go to Church?

A churchgoer wrote a letter to a newspaper editor and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for over thirty years now," he wrote. "and in that time I have heard something like three thousand sermons. But for the life of me I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time, and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons that no one remembers."

Much to the delight of the editor, this started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for thirty years now. In that time my wife has cooked some thirty two thousand meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me those meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead!"

Youth Group Holds Annual Spaghetti Dinner



This years Annual Spaghetti Dinner has been scheduled for April 19 immediately following service. Please join us for our free will offering dinner which includes salad and all the fixins, all you can eat spaghetti, garlic bread, and delicious desserts.

As always we will be posting a donation list on the church bulletin board! We appreciate any and all help we receive from our congregational family. We have been truly blessed for all the great support. And, this year following our Spaghetti Dinner

we will be hosting a special workshop **BEYOND BINARY: “Getting” Sex and Gender**, with guest speaker Debra Doubrava PhD, LPC, RPT-S, hosting the event.

All youth group are asked to attend the prep day on April 18. Please provide a baked good item for the spaghetti Dinner.

The Youth Group will be accepting closed bids for two (2) separate presidential coin collections which have been donated to them for use as a fundraiser, with all proceeds going to the Youth Group Fund. The coins will be available for viewing at the breaking bread luncheons on Sunday, February 9, 2020 and Sunday, March 8, 2020. We will be accepting closed bids until the end of the breaking bread time on Sunday, March 8, 2020. At that time, all the sealed bids will opened. The highest bidder will be contacted by a Youth Adviser to make arrangements for payment and delivery of the coin collections. One of the coin collections has additional living president coins through George W. Bush. There will be reserves on each collection.

Please see Matt or Olivia Williard with any questions.



St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
January 12, 2020

The Council Meeting was called to order by Pastor Tom at 4 P.M.

Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions about the four tenants of council membership.

Appreciation expressed for the outgoing council members – Pat Herb, Dan Langhans, Donna Rabenold, and Henry Henninger.

Welcome new council members: Roy Henry, Ken Koller, Heidi Lehman, and Lori Matter.

Nominations made and election held for new council officers: President- Roy Henry; Vice-President – Matt Williard; Secretary – Darrell Denlinger; Assistant Secretary – Sandra Lamenza; Treasurer – Jamie Doyle; Assistance Treasurer – Dan Maurer.

Additional positions: Cemetery Board Representative – Sandra Lamenza and Barbara Bullock; Usher Chair Persons – Louise Baumgardner, Tam Spicher, and Lois Watson; Financial Secretary – Pat Herb.

Past meeting minutes – motion to accept by Ron Erb; second by Matt Williard; approved by all present.

Reception of Petitions and Communications

Water Test passed for month and quarter.

Annual Appeal from Northern Dauphin Human Service Center; provide \$300 from Strawberry Festival Fund. Motion to accept by Sandra Lamenza; second by Ron Erb; approved by all present.

Wooden chairs without arms in balcony; referred to property committee for disposal. Suggest sign up sheet to give to congregation.

Two volunteers needed for synod assembly Saturday, June 6, at Messiah College. Two voting members of the congregation to attend – one male; one female. May 16 and 30 will be days of service – one day at Lancaster; one day at York.

Church council members to count offering

Instructions for Communion Rotation discussion about procedure

Pastor's Report:

Motion to accept by Sandra Lamenza; second by Barb Bullock; passed by all present.

Children and Youth:

Motion by Sandra Lamenza; second by Heidi Lehman; passed by all present.

Treasurer Report:

Reviewed prior to meeting.

Motion to accept by Carol Hassinger; second by Ron Erb; passed by all present.

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
January 12, 2020

Church Property:

No meeting in December
Discussion about floor replacement for first floor activity room

Finance: No meeting

Worship & Music: to meet soon

Faith Formation Team:

Meeting December 10

Youth Ministry:

No snow tubing; poor snow conditions
Trampoline park in February
Larry Gessner donated coin collections to youth as a fund raiser.

Executive Committee: no meeting

Mutual Ministry:

Met January 12 – no problems

History: no report

Nominating:

Chair by Matt Williard

Women's Report: report by Pat Herb

Almost \$500 offering for snack pack at Breaking Bread

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

Copy of Constitution given to new council members
Guidelines to Congregational Church policies

Next Council Meeting February 9 at 4 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Ron Erb; second by Matt Williard; passed by all present.

Respectfully submitted,
Darrell Denlinger, Secretary

March Worship Schedule

Lector Judy Cheatham
Altar Guild Virginia and Delmar Enders
Usher (Lead) Daniel Maurer
(E) Judith Cheatham, (LAY) Gail Billow and Angela Maurer

March Sponsorships

Tree 4 Hope
Jamie Doyle

Konde Diocese
Jamie Doyle

Celebrate Inserts
Jamie Doyle

Altar Flowets

March 1
Judy & John Ferree

March 8
Elwood & Mildred
Boyer Memorial

March 15
Josephine Bruner, Arlie
& Jenny Koppenhaver
Memorial

March 1, 2020

Holy Communion

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

Prayer

Scripture

The Craig Shade Family

Madeline Williard & Avery Mace

Ken Koller

Louise Baumgardner

Ann Bruner

Hoyt Schlegel

March 8, 2020

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

Prayer

Scripture

The Lynn Mace Family

Gabe Gehring & Cole Roadcap

Roy Henry

Sandra Paul

The Denlinger Family

Matt Williard

March 15, 2020

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

Prayer

Scripture

Carl and Louise Baumgardner

Aidan Roadcap & Hoyt Schlegel

Jeff Lehman

Carol Hubler

Pat Herb

Kelsey Henninger.

March 22, 2020

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

Prayer

Scripture

Daniel and Angela Maurer

Lilly Rabenold & Caroline DeSoto

Ken Koller

Lois Watson

Fred Weaver

Jean Weaver

March 29, 2020

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

Prayer

Scripture

James and Lois Watson

Allyssa Rabenold & Briana Radel



Larry Gessner

Judy Ferree

Matt Williard

Olivia Williard



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>  <h1>March 2020</h1> </div>						
1 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons with Miss Laurie 2:00 p.m., Book Discussion Group Gathering	2 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR	3 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:00 Strawberry Festival Planning Meeting #1 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	4 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship <i>at St. John</i>	5 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Meeting (<i>note change of evening due to Wednesday Lenten worship</i>)	6	7 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off Youth Group Members Serve Banquet at New Life Center, Millersburg
8 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Girl Scout Sunday Observance, Sunny Sermon and Celebration Time for Young Persons with Miss Laurie 11:30 "Breaking Bread" Meal and Fellowship Time 2:00 Women's Group Meeting 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting Daylight Saving Time Begins	9 <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:00 Local Benevolence Committee Annual Meeting	10 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	11 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Peace United Church of Christ, Berrysburg	12	13	14 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
15 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word Deadline to Submit Items for April "St. John's Epistle"	16 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Spring Assembly <i>at St. John</i> 7:00 Church Dartball League Banquet at Lykens United Methodist Church	17 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal St. Patrick's Day	18 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Trinity United Methodist Church, Elizabethville	19 Joseph, Guardian of Jesus Spring Begins	20	21 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off Youth Group Hotdog and Sausage Sale at Mid Penn Bank, Elizabethville
22 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	23 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR	24 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	25 6:15 Lenten Supper & Worship at Salem Lutheran Church, Elizabethville	26	27	28 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
29 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	30 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR	31 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal				

<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	717-365-5099 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
	Tammy 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
	Roy Henry	Council President	Henryfamily2004 @gmail.com	717-215-9837
	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

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE