



# ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BERRYSBURG, PA | MARCH 2022

## Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

The lengthening days tell us that the Season of Lent is drawing near. The very name for the season in fact goes back to very old European words referring to the "lengthening" of days which come with "spring". Our journey through the Season of Lent begins **March 2 at 7:00 P.M.**, as always with our observance of **Ash Wednesday**, both in-person and on Zoom. The optional imposition of ashes will return to our worship and, like Holy Communion, will be available in drive-up fashion for those joining in worship on the Zoom platform. Please contact me in advance if you will be planning to take advantage of our drive-up!

And then, I'm really glad to report that, on the subsequent Wednesday evenings during Lent, we Lutheran, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist congregations of the Berrysburg and Elizabethtown area are planning to return to something at least much closer to normal after two "off" years. While we aren't yet at the place where any of us pastors felt it was prudent to re-start the beloved 6:15pm meals, we will have the opportunity to join in worship with our Brothers and Sisters in Jesus, at the familiar **7:00pm**, ending by 8:00pm. As before, 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. For this year's series theme, we are returning to the planned-but-mostly-cancelled 2020 theme ***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:

Date	Host Congregation	Preacher/Subject
March 9	<i>St. John</i>	Rev. Ray Holland C.S. Lewis
March 16	St. Peters (Hoffmans) United Church of Christ Crossroads	<b>Pastor Tom</b> Jan Huss
March 23	Trinity United Methodist Church Elizabethtown	Rev. Nathan Minnich Dietrich Bonhoeffer
March 30	Salem Lutheran Church Elizabethtown	Rev. Bill Romberger John Wesley
April 6	Salem United Church of Christ Elizabethtown	Rev. Mark Rothermel Zacharias Ursinus

For our March 9 worship, we will follow our current COVID guidelines of safe distancing and required masks for everyone who is not yet fully vaccinated. We will also have worship available both in-person here at the church and on Zoom (link to come closer to time) as per usual. My sense is that the different congregations taking part are doing a variety of things in this regard and so, if I receive any additional details on a given Wednesday's worship in advance, I will share those with you.

**Pastor Tom**

## News from Miss Laurie, Young Christians Minister

Well, that darned Groundhog saw his shadow, so we'll have to wait for spring to arrive later this month! Hopefully March really goes out "like a lamb"!!

While we're seeing which way our weather takes us, we hope you'll join us for these upcoming activities! Mark your calendars for the following:

- **THURSDAY**, March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the next meeting of Celebration Club! We're meeting Thursday because the church will be tied up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> with Ash Wednesday services. Join us **Thursday** evening from 6:30 – 8:00 and be ready to "MOVE"!!
- Turn your clocks forward and join us for some "Shamrock Shenanigans" on Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> in SONday Celebration!
- On Sunday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, it's "Bring your BESTIE" to SONday Celebration! Join us as we explore how "a good friend loves all the time"!

No matter the weather in this unpredictable month of march, we hope you'll stay connected and join us for ALL our fun activities!! See you at the Celebration!!

**Miss Laurie**



## This is My Church

- ✚ It is composed of people just like me.
- ✚ It will be friendly if I am.
- ✚ It will do great work if I do.
- ✚ It will make generous gifts if I'm generous.
- ✚ It will bring others into fellowship if I bring them.
- ✚ Its seats will be filled if I fill them.
- ✚ It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service, if I who make it what it is, am filled with these.
- ✚ Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all these things I want my church to be.

-Thank you to Fay Nichols for sharing



# **St. John's Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner**

Sunday, March 27, 2022

(immediately following worship service)

**TAKE - OUT ONLY**

**~ Free Will Donation Collected ~**



**HUNT  
STARTS AT  
10:00 A.M.**

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**PRIZES FOR  
EACH AGE  
GROUP**

**APRIL 16, 2022**

# **ST. JOHN'S EASTER EGG HUNT**

**Join us on the beautiful grounds  
of St. John Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Berrysburg for the  
annual Easter Egg Hunt!**

**Sponsored By:  
St. John's Youth Group**

**FOUR AGE GROUPS:**

**INFANT  
TO  
PRE-SCHOOL**

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**KINDERGARTEN**

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**1st & 2nd GRADE**

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**3rd & 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE**



# St. John's Youth Group

St. John's Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch](https://facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch)

St. John's Children and Youth Ministry: [facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry](https://facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry)

ELCA Gathering Website: [www.elca.org/youthgathering](http://www.elca.org/youthgathering)



## Spaghetti Dinner



The annual youth group spaghetti dinner is on Sunday, March 27th immediately following worship service. Due to COVID concerns, the meal will be take-out only. We will be serving spaghetti with meat or plain sauce, garlic bread, and a side salad. Please arrive at 10am. to help with the meal prep. We will be asking for a free will donation for the meal. Please let Olivia or Amy know if you can help that day.

## Youth Group Meeting

The next youth group meeting is Sunday, April 10th from 6-8pm. Bring your egg stuffing skills!!! We will be stuffing the plastic eggs for the Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 16th. We will have pizza for supper and play games after stuffing eggs. Please let Olivia or Amy know if you are coming so we can order the pizza ahead of time.

## Good Friday/Lock-In/Easter Egg Hunt

Unfortunately, due to ongoing COVID concerns, we have decided to forgo a youth group lock-in this Spring.

However, Good Friday service will go on as in years past. Please watch for Pastor's email for any opportunities to participate in the **Good Friday service on Friday, April 15th**.

Good news!! The Easter Egg Hunt is on the calendar for **Saturday, April 16th at 10am**. Back to its original time!! All youth group members should arrive at the church by 9am. to help set up.



## 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering

The following is an announcement from the ELCA regarding the 2022 Youth Gathering:

*"After much prayer, conversation and tears, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 2022 Gathering, MYLE and the tAble due to the ongoing pandemic, the recent COVID-19 surge and public health considerations.*

*We know there are thousands of young people who will not get to experience the Gathering, and our hearts break for them. This was not an easy decision, and we ask for your prayers and your grace. We understand the impact this decision will have on our youth, volunteers and planning teams, and we hope to return to Minneapolis for a future Gathering.*

*Registered congregations can visit their registration accounts starting Monday, Feb. 7, to select their desired refund option. For more information and FAQs, please visit [elca.org/Gathering](http://elca.org/Gathering).*

*With God's power at work in and through us, we can do far more than we dare ask or imagine! The ELCA is fully committed to supporting the young people of our church and to seeing that the ministry of the Gathering, MYLE and the tAble continue for years to come. With that assurance, we are turning our attention toward 2024 for the next Gathering. Stay tuned to Gathering communications for a location announcement this summer.*

*Grace and peace."*

Even though the 2022 Gathering has been canceled, the advisors are planning an alternative option for the week of the Gathering. The Lower Susquehanna Synod, Lutheran Camping Corporation, and LutheranHANDS have come up with a couple different options for us to consider. Once we gather all the details, we will pass it on to the senior high youth group members. Anyone currently in 8th through 12th grade are eligible to attend the alternative option this summer. Just to keep you in the loop: we are strongly leaning toward the option provided by the Lutheran Camping Corporation to attend a program at Camp Nawakwa.

As always, watch those emails for any updates!!! Have a great March!! And remember, it doesn't matter how you come into March, always go out with the Lamb!

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## Book Club

**Please join us for upcoming Book Group Discussions!** For the next several months, all gatherings will be on Zoom at 6:30pm. Call or email Ann 717-362-7895 [rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com) if you need a book or have any questions. Copies of the book should be available on the bench under the bulletin board in the foyer. Next up – Monday, March 7: **Code Girls** by Liza Mundy. And looking further ahead:

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** And Then You Loved Me by Elspeth Cooper

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** American Harvest by Marie Mutsuki Mocket

Hope to see you there!



## Strawberry Festival

The first planning meeting for our Annual Strawberry Festival will be held on **Tuesday, March 1, beginning at 7pm.** Since there really isn't a fixed committee and the meeting is literally made up of those interested persons who show up each time, all interested persons are (really!) invited to attend. (The Festival itself is planned for June 8.)



## Events Coming Soon

Looking ahead to the warmer days of summer, some other dates for your family calendars, in addition to the date of our Annual Strawberry Festival, mentioned earlier:

- **May 29** – the first Sunday of both early summer (9:30am) and outdoor worship
- **June 26** – this just in!! – the **Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band** will again be joining us for worship
- Vacation Bible School – **Monday, July 11, through Friday, July 15**, with the closing program on **Sunday, July 17**, followed by “Voices and Vittles”

## Youth Group Coin Fundraiser

March 1st starts the Youth Group Coin Fundraiser. This is a coin sale and not an auction. The coins will be sold on a first come, first served basis. So don't miss out if you see something you want!! Below is the list of all the coins available for purchase. The minimum donation amount is listed after each item. All sets are sold as a set and will not be broken up. To purchase an item, please contact Matt Williard at 717-574-0809 or [mntneer24@yahoo.com](mailto:mntneer24@yahoo.com). Please reference the Item # and the amount you want to donate. Thank you in advance for your support!

Item #	Description	Minimum Donation
101	1954 - Silver Washington Quarter	\$5.00
102	1964 - Silver Washington Quarters (set of 5)	\$25.00
102	1964 - Silver Washington Quarters (set of 5)	\$25.00
102	1964 - Silver Washington Quarters (set of 5)	\$25.00
102	1964 - Silver Washington Quarters (set of 5)	\$25.00
102	1964 - Silver Washington Quarters (set of 5)	\$25.00
102	1964 - Silver Washington Quarters (set of 5)	\$25.00
103	1971 - Eisenhower Uncirculated Silver Dollar	\$14.00
104	1972 - United States Philadelphia & Denver Mint Set	\$8.00
105	1972 - Eisenhower Uncirculated Silver Dollar	\$15.00
106	1973 - United States Mint Set (minus Eisenhower Dollars)	\$8.00
107	1973 - Eisenhower Uncirculated Silver Dollar	\$35.00
107	1973 - Eisenhower Uncirculated Silver Dollar	\$35.00
107	1973 - Eisenhower Uncirculated Silver Dollar	\$35.00
108	1976 - United States Proof Set	\$9.00
109	1980 - United States Proof Set	\$7.00
110	1980 - United States Mint Philadelphia & Denver Uncirculated Coin Set	\$14.00
111	1981 - United States Mint Proof Set	\$7.00
112	1981 - United States Mint Philadelphia & Denver Uncirculated Coin Set	\$20.00
112	1981 - United States Mint Philadelphia & Denver Uncirculated Coin Set	\$20.00
113	1982 - United States Denver Mint Uncirculated Set	\$4.00
114	1982 - United States Mint Proof Set	\$5.00
114	1982 - United States Mint Proof Set	\$5.00
114	1982 - United States Mint Proof Set	\$5.00
115	1983 - United States Mint Proof Set	\$5.00
116	1984 - United States Mint Philadelphia & Denver Uncirculated Coin Set	\$8.00
117	1985 - United States Mint Proof Set	\$5.00

<b>118</b>	1986 - United States Philadelphia & Denver Uncirculated Coin Set	\$14.00
<b>119</b>	1986 - United States Proof Set	\$7.00
<b>120</b>	1988 - United States Mint Philadelphia & Denver Uncirculated Coin Set	\$10.00
<b>120</b>	1988 - United States Mint Philadelphia & Denver Uncirculated Coin Set	\$10.00
<b>121</b>	1989 - United States Mint Philadelphia & Denver Uncirculated Coin Set	\$10.00
<b>122</b>	1989 - United States Mint Proof Set	\$7.00
<b>123</b>	1992 - United States Mint Silver Proof Set	\$25.00
<b>124</b>	1999 - United States Mint Philadelphia Uncirculated Set w/ 5-Piece State Quarter Set	\$15.00
<b>125</b>	1999 - United States Mint Denver Uncirculated Set w/ 5-Piece State Quarter Set	\$15.00
<b>126</b>	2000 - United States 5-Piece State Quarter Set	\$6.00
<b>127</b>	2002 - United States Mint Proof Set w/ 5-Piece State Quarter Set	\$13.00
<b>128</b>	George Washington Uncirculated Commemorative Half Dollar (blue box)	\$15.00
<b>129</b>	George Washington Uncirculated Commemorative Proof Half Dollar (red box)	\$15.00
<b>130</b>	Elizabethville Sesquicentennial Coin from 1967	\$1.00
<b>130</b>	Elizabethville Sesquicentennial Coin from 1967	\$1.00
<b>130</b>	Elizabethville Sesquicentennial Coin from 1967	\$1.00
<b>130</b>	Elizabethville Sesquicentennial Coin from 1967	\$1.00
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<b>130</b>	Elizabethville Sesquicentennial Coin from 1967	\$1.00
<b>130</b>	Elizabethville Sesquicentennial Coin from 1967	\$1.00
<b>130</b>	Elizabethville Sesquicentennial Coin from 1967	\$1.00
<b>131</b>	Unused State Quarter Collector's Book w/ \$19.00 worth of Misc. State Quarters	\$25.00
<b>131</b>	Unused State Quarter Collector's Book w/ \$19.00 worth of Misc. State Quarters	\$25.00
<b>131</b>	Unused State Quarter Collector's Book w/ \$19.00 worth of Misc. State Quarters	\$25.00
<b>131</b>	Unused State Quarter Collector's Book w/ \$19.00 worth of Misc. State Quarters	\$25.00



# Thank you!

**THANK YOU** to the following persons who directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John during 2021: Sheila Barder, Fay Bixler, Barb Bullock, Delmar & Ginny Enders, Larry Gessner, Harold & Pat Herb, and Olivia Williard. A total of \$1,094 was received and passed on to the support of such ministries as Children and Youth ministry, youth group, Lutheran World Relief, our pavilion curtain project, and our ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you! *(During these recent COVID years, total Choice Dollars directed to our congregational family have been in a slow decline. All Thrivent members have until March 31 to designate 2021 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 Thrivent Choice Dollars.)*

## Pastoral Acts

### At Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Richard Henninger**, who died at his home in Elizabethville on February 2. Worship took place at the church on February 11, with interment in our church cemetery. We pray God's comfort in the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus for Rich's family members and other loved ones!

## St John Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Minutes December 18, 2021

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

**Present:** Roy Henry, Sandra Lamenza, Heidi Lehman, Sheila Barder, Ron Erb, Michael Henninger, Dana Klouser, Lori Motter, Matt Williard, and Pastor Tom Bruner

**Excused Absent:** Arlene Doyle, Ira Antes

**Minutes:** Motion by Ron Erb and seconded by Dana Klouser to accept the November minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

### Reception of Petitions and Communications:

None

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Tom presented the paperwork for his housing tax allowance. Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Ron Erb to accept the proposed housing allowance. Motion approved unanimously. Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Michael Henninger to accept the pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously.

**Children and Youth Ministry Report:** Motion made by Matt Williard and seconded by Ron Erb to accept Miss Laurie's report. Motion approved unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Ron Erb to accept the treasurer's report. Motion approved unanimously.

### Reports of Standing Committees:

*Church Property:* Sandra Lamenza is working on securing an additional estimate for painting the sanctuary.

*Finance:* No meeting

*Worship and Music:* Working on Christmas Eve services. Question was raised about resuming the floral program. Ron Erb offered to place poinsettias at the alter for the Christmas season.

*Faith Formation Team:* No meeting. Gingerbread Bash to be held December 18.

*Youth Ministry:* Sunday school classes are going well. They have an ugly Christmas sweater party scheduled for December 30. At this time there are four youth and four adults registered for the national youth gathering.

*Mutual Ministry:* No meeting

*Executive:* No report

*Nominating:* No meeting

*History and Archive:* No report

*Women of ELCA:* No caroling this year. Will reach out to shut-ins through cards.

**New Business:** It was decided that ushers would resume the function of bringing the offering plate forward during the organ anthem.

Pastor Tom announced that there are two new families that have been attending our worship services because of the safe Covid guidelines we have been following.

During the pandemic, Matt Williard and Jamie Doyle have been counting the offering. Motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Dana Klouser that the treasurer should continue to take responsibility for counting and processing the offerings along with Matt Williard. If Matt is not available, one other person should be appointed to assist the treasurer. Motion approved unanimously.

A new cable has been purchased that should resolve some of the sound issues associated with the Zoom platform.

**Next Council Meeting:** The next council meeting will be January 23, 2022, at 4PM.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ron Erb and seconded by Michael Henninger to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandra Lamenza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sandra Lamenza, Secretary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
*(Both In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom)		<b>9:30am</b> - Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Gathering <b>7pm</b> - Strawberry Festival Planning Meeting #1  <b>Shrove Tuesday</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>7pm</b> - Worship (Both In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom), including Sacrament of Holy Communion and Optional Imposition of Ashes <b>7pm</b> - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals, Educators, Students & Their Families	<b>6:30-8pm</b> - Monthly <b>Celebration Club</b> with Miss Laurie (note change of day)		Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off  <b>11:45am</b> - Youth Group Departs Church to Serve Eastern Star Dinner
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>9am</b> - Faith Formation Time (Adult Bible Study on Zoom; Younger Groups In-Person) <b>10:15am</b> – Worship*, including Sacrament of Holy Communion, <b>Observance of Girl Scout Sunday</b> , and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person	<b>6:30pm</b> - Monthly Gathering of Book Discussion Group (On Zoom)		<b>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</b> <b>7pm</b> - Lenten Community Worship <b>at St. John</b> (Both In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom) <b>7pm</b> - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals, Educators, Students & Their Families			Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>9am</b> - Faith Formation Time (Adult Bible Study on Zoom; Younger Groups In-Person) <b>10:15am</b> – Worship*, including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person <b>2pm</b> – Women's Group Meeting <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins 2:00am</b>	Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Planned Office Hours  <b>6:30-7:30pm</b> - Lion Cub Scout Den Meeting	<b>6:15pm</b> - Worship & Music Committee Meeting  <b>Deadline to Submit Items for April "St. John's Epistle"</b>	<b>7pm</b> - Lenten Community Worship at St. Peters (Hoffman's) United Church of Christ, Crossroads <b>7pm</b> - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals, Educators, Students & Their Families	<b>St. Patrick's Day</b>		<b>Joseph, Guardian of Jesus</b>  Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>9am</b> - Faith Formation Time (Adult Bible Study on Zoom; Younger Groups In-Person) <b>10:15am</b> – Worship*, including Sunny Sermon and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person <b>Spring Begins 11:33am</b>	<b>7pm</b> - Upper Dauphin Conference Spring Assembly at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville	<b>6:15pm</b> - Property Committee Meeting	<b>7pm</b> - Lenten Community Worship at Trinity United Methodist Church, Elizabethtown <b>7pm</b> - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals, Educators, Students & Their Families			Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
27	28	29	30	31		
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</b> <b>9am</b> - Faith Formation Time (Adult Bible Study on Zoom; Younger Groups In-Person) <b>10:15am</b> – Worship*, including World Hunger Appeal Kickoff Temple Talk and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person <b>11:15am</b> - Youth Group (Take Out) Spaghetti Dinner			<b>7pm</b> - Lenten Community Worship at Salem Lutheran Church, Elizabethtown <b>7pm</b> - Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer for Medical Professionals, Educators, Students & Their Families			

### Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday: 8am – 9:30am

Wednesday, Thursday: 8am – 12 noon

Friday: 8am - 9:30am

(Other times by appointment)

## Contact Information

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor	<a href="mailto:stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com">stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com</a>	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Laurie Little, Young Christians Minister	<a href="mailto:misslaurie.little@gmail.com">misslaurie.little@gmail.com</a>	717-365-5099 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
Lewis Weaver, Sexton	<a href="mailto:bootsdagreat@gmail.com">bootsdagreat@gmail.com</a>	570-809-1014
Grace Weaver, Sexton	No Email	570-809-1510
Judith Ferree, Organist	<a href="mailto:jjferree@epix.net">jjferree@epix.net</a>	717-362-4228
Carol Hubler, Choir Director	<a href="mailto:mchubler@gmail.com">mchubler@gmail.com</a>	570-758-5052
Rachel Henry, Secretary	<a href="mailto:henryfamily2004@gmail.com">henryfamily2004@gmail.com</a>	717-439-3897
Roy Henry, Council President	<a href="mailto:henryfamily2004@gmail.com">henryfamily2004@gmail.com</a>	717-215-9837
Fay Nichols, Prayer Chain Coordinator	<a href="mailto:fnichols46@comcast.net">fnichols46@comcast.net</a>	717-329-7447

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Church Website: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch)