

SAINT JOHN'S  
EPISTLE  
MAY 2016

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Congregational Council and I regularly strive to be the best stewards possible of the financial resources you entrust to God for use in this ministry that we share. To this end, we have had some discussions recently about our annual expenditure of just over \$1,000 for the *Lutheran* "Every Home Plan", under which we have attempted to include every "active area household" in this group subscription at \$8.95 each. For as long as I have been a pastor, the congregations that I have served have done just that, and I have always believed, and continue to believe, that the *Lutheran* (now rebranded and restyled as *Living Lutheran* as of the April issue) has great value. But I also know that we all are deluged with good and valuable things to read, increasingly including digital content, and so I have no wish to use your ministry dollars to provide a print resource that does not end up being of use to the recipient(s). So, at Council's request, on **Sunday, May 15 (the Day of Pentecost)**, I will take a couple of minutes during the announcements to seek your input about where we go with our *Living Lutheran* subscription plan.

Fortunately, I have discovered in my research that we are not limited in our choices to all (what we are currently doing) or nothing (pulling the plug entirely and leaving those folks who still want to receive *Living Lutheran* to subscribe on their own at a much higher \$19.95 per year). We have two other "half way" choices:

+The "Every Home Plan" has actually now been modified so that it only requires a number of subscriptions equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a congregation's average worship attendance (103 for us in 2015), meaning we would have to have at least 52 subscriptions which, at \$8.95 each, would shave our cost down to around \$465 – a lot less than \$1,000!

+There is also an option called the "Leadership Plan" which requires us to have at least 20 subscriptions but at a somewhat higher rate of \$11.75 each, which would come out to roughly \$235 per year.

So here is what I would like to do on May 15... In the announcements that morning, I will quickly remind everyone of what our four options are and then, using a tear-off piece that will be included in each bulletin, I will ask each member household who would like to continue to receive *Living Lutheran* by way of one of the much less expensive group plans to indicate this by checking the box and putting their name on the tear-off and returning it to me. I will then tabulate the results and report to Council at their meeting that afternoon. If we have 52 or more expressions of interest (don't forget – we need your name in order for it to count!), I will recommend to Council that we go with the new "Every Home Plan", including only those interested households. If we have 20 to 51 expressions of interest, I will recommend that we go with the "Leadership Plan", once again including only those interested households. If we have 19 or fewer expressions of interest, I will recommend that everyone simply be on their own to subscribe for the \$19.95 per year (but we would then get at least 1 subscription for the church library which would be available for borrowing).

A couple of details in conclusion: 1) We will publicize the results, whatever they end up being. 2) There will be space on the tear-off for comments, which you are welcome to make, but if you do not wish to receive a subscription, the simplest thing will be to just ignore the tear-off and you will not be included. 3) **If you are a member household who will not be present on May 15, please simply call or email me beforehand if you would like to be included in a group plan.** 4) If we do end up going with some kind of group plan, I will have special envelopes available by which I would encourage the subscription recipients to consider supporting the cost of that subscription (either \$8.95 or \$11.75 per year – still much less than \$19.95). 5) There is ABSOLUTELY NO SHAME and you will not hurt my feelings (nor God's feelings, I'm pretty sure, based on my reading of the Bible), no matter what you decide – just be prayerfully honest! Thanks for reading and for your help, my congregational family!

*Pastor Tom*

## NEWS FROM AMANDA

Hello Everyone!

I want to thank everyone who came this past Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> to celebrate my official introduction to the church, and also to celebrate the kids of this church as we took a look into the future of the program. I am so pleased with the turnout of the event, and hope that it gave some helpful insight to both parents, teachers, and children, about what the future of J.A.M. is going to look like.

I want to share again for those who were unable to attend the mission statement of the program. As we move ahead the mission statement will be, "Love, Grow, and Learn." This is the shortened version of the statement, and in total the statement will be, "Loving each other like Christ, Growing together in his word, and striving to learn more every day." This particular statement came through prayer and many conversations with parents, grandparents, and members of the church about what they were looking to see in the coming months/years, as this program continues to flourish.

Looking ahead, I am going to be using the first 10-15 minutes of Sunday school to have a J.A.M. session with the kids. I will be introducing some new songs to them, and hopefully creating a time and place where they feel comfortable letting go and worshipping in their own way. I strive to teach each of the children that they are unique and therefore their style of learning and/or worship may look different from those around them. It will be something I continue to share with them as we move ahead.

I am going to be creating a Facebook page for this ministry and will get that link to everyone when it is up and running. There, I will post updates, events, and daily devotionals for families to do together. I will also be posting the songs we do each week in the J.A.M. session for kids who want to continue listening and learning them for the weeks to come. The songs we are starting out with are: Build your Kingdom here, Here I am to Worship, and How great is our God.

I once again want to take the time to thank each congregation member for your continued support in this ministry. There are many good things happening in the heart of the church, and I ask for your continued prayers for not just myself, but the kids, parents, and anyone closely impacted by this ministry.

God Bless,

Amanda Baker ☺

## RACHEL'S DAY OBSERVANCE

For many years, St. John has been observing "Rachel's Day" on the first Sunday in May. This day is set aside as a day to remember the children of our country and the world who live, many times, in fear and danger. It is a day to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our world today. It is also a day to be thankful for our children and for the love and support of their families and communities. Originally begun by the Metropolitan Chicago Synod of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in May of 1996, Rachel's Day receives its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17. Please consider joining in your Rachel's Day observance on Sunday, May 1, during the Sunday School/Jesus And Me Zone opening time, at 9:00 A.M.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL TIME...

This year's Annual Strawberry Festival will take place on Wednesday, June 8, in our grove and pavilion. This edition of the *St. John's Epistle* contains the updated committee listing for all of the different tasks that need to be done in order for the day to be a success. Please be sure to remove the listing and keep it handy (maybe on the refrigerator?), and please be sure to check with your committee chairperson, the overall chairpersons, or with Pastor Tom if you have any questions or concerns about your scheduled work. **Please also make note of two other important Strawberry Festival-related dates during the month of May: 1. The next planning meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, beginning at 6:30 P.M. and 2. The first pavilion cleaning and preparation night has been set for Tuesday, May 24, beginning at 6:15 P.M.**

## ASCENSION DAY TO BE CELEBRATED

On Thursday evening, May 5, we will gather at 7:00 P.M. for a Liturgy of Holy Communion, in observance of The Ascension of Our Lord. This festival, coming on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of the Easter season, recalls the end of the 40 days of appearances of the Risen Jesus to his disciples, and his ascension into heaven. Worship will be held downstairs in the chapel/Sunday School room, and will include the opportunity to commune using the Common Cup. Also during this worship, we will hold the annual Blessing of Seed and Soil, as another growing season gets into full swing.

## AND MAY 5 IS ALSO THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

As the National Day of Prayer is observed this year on the traditional first Thursday in May, which is also May 5, we are all encouraged to be sure to take time that day to be in prayer for our country – that we might be a force for peace with justice, both within our own borders and throughout God's world. The church will be open all day on May 5, for anyone wishing to stop by and be in prayer in God's House

## WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER!

During our morning worship on the Day of Pentecost, May 15, we will have the honor and great joy of joining in celebrating the confirmation of two of our young members. **Elijah Conte** and **Cameron Thompson** have completed two years of catechetical instruction with Pastor Tom and are now ready to take this new step in their faith journeys—saying “yes” to the baptismal promises previously made for them by their parents and sponsors. Please don’t miss this opportunity to celebrate this milestone in their lives and in our life as a congregational family!

## SPAGHETTI SUPPER TO BE HELD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA – “SUPER HERO SWAP” WEEK AT HOGAR ORPHANAGE

The Tree for Hope Lutheran church in Lingelstown gave a presentation at the Hill Church in early March to describe the mission trip they are planning for the last week in July to Guatemala. They are looking for more people to join them on this adventurous and empowering trip. I was in awe of this idea and very intrigued. Attending this trip from our church so far is: Shannon & Lori Motter and Jamie and Arlene Doyle. What got my attention was the “Super Hero Swap” theme, which gives the orphanage workers a much-needed break and week off of work. We will be providing day to day activities; for example: cooking, laundry and care giving to the 100 children in the Hogar Orphanage. I am finishing my second year of nursing school in Mansfield and am hoping to share the knowledge in my field to the citizens of Guatemala. Also, there is a great need to educate the women of many basic concepts that will greatly improve the quality of lives they strive for themselves and their families. With being more aware of goals and aspects, they will be able to improve the future of their children. I feel this trip will be a huge eye opener for how accessible and convenience of a lifestyle that we have and the many things we often take for granted. Often times I find myself complaining of struggles that I’m sure I will reconsider after experiencing this trip. Even though I will be working hard providing care, I feel I will be coming back with so much more from them. I have some fundraising plans to cover my flight, meals and lodging. These include a Spaghetti Supper on May 22 at 5 PM open to all held in our church Sunday School room, individual sponsorships, and a possible car wash. Thank you very much in advance for any support you can provide for this amazing opportunity. I would also ask for your prayers during this time.

Sincerely,  
Shannon Motter

## SUMMER BEGINS ON MAY 29!

The astronomers and meteorologists might not agree, but for us here at the Hill Church, summer definitely gets underway on Sunday, May 29. That will be the morning that we once again switch to our **summer schedule** of 1. **Adult Sunday School at 8:45 A.M.**, with no opening, so that we simply join in the regular half-hour Bible Study session, ending by about 9:15 and 2. **Worship at 9:30 A.M.**, ending promptly by 10:30 so that everyone can get on to those reunions and other summer Sunday plans. **That will also be the morning that we move out to the pavilion for the first of our outside summer worship opportunities in the beauty of our pavilion and grove!**

New this summer, and also beginning on May 29, we will be experimenting with holding Sunday School for our young persons – soon to be better known as the *Jesus And Me* or *JAM Zone* – while worship is going on (think of it as a kind of Children's Church). Amanda and her team are still busily working out all of the details, so please stay tuned for more as May 29 draws closer. In the meantime, think summer!!

## NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S W-ELCA

At our last meeting we agreed to help out with the pavilion project. The ladies are giving \$500.00 to be used in whatever way it is needed.

We also want to make sure our congregation is aware that on Sunday May 22, 2016 we will be having the Gettysburg Appeal. Mark your calendar so you don't forget.

There will be an Executive Meeting on April 19th at 6:00 to make the plans for our Annual Mother- Child Banquet. Those who are on the Executive Committee please try to attend this meeting.

The Annual Mother- Child Banquet will be on May 15, 2016 at 6:00. If you have never been there just bring your favorite covered dish and make time for some fun. If you have no children come anyway.

Great news ladies who help in any way with the quilting project. We will have 10 bricks at the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza as of the end of April. Thank you to our congregation for your help in accomplishing this.

# Strawberry Festival Committees

## June 8, 2015

If your name is on a committee on which you can't help or if you would prefer to serve on another committee, please notify either the chairperson of that committee or contact persons listed below. If we have somehow overlooked your name, please let us know! If you have any other questions about the committee or other matters please contact:

Lorraine Henninger – 362-9108    Robert Weaver – 362-8625  
Helen Henninger – 362-9490    Jean Weaver – 362-3555

**Important Dates**    **Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:15pm**  
                                  **Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am**  
                                  **Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00am**  
                                  **Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

Pavilion cleaning night & yard work. Bring your favorite supplies.  
Soup and BBQ preparation at Pavilion.  
Soup and BBQ preparation at Pavillon.  
Final Grove preparations.

**Donation Chart:** This will be posted in the foyer of the church listing the amounts of food needed. We ask that you sign the chart at the items you are willing to donate and indicate how much you are willing to provide. **Items related to soup and bbq will be needed by Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.**

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### **Pavilion & Grove Preparation – Henry Henninger**

All Available Male and Female Helpers

### **Cashiers – Larry Gessner, Pat Herb**

Mary Peters, Daniel Langhans, Sandra Shade, Elaine Henninger, Janet Denlinger, Dawn Sloan, Karen Rickert

### **Strawberry and Pie Salesman – Jim Watson**

Bob Rudisill, Sam Tonkin

### **Publicity – Carol Hassinger, Louise Baumgardner (Newspapers & Radio Station), Posters – Rachel Henry**

Sandra Lamenza, Angie Mattern, Pat Herb, Doris Schaffer, Janet Denlinger, Warren Hassinger

### **Host – Pastor Bruner**

Lynn Henninger, Carl Baumgardner, Bob Weaver, Scott Peters, Vincent Lamenza

### **Counters – Ray Matter, Warren Hassinger**

### **Parking – Harold Herb**

Jim Bullock, Steve Boyer, Dan Maurer, Joe Doyle, Sam Gentile, James Weaver, Devin Radel, Gary Leitzel, Eric Mattern, Justin Adams, Bob Schaffer, Dan Radel, Ron Erb, John Shaffer, Gary MacCready, Aaron Schreffler, James Barder, Tim Motter, Matt Motter

### **Ice Cream and Sundaes – Dale Hassinger**

Bob Crabb, Troy Schaeffer, J.C. Kell, Craig Peters, Bob Hassinger, John Ferree, Judy Ferree, Beau Hassinger, Mike Hubler, Randy Paul, Jeff Buffington

### **Pony Rides – Barb and Kim Langhans**

**Entertainment – Harold and Pat Herb**

**Petting Zoo – Bush Family**

**Flea Market – Ben and Molly Crabb**

Doris Schaffer, Connie & John Schaffer, Janet & Calvin Knarr

**Anniversary Table**

Myron Riland, Anna Fetterhoff, Alex Leitzel, Carol Hassinger, Rosena Barry

**Hot Dogs and BBQ – Ginny Enders**

Scott Howard, Jane Grosser, Connie Erdman-Enders, Julie Warfel, Delmar Enders

**Strawberry, Soup and Truck Stockmen – Henry Henninger**

Michael Henninger, Adam Rabenold, Jeff Roadcap, Randy Matter, Jeff Lehman, Steve Schlegel, Corey Scheib, Dennis Smeltz, Mike Leitzel, Roy Henry, Sam Tonkin

**Shortcakes – Cindy Phillips**

Fay Bixler, Sue Lebo, Ann Bruner, Heidi Lehman, Betty Leitzel, Donna Rabenold, Yalonda Rabenold, Bonnie Boyer, Vickie Scheaffer, Gail Billow, Lori Klotz

**Baked Goods – Barb Bullock, Sheila Barder**

Daniel Radel, Hannah Rabenold, Sharon D'Alesandro, Danielle Mace, Sandy Bixler, Ahndrea Schmick, Miana Erdman, Laci Stadheim, Grant Barder, Lacy Adams, Rachel Henry, Rebecca Conte

**Corn Soup – Lorraine Henninger**

Crystal Stianche, David Bixler, Randy Matter, Douglas Schreffler, Jean Weaver, Nathan Houtz, Larry Gehring, Sandra Lamenza, Rachel Henry

**Coffee – Fred Weaver, Soda – Ken Koller**

Brad Ditty, Darrell Denlinger, Logan Maurer, Shayne Latsha, Tim Bruner, Ryne Crabb, Jason Bixler, Braxton Ditty, Alek Peters, Caleb Enders, Ryan Henninger, Owen Mattern

**Strawberry Preparation – Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM and Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> Noon till Close – Fay Nichols**

Marzette Hoffman, Dianne Schell, Elsie Krout, Richie Ann Martz, Cindy Phillips, Pauline Troutman, Jane Conrad, Randy Challenger, Heidi Challenger, Judi Cheatham, Karen Gehring, Pearl Buffington, Joyce Matter, Lily Shade

**Bus Persons – Lois Leshar, Sharon Peters**

Katie Gessner, Austin Specht, Avery Mace, Ashton Schreffler, Landon Mace, Ethan Dohr, Aidan Roadcap, Hoyt Schlegel, Allysa Rabenold, Chandlyr Arnold, Cole Roadcap, Gary Leitzel, Cub Scout Pack 86

**Servers – Faye Weaver, Helen Henninger**

Carrissa Barder	Arlene Doyle	Jennifer Lehman	Karen Paulman	Jody Specht
Louise Baumgardner	Jamie Doyle	Camella Leitzel	Nicole Radel	Callie Spicher
Aspen Bloom	Amanda Dresel	McKenzie Lower	Roberta Radel	Kristen Spicher
Cecilia Boyer	Olivia Enders	Allison Mace	Alex Ramos	Tamara Spicher
Lily Boyer	Susan Foster	Roni Mace	Joanne Ramos	Josh Stadheim
Serene Boyer	Amy Gehring	Angie Mattern	Alayna Ribovich	Payton Stutzman
Daniel Bruner	Gracie Gehring	Marlee Mattern	Bryce Roadcap	Cameron Thompson
Ethan Calnon	Cheryl Gessner	Angie Maurer	Tammy Roadcap	Cody Thompson
Cindy Carr	Park Gessner	Blake Maurer	Courtney Rudisill	Jodi Thompson
Reyann Cheatham	Katherine Gilligan	Kaylene Maurer	Naomi Rudisill	Zachary Thompson
Elijah Conte	Rita Glace	Megan Mench	Whitni Rudisill	Jenna Troutman
Jayne Crabb	Kim Hassinger	Yolanda Mendez	Holly Scheib	Lois Watson
Jena Crabb	Kelsey Henninger	Lori Motter	Carrie Schlegel	Katie Wiest
Nick D'Alesandro	Megan Henninger	Nicholas Motter	Samantha Schlegel	Robin Willier
Tyler D'Alesandro	Hanna Houtz	Shannon Motter	Tanner Schlegel	Lydia Yeager
Rachel Denlinger	Carol Hubler	Kristen Nichols	Amber Schreffler	Romaine Yeager
Taylor Denlinger	Teresa Hughes	Angela Paul	Kinsley Schreffler	MJ Zellner
Natalie DeSoto	Rose Kell	Ben Paul	Cory Shade	
Regina Dohr	Dana Klouser	Bobby Paul	Cheryl Shadle	
Robert Dohr	Kerilyn Kramer	Jacob Paul	Sara Shaffer	
Arlene Donnelly	Shawnita Latsha	Sandy Paul	Mary Ann Smeltz	

**Take-Out Counter – Clint Gehring**

Angie Enders, Kris MacCready, RJ Henry, Gabe Gehring

**Festival Night Clean-Up – Henry Henninger**

Pastor Bruner, Carl Baumgardner, Cindy Carr, Bob Crabb, Jayne Crabb, Clint Gehring, Sam Gentile, Bob Hassinger, Mike Henninger, Roy Henry, Randy Matter, Lori Motter, Tim Motter, Craig Peters, Adam Rabenold, Tom Rabenold, Eric Mattern, Rob D'Alesandro





**WORSHIP SERVICES FOR MAY 2016**

Altar Guild for Month of May                      Pat and Harold Herb  
Lector for Month of May                              Amy Gehring  
Ushers for May (L) Jeff Buffington (E) Carl Baumgardner Fred & Jean Weaver

**MAY 1, 2016**

6th Sunday of Easter                                  Sunday School Superintendent-      Larry Gessner  
Holy Communion                                      Sunday School Pianist-                  Carol Hubler  
Rachel's Day    Greeters-                                      The Tim Motter Family  
Acolytes-    Aidan Roadcap & R J Henry

**MAY 5, 2016**

Ascension of Our Lord                              Greeters-                                      Gary & Betty Leitzel  
Service Held downstairs Sunday School Room

**May 8, 2016**

7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter                                  Sunday School Superintendent-      Lynn Henninger  
Mother's Day    Sunday School Pianist-                  Lois Watson  
Greeters-    The Eric Mattern Family  
Acolytes-    Kelsey Henninger & Kinsley Schreffler

**MAY 15, 2016**

*Day of Pentecost*                                      Sunday School Superintendent-      Jeff Lehman  
Holy Communion with                                  Sunday School Pianist-                  Judy Ferree  
Rite of Confirmation                                      Greeters-                                      Arlene Donnelly  
Acolytes-    Gabe & Gracie Gehring

**MAY 22, 2016**

*The Holy Trinity*                                      Sunday School Superintendent-      Ken Koller  
Holy Communion                                      Sunday School Pianist-                  Louise Baumgardner  
Greeters-    Joe & Arlene Doyle  
Acolytes-    Eli Conte & R J Henry

**MAY 29, 2016**

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP**                                  Greeters-                                      The Roy Henry Family  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
**8:45 A.M. Adult Sunday School**  
**9:30 A.M. Worship Service**  
**9:30 Young Persons Sunday School/Jesus And Me Zone**

# MAY 2016



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b> The 6th Sunday of Easter/Philip &amp; James, Apostles 9:00 Sunday School/Jesus And Me Zone with Rachel's Day Observance 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:30 Strawberry Festival Planning Mtg. #2</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>5</b> Ascension of Our Lord 7:00 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Blessing of Seed and Soil Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p><b>8</b> The 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00 Sunday School/Jesus And Me Zone 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Children's Church <b>Mother's Day</b></p>	<p><b>9</b> Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</p>	<p><b>10</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Sunday School Teachers &amp; Officer Mtg. 6:30 Cub Scout Pack Committee Mtg. (in Kitchen) 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> Matthias, Apostle Pastor Tom's Day Off 7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the church 8:00 A.M. Lutheran Men in Mission "Summit" Gathering at St. Mark Lutheran, Harnsburg</p>
<p><b>15</b> The Day of Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School/Jesus And Me Zone 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Rite of Confirmation 4:00 Congregational Council Mtg. 6:00 Annual Mother/Child Covered Dish Dinner <b>Deadline to Submit Items for June "St. John Epistle"</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conf. Cabinet Mtg. at St. John with Special Guest Bishop James Dunlop</p>	<p><b>17</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Worship &amp; Music Committee Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>18</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off <b>Armed Forces Day</b></p>
<p><b>22</b> The Holy Trinity 9:00 Sunday School/Jesus And Me Zone 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Children's Church 5:00 Spaghetti Supper to Benefit Shannon Mother's Mission Trip to Guatemala</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 First Pavilion Work Night to Prepare for Annual Strawberry Festival 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>25</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>26</b> 5:30 Community Meal at Trinity United Methodist Church, Elizabethville</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p><b>29</b> The 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 <b>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</b> 9:30 Young Persons Sunday School/Jesus And Me Zone</p>	<p><b>30</b> Memorial Day Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off</p>	<p><b>31</b> Visit of Mary to Elizabeth 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.</p>				

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Minutes  
March 13, 2016**

The council meeting was called to order by President, Roy Henry. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Present:** Roy Henry, Lorraine Henninger, Gail Billow, Dale Hassinger, Carl Baumgardner, Sandra Lamenza, Tamara Spicher, Jeff Buffington, and Pastor Tom Bruner

**Excused Absence:** Jeff Lehman, Jamie Doyle, Karen Paulman

**Absent:** Joseph Doyle,

**Minutes:** Motion by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Lorraine Henninger to approve the minutes from the February 2016 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:**

We received notification from the DEP that we will be required to have monthly water tests. This is a change from the quarterly requirements and will increase our costs by \$90 per month for the additional eight months.

Pastor Tom is looking for two representatives to join him as voting members at Synod Assembly from Friday, June 3 to Sunday, June 5. There will also be a Hunger Event on Friday where volunteers will pack 400,000 meals to be donated to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. A motion was made by Lorraine Henninger and seconded to Tamara Spicher to donate \$400 to the project. Motion approved unanimously.

The UDAHS Parent Teacher Advisory Council has requested donations toward a post prom party to be held Saturday, May 7 at the high school. A motion was made by Lorraine Henninger and seconded by Dale Hassinger to make a donation equal to last year's donation. Motion approved unanimously.

A request was made for a donation to the YMCA Capital Campaign. A motion was made by Carl Baumgardner and seconded by Lorraine Henninger to make a \$200 donation. Motion approved unanimously.

We received the annual bill from Kone for the elevator service contract. It was \$911.52 which was a slight increase over last year.

The Lower Susquehanna Synod will host the Synod for Lutheran Men in Mission on Saturday, May 14, 2016 from 8AM to 12Noon at St Mark Lutheran Church.

The youth group requested permission to have a lock-in on the evening of Good Friday through the morning of Holy Saturday. A motion was made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Jeff Buffington to approve the lock-in. Motion approved unanimously.

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

**Youth and Children's Coordinator Report:** A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Jeff Buffington to accept Amanda's report. Motion approved unanimously.

**Treasurers' Reports:** Motion made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Jeff Buffington to accept the treasurers' reports. Motion approved unanimously.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

*Church Property:* They removed several trees on the church property. They will be scheduling a date to take the stars down. Work was done on the pavilion in preparation of the final phase of construction including the installation of the cooler.

*Finance:* No report

*Worship and Music:* No report

*Christian Education:* They are working on the children's Easter Program and several other upcoming events. They had a chance to meet Amanda Baker.

*Stewardship:* No report

*Evangelism:* No report

*Youth Ministry:* The group had a successful trip to Round Top.

*Mutual Ministry:* No report

*Executive:* No report.

*Nominating:* No report.

*History:* No report

*Green Team:* No report

*Other Reports:* Construction on the pavilion almost complete. Much interior work was completed by the property committee. The search for a used kettle cooker is in progress, sinks have been purchased, and the other items we need to purchase are being researched. Everything is on schedule for complete operation for the Strawberry Festival.

The Strawberry Festival committee had a first planning meeting. The date was changed to Wednesday June 8. Both Brad Crum and Shotgun have been secured for that date. The personnel work list was updated. The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

**Unfinished Business:** The council discussed the proposal made by Mike Hubler regarding a special task force to look into ways we can better serve the community with our local benevolence funds. The benevolence committee suggested we wait until after the completion of the Pavilion Project and the 2016 Strawberry Festival to see how much available money we have. Council agreed that they would address the issue again after the Strawberry Festival.

**New business:** There have been several discussions regarding the cost vs the use of The Lutheran which is sent to each congregational family as a monthly subscription. A decision was to have Pastor Tom present the options and give congregation an opportunity to offer their opinion regarding the continuation of the publication. This will be addressed on Sunday, May 15.

The children's Easter Program will be held April 3, 2016 making it difficult to offer communion. A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Lorraine Henninger to hold communion the following week on Sunday April 10, 2016. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor Tom requested vacation for the following dates: June 17-21, August 15-30, and December 26-January 3. Jim Watson has agreed to cover the Sunday services in Pastor Tom's absence. A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Jeff Buffington to approve Pastor Tom's vacation request. Motion approved unanimously.

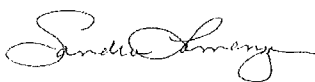
Tamara Spicher presented an opportunity to produce a new "cut-out" of the church through the company "Cat's Meow" that we could sell to the congregation and make available for sale at the Strawberry Festival. A motion was made by Sandra Lamenza and seconded by Gail Wilhelm to have Tamara continue with the project and order 100 units that will be sold for \$15 each. Motion approved unanimously.

**Next Council Meeting:** April 10, 2016 at 4:00PM

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lamenza



Secretary

**Treasurer Reports  
February 2016**

	<b>Prior Balance</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>EOM</b>
Current	13,555.58	12,628.58	12,333.30	13,851.21
Benevolence	165.07	1253.04	1253.00	165.11
Memorial	34,413.38	2610.15	2500.00	34,523.53
Improvement	5648.94	360.00	131.21	5877.73
Bicent Ch Acct	28,675.70	851.76	3571.13	25856.33
Bicent Svngs	5300.91			5300.91
Flower	264.21	266.00	251.65	278.56

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**PARISH STAFF**

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

Amanda Baker, Children's & Youth Ministry Coordinator, [girwildcat@aol.com](mailto:girwildcat@aol.com)...717-802-5672

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

Judith Ferree, Organist [jjferree@epix.net](mailto:jjferree@epix.net).....717-362-4228

Sandra Paul, Secretary [rbpaul@epix.net](mailto:rbpaul@epix.net) .....717-362-4117

Roy Henry, Council President [webmaster@randrhenry.com](mailto:webmaster@randrhenry.com)..... 717-579-0244

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

**Find Us on Facebook**

**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)**

Physical Address (for deliveries): 215 St. John Road Elizabethville, PA 17023

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 270 Berrysburg, PA 17005

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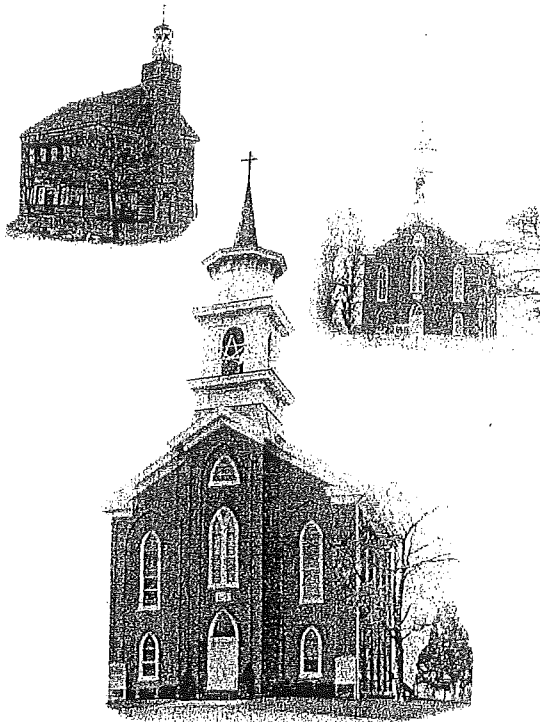
Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Thursday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Friday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

(Other times by appointment)

**OUR MISSION**

*St. John congregation, responding to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, unites together to preach and teach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission. With God's guidance and grace, we strive to boldly proclaim by word and action the reconciling Gospel of Jesus: Working together for justice and peace, and caring for those in need in our community and world. We invite everyone to join us wherever you are on your faith journey.*



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Berrysburg, Pennsylvania  
 1780-2005