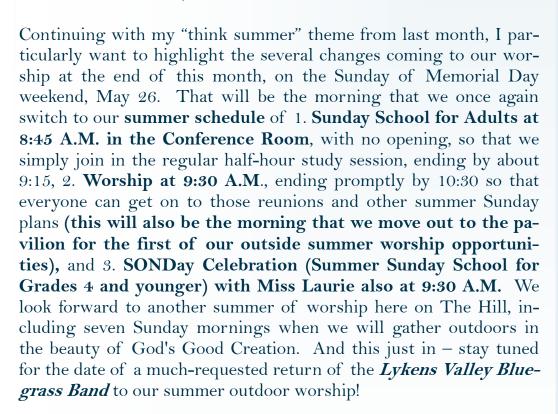
ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

A Letter from The Pastor.....

Dear Friends in Jesus,



Also, as you hopefully recall, this year's Annual Strawberry Festival will take place on Wednesday, June 12, 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 me if you have any questions or concerns about your scheduled work.



And, as we speak of our Annual Strawberry Festival, please also make note of two other important Strawberry Festival-related dates coming up in the next few weeks: 1. The **next planning meeting** has been scheduled for **Monday, April 29**, beginning at **6:30 P.M.** and 2. The **first pavilion cleaning and preparation night, which will also serve as our spring outside work night on the church property in general**, has been set for **Tuesday, May 28**, beginning at **5:30 P.M.** (You might remember that, for the past few years, we have had good results combining what had previously been two work nights into one instead of trying to schedule two separate days and times, but this again means that we will again need lots of "hands" to pull off this busy evening of projects.)

May God bless and guide us as a congregational family as we anticipate the turning of the page to summer and, especially, as we continue our journey through the 50-Day and 7-Sunday long Season of Easter all this month!

PASTOR TOM

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for Marlin Koppenhaver, following his death at Green Valley Skilled Nursing & Rehab. Center in Pitman on March 15. Worship was held at the Buffington-Reed Funeral Home in Valley View on March 23, with interment in our cemetery. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Marlin, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to his loved ones!

News from Miss Laurie Young Christians Minister

Happy May, everyone! I hope you all had a FANTASTIC Easter; hopefully you were able to participate in all (or at least some) of the festivities here at St. John's! Sharing all the Easter activities with my Church family is always a highlight of the year for me. And this year did not disappoint!

As you know, Easter is a SEASON, and we'll be recreating our "Forty Days of Easter" SONday Celebration this month! Join us for the fun, food and activities on the last 2 Sundays of May!

Other dates to remember:

- Wednesday, May 1st last meeting of Celebration Club (It's your last chance before we take a break for the summer.) Don't miss out on the fun!!
- Sunday, May 5th Family Fiesta Join "Senorita Sunny" and friends immediately after church as we take our food, fun and fellowship south of the border!
- Sunday, May 12th We'll be celebrating mothers in SONday Celebration and during Celebration Time. Come and see what we're making for Mom this year!
- Sunday, May 19th and 26th "Forty Days of Easter" SONday Celebration
- And don't forget, our Summer Schedule starts Memorial Day weekend! During the
- summer, from May 26th through September 8th, SONday Celebration runs concurrently with Church from 9:30 to 10:30 am. Come and start your summer Sunday mornings off on the "SON-ny" side!!

It looks like it will be a busy month for our Young Christians! Come and be part of the celebration!!

Miss Laurie

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 vour faith journey.

Pot Pie and Apple Dumpling Fundraiser

A signup sheet is posted on the foyer bulletin board for a "pot pie" (actual pies) and apple dumpling fundraiser that is being held again this year to benefit Heather Hildebrand, the daughter of Randy & Heidi Challenger and granddaughter of Cora Mace, who is dealing with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). Previous fundraisers have made possible the outfitting of a van for Heather's transportation, the installation of an accessible bathroom in her home, and the purchase of a device that allows Heather to communicate via facial movements as her ability to speak weakens. The deadline to order is May 1, with pickup of orders (at Randy & Heidi's home in Elizabethville) on May 18 beginning at 11:00 A.M. Payment may be made when your order is received. Checks should be made payable to "Randy or Heidi Challenger". Please contact Randy (717-362-3000 or 717-805-7197) with any questions.

National Day of Prayer

As the National Day of Prayer is observed this year on the traditional first Thursday in May, 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 2, for anyone wishing to stop by and be in prayer in God's House.

Rachel's Day

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 5, during the SONDay Celebration/Confirmation Class/Sunday School opening time, at 9:00 A.M.

Family Fiesta

Mark your calendars for the upcoming "Family Fiesta" on May 5 immediately following worship. The format will be a covered dish luncheon with walking tacos being supplied by the Women's Group. A fiesta type celebration is being planned by Miss Laurie and her puppet friends to follow the meal. An invitation is extended to all members of the St. John church family. This program is once again being held in place of our traditional Mother/ Child banquet and is open to all members of our congregational family. So bring a covered dish, your smile and join us for a great time of fun and fellowship!

Inquirer's Class

Pastor Tom will be leading an Inquirer's Class on Tuesday, May 14, at the church from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. This class is designed for folks who are interested in joining our congregational family, folks who are trying to figure out if this is where God might be guiding them to a faith home, and folks who are already a part of the congregational family but would like to have a bit of a refresher in the basics of Lutheran Christian history and belief. Please speak with Pastor Tom any time before May 14 to sign up. New members will received on a following Sunday morning to be determined.

Ascension of Our Lord

On Thursday evening, May 30, 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 40th 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.



The Women of St. John will be making homemade jam and jellies to be sold at the annual Strawberry Festival. Homemade bread will also be available for purchase. Proceeds from this project will go to the "Snack Pack" program at the UDA elementary and middle schools. To maximize profit the ladies are gladly accepting 8 oz jars, flour, yeast, Crisco, and cash donations to help defray the cost of fruit and milk used in the preparation of these items. If you have questions are would like to make a contribution please see Janet Denlinger, Barb Bullock, Rachel Henry, Gail Billow or Ginny Enders. Thank You for your continued support in this very valuable program and stop to see us at the Festival.

St. John cookbooks will be available for purchase from the Women of St. John at the upcoming Strawberry Festival. Take home one for yourself and remember they will make great gifts for family and friends.

The Youth Group is interested in fixing up the outhouse area. Painting it and possibly adding another pollinator garden.

If anyone has any materials that are extra or laying around please let us know!

As Always! We are always looking to do service projects to help our neighbors! We specifically would love to help anyone in the Berrysburg area in preparation for their upcoming bicentennial celebration

Youth Group News

On May 10 the High School Students will be participating in the Bethesda Mobile Mission! All High School students are asked to be at the church by 7:15 and all will be dropped off at their house later that evening.

The Youth Group has applied and been approved for a Thrivent Action Team for this Mobile Mission Trip! On our last trip we received quite a few request for things that are needed in specific sizes, hoodies, t-shirts, jeans, boxers, comforters, bags,! We've decided to take this opportunity to include all youth group members in on this adventure and come shopping with us! We will be traveling to several second hand stores in the Harrisburg area to purchase these things that are asked for most!

We would also like to give a special thank you to both The Langhan's and Subway for offering to provide us with Subway Lunch Box Meals for this Mobile Mission! We are grateful for this bountiful gift!

Looking Ahead

May 19 - Youth Group Fun Night June 12 - Strawberry Festival July 22-26 - Vacation Bible School - All Youth are welcome to join our group grades 9-12 July 28 - Berrysburg / Mifflin Township Bicentennial Worship

Summer Lutheran Baseball Nights

May 3rd is the 1st Lutheran Night at the Harrisburg Senators game against Trenton, starts at 7P.M. Sponsored by the Lutheran Camping Corporation.



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

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



Congratulations

Congratulations and prayers of thanksgiving to God are due following the safe and healthy birth of **Tristan Kaine Matter Bellis** to **Dr. Brett & Natalie Matter Bellis** on March 25. Congratulations, too, to big brother **Grady** and to the whole Matter Family!

And to **Dr. Daniel Bruner** and **Dr. Richelle Demers** who were joined in marriage in a civil ceremony on March 15. Last month, Dan shared the following note with his St. John congregational family:

Hello to my family at St. John,

As most of you know, Richelle and I have been through many moves and changes in the past year. Moving to Harrisburg and starting new jobs as well as a lot of time spent trying to make sure we secure her future here with her unique situation being a Canadian citizen. Her visa was suppose to end mid-April of this year. With this in mind we began earnest discussions in December on our future as a couple and tried to find the best avenue that kept us true to what we were feeling in our relationship moving into this unknown of questions about greencard citizenship. Finally, in early March we came to the conclusion that we were ready to take the next exciting step in our relationship and finally formally acknowledge the deep connection we had formed. On March 15th we got married in a quiet civil ceremony in Royalton. This is all very exciting news and we extend our deepest apologies that it may have seemed we were holding out on you. We just wanted to make sure that no one was left out or felt slighted in the timing of our announcement.

On a personal note for myself, I have wanted for some time to thank all of you at St. John for all of the love and support through the years. St. John has always felt like home and that is thanks to all of you. Through my times spent in different places, I have never quite found a place that is the same as the congregational family here and I have missed it deeply. Any new congregational family I find definitely has big shoes to fill or should I say pews HA.

Anyway, Richelle and I will be planning to have a ceremony for the blessing of our marriage in the next year or two. We thank you all in advance for well wishes and certainly appreciate your prayers for us in this next step. We look forward to visiting you all soon!

Love, Dan and Richelle

In your congregational directory, please remove Dan from Pastor Tom and Ann's listing and create a new listing:

BRUNER, Dr. Daniel & (Dr. Richelle Demers) 6160 Springford Drive, Apt. B8 Harrisburg, PA 17111 717-433-8052

Strawberry Festival Committees June 12, 2019

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:

Robert Weaver - 717-362-8625

Jeff Lehman - 570-590-0869

Helen Henninger – 717-579-2532

Sandra Lamenza - 570-758-4498

Important Dates:

Tuesday, May 28th at 5:30pm – Pavilion cleaning night yard work at church. Bring your favorite supplies. Saturday, June 8th & Monday, June 10th at 8:00am – Food Preparation

Tuesday, June 11th at 6:30am - Continued food preparation and Strawberry Pies

Donation Chart: To make a monetary donation for items sign up in the foyer. Donations of baked goods will also be available for signup in the foyer.

Pavillon & Grove Preparation – Henry Henninger & Joe Doyle

All Available Male and Female Helpers

Cashlers - Larry Gessner, Pat Herb

Daniel Langhans, Sandra Shade, Elaine Henninger, Ryan Henninger, Janet Denlinger, Kaye Thoma, Cindy Carr, Rachel Henry

Strawberries, ples and soup sales - Jim Watson

Bob Rudisill, Sam Tonkin

Publicity - Carol Hassinger, Louise Saumgardner (Newspapers & Radio Station), Posters, Social Media - Rachel Henry

Sandra Lamenza (Pillow), Angie Mattern (Tri-Valley Area), Pat Herb (Lykens), Rachel Henry (E-ville), Janet Denlinger (Lykens), Barb Bullock (Millersburg), Fay Nichols (Berrysburg/Gratz)

Host - Bob Weaver

Lynn Henninger, Carl Baumgardner, Vincent Lamenza, Pastor Tom, Barry Williard, Roy Henry, Scott Peters

Counters/Church Cards - Fred Weaver, Harold Herb, Ray Matter

Parking – Matt Williard

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

Ice Cream and Sundaes - Carol Hassinger

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

Pony Rides – Barb and Kim Langhans

Entertainment - Harold and Pat Harb

Petting Zeo - Bush Family

Annivorsary Tahia

Myron Riland, Anna Fetterhoff, Alex Leitzel, Carol Hassinger, Barb Bullock

Hot Dogs and BBQ - Ginny Enders

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

Help where needed/Floaters - Henry Henninger & Michael Henninger

Adam Rabenold, Jeff Roadcap, Steve Schlegel, Corey Scheib, Dennis Smeltz, Mike Leitzel, Roy Henry

Fay Bixler, Ann Bruner, Betty Leitzel, Donna Rabenold, Yalonda Rabenold, Ron Erb, Vickie Scheaffer, Cindy Phillips

Baked Goods - Barb Bullock, Shella Barder , Rebecca Conte

Soup – Jeff Lehman

David Bixler, Randy Matter, Jean Weaver, Larry Gehring, Scott Howard, Valerie Buffington

Dishwasher - Steve Boyer

Strawberry Preparation - Tuesday, June 11th at 6:00pm and Wednesday, June 12th Noon till Closing - Fay Nichols

Richie Ann Martz, Randy Challenger, Heidi Challenger, Judi Cheatham, Karen Gehring, Lily Shade, Lorraine Henninger, Gail Billow, Arlene Doyle

Bus Persons (1st -5th Grade) - Lois Lesher, Sharon Peters, Ken Koller

Abigail Adams, Tanner Bixler, Ethan Dohr, Caroline DeSoto, Gary Leitzel, Grady Matter-DeSoto, TJ Paul, Lillian Rabenold, Briana Radel, Cole Roadcap, Landon Troutman, Axton Zimmerman, Marc Schaffner, Payton Donovan, Stelle DeSoto, Bennett Troutman, Maclyn Shoop, Elsie Rabenold, Jennifer Kell, Abby Bixler, Brady Dresel, Cub Scout Pack 86, Girl Scout Troop

Servers - Faye Weaver, Helen Henninger, Heldi Lehman

Carissa Barder Louise Baumgardner Sandy Bixler Aspen Bloom Cecilia Boyer Lily Boyer Serene Boyer Revann Cheatham Elijah Conte Jayne Crabb Jena Crabb Rachel Denlinger **Taylor Denlinger** Natalie Bellis Regina Dohr Robert Dohr Arlene Donnelly Haylen Donovan Jamie Dovle Amanda Dresel Olivia Enders

Susan Foster Amy Gehring Gracie Gehring Cheryl Gessner Katie Gessner Park Gessner Katherine Gilligan Rita Glace Abigail Groy Kelsey Henninger Megan Henninger Kayla Henry Teresa Hughes Dana Klouser Kerilyn Kramer Heidi Lehman Camella Leitzel McKenzie Lower Allison Mace Avery Mace Danielle Mace

Landon Mace Roni Mace Angie Mattern Marlee Mattern Owen Mattern Angie Maurer Kaylene Maurer Logan Maurer Yolanda Mendez Courtney Miller Lori Motter Nicholas Motter **Shannon Motter** Kristen Nichols Angela Paul Ben Paul Bobby Paul Jacob Paul Joshua Paul Sandy Paul Sara Paul

Allysa Rabenold Nicole Radel Roberta Radel Alex Ramos Joanne Ramos Alayna Ribovich Aiden Roadcap Bryce Roadcap Tammy Roadcap Naomi Rudisill Whitni Rudisill Janine Schaffner Holly Scheib Carrie Schlegel Hoyt Schlegel Amber Schreffler Ashton Schreffler Kinsley Schreffler Sara Shaffer Kellie Shoop Mary Ann Smeltz

Austin Specht Jody Specht Callie Spicher Kristen Spicher Tamara Spicher Payton Stutzman Cameron Thompson Cody Thompson Jodi Thompson Zachary Thompson Jenna Troutman James Watson Lois Watson Kim Williard Madeline Williard Olivia Williard Robin Willier Romaine Yeager MJ Zellner

Take-Out Counter/Soda Helpers - Clint Gehring

Angie Enders, Kris MacCready, RJ Henry, Gabe Gehring, Caleb Enders

Festival Night Clean-Up - Henry Henninger & Michael Henninger

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

First Ali = Gary Daniels

May Worship Schedule

May Gifts

Celebrate Inserts -Delmar and Ginny Enders

Altar Guild Harold and Pat Herb Lector Amy Gehring

Usher's for the Month of May Henry Henninger (L) Jeff Lehman (E), Roy and Rachel Henry (LAY)

May 5, 2019

Greeter Tim & Lori Motter **Holy Communion** Acolyte Hoyt Schlegel and Haylen Donovan

> Superintendent Larry Gessner **Pianist** Carol Hubler

Altar Flowers

May 5

Matt & Olivia Williard

May 12

Tim & Lori Motter

May 19

Hassinger & Ferree

May 26 **OUTSIDE WORSHIP**

*as of print date, subject to change

Greeter Gary & Betty Leitzel May 12, 2019

Madeline Williard & Caroline DeSoto Acolytes

Superintendent Lynn Henninger **Pianist** Lois Watson

Greeter May 19, 2019

Eric & Angela Mattern Acolytes RJ Henry & Gary Leitzel

Superintendent Jeff Lehman **Pianist** Judy Ferree

May 26, 2019 **OUTDOOR WORSHIP** Greeter Joe & Arlene Doyle Superintendent Ken Koller

Pianist Louise Baumgardner



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
A	May 2019		Philip & James, Apostles tles 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Meeting with Miss Laurie 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	2 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal National Day of Prayer	s Lutheran Night with the Harrisburg Senators	4 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
5 Third Sunday of Easter 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 11:30 Congregational Family Fiesta with Miss Laurie (sponsored by the St. John Women of the ELCA) (May Congregational Council Meeting Immediately Follows the Fiesta)	6 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 5:30 Book Discussion Group Gathering	7 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:00 Youth Group Advisors Quarterly Meeting	8 5:00 Girl Scout Penn State Educational Event 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East	10	Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
12 Fourth Sunday of Easter 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Sunny Sermon by Miss Laurie Mother's Day	13 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	Matthias, Apostle 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:00 Inquirer's Class 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30 Midweek Bible Study Deadline to Submit Items for June "St. John's Epistle"	16	17	18 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
19 Fifth Sunday of Easter 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Dedication of Baby Grand Piano 2:00 Girl Scout Troop Mother/ Daughter Tea	20 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	22 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	23 5:30 Community Meal at Trinity Unit- ed Methodist, Eliza- bethville	94	Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off 2:00 Girl Scout Troop STEM Activity
26 Sixth Sunday of Easter 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP 9:30 SONDay Celebration	Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off Memorial Day (observed)	98 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 5:30 Combined Pavilion Cleaning Night for Strawberry Festival and Church Outside Property Work Night	29	Ascension of Our Lord 7:00 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Blessing of Seed & Soil Memorial Day	Visit of Mary to Elizabeth	

Pastor's Office	The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	Stjohnhillchurch @frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
<u>Hours:</u> Mon, Tues - 8:00 A.M 9:30 A.M.	Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little @gmail.com	717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
Wed, Thurs -	Tammy Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon	Judith Ferree	Organist	jjferee@epix.net	717-362-4228
Friday	Carol Hubler	Choir Director	Mchubler @gmail.com	570-758-5052
8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. (Other times by appointment)	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

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