



# ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BERRYSBURG, PA | MAY 2023

## Letter from the Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

I have several calendar items for you this month...

First, as we continue our journey through the 50 Days of Easter, I want to lift up the festival of ***The Ascension of Our Lord*** which marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Day of that journey – ***Thursday, May 18 this year***. While getting together for worship on that busy weekday evening has steadily fallen out of favor with the passing of the years, we have continued to have a small but dedicated group of worshippers each year. This year I'm very pleased to say that we will have a different kind of worship experience, an ecumenical one more akin to our Community Wednesdays in Lent. Beginning this year, we will be joining with our neighbors of the Northern Cluster of United Church of Christ congregations for Ascension worship. This year's worship will take place at Salem United Church of Christ in Elizabethville at 7:00pm, with Pastor Tom and the other pastors sharing the worship leadership. Pastor Jeff Wagner, recently retired from the Lykens Valley Charge, will be this year's preacher and light refreshments will then follow the worship for all. In future years, we will take our turn with hosting and I will take my turn as preacher.

Then, it is time to remind you of several changes coming to our worship at the end of this month, on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 28. That will be the morning that we once again switch to our **summer schedule** of **1. Sunday Morning Bible Study for Adults at 8:45 A.M.**, ending by about 9:15, **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 and **3. SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie also at 9:30 A.M.** Typically, this would also be our first day of outdoor worship in the beauty of our pavilion; however, this year May 28 is also the festival Day of Pentecost, which means we will be joining in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which in turn means we will be indoors for worship, as was decided in part two of our Annual Congregational Meeting in January. (We will still have lots of opportunity for outdoor worship this summer, with a total of 10 Sundays in the pavilion and just 5 Sunday mornings indoors – May 28, June 4, July 2, August 6, and September 3).

And finally, simply because it is coming up very quickly, I want to again mention that **Wednesday, June 7**, is the date of this year's **Annual Strawberry Festival** – the first Wednesday in June this year. So, this edition of the **St. John's Epistle** once again 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 24**, beginning at **7:00 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 23**, beginning at **5:30 P.M.** (with lots of "hands" again needed to pull off what had once been two separate evenings of projects).

*Pastor Tom*

## News from Miss Laurie, Young Christians Minister

April showers have brought May flowers!! What beautiful spring weather we've been having! It's just hard to believe May is here and we're looking to the end of our school years, graduations, and Memorial Day – the unofficial start of summer! Time sure does fly!

Before we say goodbye to spring, mark your calendars for these fun celebration activities:

- **Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Join us from 6:30 – 8:00 for our Celebration Club "Summer Sign Off" and Pizza Party! This will be the last club before summer. We'll start a new year of Celebration Club on the first Wednesday in September.
- **Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup>** – We honor moms in a "Mother's Day" SONday Celebration!! Join us as we make a special treat for Mom!
- **Sunday, May 28<sup>th</sup>** – It's the Sunday before Memorial Day and the kick-off for our **Summer Schedule** in SONday Celebration! Starting this Sunday, join us from **9:30 – 10:30** for the fun! There's no Celebration Time as SONday Celebration runs concurrently with church throughout the Summer Schedule.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** Join us **July 17<sup>th</sup> through the 21<sup>st</sup>** for our "**Hero Hotline**" VBS as we're "called together to serve God"!! Stay tuned for further updates and information!! If you'd like to be involved, please let me know – we can never have too much help!!

Wishing you all a marvelous May!!

*Miss Laurie*



Join us for VBS!  
Save the date: July 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>  
6:30 – 8:45 pm

All children 2 years – 12<sup>th</sup> grade welcome!

## Book Group

Book Group - May 2023: Join us for our May book group. We'll be discussing **The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd** on **Monday, May 8, 6:30 pm** in the fellowship hall.

A few copies are available in the church library -- and more at your local public library, both physical copy and eBook. If you have questions or need to locate a book, please contact Ann ([rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com)).

Everyone is welcome!

## National Day of Prayer

As the National Day of Prayer is observed this year on May 4, the traditional first Thursday in May, we are all encouraged to be sure to take time that day, wherever we may be, to be in prayer for our country, that we might be a force for peace with justice and healing, both within our own borders and throughout God's world! Please contact Pastor Tom if you would like to arrange for the church building to be open outside of his regular office hours for a time of private prayer.

## Pastoral Acts

### At the "Altar"

On Saturday afternoon, April 1, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of Kayla Henry and Daniel Eyler at The Manor at Mountainview, just north of Harrisburg, following a rehearsal the previous Thursday evening. We pray God's blessing on Dan and Kayla, that they may each be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

### At Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for Benjamin Crabb, who died at his Loyaltown home on March 16. Worship took place at the church on March 22, with interment in Maple Grove Cemetery in Elizabethtown.

Pastor Tom also presided at March 31 funeral worship for Richard Kaufman, who died on March 21 at Heritage Mills in Tower City, where he had been a resident for some months. Worship was held at Richard's home congregation, St. Paul's of Tower City, which has been without a called pastor for several years and, in recent times, without even interim pastoral coverage.

We pray God's comfort in the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus for Molly and the entire Crabb Family as well as for Kim Hassinger and the rest of Richard's family -- and of course for all other loved ones in their walks of grief.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Berrysburg, Pa.

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### Red Geranium Order Form for Pentecost Sunday May 28, 2023

How many Plants:	Price per plant:	Total Amount of order:
_____	\$4.25 (4 1/2" pot)	_____

.....

Please print desired memorial as you want it printed in the bulletin.

Presented by:

\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

For the many blessings of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this order form with payment to a Flower Committee  
Member: Sheila Barder, Dana Klouser, Gail Billow or Fay Nichols.

**Absolute last day to order May 14, 2023**

Thank you for your support!!!!



# St. John's Youth Group

MAY  
2023

## MAY YOUTH GROUP MEETING

**Sunday, May 21st at 11:30 a.m.** - This is the first outdoor game day of the year! We will start with a sandwich lunch (bring a side to share) immediately following worship service. Please meet in the kitchen. Then, weather permitting, we will head outside for some friendly outdoor games! Bring your favorite outdoor game! Parents can pick up their youth members at 1:30 p.m.

## YOUTH GROUP T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER

The spring Youth Group fundraiser has begun! We are selling adult size St. John's t-shirts. The first order is due with the money by Monday, May 1st. There will be a second order submitted later in May. Let's show off the shirts to the congregation! (And just in time for the Strawberry Festival in June.) After all, St. John's *does* "put the 'berry' in Berrysburg"!!

### FRONT:

(small at pocket)



ST. JOHN'S  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Short Sleeve:

S-3XL = \$20.00

### Long Sleeve:

S-3XL = \$25.00

### BACK:

(covers the back)



WE PUT THE "BERRY" IN BERRYSBURG

Pennsylvania

# Strawberry Festival Committees: June 7, 2023

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 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30pm** – Pavilion cleaning night & yard work at church. Bring your favorite supplies.

**Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> & Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am** – Food Preparation

**Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Pavilion & Grove Preparation – Carl Baumgardner, Michael Henninger

All Available Male and Female Helpers

## Cashiers – Larry Gessner, Pat Herb

Sandra Shade, Elaine Henninger, Kaye Thoma, Cindy Carr, Rachel Henry, Ryan Henninger

## Strawberries, pies and soup sales – Jim Watson

Sam Tonkin, Bob Crabb, Bill Mace

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

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

## Host – Bob Weaver

Lynn Henninger, Carl Baumgardner, Pastor Tom, Barry Williard, Roy Henry, Scott Peters, Ira Antes

## Counters/Church Cards – Harold Herb and James Weaver

## Parking – Matt Williard

Steve Boyer, Gary Leitzel, Justin Adams, Dan Radel, Aaron Schreffler, James Barder, Tim Motter, Matt Motter, Pastor Tom, Roy Henry, Bryan Bender, Olivia Williard, Madeline Williard, Matthew Riland, Rob Foreman

## Ice Cream and Sundaes – Carol Hassinger

Bob Crabb, Craig Peters, Bob Hassinger, John Ferree, Judy Ferree, Mike Hubler, Randy Paul, Jeff Buffington, Kim Hassinger, Carol Hubler, Jeff Hassinger

## Entertainment – Harold and Pat Herb

## Anniversary Table

Anna Fetterhoff, Carol Hassinger, Vincent Lamenza

## Hot Dogs and BBQ – Ginny Enders

Scott Howard, Connie Erdman-Enders, Julie Warfel, Delmar Enders, Miana Gessner, Ron Weaver

**Sanitation/Floaters – Michael Henninger, Grant Barder**

Adam Rabenold, Jeff Roadcap, Steve Schlegel, Corey Scheib, Mike Leitzel, Ryan Henninger, Wayne Thomas, Ty Troutman

**Pies & Shortcakes – Bonnie Erb**

Fay Bixler, Ann Bruner, Betty Leitzel, Donna Rabenold, Yalonda Rabenold, Ron Erb, Marilyn Antes

**Baked Goods/Jammin' with Ladies – Barb Bullock, Sheila Barder, Janet Denlinger, Carissa Barder****Soup – Jeff Lehman**

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

**Strawberry Preparation – Tuesday, June 6th at 6:00pm and Wednesday, June 7th Noon till Closing – Fay Nichols**

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

**Take-Out Counter/Soda Helpers – Clint Gehring**

Angie Enders, Kris MacCready, RJ Henry, Gabe Gehring, Caleb Enders, Braden Bender, Amy Gehring

**Festival Night Clean-Up – Michael Henninger & Bob Hassinger**

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

**First Aid/Health Screening – Gary Daniels****Bus Persons (1st -5th Grade) – Sharon Peters, Kylie Bender, Dana Klouser**

AJ Adams, Hayden Dresel, Grayson Foreman, Derrick Roadcap, Kellan Peters, Marc Schaffner, Bennett Troutman, Maclyn Shoop, Elsie Rabenold, Jennifer Kell, Abby Bixler, Brady Dresel, Derrick Henry, Madie Leitzel, MaKayla McKensie, Kyan Peters, Brooklyn Bender, MaKayla Crabb, Emily Rabenold, Isaac Schaffner, Ayden Shoop, Cub Scout Pack 86, Girl Scout Troop

**Servers – Faye Weaver, Helen Henninger, Heidi Lehman**

Abigail Adams	Cheryl Gessner	Kaylene Maurer	Cole Roadcap	Mary Ann Smeltz
Laci Adams	Katie Gessner	Courtney Miller	Bryce Roadcap	Austin Specht
Natalie Bellis	Vivian Hoover Geyer	Lori Motter	Tammy Roadcap	Jody Specht
Sandy Bixler	Rita Glace	Nicholas Motter	Peggy Rowe	Tamara Spicher
Jason Bixler	Abigail Groy	Kristen Nichols	Emily Rowe	Daisy Thomas
Tanner Bixler	Kelsey Henninger	Joshua Paul	Eden Rowe	Aspen Troutman
Cecilia Boyer	Dana Klouser	Sandy Paul	Naomi Rudisill	Jenna Troutman
Dan Bruner	Heidi Lehman	Sara Paul	Whitni Ney Rudisill	Landon Troutman
Reyann Cheatham	Christine Kahler	Sharon Peters	Janine Schaffner	Kim Troutman
Jayne Crabb	Camella Leitzel	Hanna Rabenold	Holly Scheib	Ty Troutman
Haylen Donovan	Gary Leitzel	Allysa Rabenold	Carrie Schlegel	Shannon Troutman
Caroline DeSoto	Avery Mace	Lillian Rabenold	Hoyt Schlegel	Lois Watson
Stella DeSoto	Danielle Mace	Briana Radel	Amber Schreffler	Axton Zimmerman
Jamie Doyle	Landon Mace	Nicole Radel	Ashton Schreffler	Mid Penn Bank
Amanda Dresel	Grady Matter-DeSoto	Roberta Radel	Kinsley Schreffler	Eville
Dianne Enders	Angie Mattern	Mary Riland	Sara Shaffer	Members 1 <sup>st</sup> Bank
Olivia Enders	Richie Ann Martz	Sarah Riland	Kellie Shoop	
Gracie Gehring	Angie Maurer	Aiden Roadcap		

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Minutes**  
**February 19, 2023**

The council meeting was called to order by President Joshua Paul. Devotions were offered by Pastor Tom.

**Present:** Pastor Tom Bruner, Gail Billow, Joshua Paul, Ira Antes, Jeff Lehman, Dana Klouser, Sheila Barder, Craig Peters, Ty Troutman, Michael Henninger, Sandra Lamenza, and Courtney Foreman. Excused: Christie Kahler.

**Minutes:** Motion by Ty Troutman to accept the January 2022 minutes as read. Second by Sandra Lamenza. Motion approved unanimously.

Gary Daniels presented the opportunity to have a CPR class for the congregation. The provider that he spoke with charges \$145 per person. Josh plans to check with the YMCA to see if there are currently classes open. Gary plans to check with Northern Dauphin Services.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:**

The annual contract increase from Kone, the elevator contractor, will be 3.5%. The total cost should remain under \$1,000/year. This amount includes state inspections and “tune ups” every other month, plus the availability to make repairs.

St. John’s will be hosting the first Lenten Meal and Service on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor Tom suggested donating the offering collected to Disaster Relief for earthquake victims in Turkey. Council is in agreement.

Request from the UDAHS PTO for a donation toward post prom activity. Craig Peters made a motion to donate \$150. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Henninger. Motion approved unanimously.

**Pastor’s Report:** Motion to accept Pastor Tom’s report from January 2023 was made by Sandra Lamenza. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sheila Barder. Motion approved unanimously.

**Children and Youth Ministry Report:** Motion to accept Miss Laurie’s report for January by Ty Troutman. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig Peters. Motion approved unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Pastor provided a summary. Motion to accept the treasurer’s report for January by Craig Peters. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandra Lamenza. Motion approved unanimously.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Church Property:** Next meeting will be held on 2/28/23. Will be working on a few projects that were previously discussed. Sandra painted the bathroom as planned.

**Finance Committee:** No report.

**Worship and Music:** The committee proposed that the offering plate be kept by the bulletins at the top of the stairs and be brought forward during the service by the Lead Usher. Motion by Ty Troutman. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dana Klouser. Motion approved unanimously.

**Faith Formation:** No report.

**Mutual Ministry:** Next meeting will be in April.

**Executive:** No report.

**Nominating:** No report.

**History and Archive:** Sandra found a painting of Jesus done by Marie Parnell, reframed and hung it in the Sunday School room at eye level of the children.

**Women of the ELCA:** Preparing for the Lenten Meal.

**Cemetery Association:** No report.

**Youth Group:** Youth led worship – kids did a fabulous job. RJ gave a well-thought-out sermon. Next meeting is on 2/26/23. Spaghetti dinner will be on 3/5/23.

**Unfinished Business:**

Josh is working with PSP to get security suggestions.

**New Business:**

Jamie will be on vacation at the end of the month and will return on 3/12/23 so February's report will be later than usual.

March 7<sup>th</sup> is the first meeting for the Strawberry Festival Committee with a start time of 7 pm. The Strawberry Festival will take place on Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Council Meeting:** April 2, 2023, at 4 PM.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Craig Peters, 2nd by Mike Henninger to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Foreman, Secretary



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <b>Philip &amp; James, Apostles</b> 9am - "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	2 9:30am - Pastor Tom at Upper Dauphin Conference Pastors Gathering 7:30pm - Senior Choir Rehearsal	3 6:30-8pm - Monthly <b>Celebration Club</b> with Miss Laurie	4 6:30pm - Midweek Bible Study  <b>National Day of Prayer</b>	5	6          Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
7	8 <b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> 9am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9am - Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person) 9am - Confirmation Class (In-Person) 9am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person) 10:15am - Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom) 4pm - Congregational Council Meeting	9 <b>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</b> 6:30pm - Book Discussion Group Monthly Gathering 7:30pm - Senior Choir Rehearsal	10	11	12          Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day	13          Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
14	15 <b>Sixth Sunday of Easter/Matthias, Apostle</b> 9am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9am - Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person) 9am - Confirmation Class (In-Person) 9am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person) 10:15am - Worship, Including Sunny Sermon and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom) <b>Mother's Day</b>	16 6:15pm - Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30pm - Senior Choir Rehearsal	17	18 <b>Ascension of Our Lord</b> 2pm - Pastor Tom Leads Worship at Polk Asstd. Living, Millersburg 7pm - Evening Worship at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown, with Northern Cluster of UCC Congregations (light refreshments to follow)	19	20          Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
21	22 <b>Seventh Sunday of Easter</b> 9am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9am - Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person) 9am - Confirmation Class (In-Person) 9am - SONDay Celebration (In-Person) 10:15am - Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom) 2pm - Meeting of the Women of the ELCA of St. John	23 5:30pm - <u>Combined</u> Pavilion Cleaning Night for Strawberry Festival <u>and</u> Church Outside Property Work Night 7:30pm - Senior Choir Rehearsal	24	25 7pm - Council President Joshua Paul and Pastor Tom Present St. John Congregational Family Scholarship at UDAHS Class Night	26	27          Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
28	29 <b>Day of Pentecost</b> 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9:30am - <u>Indoor</u> Worship, including Sacrament of Holy Communion (In-Person <u>and</u> on Zoom) 9:30am - SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person)	30	31 <b>Visit of Mary to Elizabeth</b>			
	<b>Memorial Day (observed)</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>				

## 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:pt@stjohnhillchurch.org">pt@stjohnhillchurch.org</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>	717-571-5058
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
Ty Troutman, Choir Director	<a href="mailto:kimjtroutman@gmail.com">kimjtroutman@gmail.com</a>	717-686-2758
Rachel Henry, Secretary	<a href="mailto:henryfamily2004@gmail.com">henryfamily2004@gmail.com</a>	717-439-3897
Joshua Paul, Council President	<a href="mailto:joshpaul1995@gmail.com">joshpaul1995@gmail.com</a>	717-460-0670
Fay Nichols, Prayer Chain Coordinator	<a href="mailto:fnichols46@comcast.net">fnichols46@comcast.net</a>	717-329-7447

### **911 Emergency/GPS Location:**

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

### **For US Mail Deliveries:**

PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270

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

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