

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 40th Day of that journey – *Thursday, May 9 this year*. This year, we will have the honor of hosting an ecumenical time of worship with our United Church of Christ neighbors, very much akin to our Community Wednesdays in Lent. Worship will begin at 7:00pm, with Pastor Tom and the other pastors sharing the worship leadership. Pastor Ray Holland of Salem UCC in Elizabethville will serve as this year's preacher. Our special guest organist will be professional organist and instructor **Thomas Dressler** of Albrightsville, PA, who will present a sort-of "mini-recital" during the course of our worship. Please plan to attend – and please don't hesitate to take with me about any questions!

Then, very soon after Ascension Day, on the Festival Day of Pentecost, May 19 (also known as the 50th and Final Day of our Easter celebration), we will have the honor of celebrating with six of our young members and their families as they make Affirmation of Baptism and are Confirmed during 10:15am worship. These young members, each of whom has completed two years of instruction with me, are: **Brayden Bender, Tanner Bixler, Caroline DeSoto, Lillian Rabenold, Landon Troutman,** and **Axten Zimmerman**.

Then, just one week later, on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 26, we will 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. This would often also be our first day of outdoor worship in the beauty of our pavilion; however, this year May 26 is also the Festival of the Holy Trinity, which means we will be joining in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, which in turn means we will be indoors for worship that morning. (In case you're wondering, our schedule of outdoor worship will get underway on Sunday, June 9.)

And finally, simply because it is coming up very quickly, I want to again mention that **Wednesday**, **June 12**, is the date of this year's **Annual Strawberry Festival**. 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 an important first evening of Festival preparation coming up later this month – 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.** (with lots of "hands" again needed to pull off what had once been two separate evenings of projects).

Thank you for reading, and for your partnership in this wonderful congregational family which is St. John!

Pastor Tom

News from Miss Laurie, Young Christians Minister

Hello May! Those April showers have DEFINITELY brought May flowers – oh the beauty of springtime! And since it's May, we're also counting off the days until the end of school – can you believe it?

Before we begin our summertime adventures though, jot down these fun activities for May:

- Wednesday, May 1st It's our last Celebration Club of the season and we're going out with a bang! Join us from 6:30 – 8:00 for a vertical Party Celebration.
 Bring your appetites!!
- Sunday, May 12th Join us in SONday Celebration as we celebrate Mother's Day and make a special craft for Mom!
- Sunday, May 26th It's Memorial Day weekend and the kick-off of our Summer Schedule for SONday Celebration! Starting THIS Sunday, SONday Celebration runs concurrently with the Church service from 9:30 – 10:30 each Sunday!!

Have a great May everyone, and join us for another month of fun faith formation!!

Miss Laurie



Are you having those feelings of TOO MUCH STUFF? Consider donating your gently used treasures to our congregational YARD SALE to be held August 1, 2 and 3. Watch for your June Newsletter for details.





St. John's Youth Group



YOUTH GROUP FAITH FORMATION CLASS NEWS

There **will not** be a faith formation class with Matt and Olivia on **Sunday**, **May 12th**. Instead, get up early and make your mom breakfast for Mother's Day, read your favorite Bible verse or story to her, then do the dishes!

Sunday, May 19th is the last Youth Group Faith Formation class with Matt and Olivia for this school year. Classes start back up on Sunday, September 15th. Have a great summer!!

Sports Emporium Outing

Sunday, **June 30th** - The Youth Group is heading to **The Sports Emporium** in Carlisle. We will enjoy LASERTRON Laser Tag games,
Go-Kart races, and get \$20.00 for the Arcade. The cost is \$20.00 each.
We will meet immediately following worship service. Lunch will be provided before we head out. Watch your email for a sign-up.

SUMMER CAMP OUT

July 19-20 - Camp Out: We will meet immediately following the close of VBS on Friday night, July 19th. It's our second Camp-Out! Last year we had so much fun playing games and hanging out!

Weather permitting, we will sleep outside, have a campfire, play camp games, and more! Tacos will be served as our late dinner. Watch your email for more details!

The camp out is open to all members of St. John youth group currently in 5th through 12th grade. All St. John's permission slips and medical papers must be handed in before the camp out.

National Day of Prayer

As the National Day of Prayer is observed this year on May 2, 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 – especially in this election year! 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 Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **Patricia Herb**, who died at her home on Maundy Thursday, March 28. Worship took place at the church on April 5, with interment in our cemetery. We pray God's comfort in the Easter Promise of Resurrection for **Harold "Herbie"** and for Pat's entire family in their ongoing walk of grief.

Financial Secretary

Congregational Council has appointed **Sandra Lamenza** as our new Financial Secretary, taking the place of **Pat Herb**. We thank Sandra for being willing to take on this new and challenging ministry, continuing the work done so long and so well by Pat!

Women of the ELCA

The St. John Women of the ELCA will be having an event on May 14th at 6pm! Please join us to make care kits for Lifeline Pregnancy Center in Millersburg. We will be assembling adult kits and also looking to install some new leaders for our group. Please consider becoming a leader of this great mission! This is an easy way to do a lot of good works for our church and to get involved with minimal time out of your schedule. We would love to see some new women of the congregation take part! If you have any questions about our program please see Rachel Henry, Barb Bullock or Ginny Enders.

It's Jam Making Time

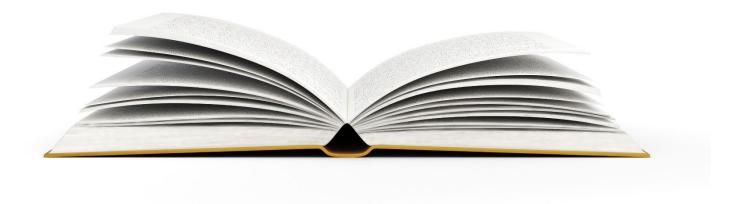
Hey folks we will be starting to make the jams and jellies for the Strawberry Festival very soon. Most of the time we get the jars back, but this didn't happen this year. For those who can help it would be greatly appreciated. We are asking for the items needed below. This has always been a very good project and sell out each year! For more information contact Fay Nichols at 717-329-7447. Items Needed: Jars (8 oz. jelly jars), Sugar, Sure Jell, Fruits, Lids for jars left from last year, and Monetary donations.



Book Group - May 2024

Join us for our May book group. We'll be discussing **The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks** on **Monday, May 13, 6:30 pm** either in the pavilion or fellowship hall, depending on weather. Please bring a snack to share! Everyone is welcome!

If you need a copy of the book, please talk with staff at the Elizabethville Library. All local copies are in use, but they will order the book for you from a neighboring library. If you have questions, please contact Ann (rahbruner@gmail.com).



Creation Care Team

Creation Care Team will meet on **Sunday**, **May 19 at 4:30** pm in the fellowship hall. The primary topic for this meeting will be improved recycling for the Strawberry Festival, but we'll also discuss other ideas and efforts. Please join us if you are interested!



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Berrysburg, Pa.

Stauffer's Greenhouse

4.5" Red Geranium for Pentecost Sunday, MAY 19, 2024

Number: _____ @ \$4.40 each = \$_____ Order Total

	necks payable to: St. John Lut		
Please print desired memorial as you wa	ant it printed in the bulletin.		
Presented by:			
In honor of:			
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In Memory of:			
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Please return order form with payment to a Flower Fund Committee Member Dana Klouser, Sheila Barder, Fay Nichols or Gail Billow

Absolute last day to order May 12, 2024

Thank you for your support!!!!

Strawberry Festival Committees June 12, 2024

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:

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.

Pavilion & Grove Preparation - Carl Baumgardner, Michael Henninger

All Available Helpers

Cashiers - Sandra Shade

Elaine Henninger, Kaye Thoma, Cindy Carr, Rachel Henry, Ryan Henninger, Kylie Bender

Strawberries, pies and soup sales - Jim Watson

Sam Tonkin, Bill Name, Aaron Troutman

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

Sandra Lamenza (Pillow), Vacant (Tri-Valley Area), Craig Peters (Lykens), Tim Motter (E-ville), Barb Bullock (Millersburg), Kayla Henry/Kylie Bender (Berrysburg/Gratz)

Host - Bob Weaver, Pastor Tom

Carl Baumgardner, Barry Williard, Roy Henry, Scott Peters, Ira Antes, Craig Peters, Wayne Thomas

Counters/Church Cards - Harold Herb and James Weaver

Lynn Henninger

Parking - Matt Williard

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

Ice Cream and Sundaes - Bob Crabb

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

Entertainment - in transition

Anniversary Table

Anna Fetterhoff, Carol Hassinger, Vincent Lamenza

Hot Dogs and BBQ - Cecilia Barder

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

Sanitation - Michael Henninger, Grant Barder

Adam Rabenold, Jeff Roadcap, Steve Schlegel, Corey Scheib

Pies & Shortcakes Distribution - Bonnie Erb

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

Shortcake Bakers - Sheila Barder, Lois Watson

Jim Watson, Connie Shaffer, John Shaffer, Ginny Enders, Louise Baumgardner, Dana Klouser, Tam Spicher, Gail Billow

Baked Goods/Jammin' with Ladies - Sheila Barder, Janet Denlinger, Carissa Barder

Soup - Jeff Lehman

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

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, Gail Billow, Barb Bullock, Ginny Enders

Take-Out Counter - Clint Gehring, Amy Gehring

Angie Enders, RJ Henry, Gabe Gehring, Caleb Enders

Soda/Drinks - Rachel Henry

Braden Bender, Brooklyn Bender, Derrick Henry, Brady Dresel

Festival Night Clean-Up - Michael Henninger & Bob Hassinger

Pastor Tom, 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

Bus Persons (1st -5th Grade) - Sharon Peters, Kylie Bender, Dana Klouser

AJ Adams, Hayden Dresel, Grayson Foreman, Derrick Roadcap, Kellan Peters, Bennett Troutman, Jennifer Kell, MaKayla McKensie, Kyan Peters, MaKayla Crabb, Emily Rabenold, Isaac Schaffner, Ayden Shoop, Robyn Latshaw, Edna Rabenold, Ashten Barder, Hailey Crabb, Sophia Enders, Sadie Henninger, Granger Scheib, Cub Scout Pack 86, Girl Scout Troop

Servers - Faye Weaver, Helen Henninger, Heidi Lehman, Christie Kahler

Abigail Adams Laci Adams Natalie Bellis Abby Bixler Sandy Bixler Jason Bixler **Tanner Bixler** Dan Bruner Reyann Cheatham Jayne Crabb Haylen Donovan Caroline DeSoto Stella DeSoto Jamie Doyle Amanda Dresel Dianne Enders Olivia Enders Gracie Gehring Cheryl Gessner

Katie Gessner Vivian Hoover Gever Rita Glace Abigail Groy Brian Henninger Tanya Henninger Kelsey Henninger Dana Klouser Heidi Lehman Christine Kahler Avery Mace Danielle Mace Landon Mace Grady Matter-DeSoto Richie Ann Martz Angie Maurer Kaylene Maurer Courtney Miller Lori Motter Nicholas Motter

Kristen Nichols Joshua Paul Sandy Paul Sara Paul **Sharon Peters** Elsie Rabenold Hanna Rabenold Allysa Rabenold Lillian Rabenold Briana Radel Nicole Radel Roberta Radel Brandi Riland Mary Riland Sarah Riland Aiden Roadcap Cole Roadcap Bryce Roadcap Tammy Roadcap Peggy Rowe

Emily Rowe Eden Rowe Naomi Rudisill Whitni Ney Rudisill Janine Schaffner Marc Schaffner Holly Scheib Carrie Schlegel Hoyt Schlegel Amber Schreffler Ashton Schreffler Kinsley Schreffler Sara Shaffer Kellie Shoop Maclyn Shoop Mary Ann Smeltz Austin Specht

Jody Specht
Tamara Spicher
Daisy Thomas
Aspen Troutman
Jenna Troutman
Landon Troutman
Shannon Troutman
Lois Watson
Axton Zimmerman
Mid Penn Bank Eville
Members 1st Bank

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Minutes March 10, 2024

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

Present: Pastor Tom Bruner, Joshua Paul, Courtney Foreman, Ty Troutman, Matthew Riland, Karen Gehring, Christie Kahler, Craig Peters, Jeff Lehman, Gail Billow, Sandra Lamenza and Sandra Paul

Excused Absent: Justin Adams

Minutes: Motion by Joshua Paul to accept the February 18 2024 minutes as read. Second by Craig Peters. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Pastor gave brief review of his report. Motion to accept Pastor's Tom's report for February was made by Sandra Lamenza and 2nd by Sandy Paul. Motion approved unanimously.

Children and Youth Ministry Report: Motion to accept Miss Laurie's report was made by Ty Troutman and 2nd by Courtney Foreman. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Joshua Paul reviewed the February 2024 treasurers report, questioning the Benevolence Fund ending balance. The calculated value should be \$211.32 instead of \$156.68. Pastor will review with Jamie Doyle as it appears numbers may have been transposed. Joshua continued the review of the treasurer's reports. Joshua received the Strawberry Festival account ending balance from Lynn Henninger and is currently \$14,473.67.

Pastor Tom provided a brief review of the Memorial Fund investments and financial status of Current Fund. Motion was given by Matt Riland to Accept the treasurers reports, 2nd by Jeff Lehman. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: Girl Scouts did a wonderful job today in worship service. We greatly appreciate Nicole Radel and the great job she does with the girl scouts, and the wonderful work she does on facebook.

Reports of standing Committees:

Church Property- Focused on Pavilion renovations, noting they have already received \$7,000 in giving toward the renovations. Next meeting is scheduled for 3-26-24.

Finance Committee: No report

Worship and Music -No report

Faith Formation: No report

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report

History and Archive: No report

Cemetery Committee – Matt Riland advised on June 5th they will do a walk around to identify the head stones that will be in need of repair. Sandra Lamenza stated they had election of officers.

Bell Ringing: Going well no issues

Creation Care Team- Meeting next Sunday March 17, 2024

Strawberry Festival Committee - Meeting scheduled for tomorrow night 3/11/24 at 7:00PM.

Women of ELCA- Mary Ann Smeltz gave her presentation on Thursday evening March 7 2024, regarding her travels abroad. The program went very well and was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Youth Group Report- Pastor Tom and Council all expressed the great job the children did on Youth Sunday. The Youth are preparing for the Easter egg hunt on March 30th and Worship Service on Good Friday Evening. Karen Gehring reminded us the youth will be sponsoring a movie on April 1 at the Colonnade in Millersburg.

Other Reports

Audit Committee had received and reviewed all the records for 2023. The Audit committee has completed all the audits for 2023.

Summer Camp – Amy Gehring reviewed with Pastor, Campers usually choose Tier 1 and is about \$75.00 more than originally expected, totaling \$630 per camper, would this be an issue? Council agreed to proceed.

Unfinished business:

Security Cameras- Joshua Paul phoned Shearer Security in Harrisburg, and left a message asking them to contact him to review and obtain a quote for a camara system. He has not heard back from them, but will continue to try to make contact. Craig Peters contacted MIS Surveillance located in Millersburg, and they advised they will need to come out to provide a quote. Craig asked them to contact Pastor Tom or himself to set up a time, but neither has heard back from them.

New Business

Joshua Paul noted the Synod is holding an event at our State Capital on May 9th. Breakfast will be held at Trinity Lutheran church in Camp Hill, then they will travel for a tour of the State Capital. Registrations must be in by March 31st, Pastor will send an email to the congregation regarding this event.

Next Council Meeting: Sunday April 14, 2024 at 6:00 P.M.

May Council Meeting will be rescheduled for the 3^{rd} Sunday of the Month (May 19, 2024) since Mother's Day is 2^{nd} Sunday of the month.

Adjournment: Motion made by Gail Billow to adjourn, 2nd by Karen Gehring. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Paul, Secretary.

May 2024

		I	I	I		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*In-Person			Philip & James, Apostles 6:30-8pm - Monthly Celebration Club with Miss Laurie	2	3	4
			From the morning of Wednesday, May 1, until the evening of Saturday, May 4, Pastor Tom will be taking time away, being back for Sunday, May 5 morning responsibilities.			
				National Day of Prayer		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	9am - "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	9:30am - Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal		Ascension of Our Lord 7pm - St. John Hosts Ecumenical Community Worship Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East		Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person) 9am - Youth Faith Formation with Olivia & Matt (In-Person)	9am - "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 6:30pm - Book Discussion Group Gathering	Matthias, Apostle 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	Deadline to Submit Items for June "St. John's Epistle"	2pm - Pastor Tom Leads Worship at Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg		Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
19 1 1 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	9am - "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	6:15pm - Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	7pm - Council President Josh Paul and Pastor Tom Present St. John Scholarships at UDAHS Class Night			Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
	27	28	29	30	31	
The Holy Trinity 8:45am - Adult Bible Study (In-Person)	Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off Memorial Day (observed)	530pm - Combined Pavilion Cleaning Night for Strawberry Festival and Church Outside Property Work Night 6:30pm - St. John Scholarship Presented at Pine Grove Area High School Class Night 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal			Visit of Mary to Elizabeth Evening – Pastor Tom Attending Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly on Zoom	

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	pt@stjohnhillchurch.org	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Laurie Little, Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little@gmail.com	717-571-5058
Lewis Weaver, Sexton	bootsdagreat@gmail.com	570-809-1014
Grace Weaver, Sexton	No Email	570-809-1510
Judith Ferree, Organist	jjferee@epix.net	717-362-4228
Ty Troutman, Choir Director	kimjtroutman@gmail.com	717-686-2758
Rachel Henry, Secretary	henryfamily2004@gmail.com	717-439-3897
Joshua Paul, Council President	joshpaul1995@gmail.com	717-460-0670
Fay Nichols, Prayer Chain Coordinator	fnichols46@comcast.net	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
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch