



St. Johns Epistle

St. Johns Lutheran
Church
Berrysburg, PA

May 2020

Dear Friends in Jesus,

These times in which we are living are quite unlike any that you and I have faced before, and this newsletter in its own small way reflects that fact. For starters, two items that are always a part of our congregational newsletter are missing this month – the May Worship Schedule and the May Calendar – simply because it seemed more confusing than helpful to include them, since we know so little of what lies ahead for May. Please be watching the weekly digital bulletin and, especially, emails from Miss Laurie and from me, for updates on calendar items as we go along.

One annual thing that is included in this newsletter is the committee listing for our Annual Strawberry Festival, now scheduled for Wednesday, June 10. Please keep the listing handy but, probably needless to say, it is looking less and less likely that the Festival will go forward as scheduled. With our next planning meeting taking place on Monday, April 27, perhaps about the time you are reading these lines, we will have a more definite “go/no go” at that time. Please stay tuned...

In an attitude of hope, I want to lift up the several changes planned for our Sunday morning schedule beginning at the end of this month, on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend, May 24. That will be the morning that we once again switch to our **summer schedule** of 1. **Sunday School for Adults at 8:45 A.M. in the Conference Room**, with no opening, so that we simply join in the regular half-hour study session, 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 (**this will also be the morning that we move out to the pavilion for the first of our outside summer worship opportunities**), and 3. **SONDay Celebration (Summer Sunday School for Grades 4 and younger) with Miss Laurie also at 9:30 A.M.** Once again, as with all things schedule-wise, please stay tuned...

And finally, with the festival Day of Pentecost coming up on Sunday, May 31, this would be the morning on which we would typically plan to celebrate the Confirmation of three of our younger congregational family members, **Gabe Gehring, Aidan Roadcap, and Hoyt Schlegel**. This too is at least a bit up in the air at this point so, yet again, please stay tuned...

Thank you for reading, and for your continued partnership in this congregational family ministry that we share, no matter how differently it may be done for now!

PASTR TOM

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home
Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close
Remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market
Remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country,
let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
Let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

Pastoral Acts

At the Font

Via the telephone, Pastor Tom presided as **Frank Titus** was officially received into the St. John Congregational Family on Sunday morning, March 29, by Affirmation of Baptism. We welcome Frank officially “aboard”



News from Miss Laurie Young Christians Minister

Happy May, everyone! Did you EVER imagine that we would still be in an ongoing medical crisis that would affect the very nature of our personal interactions? The spring of 2020 will surely be a time we won't soon forget!

But with the challenges brought on by school and church closings and social distancing, some really cool things have come about! If you told me a month ago that Sunny and I would be "YouTube-ers", I would have said, "Yeah, right!" And going LIVE on Zoom to experience our worship service and virtually interact with our church friends "Brady Bunch style" is AMAZING! People have been going above and beyond to help those affected by this crisis. In the midst of our struggles, GOD is there and still making good things happen!

Usually THIS is where I would say "mark your calendars" and I'd list all the upcoming events and activities happening at church. Since May is still uncertain, and most people you talk to feel like the social distancing is going to continue, I won't do that. What I will say is, check your emails and stay tuned for more fun with Sunny! We'll keep trying to come up with new ways to stay connected! I just hope with all this online "face time", she doesn't get a BIG head! (To which she responds, "My head is already TWICE the size of my body, Miss Laurie!")

One thing I am looking at is the possibility of going LIVE with a "Sunny Celebration" Zoom Time where you can virtually interact with me and Sunny – similar to our Sunday worship services. I'm thinking Wednesdays at 1:00 (after morning school and lunch, and hopefully before nap time) might be a good time! I'll keep you posted on that!

Hopefully, it won't be TOO long until we can meet again face-to-face. Until that time, be well and safe. You are ALL in my thoughts and prayers!!

Miss Laurie

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Your Tithes and Offerings

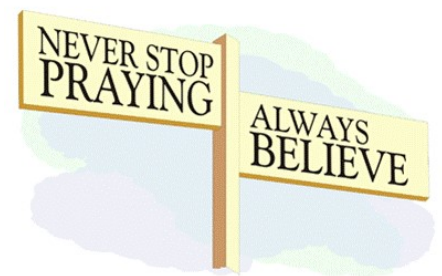
For as long as may be needed, when it comes to your tithes and offerings, you can do one of two things: either 1. mail your offering to the church (PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270) or 2. drop it by the church and place it in the red plastic tub – easily and frequently disinfected – that will be prominently visible in the Sunday School Room, on the table just outside Pastor Tom’s office door. Pastor Tom will then see that all offerings received get securely passed along to our counters.” ***Please know that Pastor Tom and other congregational leaders fully understand that each and every person must review their unique financial and employment circumstances during this uncertain time with regard to expenses, including offerings to God’s work through our congregational family. There is no pressure of any kind intended here, simply a reminder that, for all of us who can continue to contribute, the expenses and ministry responsibilities of congregational family life continue now as always, and those gifts will be most welcome!***

“Pot Pie” Benefit

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. ***In light of COVID-19 concerns and closures, the deadline to order has been changed to May 27, with pickup of orders (at Randy & Heidi's home in Elizabethtown) changed to June 13 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 - May 7

As the National Day of Prayer is observed this year on May 7, 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, especially in these days of global pandemic, we might be a force for peace with justice and healing, both within our own borders and throughout God’s world.



Congratulations

Congratulations and prayers of thanksgiving to God are due following the safe and healthy birth of **Bristol Grace** to **Holly & Corey Scheib** on Friday evening, March 20. Bristol weighed 7 pounds 3 ounces and was 20 inches long. Congratulations, too, to big brother **Granger**!

St. John's Youth Group

The Advisors recommend all youth interested in learning more about and/or attending GATHERING take the time to look at these resources! If you have any questions you can contact any advisor!



[ELCA GATHERING YOUTUBE VIDEO ABOUT GATHERING <<Click Here>>](#)

ELCA GATHERING HOMEPAGE: www.elca.org/youthgathering

The ELCA Youth Gathering team announces the theme of the 2021 Gathering, “boundless: God beyond measure,” based on Ephesians 3:19 CEV.

“I want you to know all about Christ’s love, although it is too wonderful to be measured. Then your lives will be filled with all that God is.”

YOUTH GROUP ADVISORS

◇ Pastor Tom Bruner	◇ Becky Conte	◇ Amy Gehring	◇ Clint Gehring
	◇ Jodi Thompson	◇ Matt Williard	◇ Olivia Williard



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



Women of the ELCA



The Women of the ELCA of St. John are making plans for the purchase of new church aprons. It has been 7 years since we purchased them originally, and so we would like to purchase a new batch of aprons to be borrowed and used by our Strawberry Festival servers. In addition, since that last order, where a number of folks wanted to purchase their own, we have received new members into the congregational family to whom we would like to give the opportunity to purchase aprons for the first time, as well as an opportunity for all members to purchase additional ones. The apron order will consist of two types of aprons. The color for both will be gray. (The original aprons were slate in color but the new ones will be slightly lighter in color). Bib aprons will be available and also half-aprons as well. We feel the half-aprons would be especially appealing to waitresses and servers. Both types of aprons will have pockets. Instead of the church name and address being embroidered on the front, the new aprons will have the church logo sewed on them. The logo will be the same that we have used on the church shirts and caps that have been sold here at the church. The price for the bib aprons will be approximately \$8.00 and the half-aprons will be approximately \$7.00. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board downstairs for those planning to purchase them. Please indicate on the sheet your name, phone number, and the number of each type of apron you wish to purchase. If you have any questions regarding the aprons, please feel free to contact Pat Herb. Thank you.

Strawberry Festival Committees

June 10, 2020

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 26th at 5:30pm – Pavilion cleaning night & yard work at church. Bring your favorite supplies.

Saturday, June 6th & Monday, June 8th at 8:00am – Food Preparation

Tuesday, June 9th 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 – Joe Doyle & Michael Henninger

All Available Male and Female Helpers

Cashiers – Larry Gessner, Pat Herb

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

Strawberries, pies and soup sales – Jim Watson

Bob Rudisill, Sam Tonkin

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

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

Host – Bob Weaver

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

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

Entertainment – Harold and Pat Herb

Anniversary Table

Anna Fetterhoff, Carol Hassinger, Barb Bullock, Vincent Lamenza

Hot Dogs and BBQ – Ginny Enders

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

Help where needed/Floaters – Dennis Smeltz & Michael Henninger

Adam Rabenold, Jeff Roadcap, Steve Schlegel, Corey Scheib, Mike Leitzel, Roy Henry, Ryan Henninger, Wayne Thomas, Rob Foreman

Pies & Shortcakes – Bonnie Erb

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

Baked Goods/Jammin' with Ladies – Barb Bullock, Sheila Barder, Rebecca Conte, Janet Denlinger

Soup – Jeff Lehman

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

Dishwasher – Steve Boyer

Strawberry Preparation – Tuesday, June 9th at 6:00pm and Wednesday, June 10th Noon till Closing – Fay Nichols

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

Take-Out Counter/Soda Helpers – Clint Gehring

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

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, Eric Mattern, Rob D'Alesandro, Blake Maurer, Roy Henry, Wayne Thomas, Tim Rabenold

First Aid/Health Screening – Gary Daniels

Bus Persons (1st -5th Grade) – Lois Leshner, 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, Derrick Henry, Madie Leitzel, MaKayla McKensie, Kyan Peters, Bennett Troutman, Cub Scout Pack 86, Girl Scout Troop

Servers – Faye Weaver, Helen Henninger, Heidi Lehman

Laci Adams
Carissa Barder
Louise Baumgardner
Sandy Bixler
Aspen Bloom
Cecilia Boyer
Lily Boyer
Serene Boyer
Reyann Cheatham
Elijah Conte
Jayne Crabb
Jena Crabb
Natalie Bellis
Regina Dohr
Robert Dohr
Arlene Donnelly
Haylen Donovan
Jamie Doyle
Amanda Dresel
Dianne Enders
Olivia Enders
Susan Foster
Amy Gehring
Gracie Gehring
Kim Geib
Cheryl Gessner
Katie Gessner
Park Gessner
Katherine Gilligan
Rita Glace
Abigail Groy
Kelsey Henninger
Megan Henninger
Kayla Henry
Teresa Hughes
Dana Klouser
Barb Laughans
Heidi Lehman
Camella Leitzel

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
Robert Radel
Alex Ramos
Joanne Ramos
Alayna Peters
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
Daisy Thomas
Cameron Thompson
Cody Thompson
Jodi Thompson
Zachary Thompson
Jenna Troutman
James Watson
Lois Watson
Kim Williard
Madeline Williard
Olivia Williard
Robin Willier
Romaine Yeager

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2020

The Council Meeting was called to order by Pastor Tom at 4 P.M.

Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions about the four tenants of council membership.

Appreciation expressed for the outgoing council members – Pat Herb, Dan Langhans, Donna Rabenold, and Henry Henninger.

Welcome new council members: Roy Henry, Ken Koller, Heidi Lehman, and Lori Matter.

Nominations made and election held for new council officers: President- Roy Henry; Vice-President – Matt Williard; Secretary – Darrell Denlinger; Assistant Secretary – Sandra Lamenza; Treasurer – Jamie Doyle; Assistance Treasurer – Dan Maurer.

Additional positions: Cemetery Board Representative – Sandra Lamenza and Barbara Bullock; Usher Chair Persons – Louise Baumgardner, Tam Spicher, and Lois Watson; Financial Secretary – Pat Herb.

Past meeting minutes – motion to accept by Ron Erb; second by Matt Williard; approved by all present.

Reception of Petitions and Communications

Water Test passed for month and quarter.

Annual Appeal from Northern Dauphin Human Service Center; provide \$300 from Strawberry Festival Fund. Motion to accept by Sandra Lamenza; second by Ron Erb; approved by all present.

Wooden chairs without arms in balcony; referred to property committee for disposal. Suggest sign up sheet to give to congregation.

Two volunteers needed for synod assembly Saturday, June 6, at Messiah College. Two voting members of the congregation to attend – one male; one female. May 16 and 30 will be days of service – one day at Lancaster; one day at York.

Church council members to count offering

Instructions for Communion Rotation discussion about procedure

Pastor's Report:

Motion to accept by Sandra Lamenza; second by Barb Bullock; passed by all present.

Children and Youth:

Motion by Sandra Lamenza; second by Heidi Lehman; passed by all present.

Treasurer Report:

Reviewed prior to meeting.

Motion to accept by Carol Hassinger; second by Ron Erb; passed by all present.

Church Property:

No meeting in December

Discussion about floor replacement for first floor activity room

Finance: No meeting

Worship & Music: to meet soon

Faith Formation Team:

Meeting December 10

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2020

Youth Ministry:

No snow tubing; poor snow conditions
Trampoline park in February
Larry Gessner donated coin collections to youth as a fund raiser.

Executive Committee: no meeting

Mutual Ministry:

Met January 12 – no problems

History: no report

Nominating:

Chair by Matt Williard

Women's Report: report by Pat Herb

Almost \$500 offering for snack pack at Breaking Bread

Unfinished Business: none

New Business:

Copy of Constitution given to new council members
Guidelines to Congregational Church policies

Next Council Meeting February 9 at 4 PM.

Motion to adjourn by Ron Erb; second by Matt Williard; passed by all present.

Respectfully submitted,
Darrell Denlinger, Secretary

<u>Pastor's Office</u> <u>Hours:</u> Mon, Tues - 8:00 A.M.– 9:30 A.M. Wed, Thurs - 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon Friday 8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. <i>(Other times by appointment)</i>	The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	Stjohnhillchurch @frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
	Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little @gmail.com	717-365-5099 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
	Tammy Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
	Judith Ferree	Organist	jjferree@epix.net	717-362-4228
	Carol Hubler	Choir Director	Mchubler @gmail.com	570-758-5052
	Rebecca Conte	Secretary	Rlkconte06 @gmail.com	570-262-2664
	Roy Henry	Council President	Henryfamily2004 @gmail.com	717-215-9837
	Fay Nichols	Prayer Chain Coordinator	Fnichols46 @comcast.net	717-329-7447

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

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

Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 270

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