



**SAINT JOHN'S  
EPISTLE  
NOVEMBER 2012**

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

You might say that my theme for this letter this month is “important discussions accompanied by food”! On **All Saints Sunday, November 4**, following worship, we will gather downstairs for what has become our annual chicken and waffles dinner, with all the trimmings, served by Youth Group. Lots of great food will be the order of the day, and a freewill offering will be received. As our eating concludes, we will spend a bit of time talking together about the “state of the parish” as we come down to the end of another Church Year and another calendar year. I will have some things to share, but please bring your ideas and your questions about any aspect of our life as a congregational family.

On **Wednesday, November 14**, it is a discussion about our life together as the Lower Susquehanna Synod that will be hosted here at St. John. As you may have already heard, our Lower Susquehanna Synod has embarked on what is being called a “Year of Reformation”, leading up to the election of a new bishop – Bishop Hoover having already shared the news that he does not feel called to stand for reelection to a new term as bishop – at the Annual Assembly, to be held June 6-8 next year. As a part of this year-long journey, “listening posts” are being held at 14 locations around our synod, including this one at St. John, which will take place from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. Synod leaders will be present to hear your thoughts and prayers about three core questions that are guiding the “Year of Reformation”: 1. What should synod be about? 2. How can we claim a Lutheran identity in a changing world? 3. What is God calling all of us to be and do in the future as church together? What about the food, you ask? Well, it won't be anywhere near as elaborate as what we will be sharing on November 4, but the Women of St. John will be providing tasty snacks for the 60 or so people who, it is hoped, might attend.

I hope that you will be able to add these two gatherings to your November calendar – important times of conversation and sharing for these challenging times in which we live and serve!

*Pastor Tom*

## **COME AND WORSHIP!**

This year, we will have the honor of hosting the annual Berrysburg Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Wednesday, November 21, at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Tom and Pastor Jeff Wagner will lead the worship, while Pastor Frank Egresites will preach. Please take advantage of this opportunity to worship and give thanks with your Christian neighbors!

### **Women of the ELCA President - Helen Henninger**

The Women of the ELCA will be providing the refreshments at the Fall Upper Dauphin Conference meeting at St. John's on Monday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> Fay Nichols is chairperson.

The Lower Susquehanna Synodical meeting will be at St. John's on Wednesday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> and the women will be providing light refreshments for approximately 50 people. Lorraine Henninger and Jean Weaver are chairpersons and are in need of more cookies or other light refreshments. Please contact Lorraine if you can provide refreshments.

The following were elected and will begin serving in January. President: Fay Nichols, Vice President: Arlene Doyle, and Christian Action: Jean Weaver. Thank you for your service.

Preparations were made for the Thankoffering Service on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. We are inviting any and all women who wish to join in the women's anthem to speak to Lorraine Henninger. The more voices the better!

The next meeting will be Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Devotional leaders are Lorraine Henninger, Donna Rabenold and Karen Gehring.

## **NEW ST. JOHN APPAREL, IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!**

By popular demand, a new St. John shirt is available for purchase, with delivery in time for Christmas. The new shirts are dark red, with the familiar embroidered logo that was first developed for our anniversary year back in 2005 and then modified for our most recent light blue shirts. It is hoped that as many people as possible will be dressed in these sharp red shirts for next year's Strawberry Festival, on June 12. The shirts are again available as polo shirts or t-shirts for all ages, with special sizes available specifically to better fit women. A variety of sample sizes are can be found in the foyer for trying on, as well as order forms and envelopes. Please turn in your order form and check payable to "St. John's Lutheran Church - Anniversary Fund" in an envelope to Lois Leshar, Carol Hassinger, or Pastor Tom no later than Sunday, December 2.

## **PLEASE HELP!**

As we near the end of the year, please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you have turned in **at least one communion record card** this year. If during the year you have been living and worshipping out of the area, or if you have communed even once at another congregation, please be sure to have that congregation send notice to Pastor Tom. If you are a contributing member of the congregation, please be sure that **you have used your offering envelopes at least once** this year, so that you are on record as having made a contribution. Please do your part to make sure that our parish records are as accurate as possible!

## PASTORAL ACTS

### At the Font

On Sunday, September 23, Pastor Tom presided at the baptism of **Brady Clark Dresel**, infant son of **Amanda & Jordan Dresel**. The following Sunday, September 30, saw the celebration of the baptism of **Abigail Fawn Bixler**, daughter of **Jason & Sandy Bixler**.

We welcome this new brother and new sister in Christ into the St. John Congregational Family and the Kingdom of God!

### At Graveside

On October 5, while Pastor Tom was out of town, Pastor Mike Petresky of the Halifax Lutheran Parish presided at funeral worship for **Ned Weaver**, who died on September 22, while visiting his son in California. Worship was held at the Hoover-Boyer Funeral Home in Elizabethtown, with interment in Maple Grove Cemetery, also in Elizabethtown.

We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Ned, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to his family and loved ones.

## OUR FAITH ACTIVE IN OUR FINANCIAL GIVING – AS OF SEPTEMBER 30

In recent years, Congregational Council has asked that we all periodically receive an update in the *Epistle* about how we are doing in meeting our ministry commitments adopted in our annual budget.

First, our Current Fund... (The Current Fund is the fund from which most day-to-day bills get paid, much like your home's checking account.) With a little more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the year now gone as of September 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received and spent **\$97,943** out of our total 2012 budget of \$127,326. We have **actually received \$97,858** in offerings and other income, placing us just \$85 under budget. Our **expenses** as of the end of September total **\$96,367** and are \$1,576 under budget. Since we have taken in more than we have spent, we are running a **surplus** of **\$1,491** as of September 30 – as was the case last year at this same time.

As to our benevolence offerings which we share with our Lower Susquehanna Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to be exactly on **budget** as of September 30, we would have received and forwarded **\$9,231** out of our total 2012 commitment of \$12,000. As of September 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of **\$12,627**, meaning that we are **ahead** of our commitment by **\$3,396**.

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of St. John, and for your financial stewardship, as we have now moved past the  $\frac{3}{4}$  point in the year. Please watch for future updates every few months, and please feel free at any time to ask questions of or share ideas with Pastor Tom or any member of Council!

## **NEWS FROM THE GREEN TEAM**

The Green Team invites you to meet with us on December 2, 2012 at 2:00pm to view "Truthland" which is a video on fracking from the industry's point of view. The Green Team previously finished watching "Gasland" which represented the other side of the controversial fracking story and a discussion will follow comparing the information in the two films. As Pastor Tom so aptly put it, "the truth lies somewhere in the middle, and we as Christians are called to try to sort through the self-interest and call on society to move forward in this industry, as in all areas, with justice and care for God's good Creation". Please join us for an educational and informative afternoon.

## **YOUTH GROUP NEWS - NOVEMBER**

November 3 - Youth meet at church at 10:00 AM to prepare for meal on Sunday

November 4 - Chicken & Waffle fundraiser meal after worship service. Watch for announcements on duties and times.

November 18 - Fun event (to be determined)

Also, we had a very busy October and want to thank everyone who helped with our trip to New Windsor, Maryland. We again were able to deliver a truckload of blankets and school kits to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse in New Windsor. From there, they will be shipped throughout the world wherever they are most needed. Thanks for making this a success.

Shannon Motter  
St. Johns Youth Group Vice President



**SUNDAY SERVICE FOR NOVEMBER 2012**

Altar Guild for Month of November

Carol & Dale Hassinger

Lector for Month of November

James Bullock

Ushers for the Month of November are (L) Mary Peters (E) Mike Henninger, Dan and Angela Maurer

**NOVEMBER 4, 2012**

All Saints Sunday

Holy Communion

Congregational Dinner

Sunday School Superintendent-

Larry Gessner

Sunday School Pianist-

Lois Watson

Greeters-

The Jim Watson Family

Acolytes-

Bryce Roadcap & Ryan Henninger

**NOVEMBER 11, 2012**

The 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent-

Lynn Henninger

Sunday School Pianist-

Judy Ferree

Greeters-

The Brian Thompson Family

Acolytes-

Blair Warner & Cameron Thompson

**NOVEMBER 18, 2012**

25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Women's Thankoffering Worship

Sunday School Superintendent-

Jeff Lehman

Sunday School Pianist-

Jean Weaver

Greeters -

Jim & Barb Bullock

Acolytes-

Allison Mace & Kelsey Henninger

**NOVEMBER 25, 2012**

Christ the King

Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-

Jeff Lehman

Sunday School Pianist-

Louise Baumgardner

Greeters-

The Enders Family

Acolytes-

Tyler D'Alesandro & Owen Mattern

# November 2012



**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                              | Sat   |
|--|---|---|--|---|----------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>4 All Saints' Sunday</b><br/>9:00 Sunday School<br/>9:00 Confirmation Class<br/>10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion<br/>11:30 Cong. Dinner served by Youth Group with "State of the Parish" Time of Sharing<br/><b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b></p> | <p><b>5</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR<br/>7:00 Upper Dauphin Conf. Cabinet Mtg at St. Johns<br/>7:30 Dartball Match- St. John at Lyken's United Methodist</p> | <p><b>6</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting<br/>6:15 Sunday School<br/>Teachers &amp; Officers Mtg.<br/>7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal<br/><b>Election Day</b></p>                              | <p><b>7</b> 7:00 Midweek Bible Study</p>   | <p><b>1</b> All Saints Day</p>  | <p><b>2</b></p>                  | <p><b>3</b> 10:00 Youth Group Meets to Prepare for Congregational Dinner<br/>Pastor Tom's Day Off</p> |
| <p><b>11 The 24th Sunday after Pentecost</b><br/>9:00 Sunday School<br/>9:00 Confirmation Class<br/>10:15 Liturgy of the Word<br/>2:00 Congregational Council Mtg.<br/>6:00 Women's Group Meeting<br/><b>Veterans' Day</b></p>                         | <p><b>12</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR<br/>7:30 Dartball Match-Messian Lutheran at St. John</p>   | <p><b>13</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.<br/>1:00 Gathering with Our Residents at the Manor at Susq. Village<br/>7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>14</b> 7:00 -8:30 St. John Hosts Lower Susquehanna Synod "Town Hall" Event</p> | <p><b>15</b></p>  | <p><b>16</b></p>                 | <p><b>17</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>   |
| <p><b>18 The 25th Sunday after Pentecost</b><br/>9:00 Sunday School<br/>9:00 Confirmation Class<br/>10:15 Annual Thankoffering Worship, Led by the Women of St. John<br/>6:00-8:00 Youth Group "Fun Night"</p>   | <p><b>19</b> 9:00 Blanket Making<br/>7:30 Dartball Match- St. Christopher Lutheran at St. John</p>  | <p><b>20</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.<br/>6:15 Worship &amp; Music Mtg.<br/>7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal<br/><i>Deadline to Submit Items for December/January -St. John's Epistle</i></p> | <p><b>21</b> 7:00 Berksburg Area Thanksgiving Worship at St. John</p>                | <p><b>22</b> Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off<br/>Thanksgiving Day</p> | <p><b>23</b></p>                 | <p><b>24</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>   |
| <p><b>25 Christ the King</b><br/>9:00 Sunday School<br/>9:00 Confirmation Class<br/>10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion</p>  | <p><b>26</b> Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day<br/>No Dartball Match</p>   | <p><b>27</b> Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day</p>   | <p><b>28</b> Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day</p>                                      | <p><b>29</b></p>  | <p><b>30</b> Andrew, Apostle</p> |   |

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2012*

The Council Meeting was called to order by Vice President John Ferree.

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Mike Henninger, Karen Gehring, Carol Hassinger, Kris Kell, Craig Peters, John Ferree and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences – Darrell Denlinger, Jamie Doyle, Jim Watson, Pat Herb and Mary Peters

Motion by Craig Peters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Gehring to accept the July Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:** Copy of the place mat advertisement from the Hut for a six month period for \$145.00 was presented.

Pastor Tom presented a letter of resignation from Pastor Jan Mills, Klingerstown Parish. They will have an interim Pastor commuting from Lebanon. The candidate for the Simeon Lutheran Church, Gratz was not agreed upon, Pastor Kathy Kuehl is covering.

St. John's was asked to host a Town Hall meeting by the conference Wednesday November 14<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm until 8:30pm. Attending will be representatives from the synod council, Bishop Hoover's office, 5-6 presenters, and approximately 50-75 people, with the refreshments provided by the Women's group.

VFW post on the Speck Town Road is looking for names of families who may be in need. They decided instead of Holiday hams for needy families, they will be giving a \$25.00 gift card to Boyer's. There will be 10 of them, and they will be accepting applications until the end of October, with the gift cards expiring by the end of November.

Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Sudanese group is in need of support for members to attend Gettysburg Seminary. They are seeking a Mission Partner and will be grateful for any support the parish is willing to provide. It was discussed using the Local benevolence fund to donate a gift of love to be discussed at the next meeting.

Frontier supplies the church internet and landlines, with the 2 year plan ending a three year plan was available at a similar rate (minimal increase). The elevator line would increase a few dollars, although it is comparable to the previous bill.

Collection for a donation ALS Walk, although no team will be marching Sandy's Angles will still continue. Money can be sent to Steve in Sandy's memory. It was

discussed using the Bicentennial fund and individual donations. A note will be in the newsletter and bulletin.

**Pastor's Report:** Motion by Mike Henninger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Gehring to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Reports:** Motion by Craig Peters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Gehring to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Church Property:** Repair work when sextons moved in and from storm

**Finance Committee:** Meeting for 2013 budget on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm for preparation of budget

**Worship & Music:** New Albs for Pastor & Jim in process and will be coming

**Christian Education:** August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting-discussed: Sunday school for summer, Promotion Sunday; working on generating enthusiasm for Jim's class; and earlier summer schedule for next Summer. Motion by Christian Education for the earlier schedule for next summer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carol Hassinger.

**Stewardship:** No report

**Evangelism committee:** No report-meeting upcoming in early October

**Youth Ministry:** Met today 16 youth members and 2 friends

**Mutual Ministry:** Heating situation discussed-Carol brought her own oscillating fan.

**Executive:** No report

**Nominating:** No report-getting under way

**History Committee:** End of recipients of patrons

**Green Team:** Meeting will be held 2 weeks from tonight

**Other Reports: Strawberry Festival Committee:** Went over quantities of items and updated sheet. Discussed replacing the cashiers stand, changing of the location of stand and picnic tables. The video is moving forward and will be worked on over Christmas break.

**Unfinished Business: None**

**New Business:** Sextons mowing the grass on Sundays will be discussed with them.



World Hunger In Gathering Day is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in October (21<sup>st</sup>) it was discussed to give 10% to Bread for the World (influence policy decisions for food savvy world). The Malaria campaign was discussed and tabled until the next meeting.

**Next Council Meeting:** Oct. 14, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church

**Adjournment:** Motion by Mike Henninger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Gehring to adjourn at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kris Kell, Assistant Secretary

Treasurers Report for July 2012

|               | Prior Balance | Receipts  | Expenses  | EOM       |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Current       | 8,066.37      | 10,867.07 | 12,081.91 | 6,851.53  |
| Benevolence   | 1679.00       | 1,744.80  | 1,679.00  | 65.83     |
| Memorial      | 32,490.99     | 1,043.99  | -         | 33,534.98 |
| Improvement   | 2,848.91      | 835.00    | 26.74     | 3,657.17  |
| Bicent CkAcct | 18,048.70     | 6100.00   | 535.75    | 20,612.95 |
| Bicent Svngs  | 5,300.19      | -         | -         | 5,300.19  |
| Flower        | 11.31         | 235.00    | 141.95    | 104.36    |

Treasurers Report for August 2012

|               | Prior Balance | Receipts | Expenses | EOM       |
|---------------|---------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Current       | 6,851.53      | 9,101.74 | 9,719.94 | 6,233.33  |
| Benevolence   | 65.83         | 1,425.83 | 1,360.00 | 65.86     |
| Memorial      | 33,534.98     | 748.53   | -        | 34,283.51 |
| Improvement   | 3,657.17      | 453.00   | 2,459.02 | 1,651.15  |
| Bicent CkAcct | 20,612.95     | 121.43   | 00.00    | 20,734.38 |
| Bicent Svngs  | 5,300.19      | -        | -        | 5,300.19  |
| Flower        | 104.36        | 105.00   | 130.00   | 79.36     |

| Date        | CHALLENGE                                    | SURVEY                 | SAMPLER             |
|-------------|--|------------------------|---------------------|
| November 1  | Ezra 6:1--7:28                               | Ezra 3:8-13            | Ezra 7:27-28        |
| November 2  | Ezra 8:15--9:15                              | Ezra 7:21-38           | Ezra 9:15           |
| November 3  | Ezra 10:1-19                                 | Nehemiah 2:1-8         | Nehemiah 2:3-8      |
| November 4  | Nehemiah 1:1--2:20                           | Nehemiah 2:11-20       | Nehemiah 2:17       |
| November 5  | Psalms 142, 143, 145                         | Nehemiah 4:7-23        | Psalms 145:4-7      |
| November 6  | Nehemiah 3:1--4:23                           | Nehemiah 5:1-12        | Nehemiah 4:1-5      |
| November 7  | Nehemiah 5:1--7:4                            | Nehemiah 5:14-19       | Nehemiah 6:15-16    |
| November 8  | Nehemiah 8:1-18                              | Nehemiah 6:1-16        | Nehemiah 8:1-3      |
| November 9  | Nehemiah 9:1-38; 10:28-39                    | 2 Thessalonians 3:5-13 | Nehemiah 9:1-3      |
| November 10 | Nehemiah 11:1-2; 12:27-47                    | Ephesians 4:1-7        | Nehemiah 12:27      |
| November 11 | Nehemiah 13:1-31                             | Psalms 84:1-12         | Nehemiah 13:30-31   |
| November 12 | Psalms 146, 147                              | Psalms 146:1-10        | Psalms 147:1-6      |
| November 13 | Habakkuk 1:1--3:19                           | Habakkuk 2:1-4         | Habakkuk 2:4        |
| November 14 | Zephaniah 1:1--3:20                          | Zephaniah 2:1-4        | Zephaniah 3:19-20   |
| November 15 | Haggai 1:1--2:23                             | Haggai 1:1-15          | Haggai 2:6-7        |
| November 16 | Zechariah 8:20--11:3 skim 14                 | Zechariah 14:1-9       | Zechariah 10:8-9,12 |
| November 17 | Zechariah 11:4--14:21 Skim 5-7               | Malachi 4:1-5          | Zechariah 14:9      |
| November 18 | Malachi 3:1--4:6                             | Matthew 24:3-14        | Malachi 2:10        |
| November 19 | Psalms 148, 149, 150                         | Psalms 150:1-6         | Psalms 150:1-6      |
| November 20 | Revelation 1:1-20 skim 8-9                   | Revelation 1:1-8       | Revelation 1:1-3    |
| November 21 | Revelation 2:1--3:22 skim 10-11              | Revelation 3:14-22     | Revelation 1:4-5a   |
| November 22 | Revelation 4:1--5:14 skim 12-13              | Revelation 7:9-17      | Revelation 3:20     |
| November 23 | Revelation 6:1--7:17 skim 14-15              | Revelation 21:1-8      | Revelation 4:11     |
| November 24 | Revelation 20:1--21:8 skim 16-17             | Ephesians 6:10-18a     | Revelation 21:1-14  |
| November 25 | Revelation 21:9-22:21 skim 18-19             | Philippians 1:3-11     | Revelation 22:16    |
| November 26 | Beginning of New Year of Daily Bible Reading |                        |                     |
| November 27 | Psalms 1,2,4; Proverbs 1:1-19                | Luke 1:26-38           | Psalms 24:8-10      |
| November 28 |  |                        |                     |
| November 29 |  |                        |                     |
| November 30 |  |                        |                     |

***Note from Pastor Tom: This marks the official end of our three-year program of Bible reading commitment and emphasis, but it shouldn't in any way mean any lessening in our Bible reading! If you have enjoyed the discipline of reading through the entire Bible in a year, and have a Lutheran Study Bible, you will find the three tracks we have been using, slightly modified, in the back of your Bible. We also have available quarterly devotional booklets, provided by Sunday School, that provide a framework for daily Bible reading that is tied to the lessons we use in worship each Sunday. If you are at a loss about how to carry on, please give me a call or email me, and I can share some ideas with you. I have enjoyed and been inspired by the reports that I have received from many of you over the past three years about what daily Bible reading means in your faith journey. Let's keep up the good work, and keep following in the footsteps of our ancestor Martin Luther, by being devoted students of Holy Scripture!***



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**PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor [stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com](mailto:stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com).....362-9519 (O)  
 362-7895 (H)  
 Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email).....319-0703  
 Judith Ferree, Organist [jjferree@epix.net](mailto:jjferree@epix.net).....362-4228  
 Sandra Paul, Secretary [rbpaul@epix.net](mailto:rbpaul@epix.net).....362-4117  
 James Watson, Council President [loisbull17@gmail.com](mailto:loisbull17@gmail.com).....362-3247  
 Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 362-9108

\* \* \* \* \*

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)



**book of faith**  
 Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Parish Website: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)  
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Other Websites of Interest: Ev. Lutheran Church in America [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)  
 Lower Susquehanna Synod [www.lss-elca.org](http://www.lss-elca.org)

