



**SAINT JOHN'S  
EPISTLE  
NOVEMBER 2013**

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

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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

It is that time again! On **All Saints Sunday, November 3**, 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. You won't want to miss this great annual meal, as well as the fellowship and sharing that goes with it!

As our eating concludes, you also won't want to miss the brief time of sharing and reflection that will follow, centered on the work thus far of our Prayerful Planning Group. As I was reminding you in my letter in last month's *Epistle*, the Prayerful Planning Group is the group of folks who assembled for the first time in January in response to a long-running bulletin and newsletter invitation for members of the St. John congregational family who would be interested in coming together to give prayerful consideration to our present building facilities and what God might be calling us to be and do in this regard. But, as you may recall from last month, when we first gathered, we quickly found that God had bigger plans for this group than being simply about "bricks and mortar".

By the beginning of summer, we had identified four top goals as our focus: **1. Growing our participation in Christian Education, especially Sunday School, 2. Having a facility that will lead to greater community presence and involvement here on The Hill, 3. Assuring the continuity of our annual Strawberry Festival, and 4. Strengthening the Sunday morning greeter ministry.** Over the summer, the whole Group broke up into four sub-groups to work on these four goals, and then, when we came back together at the end of September, we realized that it was time to share where we are with the whole congregation, seeking your feedback and ideas.

On November 3, each of the four smaller sub-groups will share a very brief report of the strategies they are tentatively proposing for addressing their assigned goal, and we will then open things up for discussion and reactions. We want to allow enough time, but we won't drag things out either – we will get you on your way promptly.

It is the feeling of the Prayerful Planning Group that we are at a kind of "crossroads" as a congregational family. We have been very blessed, and our congregational life together is a healthy and vibrant one, but that is all the more reason to be actively looking ahead to where God is leading us, rather than using it as an excuse to simply drift. The members of the Prayerful Planning Group have indeed been "thinking outside the box" - or, to put it in the language of Jesus, we have been doing our best to avoid "putting new wine in old wineskins". We believe it may be time for some leaps of faith, and that is exciting. We look forward to sharing the excitement with all of you, our congregational family members, on November 3!

**Pastor Tom**

## **BISHOP DUNLOP TO VISIT UPPER DAUPHIN CONFERENCE**

Our recently-installed Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop James Dunlop will be spending the afternoon and evening in our Conference on Monday, November 18. He will be meeting with Pastor Tom and the other pastors of the conference during the afternoon, and will be present at 7:00 P.M. that evening to share in the Conference Cabinet meeting, which will be held at Zion Lutheran, just off Route 209 in Rife. All interested persons are cordially invited to attend the cabinet meeting for a time of sharing and questions and answers with Bishop Dunlop.

## **COME AND WORSHIP!**

Our annual Berrysburg Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service will be held on Wednesday, November 27, at 7:00 P.M. at New Hope in Christ at Maranatha Chapel in Berrysburg. Pastor Jeff Wagner will preach, while host Pastor Frank Egresites and Pastor Tom lead the worship. Please don't miss this opportunity to worship and give thanks with your Christian neighbors!

## **YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

Come out and join us!

Our annual *Halloween Party* and Hay Ride will be **October 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 P. M.**, youth members, please bring a snack, we will be providing the hot dogs.

On **Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - at 10:00 A.M.** youth group members will meet at the church to prepare for Chicken and Waffle Dinner.

**Sunday, November 3** – The Congregation is invited for our Annual **Chicken and Waffle Dinner**. Youth group members, please remember to bring a dessert and be at the church by 8:30A.M. Dinner is after church.

**Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** – Youth group members will be going to Bounce Plex, check the bulletin for time.

## **UPDATE TO HIGHER EDUCATION LIST**

In our listing of congregational students in last month's *Epistle*, **Kristen Spicher** was accidentally missed. While being employed full time, Kristen is also working on completing her BS in Nursing at the PA College of Health Sciences in Lancaster. Please be sure to update your list!

## **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!

## **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.

Regarding 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 three quarters of the year's Sundays behind us as of September 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received and spent three quarters of our total 2013 budget of \$129,586, or **\$97,189**. We have **actually received \$94,104** in offerings and other income, placing us \$3,085 behind our budget goal. Our **expenses** as of the end of September total **\$90,428** and are \$6,761 under budget. Since we have taken in more than we have spent, we are running a **surplus** of **\$3,676** as of September 30 – the best bottom line result at September 30 that we have had in recent history. (While a surplus is always financially good news, it is important to remember that our expenses being so far under budget at September 30 is mostly a result of the timing of our expenses, with some large bills that don't hit until the end of the year. The reality is that we have a very tight budget, with very little in the way of cushion, so we will almost certainly have expenses which equal our budget by December 31, and we will want to be working together to keep our giving on track.)

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 **\$9,000** or three quarters of our total 2013 commitment of \$12,000. As of September 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of **\$10,369**, meaning that we are **ahead** of our commitment by **\$1,369**.

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of St. John, and for your financial stewardship. 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!

## ST JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA

At our October Meeting, we elected the following people:

Secretary – Rachel Henry

Assistant Secretary - Ginny Enders

Treasurer – Barbara Bullock

Assistant Treasurer – Pat Herb

Congratulations to all.

I want to say a big “Thank you” to all who have continued to make shawls for our Shawl Ministry. On October 13<sup>th</sup> Pastor blessed another 13 shawls. Continue the good work. If you wish to make a change in our booklet please remember to contact Pat Herb before December 1, 2013. Also, the Blanket Bunch is in need of someone to hem the quilts. If you are interested please contact Pat Herb. These can be hemmed at home or at the church, a sewing machine is available for use.

Our next meeting is on November 19, at 6:00 P. M. in the fellowship room.

The leaders will be: Fay Nichols and Ginny Enders.

Hope to see you there.

Fay Nichols; President

### GRACE AT EVENING

*For all the beauties of the day,  
The innocence of childhood's play,  
For health and strength and laughter sweet,  
Dear Lord, our thanks we now repeat.*

*Grant, when the shades of night shall fall,  
Sweet be the dreams of one and all;  
And when another day shall break  
Unto Thy service may we wake.*

### COMFORT

*When your heart is sad and lonely,  
And your friends seem far away,  
Turn to Him Who is all holy,  
And He'll drive your cares away.*

*When a dear one seems to fail you,  
When for friendship true you long,  
Confide in Him Who is all true,  
And He'll right your every wrong.*

*Jesus' heart is your true refuge,  
To Him you can always flee,  
Even when your hopes are sinking,  
He will then a True Friend be.*

*He will soothe your lonely spirit,  
He will love and bless and say,  
“Come to Me and I will comfort  
You, today and every day.”*



**SUNDAY SERVICE FOR NOVEMBER 2013**

Altar Guild for Month of November

Carol & Dale Hassinger

Lector for Month of November

James Bullock

Ushers for the Month of November are (L) Sandra Shade (E) John Ferree, Dan and Angela Maurer

**NOVEMBER 3, 2013**

All Saints Sunday  
Holy Communion  
Congregational Dinner

Sunday School Superintendent- Jeff Lehman  
Sunday School Pianist- Judy Ferree  
Greeters- Ann Bruner & Fay Nichols  
Acolytes- Kelsey Henninger & R.J. Henry

**NOVEMBER 10, 2013**

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller  
Sunday School Pianist- Jean Weaver  
Greeters- Mike & Carol Hubler  
Acolytes- Tyler D'Alesandro & Cameron Thompson

**NOVEMBER 17, 2013**

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

Sunday School Superintendent- Fay Nichols  
Sunday School Pianist- Louise Baumgardner  
Greeters - The Tim Motter Family  
Acolytes- Ryan Henninger & Owen Mattern

**NOVEMBER 24, 2013**

Christ the King

Sunday School Superintendent- Larry Gessner  
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul  
Greeters- Gary & Betty Leitzel  
Acolytes- Cameron Thompson & Katherine Gessner

# November 2013



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> All Saints Day	<b>2</b> 10:00 Youth Group Meets to Prepare for Congregational Dinner Pastor Tom's Day Off
<b>3</b> All Saints' Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 11:30 Cong. Dinner served by Youth Group with Congregational Discussion and Sharing to follow <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match- St. John at Lyken's United Methodist	<b>5</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Prayerful Planning Group Gathering 8:00 Sr. Choir Rehearsal <b>Election Day</b>	<b>6</b> 6:30-8:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East 7:00-9:00 Men's Prayer Group Meets at Church - Please contact Ray Matter for more information Pastor Tom's Day Off
<b>10</b> The 25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 6:00 Women's Group Meeting 7:30 Congregational Council Mtg. <b>Martin Luther's Birthday (1483)</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match-Messiah Lutheran at St. John <b>Veterans' Day</b>	<b>12</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 1:00 Gathering with Our Residents at the Manor at Susq. Village 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 6:30-8:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off
<b>17</b> The 26th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 6:00-9:00 Youth Group "Fun Night"	<b>18</b> 9:00 Blanket Making 3:00-5:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. With Bishop James Dunlop 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conf. Cabinet at Zion Lutheran, Rite - with Lower Susq. Synod Bishop Dunlop 7:30 Dartball Match- St. Christopher at St. John	<b>19</b> Pastor Tom Will Not be having Office Hours 6:15 Worship & Music Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 6:30-8:00 Midweek Bible Study <i>Deadline to Submit Items for December/January -St. John's Epistle</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off
<b>24</b> Christ the King 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Annual Thankoffering Worship, Led by the Women of St. John (Pastor Tom will be on the road as the Guest Preacher at St. Matthew Lutheran, Parkside, PA)	<b>25</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Dartball Match - St. John at Valleys E.C. Church, Halfax	<b>26</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 7:00 Berryburg Area Thanksgiving Worship at New Hope in Christ at Maranatha Chapel, Berryburg	<b>28</b> Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Andrew, Apostle Pastor Tom's Day Off

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
September 8, 2013*

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

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, John Ferree, Karen Gehring, Carol Hassinger, Kris Kell, Ken Koller, Eric Mattern, Craig Peters, Sandra Shade, Cheryl Shadle and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences – Jim Watson

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

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:** Bergey Water Treatment completed 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter sample and did not charge us (\$155 per quarter normally).

Holly and Corey Scheib replaced a box fan that had been damaged.

The Prayer shawl ministry of the Women's Group continues to be very successful. The Women's group is now suggesting a "Care" bear instead of a shawl for little children within the congregation (up to 5<sup>th</sup> grade).

Portico Health insurance has implemented 4 possible options for 2014: Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels. Gold is most similar to what Pastor has had historically. ELCA is recommending congregations select Gold which would result in an increase of approx. \$850 due to regulatory changes. If Pastor's future 2014 salary increase stays within the 2014 guidelines, there would be a further increase of \$500. Motion by Craig Peters and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Doyle to select the Gold plan for 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

**Pastor's Report:** Motion by Carol Hassinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kris Kell to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

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

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Church Property:** Ceiling fan installation should occur shortly.

**Finance Committee:** Next meeting 10/21 at 6pm

**Worship & Music:** Discussion on possibility of rededication of church organ at next meeting.

**Christian Education:** Square dance at Helen & Lynn Henninger's – 9/29.  
Walk in the Woods 10/6 on Millersburg Ferry.  
Continue to focus on strengthening attendance at Sunday School.

**Stewardship:** No report

**Evangelism:** Met 8/20 and next meeting is 10/15

**Youth Ministry:** 9/8 Kickoff meeting was a very successful pool party at the home of Dennis & Mary Ann Smeltz from 3-6pm. 10 Youth attended. Shannon Motter was elected President for 2013-14.

**Mutual Ministry:** Met in July, next meeting in October.

**Executive:** No report

**Nominating:** No report

**History Committee:** The history booklet are receiving the final editing. Books may possibly be available for the holidays.

**Green Team:** No report

**Other Reports: Prayerful Planning Group-** 9/30 is next meeting from 6:30-8:30.

**Unfinished Business:** Mission Statement to be discussed for approval at October's meeting.

Strawberry Festival meeting will be 3/4/14.

**New Business:** Discussion on amount and requirements for proposed scholarships for graduating, baptized, active members of St. John. Council will give prayerful consideration until next meeting.

Suggestion to Property Committee to mount brackets for the hymnals for the row of seats at the very back of the church.

**Next Council Meeting:** October 13, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ken Koller, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karen Gehring to adjourn at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Doyle, Secretary



## Treasurers Report for

July 2013

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	7,524.67	8,746.26	10,271.31	5,999.62
Benevolence	53.61	1,322.03	1,322.00	53.64
Memorial	24,523.83	1,085.83	-	25,609.66
Improvement	4,748.40	437.00	125.00	5,060.40
Bicent CkAcct	19,992.69	6,201.08	1,567.46	24,626.31
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	27.51	135.00	35.00	127.51

August 2013

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	5,999.62	8,138.21	8,692.09	5,445.74
Benevolence	53.64	2,037.00	2,037.00	53.64
Memorial	25,609.66	730.00	-	26,339.66
Improvement	5,060.40	490.00	3,570.86	1,979.54
Bicent CkAcct	24,626.31	1.04	650.00	23,977.91
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	127.51	140.00	105.00	162.51

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED  
 BERRYBURG, PA 17005  
 P.O. BOX 270

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

**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)



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)