

**SAINT JOHN'S  
EPISTLE  
NOVEMBER 2014**

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

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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

In this month where we especially think of giving thanks for our food and the bounties of God's Good Earth, I wanted to take some time to "talk food" with you!

For some time now, our congregation has been taking part in the ecumenical "Free Community Dinner" ministry, whereby, as its name suggests, a time of food, fellowship and devotions is shared with those in need once each month – usually on the fourth Thursday. For ease of access, this meal is always an "in town" event, taking place at either Salem United Church of Christ or Trinity United Methodist on Main Street in Elizabethville. Since we can't host one of these meals, we have been actively involved from the beginning in providing financial support, as well as some great cooking and serving by **Fay Nichols** and **Randy Challenger**. (If you would like to find out about how you can help with these meals, please speak with Fay or me.)

Now, there is a new ecumenical ministry, called the *Weekend Snack Pack Program*, which will soon be providing food support each weekend for children in the Upper Dauphin Area Elementary School who depend on free or reduced price school lunches as a major source of nutrition during the school week, and who are at risk of hunger on days when school is not in session.

Very tentative projections show that there may be as many as 80 children in need in this way, but the final number of children being served will depend on how many parents/guardians give their approval for their student(s) to participate and receive food.

Working through the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank to purchase food items, it appears that the annual cost per sponsored child will be less than \$100 – again only an estimate which is very tentative.

Space at the elementary school outside Loyaltown for storage and preparation of the food for distribution has been approved by school administrators, so this will greatly simplify the delivery and disbursement of the food.

As a result of decisions made at the organizing meeting held on October 1, I am very pleased to report that our congregational family is well represented in the leadership of this ministry. **Barb Bullock**, who originally heard God's call to explore the need for this ministry, was elected Chairperson of the Steering Committee. **Sandra Shade**, with her extensive financial experience, was elected Treasurer and will be administering a dedicated account that has been established under the financial auspices of our congregation. **Pat Herb** will serve as a member of the Steering Committee – in particular as a liaison with the Central PA Food Bank. At least seven local christian congregations are represented on the Steering Committee and the larger Planning Group. *This Planning Group, by the way, will meet again on Monday, October 27, at 6:30 P.M. in the Upper Dauphin Area Elementary School library. If you are reading these lines prior to this day and time, please know that you are welcome to come and give input at this gathering!*

Going forward, volunteers to handle the food and financial support will be the principal needs of the *Weekend Snack Pack Program*. Please "stay tuned" for opportunities to serve, and please remember in your prayers those children in need who will be served, as well as those whom God will be calling on to do the serving!

**Pastor Tom**

## **BRING YOUR APPETITES AND YOUR IDEAS!**

Following what has become an annual tradition, on All Saints Sunday, November 2, following worship, we will gather downstairs for a 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 approach the end of another Church Year and another calendar year. Pastor Tom and the members of the three Prayerful Planning Group ministry teams will have some things to share, but please bring your ideas and your questions about any aspect of our life as a congregational family!

## **PASTOR TOM TO LEAD INQUIRER'S CLASS**

An Inquirer's Class will be held at the church on Sunday, November 9, from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M. This class is designed for those who are either thinking about or planning on joining the congregation, as well as current congregational members who desire a bit of a refresher in the basics of Lutheran Christian history and belief. Simply speak with Pastor Tom any time prior to the class to register. New members will be received later in November or early in December.

## **THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE!**

Our annual Berrysburg Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service will be held on Wednesday, November 26, at 7:00 P.M. at Peace United Church of Christ in Berrysburg. Pastor Tom will preach, while host Pastor Jeff Wagner and Pastor Frank Egresites lead the worship. Please don't miss this opportunity to worship and give thanks with your Christian neighbors!

## **“FIGHT FOR BRIAN” CAMPAIGN TO SOON WRAP UP**

*Fight for Brian* wristbands are still available for \$1 each in the Sunday School Room (and in several other locations in our local community). As you hopefully recall, the goal of this project, created and organized by Marlee Mattern, is to raise a total of \$1,500 from the sale of 1,000 wristbands and other donations above and beyond the \$1 per band. (As these lines are written in mid-October, we are rapidly closing in on this goal, and will shortly begin wrapping up the campaign.) A 1/3 match has been made available to us by the Dauphin County Chapter of Thrivent Financial, which will result in \$500 additional if we can raise the \$1,500. At the request of Brian and Jodi, half of the money raised – hopefully \$750 – will be given to leukemia research (from which Brian has benefited so much), while the remaining half, plus the matching funds, will be given to the Thompson's. Since the money raised will be routed through our Local Benevolence Fund, please make checks payable to “St. John Lutheran Church” and note on your check “Fight for Brian”. *When you stop by the Sunday School Room, you will find an informative display, created by Marlee, that includes information on becoming a bone marrow donor (much simpler than you would imagine!). In addition, while you are purchasing your wristband, you can also prepare a “Note of Hope” for Brian.* Please see Marlee or Pastor Tom with any questions.

## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

On October 13<sup>th</sup> several youth and Pastor Tom traveled to Maryland to deliver the school kits and blankets our youth and church members put together. On October 26<sup>th</sup> the youth sponsored Halloween party was held for the church congregation from 4-6 P.M.

The youth will meet on November 1<sup>st</sup> at 10 A.M. to prepare for the chicken and waffle dinner on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The dinner will be held immediately after worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> for all interested members of the congregation. This will be a fundraiser for the youth group. On November 16<sup>th</sup> the youth group is planning a Fun Night. The activity will be determined at a later meeting. Logan Maurer, Youth Group Vice President

## NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Our next meeting will be on November 9, 2014 at 6:00 PM. The Leaders for the month are Amy Gehring and Pat Herb. We will be electing a President, Vice-President and Christian Action Chairperson. If you are interested in placing your name on the ballot please contact Gail Billow or Lorraine Henninger.

Remember to keep up your crocheting ladies. There is plenty of yarn at the church to use. Also we have started quilting again and although we have some material to put together we do not have a lot; so if you know of anyone that has some please let Fay Nichols know.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!!!

## 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 Altar

On Saturday, October 4, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Kerilyn Schaeffer & Nicholas Kramer** at Freedom Park in Millersville. We pray God's blessing on these young persons, that they may be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Carrie Schlegel**, who received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Psychology on June 11 from Argosy University. Carrie also earned a Minor in Substance Abuse, all while working full time and being a busy Mom. Congratulations and well done!

## 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  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our total 2014 budget of \$133,608, or **\$100,206**. We have **actually received \$91,766** in offerings and other income, leaving us about \$8,400 behind our budget goal. (After a January and February that saw some of our worst results ever, due to wintry weather and sickness, you may recall that we had improved quite a bit with our offerings by June 30. Then, in July, August, and September, we saw a backsliding in our giving, taking us back closer to where we were at the end of the winter.) Our **expenses** as of the end of September total **\$97,611** and are about \$2,600 under budget – pretty typical for September 30. The bottom line is that, since we have spent more than we have taken in, we are running a **deficit of about \$5,800** as of September 30. (Please note that this does not in any way mean that we are about to run out of money. We are fortunate and blessed to have the interest from our Memorials Fund to fall back on when such shortfalls occur. But please consider what our giving says about our joy and gratitude to God for first giving us all that we are and have – we can do better!)

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  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our total 2014 commitment of \$12,000. As of September 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of **\$9,837**, meaning that we are **ahead** of our commitment by **\$837**.

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!



**SUNDAY SERVICE FOR NOVEMBER 2014**

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) Sandra Lamenza, Dan and Angela Maurer

**NOVEMBER 2, 2014**

All Saints Sunday  
Holy Communion  
Congregational Dinner

Sunday School Superintendent- Fay Nichols  
Sunday School Pianist- Jean Weaver  
Greeters- Mike & Carol Hubler  
Acolytes- Aidan Roadcap & R.J. Henry

**NOVEMBER 9, 2014**

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent- Larry Gessner  
Sunday School Pianist- Louise Baumgardner  
Greeters- The Tim Motter Family  
Acolytes- McKenzie Lower & Reyann Cheatham

**NOVEMBER 16, 2014**

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent- Jeff Lehman  
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul  
Greeters - Gary & Betty Leitzel  
Acolytes- Gracie & Gabe Gehring

**NOVEMBER 23, 2014**

Christ the King  
Women's Thankoffering Worship

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller  
Sunday School Pianist- Carol Hubler  
Greeters- The Eric Mattern Family  
Acolytes- Eli Conte & Kelsey Henninger

**NOVEMBER 30, 2014**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent- Fay Nichols  
Sunday School Pianist- Lois Watson  
Greeters- The D'Alesandro Family  
Acolytes- Ryan Henninger & Cameron Thompson

# November 2014



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>2 All Saints' Sunday</b> 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration of First Holy Communion 11:30 Cong. Dinner served by Youth Group with Congregational Discussion and Sharing to follow <b>Daylight Saving Time Ends</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:00-7:15 Mtg. of Study/ Search Team for Children's Youth Ministry 7:30 Dartball Match- Messiah Lutheran at St. John</p>	<p><b>4</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal <b>Election Day</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 11:00-1:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:30-8:00 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>1</b> All Saints Day 10:00 Youth Group meets to prepare for congregational dinner - Pastor Tom's Day Off</p> <p><b>8</b> 7:00-9:00 Men's Prayer Group Meets at Church - Please contact Ray Matter for more information Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p><b>9</b> The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 4:00-6:00 Inquirer's Class 6:00 Women's Group Meeting 7:30 Congregational Council Mtg. <b>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</b></p>	<p><b>10</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match- St. Christopher at St. John <b>Martin Luther's Birthday (1483)</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:00 Gathering for All Interested Person to Finalize Plans for Our Annual Advent/Christmas Program 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal <b>Veterans' Day</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 6:30-8:00 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>13</b> 1:30 Pastor Tom Leads Worship at Polk Assisted Living in Millersburg</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p><b>16</b> The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word with Young Person's Worship Youth Group "Fun Night" TBD</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9:00 Blanket Making 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conf. Cabinet at St. Christopher's Lykens 7:30 Dartball Match- St. John's at Valleys Church Halifax</p>	<p><b>18</b> 1:00 Gathering with our Residents at the Manor at Susq. Village 6:15 Worship &amp; Music Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>19</b> 6:30-8:00 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Deadline to Submit Items for December/January -St. John's Epistle"</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p><b>23</b> Christ the King 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Annual Thankoffering Worship, Led by the Women of St. John Including</p>	<p><b>24</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Dartball Match - Faith United Methodist at St.</p>	<p><b>25</b> 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>26</b> 7:00 Berrysburg Area Thanksgiving Worship at Peace United Church of Christ <b>Berrysburg Pastor Tom Speaking</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off <b>Thanksgiving Day</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p><b>30</b> The 1st Sunday of Advent/Andrew, Apostle 9:00 Preparation Begins for our Annual Advent Christmas Program 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word <b>Steeple Stars are Lighted</b></p>						

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes  
September 14, 2014*

The Council Meeting was called to order by Vice President Jeff Lehman.

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, Lorraine Henninger, Roy Henry, Ken Koller, Sandra Lamenza, Jeff Lehman, Cheryl Shadle and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences — Carol Hassinger, Eric Mattern, Sandra Shade, Jim Watson

Motion by Cheryl Shadle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lorraine Henninger to accept July Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reception of Petitions and Communications:**

Deibler, Straub & Troutman statement of property value (3% increase) for coverage. Total valuation of church property at \$3,206,509. Motion by Sandra Lamenza, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Koller to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Received thank you from World Hunger Appeal.

John & Helen Shade have 2 photos of John's grandparents which they are willing to donate to the Elizabethtown Historical Society. John's grandfather was the last Bender who founded Elizabethtown and his grandmother was an Enderline.

Request from Jeff Buffington to celebrate his son's marriage here next summer, July 11, 2015. Motion by Lorraine Henninger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jamie Doyle to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Tammi, our sexton, will be away from 9/25/14-9/30/14 for her son's graduation from basic training in IL. Duties have been worked out with substitutes.

Heating oil – Shuey & Co have a prepayment offer where the price can be locked in at \$3.259 for church. Currently costs \$3.08 at Snyder's so we're not going to prepay. We'll pay the market rate as we go. Going to fill up with Snyder's now.

**Pastor's Report:** Motion by Roy Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Koller to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

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

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Church Property:** Ceiling fans are installed and working in the sanctuary. Next meeting at end of September.

**Finance Committee:** Budget meeting on 10/13/14

**Worship & Music:** Meeting 9/16/14

**Christian Education:** Met in August and got organized for Sunday School.

**Stewardship:** No report

**Evangelism:** Next meeting Oct.

**Youth Ministry:** Good kick off event today at home of Dennis and Marianne Smeltz. 6 are signed up the National Youth Gathering in Detroit for 2015.

Newly elected officers are as follows:

President = Marlee Mattern

VP = Logan Maurer

Treasurer = Zach Thompson

Secretary = Ryan Henninger

Historian/Webmaster = Allison Mace

**Mutual Ministry:** Next meeting in October

**Executive:** No report

**Nominating:** Working on Church Council nominations

**History Committee:** ELCA Region 8 archives sent correspondence regarding our inquiry as to St. John material and gathering copies for our archives. They have copies of 2 parish registers (1780-1848) and (1836-1881) which were placed there in 1968 which they are willing to return to us since we are still an active congregation. Pastor Tom will send an email of consent and Sandra Lamenza will pick them up.

Gettysburg Seminary records are separate and they are scanning items to be made available online. Sandra Lamenza will contact them to get copies of any of our documents.

**Green Team:** Next field trip in conjunction with Walk in the Woods on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Other reports:** Prayerful Planning Group continues to meet. Meeting with Charlie Roberts to discuss topic of Youth Leader.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Next Council Meetings:** October 12, 2014 at 7:30pm.



**Adjournment:** Motion by Lorraine Henninger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheryl Shadle to adjourn at 8:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

### Treasurers Report for

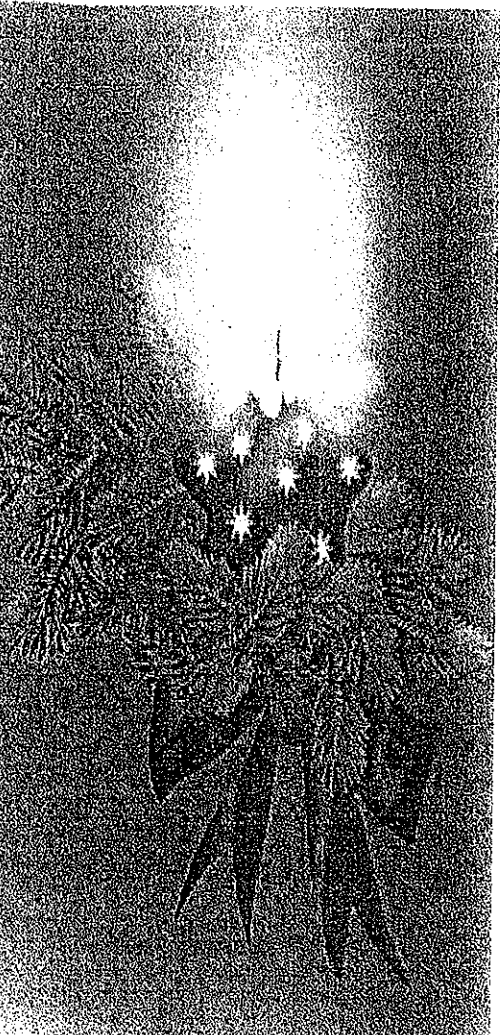
	July 2014			
	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	4,573.36	7,993.59	9,416.44	3,150.51
Benevolence	54.09	1,019.03	1,019.00	54.12
Memorial	27,862.17	4,661.48	950.00	31,573.65
Improvement	6,757.81	402.00	885.62	6,274.19
Bicent CkAcct	30,522.69	233.80	2,338.77	28,417.72
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	298.86	35.00	68.00	265.86

### Treasurers Report for

	August 2014			
	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	3,150.51	10,286.67	8,909.62	4,527.56
Benevolence	54.12	2,350.04	2,350.00	54.16
Memorial	31,573.65	8.78	332.90	31,249.53
Improvement	6,274.19	473.00	3,225.42	3,521.77
Bicent CkAcct	28,417.72	1.59	2,038.89	26,380.42
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	265.86	113.00	109.50	269.36

# News from the Teachers & Officers

At our last meeting we chose a program for our Christmas Program for this year. We would like to invite any and all who are interested in helping with this program to our next meeting. This meeting will be on November 11th at 6:00 PM. Our program is entitled "Christmas Through the Centuries". Our practice time for the children will start on November 30 during our regular Sunday School hour. The program will be held on December 21st immediately after our Advent Dinner. If you have never come to this just bring your favorite dish (or dishes) and enjoy the fellowship and fun. Dinner will start at 6:00 PM.



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

### PARISH STAFF

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

**PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)**

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

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

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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)

### OUR MISSION

*St. John congregation, responding to the call of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel, unites together to preach and teach the Word, administer the sacraments, and carry out God's mission. With God's guidance and grace, we strive to boldly proclaim by word and action the reconciling Gospel of Jesus: Working together for justice and peace, and caring for those in need in our community and world. We invite everyone to join us wherever you are on your faith journey.*