

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 270
Berrysburg, PA 17005

St. John's E-Pistle

November 2016



From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Jesus,

As you read these lines, Election Day will be drawing near. I have no doubt that we all have our deeply-held beliefs and feelings about the spectacle that has unfolded over these past months, but, no matter what those may be for you, the Bible is very clear, it seems to me, in giving you and me two “jobs” to do on November 8. The first is to get out and vote, to fully participate as citizens of God's Kingdom in the affairs of God's Good World, of which we are also citizens. There is simply no excuse for throwing up our hands in despair and/or sitting on the sidelines! The second is to vote for those candidates whose plans and policies best embody what God expects of political leaders. And what is that? Well, the Bible is clear in saying that what God is looking for in political leaders isn't who says “God Bless America” the most -or- who will keep my taxes from increasing -or- who will devote the most money to defense and security -or- even who appears to be the most “squeaky clean” candidate. What God does look for in political leadership, biblically-speaking, is those leaders who will best take care of the most vulnerable persons among us – in Old Testament times, the widows, the orphans, and the refugees from other lands. Yup, it may not make us very comfortable or very happy, but refugees from Syria and other war-torn places in the world are on God's short list of special concerns, along with our fellow citizens who struggle to find the basic necessities of life. So, as you prepare to head to the polls on November 8, please give careful and prayerful thought to what candidates will best address God's to-do list, rather than yours or mine.

And, as you prepare to carry out your God-given responsibility on Election Day, please allow me to share the following poem, sometimes attributed to Mother Theresa but more likely simply much admired (and lived!) by her. (You might recall my having shared it on this page many years ago, but I want to thank Vincent Lamenza for recently again bringing it to my attention. May it guide our lives now and beyond November 8.):

People are often unreasonable and self-centered.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are honest, people may cheat you.

Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough.

Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God.

It was never between you and them anyway.

May God bless you and yours and our beloved country, the United States of America!

Pastor Tom

Upcoming Events

BRING YOUR APPETITES AND YOUR IDEAS

Following what has become an annual tradition, on All Saints Sunday, November 6, immediately 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. Please bring your ideas and your questions about any aspect of our life as a congregational family!



AND STAY FOR A SPECIAL CONCERT OPPORTUNITY!

Following our Annual Chicken & Waffles Dinner and brief time of congregational discussion, at approximately 12:30 P.M. we will be treated to a 45-minute concert by **Gary MacCready**, with assistance from **Leilani Chesonis** and our own **Louise Baumgardner**. There will be no admission charge for the concert. Instead, like the meal that precedes it, the concert will benefit the ministry of our Youth Group, with those who attend the concert but not the meal having the opportunity to add to the freewill offering that will be received at the meal. Some information on the musicians and the concert follows:

Gary Mac Cready, tenor saxophone, Gary currently lives in Elizabethtown and grew up in Minersville, PA. After college, as a saxophonist with the trio, **Northwind**, in Santa Cruz, California, he recorded and composed on three albums. He also performed on 12 national tours travelling to 47 states, performing at hundreds of auditoriums and concert halls, including a performance at Carmichael Auditorium, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. and the Flagstaff Peaks of Music Festival in Arizona. The albums peaked high on the national airplay charts and were played on more than 400 radio stations in the U.S., Europe, and Canada. The albums were also positively reviewed in many national magazines and newspapers, including the “Washington Post”. “Gary MacCready paints beautiful pictures on saxophone.” – Solo pianist George Winston.

Leilani Chesonis, vocals, Leilani grew up in Shenandoah, PA and currently resides there. She is an energetic and engaging vocalist and has performed for the Gary MacCready Ensemble at the Majestic Theater, Pottsville, PA. She sings at various venues in PA and Nashville, TN.

Gary, accompanied by Louise Baumgardner, will perform: The Prayer, Somewhere, Memory, Over the Rainbow, I Will Go On. Leilani will perform: When You Say Nothing at All, To Make You Feel My Love, Have I Told You Lately, Harvest Moon.

“I am undertaking this concert as a way of saying thank you to God for the blessing of healing. I am also thankful to the people of this church for their prayers for the return of my normal eyesight and the ability to play the sax again.”-Gary MacCready

PASTOR TOM TO HOLD INQUIRER'S CLASS

An Inquirer's Class will be held at the church on Monday, November 7, from 6:30 to 8:30 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 on a Sunday morning, to be determined, following the class.

COME AND WORSHIP!



This year, we will have the honor or hosting the annual Berrysburg Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service on Wednesday, November 23, at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Jeff Wagner will be our preacher and Pastor Tom will lead our worship. Please take advantage of this opportunity to worship and give thanks with your Christian neighbors!

Pastoral Acts

At the Font

Pastor Tom presided on Sunday, October 9, as we welcomed **Hayden William Dresel**, son of **Amanda & Jordan Dresel**, into the Kingdom of God and the St. John Congregational Family in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray God's blessings on Hayden, his parents and other family members, and his sponsors as they live out the promises they have made!

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **James Bullock**, following his death at Colonial Park Care Center in Harrisburg on October 3, where he had been in failing health for some time. Worship was held at the church on October 7, with interment in our cemetery following. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Jim, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to Barb and all his loved ones!



St. John's Women of the ELCA News

First let me say "THANK YOU" for your very generous help and support in shipping the quilts where they are needed. Along with that I know LWR is thanking you also.

Our next meeting will be on November 13th in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 PM. The leaders will be Janet Denlinger and Pat Herb. This will also be our month to elect a new president, vice-president and christian action persons. If you are willing to serve in any of these positions please contact Helen Henninger.

Dates to mark on your calendar:

November 20, 2016 --- Annual Thank-Offering Service

December 11, 2016 --- Caroling to the Shut-Ins

We as the W-ELCA at St John's would appreciate your support. Our speaker this year for Thank-Offering will be Jan Davis from St Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hanover.

Also Pat Herb has agreed to be the coordinator for the quilting project here at St John's. So if you wish to help or have something to donate please call Pat at 362-9668. Please do not forget the shawl project. If you can help please contact Barbara Bullock.

Look for our Angel Tree Project Coming Soon !

To our congregational family,



Children & Youth Ministry

Dates to Remember:

Nov. 5 - Youth Group meets to prep for All Saints' Day Dinner

Nov. 6 - Annual Chicken and Waffle Dinner

Nov. 20 - Youth Group Fun Night (TBD)

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as a way of saying thank you to
God for the blessing of healing.
I am also thankful to the people
of this church for their prayers
for the return of my normal
eyesight and the ability to play
the sax again."*

-Gary MacCready

We are excited to host our Annual Chicken and Waffle Dinner on All Saints' Sunday, November 6, 2016. Please join us after the worship service for a free will offering dinner, a moment of reflection, and then new this year a special 45 minute concert opportunity by **Gary MacCready**, with assistance from **Leilani Chesonis** and our own **Louise Baumgardner**, with any proceeds benefiting the Youth Group Ministry.

Thank you to the Youth who went to New Windsor, Md on Oct. 10 to deliver the schoolkits and the quilts made by the Women of St. John's. Look for information regarding the Youth Group Fun night in the bulletin.

Sunday School News

Jesus And Me (JAM) Zone Report

The final JAM session will be taking place on November 13. We are asking all helpers come and make breakfast with the kids and enjoy the group until they reconvene after the holidays.

Youth Post Confirmation Class

Lorraine Henninger is holding a class for the youth of St. John's who have received confirmation, grades 9-12. Please contact Becky Conte or Lorraine Henninger with any questions.

Acolyte Schedule Released

The new Acolyte Schedules are available on the bulletin board. Please contact Pastor Tom or Becky Conte with any questions and/or schedule conflicts.

St John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
September 18, 2016

The council meeting was called to order by President, Roy Henry. Pastor Tom opened the meeting with devotions and a prayer.

Present: Roy Henry, Lorraine Henninger, Gail Billow, Dale Hassinger, Karen Paulman, Tamara Spicher, Jeff Buffington, Joseph Doyle, Jeff Lehman and Pastor Tom Bruner

Excused Absence: Jamie Doyle, Sandra Lamenza, Carl Baumgardner

Minutes: Motion by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Jeff Buffington to approve the minutes from the August 2016 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

A motion was made by Karen Paulman and seconded by Gail Billow to purchase three Kid Alert signs to be placed by the church when children are on the church property. The cost is \$25 each. Motion approved unanimously.

Mike Youse from the Lutheran Camp Corporation will make a presentation at the church council meeting on December 11, 2016.

Camella Leitzel made a request to place a box in the foyer for box tops and soup labels which she will give to the Upper Dauphin PTO. Motion made by Jeff Lehman and seconded by Jeff Buffington to approve the request. Motion approved unanimously.

We received a letter from Nicole Radel requesting the use of the church on Sunday afternoons to have Girl Scout meetings for five to six girls. All appropriate background and FBI checks were included with the request. Motion made by Dale Hassinger and seconded by Tamara Spicher to approve the request. Motion approved unanimously.

Bill Becker asked permission to place a Trump sign near the flagpole. Motion made by Karen Paulman and seconded by Lorraine Henninger to deny the request and in addition forbid any political signs now or in the future on church property. Motion approved unanimously.

Gary McCready offered a gift of music for the congregation to say thank you for our prayers. It was suggested to be scheduled on Sunday November 6, 2016 following the chicken and waffle lunch. The concert will last approximately 45 minutes. Motion made by Tamara Spicher and seconded by Gail Billow to accept the offer. Motion approved unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Motion made by Joseph Doyle and seconded by Dale Hassinger to accept the pastor's report. Motion approved unanimously.

Youth Coordinator's Report: Motion was made by Dale Hassinger and seconded by Jeff Buffington to accept Amanda's report. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurers' Reports: Motion made by Jeff Buffington and seconded by Joseph Doyle to accept the treasurers' reports. Motion approved unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: The bushes have been trimmed. They are looking into the price of oil.

Finance/Stewardship: No report

Worship and Music: No report

Christian Education: Walk in the woods and T and D Cats trip were discussed.

Youth Ministry: Election meeting was held.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report.

Nominating: Compiling list of candidates for council.

History: No report

Green Team: No report

Other Reports: The Local Benevolence committee met to discuss options for the disbursement of the Bicentennial Fund. They are considering options and have discussed inviting grant applications. They have a follow-up meeting scheduled and will come back to council with a proposal for approval.

Unfinished Business: The proposals for a new copier were discussed. A motion was made by Karen Paulman and seconded by Jeff Lehman to go with Phillips Office Solutions. Motion approved unanimously.

Next Council Meeting: Next council meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2016 at 4PM

Adjournment: Motion by Dale Hassinger and seconded by Lorraine Henninger to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Lamenza, Secretary

Minutes compiled by Karen Paulman

Treasurer Reports

Treasurer Reports July 2016				
	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	12,313.15	11,564.74	10,373.55	13,504.54
Benevolence	55.32	1074.02	1024.00	105.34
Memorial	2704.29	1829.47	145.95	4387.81
Improvement	2810.85	390.00	145.00	3055.85
Bicent Ch Acct	35,448.50	144.80	1218.36	34,374.94
Bicent Svngs	5300.91			5300.91
Flowers	150.06	25.00	35.00	140.06
C&Y Ministry		No report		
Memorial	32,396.48	5082.33	3075.00	34,403.81
Improvement	8127.23	346.00	2964.00	5509.23
Bicent Ck Acct	29,566.05	226.77	120.00	29,672.82
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91			5,300.91
Flower	247.21	212.75	280.75	179.21
				310.7198

Treasurer Reports August 2016				
	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	13,504.54	11,309.04	10,237.11	14,576.47
Benevolence	105.34	577.53	577.50	105.37
Memorial	4387.81	13,073.74	5507.10	11,961.55
Improvement	3055.85	299.00	2194.90	1159.95
Bicent Ch Acct	34,374.94	1017.94	13,721.67	21,671.21
Bicent Svngs	5300.91			5300.91
Flowers	140.06	95.00	70.00	165.06
C&Y Ministry		No report		
Memorial	32,396.48	5082.33	3075.00	34,403.81
Improvement	8127.23	346.00	2964.00	5509.23
Bicent Ck Acct	29,566.05	226.77	120.00	29,672.82
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91			5,300.91
Flower	247.21	212.75	280.75	179.21
				310.7198

Worship Service Schedule



NOVEMBER 2016

Altar Guild for Month of November Carol and Dale Hassinger
 Lector for Month of November
 Ushers for November (L) Joseph Doyle (E) Jeff Buffington, (LAY) Angela Mattern, Eric Mattern

NOVEMBER 6, 2016

All Saints Sunday
 Sunday School Superintendent Lynn Henninger
 Sunday School Pianist Judy Feree
 Greeters- Larry & Karen Gehring
 Acolytes Cole Roadcap & RJ Henry

NOVEMBER 13, 2016

The 26th Sunday after Pentecost
 Sunday School Superintendent Jeff Lehman
 Sunday School Pianist Louise Baumgardner
 Greeters- Ann Bruner & Fay Nichols
 Acolytes Hoyt Schlegel & Gabe Gehring

NOVEMBER 20, 2016

Christ the King
 Sunday School Superintendent Ken Koller
 Sunday School Pianist Sandy Paul
 Greeters- Mike and Carol Hubler
 Acolytes Madeline Willard & Gracie Gehring

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

The 1st Sunday of Advent
 Sunday School Superintendent Roy Henry
 Sunday School Pianist Carol Hubler
 Greeters- The Tim Motter Family
 Acolytes Lily & Serene Boyer

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 2016						
		1 All Saints' Day 11:00am Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	2 9:00am - Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 –8:30pm Midweek Bible Study	3	4	5 Pastor Tom's Day Off 10:00am - Youth Group Meets to Prepare All Saints Day Dinner
6 All Saint's Sunday 9:00 Adult & Senior High Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 10:15 Jesus And Me (JAM) Zone 11:30 Congregational Dinner, Served by Youth Group, with Congregational Discussion and Concert to Follow 2:30 Girl Scouts Troop Meeting, Sunday School Room	7 6:00– Book Discussion Group 6:30-8:30 Inquirer's Class 7:30 - Church Dartball League Match at St. John	8 11:00am Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg 6:15pm Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	9 9:00 - Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 –8:30 Midweek Bible Study <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Mid-</i>	10 <i>Martin Luther's Birthday</i>	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12 Pastor Tom's Day Off 7:00– 9:00 am Men's Prayer Group
13 The 26th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Adult & Senior High Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 10:15 Jesus And Me (JAM) Zone 2:30 Girl Scout Troup Meeting, Sunday School Room 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting 6:00 Women's Group Meeting	14 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet at St. Peter (Fetterolf's) Lutheran, Halifax 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – Lykens United Methodist at St. John	15 11:00am Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg 6:15pm Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal Deadline to Submit Items for Dec/Jan E-pistle Issue	16 9:00am - Blanket Making for LWR 6:30 –8:30pm Midweek Bible Study	17	18	19 Pastor Tom's Day Off
20 Christ the King 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Annual Thankoffering Worship, Led by the Women of St. John 2:30 Girl Scout Troup Meeting/ Thanksgiving Feast, Sunday School Room Youth Group "Fun Night" (Time & Destination TBD)	21 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville	22 11:00am Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Mtg 6:15pm Property Committee Meeting 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	23 9:00am - Blanket Making for LWR 7:00pm—Berrysburg Area Thanksgiving Worship at St. John	24 Pastor Tom taking Monthly Extra Day Off Thanksgiving Day	25	26 Pastor Tom's Day Off
27 The 1st Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Sacrament of Holy Baptism 2:30 Girl Scout Troup Meeting, Sunday School Room Steeple Stars are Lighted	28 Pastor Tom taking Vacation Day	29 Pastor Tom taking Vacation Day	30 Andrew, Apostle			

In Other News

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

Amanda Baker ended her service with our congregational family during worship on Sunday, October 16, when we joined in a time of saying “farewell and Godspeed” as she continues with her full-time studies at Messiah College. (As summer ended and Amanda's new fall term began, it became increasingly clear that she simply didn't have enough hours in the week to devote to her ministry here and, rather than giving it something less than her best, Amanda made the decision to end her ministry here.) Only about a week and a half passed between her decision and her final day with us because, with the rapid approach of her mid-term exams, we did not wish to hold her to a 30-day or 60-day notice and further compromise her academic work – a decision for which she was grateful. We give thanks for Amanda's seven months in our midst and for the good and creative and faithful things she has accomplished! The taskforce that initially had worked to develop the position that ultimately was filled by Amanda will now be working to prayerfully determine the best course for this important ministry area for 2017 and beyond, plans which will then be presented to Congregational Council for action. (Through the end of this year, plans are already in place for Sunday morning Christian Education.) If you would like to be a part of this visioning and planning process, please speak with Carl Baumgardner, the chairperson of the taskforce, or Pastor Tom.

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.) At the three-quarter point in the year, with 39 of 52 Sundays behind us as of September 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received and spent three quarters, or **\$109,562**, out of our total 2016 budget of \$146,083. We have **actually received \$103,817** in offerings and other income, meaning we are behind budget by \$5,745. (This places us right in the middle of giving-compared-to-budget results for the past 16 years, a bit of an improvement from where we were at the end of June.) Our **expenses** as of the end of September total **\$102,155** and are \$7,407 under budget. Since we have spent less than we have taken in, we are running a **surplus** of **\$1,662** as of September 30. The bottom line is that our ministry here together continues to be very blessed, especially in light of the struggles that we continue to perceive in our economy.

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 three quarters, or **\$9,000**, out of our total 2016 commitment of \$12,000. As of September 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of **\$8,261**, meaning that **we have fallen behind** our commitment by **\$739**. We will want to be sure to close this gap in the remainder of the year.

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

Contact Us

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
Tammy & Bill Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
Judith Feree	Organist	jjferee@epix.net	717-362-4228
Rebecca Conte	Secretary	rlkconte06@gmail.com	570-262-2664
Roy Henry	Council President	webmaster@randrhenry.com	717-579-0244
Lorrainer Henninger	Prayer Chain Coordinator	No Email	717-362-9108



St. John's Facebook: facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch

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

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

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

Church Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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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.