

ST. JOHN'S

EPISTLE

A Letter from The Pastor.....

Dear Friends in Jesus,

On Sunday, November 5, we will observe All Saints Sunday, the Sunday closest to but following All Saints Day which is November 1. During worship we will once again remember and give thanks for our congregational family members who have died and joined the Saints Triumphant since last All Saints Sunday and provide time in the prayers to remember all of the saints who have enriched and blessed all of our journeys in the faith. Our worship this All Sains Sunday will have a different sound, however, as we will begin using Setting 10 of our liturgy from ***Evangelical Lutheran Worship***. (In the front part of our red worship book, there are no less than ten different musical settings for our worship. Since we began using the red book, we have been using Setting 3, which will now change with the beginning of November.) I think you will find that in this new setting our familiar liturgy pieces, like the "Kyrie", are set to very singable and usually very familiar melodies, so that the familiar words speak to God and to us in new ways. As we get some experience with Setting 10 during November, please feel free to share any feedback with me or with any member of Worship & Music Committee!

And then, immediately following the conclusion of our worship on November 5, we will continue with what has become an annual tradition by gathering 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 *with a special focus of this time being an opportunity to recognize and say thank you to Lorraine Henninger for her many years and long hours of faithful service as our Congregational Treasurer (just one of the many "hats" which Lorraine has of course worn over the years).* On November 5, please bring your appetites and your ideas and questions about any aspect of our life as a congregational family, and please join in as we say a well-deserved thank you to Lorraine!

Pastor Tom



News From the Young Christians Ministry

I can't believe it's November and only a month before the hectic Christmas season is upon us! Before we get caught up in all of that holiday madness, this month, we're going to focus on all the things for which we are thankful; counting our blessings*, as they say.

We have SO many things to be thankful for! And in our abundance, we are called to share with those in need. So all month, we are going to join with the Women of the Church in collecting non-perishable, single-serving size food items for the Upper Dauphin Area Elementary School Snack Pack Program. A list of needed items can be found in the narthex. We want our young Christians to experience the joy of giving, and what better way than to serve children their own age and in their own community! Thank you, in advance, for your donations!!

We're going to kick things off with another special SONday Celebration. On November 5th, we're taking the Celebration on the road.....literally! Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the SONday Celebration Hayride!! Weather permitting, we'll meet at the pavilion and load up promptly at 9:00. We'll tool around the grounds in straw-filled style and be back to unload by 10:00. Check the weather and dress appropriately!!

By the end of the month, we'll be looking at music and parts for the annual Christmas Program. And so the December craziness begins.....!

For now, though, wishing you all a wonderful November and a Happy Thanksgiving!!

*One of the blessings I count, is being part of the St. John's family. Thanks for making my first (almost) year here an awesome adventure!!

Miss Laurie

Miss Laurie's Office Hours:

Mon., Wed 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Friday 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Youth Group News

On Saturday November 4 at 10 A.M. , the youth group will be getting together to prepare Chicken and Waffles for the Annual All Saints Sunday Congregational Meal that is taking place on Sunday November 5 after worship. On Sunday November 5, all youth are asked to arrive at the church for 10:15 to help prepare and host the meal to the congregation.

On Sunday November 19 the Youth Group will be participating in a youth group fun night. These are always a fun time for our youth to get together and play games, smile, and enjoy each others company, with maybe a touch of good competitive spirit! We hope to see you there!

We would like to our families and congregational family a blessed November and a Happy Thanksgiving!!



Find us on
Facebook

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

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



Our meeting in November will be on the 8th and our leaders will be Janet Denlinger and Pat Herb. If you are new to our meeting we meet at 6:00 PM in the large fellowship room. All ladies are invited to join us.

On November 19th we will be having our Thank Offering Service. Our speaker will be Lois Ann Griffith from Harrisburg. She will be talking to us about the Prison Ministry we have here in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. If you remember hearing about Rev Sadie Pounder and her devotion to this project you may also remember Sadie was Lois Ann's sister. Rev Pounder past away a few years ago from cancer.

Also ladies please remember to keep a watch for fabric for the quilting project. If you have any or know of any please contact Pat Herb either at church or call her at [717-362-9668](tel:717-362-9668).

Also do not forget the Prayer Shawl Project. Any interest in this should be directed to Barbara Bullock. She too can be contacted at church or by calling her at [717-692-3896](tel:717-692-3896).

Future event to keep in mind is the ANGEL TREE PROJECT. Fay Nichols will try to have things ready for you to choose by the beginning of November. This will depend on when she get her information from the UDA Coordinator

Feeding Our Shut-Ins

St Johns Women of the ELCA have a new mission they are starting. We will be feeding our shut ins when they need help. If any in our congregation are in need of help in making a meal for them we, the women, will be willing to make a meal for those in need of help.

If you are willing to help with this project please contact Fay Nichols at [717-599-8990](tel:717-599-8990). She will be composing a list of folks who are willing to help. This list will be rotated so all will have a chance to help.

Report From The Blanket Bunch

On behalf of the blanket bunch I thought our St. Johns Congregational family would like to know that as a result of another very successful year a total of 228 quilts and 8 blankets were packed and taken to New Windsor, Maryland. From that distribution point they will be shipped to wherever they are needed anywhere in the world. We are very thankful to our St. John's family for their support in this ministry. The blanket bunch will continue to do God's Work with Our Hands here on "The Hill". We are proud to be a part of this congregation who has supported this ministry for many years.

Thank you again from The Blanket Bunch for all your support. God bless each and every one of you.

Come and Worship

Our annual Berrysburg Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service will be held on Wednesday, November 22, at 7:00 P.M. at one of the congregations of the Lykens Valley United Church of Christ Charge. Pastor Tom will preach and host Pastor Jeff Wagner will lead the worship. Please don't miss this opportunity to worship and give thanks with your Christian neighbors !

Calling All Readers

Book Group will gather again this month, and the November 6 gathering will be spent watching the movie tie-in for the book we will be discussing – ***Hidden Figures***. We'll get together at 5:30 P.M. for a light meal, watch the movie, and discuss the book. Everyone is welcome! And please hold these future dates:

December 4
February 5
March 5
April 2
May 7



Please contact Ann Bruner with any questions, or to learn more 717.362.7895).

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 morning, October 7, Pastor Tom, presided at the marriage of **Alex Langhans** and **Robin Fulton** at the church. We pray God's blessing on Robin and Alex, that they may each be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship for **William Paulman**, following his death at his Halifax-area home on September 23, where he had been in failing health for some time. Worship was held at the church on September 28, with interment at Forest Hills Cemetery in Belmont, NY the following day. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Bill, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to Karen and his other 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.

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 3/4 point of the year as of September 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received and spent 3/4 or **\$108,301** out of our total 2017 budget of \$144,402. We have **actually received \$104,574** in offerings and other income, or \$3,727 less than this goal. (This offering total includes the very nice effect of one congregational family member having made their entire annual gift at the beginning of the year and so, taking out the 1/4 of that very kind gift that we would not typically have received by the end of September, we are **behind our budget goal by approximately \$5,000** – still placing us solidly in the top half of these results over the years at the end of September.) Our **expenses** as of the end of September total **\$104,478** and are \$3,823 under budget. Adjusting for the effects of that large early-year gift, we have a **small surplus of approximately \$100** as of September 30.

As to the Children & Youth Ministry Fund, through which Miss Laurie's ministry with us is being funded, we have **received \$9,145** in offerings and Thrivent Choice Dollars as of the end of September which, while not enough money to completely cover the expenditures, is still solidly ahead of where we projected we might be at this point in this first year of ministry together, although those offerings have trailed off a bit during the late summer and early fall. (Please remember that, if you would like to use your regular offering envelope to make a gift toward supporting Miss Laurie's ministry, you can simply use one of the pre-printed blocks on the envelope by very carefully and clearly changing the printed caption to "C&Y Ministry" and then writing your gift amount in the block. In 2018, we will have new offering envelopes which will include a separate block for these gifts.)

And, with regard 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** out of our total 2017 commitment of \$12,000. As of September 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of **\$7,811**, meaning that we are **behind** our commitment by **\$1,189**. We will want to be sure to close this gap as the year concludes.

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, Treasurer Jamie Doyle, or any member of Council!

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2017

The Council Meeting was called to order by Pastor Tom who also offered prayer and devotions.

Present – Jeff Buffington, Jamie Doyle, Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger, Henry Henninger, Patricia Herb, Dan Langhans, Donna Rabenold, Tamara Spicher and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences - Carl Baumgardner & Gail Billow

Reading of Minutes: Motion by Pat Herb, 2nd by Dale Hassinger to accept the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: July & August water tests were in compliance. Water test as Friday report dated September 15, 2017 was not in compliance. The UV light is being replaced but that doesn't seem to be the main problem. The problem stems from the drainage field for the new septic tank. We've been in touch with Sewage Enforcement Officer and we're getting tank pumped out immediately while we wait for inspection results to see what other action are necessary.

Received thank you note from Sing for Joy for our recent gift as well as Stonebridge for our gift in memory of Pastor Jay Eickoff.

Received a bill from Kone for the elevator repair in February when the phone was not working properly. Motion by Pat Herb, 2nd by Tamara Spicher to pay it from the Memorial Fund interest. Motion passed unanimously.

Mutual Fund Investment - \$5,500 matured from ThriVent which will be deposited in Memorial Fund for a reevaluation of the overall investment strategy.

Pastor's Report: Motion by Jamie Doyle, 2nd by Pat Herb to accept Pastor's report. Motion Passed unanimously.

Children & Youth: Motion by Joe Doyle, 2nd by Jeff Buffington to accept the Children & Youth Ministry report. Motion passed unanimously.

Report of Treasurers: Motion by Tamara Spicher, 2nd by Joe Doyle to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Painted backstop on ball field. End posts are rotting and may need replaced or removed. Heating oil tank is half full and we have some time before we need to refill. Discussion of burn barrel to burn sticks & branches that fall.

Finance Committee: Meeting 10/9

Worship & Music: Meeting at Tree of Life, Linglestown to discuss ideas on contemporary services.

Faith Formation Team: Met 8/9 and prepped the Knoebels outing and met 9/11 and went over calendar. VBS will be 7/23/18-7/27/18 which is the week of the Pillow carnival. The Fireman's Parade will be Pillows Bicentennial Parade and possible community service project for the kids at the carnival.

Sunday School Treasury pays half of congregational camping fees. Larger number of kids/families are camping and additional funds are required from the Local Benevolence (Bicentennial) Fund to cover the cost. Next meeting 10/10. Matt Willard discussed his new Senior High Sunday School class.

Youth Ministry: Advisor Team – Clint & Amy Gerhing as well as Matt & Olivia Willard will join Jodi Thompson, Becky Conte & Pastor Tom on the Advisor Team. 10/22 outing being planned at one of the camps.

Mutual Ministry: Meeting in October

Executive: No report

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes - Continued
September 17, 2017

Nominating: No report

History Committee: History Books for sale

Other reports: Dartball games start 10/2.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Proposed in increase of the annual gift to Berrysburg Fire Company from \$100 (authorized at the July 2017 meeting) to \$500 since bring such value and insurance to our community. Motion by Dale Hassinger, 2nd by Donna Rabenold to increase our gift by \$400 for a total of \$500. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Pat Herb, 2nd by Joe Doyle to contribute \$100 from Local Benevolence/ Bicentennial Fund to the Benevolence Fund toward our Konde contribution because we didn't get sponsors for 2 months at \$50 each. Motion passed unanimously.

Heat – in the past we set the heat at 68 degrees for upstairs worship space which some said was too cold. So we changed it to 70 degrees and got complaints that it was too warm.. This year we'll set it at 69 degrees. Motion by Pat Herb, 2nd by Joe Doyle. Motion passed unanimously.

After 8/13 Community worship service for the Bicentennial, we received feedback that we should hold a service like this every year. This service was meant to be a special one-time event and was not meant to be a regular occurrence.

We need to make a list of who has keys to the church.

We would like to recognize Lorraine Henninger and her many years of service as Treasurer of the Current and Memorial Funds on 11/5 which will also coincide with the Chicken & Waffle dinner.

Next Council Meeting: October 8, 2017 @ 4:00pm.

Adjournment: Motion by Donna Rabenold, 2nd by Tamara Spicher to adjourn at 5:34pm. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

**Treasurers Report for
July 2017**

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	13,041.34	10,944.61	12,068.91	11,917.04
Benevolence	56.26	1,029.02	979.00	106.28
Memorial	27,535.46	8.19	-	27,543.65
Improvement	1,181.24	334.00	134.36	1,380.88
Bicent CkAcct	26,236.00	115.94	3,052.26	23,299.68
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	155.36	169.10	70.00	254.46
C&Y Ministry	976.87	2,977.04	2,218.72	1,735.19

**Treasurers Report for
August 2017**

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	11,917.04	8,116.37	10,096.43	9,936.98
Benevolence	106.28	2,445.13	2,445.08	106.33
Memorial	27,543.65	9.91	13,724.34	13,829.22
Improvement	1,380.88	397.00	332.27	1,445.61
Bicent CkAcct	23,299.68	3,116.43	-	26,416.11
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	254.46	45.00	70.00	229.46
C&Y Ministry	1,735.19	693.04	831.24	1,596.99

October Gifts

Konde Diocese -

Bob and Doris Schaffer

Celebrate Inserts -

Bob and Doris Schaffer

Tree 4 Hope -

Bob and Doris Schaffer

Altar Flowers

11/5 -

Jeff and Heidi Lehman

11/12 -

Carl and Louise Baumgardner

11/19 -

Tom and Donna Rabenold

11/26 -

Bob and Doris Schaffer

*as of time of printing



November Worship Schedule

Altar Guild for Month of November
Lector for Month of November

Dale & Carol Hassinger
Matthew Williard

Usher's for the Month of October: Joe Doyle (L)
Fred Weaver (E), Jean Weaver, Cheryl Shadle (LAY)

November 5, 2017
All Saints' Day
Holy Communion

Greeter
Acolytes
Superintendent
Pianist

The Jodi Thompson Family
Madeline Williard and Avery Mace
Ken Koller
Judy Ferree

November 12, 2017
23rd Sunday After Pentecost

Greeter
Acolyte
Superintendent
Pianist

Maryjane Zelner
Hoyt Schlegel and Cole Roadcap
Roy Henry
Louise Baumgardner

November 19, 2017
24th Sunday After Pentecost

Greeter
Acolytes
Superintendent
Pianist


The Enders Family
Aidan Roadcap and Gabe Gehring
Larry Gessner
Sandy Paul

November 26, 2017
Christ the King
Holy Communion

Greeter
Acolytes
Superintendent
Pianist

Larry and Karen Gehring
Gary Leitzel and RJ Henry
Lynn Henninger
Carol Hubler



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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<p>5 All Saints' Sunday 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons 11:30 Congregational Dinner, Served by Youth Group, with Congregational Discussion and Recognition of Lorraine Henninger to Follow 2:00 – 3:30 Girl Scout Troop Meeting Daylight Saving Time Ends</p>	<p>6 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 5:30 Book Discussion Group Gathering 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – Lykens United Methodist at St. John</p>	<p>7 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal Election Day</p>	<p>8 7:00 – 8:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</p>	<p>10 Martin Luther's Birthday (1483)</p>	<p>11 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off 7:00 – 9:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group Meets at the Church – Please Contact Ray Matter for More Information Veterans' Day</p>
<p>12 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Sunny Sermon and Celebration Time for Young Persons 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting 6:00 Women's Group Meeting</p>	<p>13 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting at Simon United Lutheran, Lykens 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fishersville</p>	<p>14 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Faith Formation Team Gathering 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>15 7:00 – 8:30 Midweek Bible Study Deadline to Submit Items for December/January "St. John's Epistle"</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</p>
<p>19 24th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration (opening downstairs) 10:15 Annual Thankoffering Worship, Led by the Women of St. John 2:00 Girl Scout Troop Meeting Youth Group "Fun Night" (Time & Destination TBD)</p>	<p>20 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – St. John at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens</p>	<p>21 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>22 7:00 Berrysburg Area Thanksgiving Worship, hosted by Lykens Valley Charge, UCC</p>	<p>23 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</p>
<p>26 Christ the King 9:00 Adult Sunday School, Confirmation Class & Sr. High Sunday School (opening upstairs) 9:00 SONDay Celebration (opening downstairs) 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons</p>	<p>27 Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief</p>	<p>28 Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>		

Congregation Staff

Pastor's Office Hours:

Mon, Tues -
8:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.

Wed, Thurs -
8:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

Friday
8:00 A.M. - 9:30 A.M.
(Other times by
appointment)

The Rev. Thomas
Bruner, Jr.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE