

ST. JOHN'S

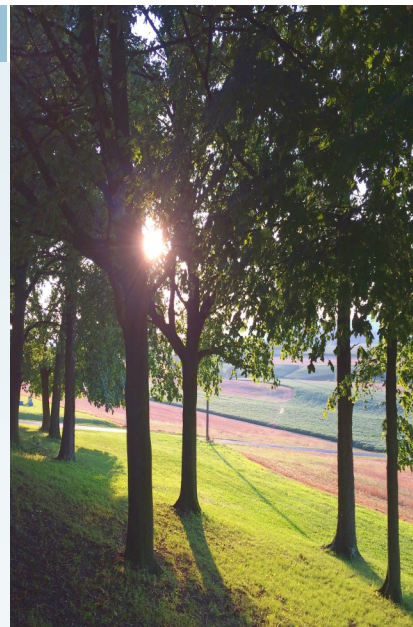
EPISTLE

A Letter from The Pastor.....

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Have you ever really stopped to think about why we gather in worship? There are many reasons certainly – maybe as many as there are individual Christians in fact – but probably the most obvious one is that we worship because God both expects and deserves our worship and thanksgiving. Closely connected with that, we worship because we know that God has promised to feed and strengthen us in the hearing of God's Word and in our sharing in the water of Baptism and the bread and wine of Holy Communion – in “Word & Sacrament” we commonly say in a kind of faith shorthand. And we can go on and on from there, to speak of the joy we find in regularly meeting up with other members of our congregational family, the ways in which we learn and grow in our faith by sharing with those sisters and brothers, the inspiration we receive in the faith stories of those with whom we share a table or a pew...

Recently, I was reading the words of an author who reminded me that another very important reason why we gather in worship is because, even though we may not like to think about it, we are always in the process of “training” to deal with the hard times and even tragedies that are sure to come our way. We don't know when or how, but we all know that they do come to us all. And the more we have been steadily receiving strength and reinforcement and perspective through that same Word and Sacrament, week after week, the more resilient and the harder we are likely to be in those inevitable times. The writer was making the point that, as enjoyable and fulfilling as the other activities that vie for our time on Sunday morning might be (from catching up on sleep to fishing to soccer matches to cheer competitions to softball tournaments to fill in the blank), none of them will adequately prepare us or those about whom we care the most for those times when the winds blow and the thunder crashes. Jesus, of course, uses the image of the foolish person who builds on a foundation of sand to make the same point –



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.*

A Letter from The Pastor..... Cont.

maybe it seems easier at the moment, even more fun, than the hard work of building properly, but things don't turn out well when it really matters.

I've often stated my contention that Jesus doesn't expect that we never miss worship – that there are indeed sometimes other tasks to be done in God's name that take us away on a Sunday morning. But worship with our congregational family – or a congregational family away from home – should absolutely be our “default setting”. Except for those infrequent times when God's work calls us in another direction, or those occasional times where sickness or other personal emergency get in the way, worship should be where we are, for God's sake as well as for our own.

Please step back and prayerfully take a look at your life of worship, your participation in the Sunday life of your congregational family. What do you see? What is your default setting? What do you allow to take you away? How does that align with what you believe Jesus would want for you as His beloved child? And – how goes that training/building project?

Pastor Tom

{GIVE THANKS}

for each new morning
with its light
FOR REST AND SHELTER
OF THE NIGHT
for health and food
for love and friends
FOR EVERYTHING
THY GOODNESS SENDS

~ralph waldo emerson~

Angela Lee

Pastoral Acts

At the Altar

On Saturday, September 29, Pastor Tom presided at marriage worship for **Eli Hassinger** and **Elena Werth** at the Blue Valley Vineyard & Winery in Delaplane, VA, with a rehearsal the evening before. We pray God's richest blessings on these newlyweds, that they may have the strength and courage to fulfill their lifelong vows of commitment!

News from Miss Laurie

Young Christians Minister

It's FINALLY feeling like AUTUMN! I love the sights, sounds and smells of this time of year! Hopefully, fall hangs on a bit before we go rushing into winter.

Lots of fun things are planned for November, so please get out your calendars and "plug in" the following dates:

Sunday, November 4th 2nd annual **SONday Celebration Hayride**

– This year our wagon will become an "ark" as we load up "two by two" and hear the story of Noah! We set sail precisely at 9:15!

Wednesday, November 7th FIRST meeting of **Celebration Club**

– Join us from 6:30 to 8:30 for this fun, faith-filled adventure!

Sunday, November 18th **Celebration Decoration Party** – Join us

immediately after church for pizza. Then we're going to make Christmas ornaments and other decorations that we'll use to adorn our Celebration Space and make it our own! All young Christians and their families are welcome! (This is the "preparation" step where we MAKE the decorations – we'll do the actual DECORATING during SONday Celebration on December 2nd.)

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for ALL these fun activities!!

May the abundance of God's love and grace be with you throughout November! Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving!

Miss Laurie

See Pg.7 For the Celebration Calendar Fall Events

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

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



Find us on
Facebook

Important Dates

Nov 4 - All Saints Day

*Nov 4 - Annual
Celebration Hayride*

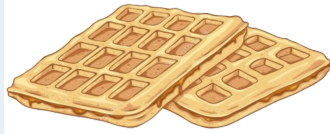
*Nov 4 - Chicken &
Waffle Dinner*

*Nov 18 - Celebration
Decoration Party*

*Nov 21 - Berryburg
Area Ecumenical
Thanksgiving
Worship*

*Nov 28 - Annual
Thank Offering*

Youth Group Chicken and Waffle Dinner



Immediately following the conclusion of our worship on All Saints Sunday, November 4, 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, so, on November 4, please bring your appetite, your freewill offering to share for the ministry of our Youth Group, and your ideas and questions about any aspect of our life as a congregational family!

Sunday Worship Audio

As we start to get to that time of year where weather can make it very difficult or even just plain unsafe for some in our congregational family to gather here on The Hill for worship, please remember that you can listen to our worship each Sunday morning through a link found on our congregational website. (And, of course, you can access this same audio any time for any reason, including when you just want to hear again something you already heard on a previous Sunday!) To tune in, you will need some kind of electronic device that is able to connect to the internet – or someone handy who has such a device. With that device nearby, simply follow these instructions:

+Go to our congregational website – www.stjohnhillchurch.org.

+When you arrive on our website homepage, scroll about halfway down to the item on the right that says “St. John’s Service Recordings” where you will find a green link that says “St. John’s YouTube Channel”. Clicking this green link will take you to our very own St. John channel on the YouTube website.

+Once there, you simply click on the particular date you are interested in, at which point a new blacked out (remember we have only sound, no video) window will appear and that Sunday’s worship audio will begin to play. The first thing you will likely hear is the murmur of our gathering congregational family before the Announcements. And you may need to turn up your sound a bit, depending on your device.

+You can then use the cursor that appears at the bottom of that blacked out window to go forward or backward as needed – or just sit back and listen to the whole thing!

Thank you to Rachel and Roy Henry who oversee our recording ministry, and to the folks who help them on Sunday mornings. Please report any problems or difficulties to Rachel or Roy or to 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!

And, as another heating season gets underway, please do your part to help your congregational family be a good steward of heating oil and heating dollars. First, please be sure to keep doors closed between different heating zones – especially 1. all doors on the second floor going into the nave or up to the balcony and 2. all doors on the first floor going into the Sunday School room. Second, if you turn up a thermostat for any reason, please be sure to turn it back down again when you leave. All areas of the church other than our nave – which is automatically kept at 55 degrees – are normally kept at 60 degrees. Thank you!

Berrysburg Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship

Our annual Berrysburg Area Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service will be held on Wednesday, November 21, at 7:00 P.M. here at St. John. Pastor Tom will lead our worship and Pastor Jeff Wagner of the Lykens Valley UCC Charge will preach. It is also hoped that we may be able to form a special joint choir for the evening with the folks from the UCC Charge. Please don't miss this opportunity to worship and give thanks with your Christian neighbors



HOSPITALIZED/RESIDING IN SENIOR LIVING/DEALING WITH ACUTE ILLNESS

Margaret Enders – Rm. #211, Jewish Home of Greater Harrisburg, 4000 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, 17112

Warren Hassinger – Room #107, Providence Place, 24 Hikes Hollow Road, Pine Grove, 17963

Henry Henninger – At Home, Undergoing Chemotherapy

Marzette Hoffman – Room #610, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg

Ronald Hoover – Room #101, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg

Marlin Koppenhaver - Room #3, Green Valley Skilled Nursing & Rehab. Center, 200 Taylorsville Road, Pitman, 17964

Sue Lebo – Rm. #203, Heritage Mill Personal Care Home, 846 E. Wiconisco Ave., Tower City, 17980

Cora Mace – Rm. #2822, Ben Franklin, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022

Martha Rebuck – Rm. #6, Stonebridge Health and Rehab. Center, 102 Chandra Drive, Duncannon, 17020

Helen Schade – Rm # 218, Traditions of Hershey, 100 North Larkspur Drive, Palmyra, 17078

Youth Group News

November Dates

Nov 3 - Preparations for the Chicken and Waffle Dinner - 10:00 A.M.

Nov 4 - Chicken and Waffle Dinner - 9:00 A.M.

Nov 18 - Sunday School Christmas Decorating Party- 11:30 A.M.

- Youth Group Meeting 1:00 P.M. - 6:00 P. M.

December Dates

Dec 9 - Christmas Caroling - TBA

Dec 16 - Advent Program

October took us too Risser Marvel Farm to participate in their Corn Maze, our group of young geniuses led by Cole and a few others helped us get out of there in about an hour and a half. Our Halloween party was this past Sunday where the kids had a combination of fear factor challenges and minute to win it games, nothing like some good old fashioned fun, competition and hot dogs that look liked a mummy!

Here it is, Chicken and Waffle Month!! I can almost smell it! All available youth (and family) are asked to be at church on Saturday November 3rd 10:00 A.M. to help the Youth Group Advisors prep for the dinner. We are asking all Youth Group members to be at the church Sunday morning by 9:00 am! Please plan to have a brief Youth Group Meeting following the clean up from dinner!

November and December are busy months for the youth group! Between Dinners, Fundraisers, Decorating, Caroling, and a game or two of spoons we have a lot to look forward too! Don't forget Miss Laurie is **REALLY** going to need help from our High School members with all her fun activities, touch base with an advisor or Miss Laurie if you're interested in joining the Celebration!



As the holiday season is inching closer I would like all of you to remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving. At home, at church.... At school. Yes there's turkey, dallas cowboys football, pumpkins, pumpkin pies... We will take a moment as the food is waiting on our table and say a prayer of thankfulness! I challenge all the youth to not only on thanksgiving or Christmas find what it is you are thankful for, but to remember daily, to be thankful, to show gratitude and praise, in all things. Daily, say thank you to someone who least expects it, show gratitude to the fire fighters, police, doctors, veterans, etc... and most importantly expect nothing in return, except a smile and let that smile, light your way! Martin Luther said "God grant that we follow his word to praise and thank our dear Lord for his precious blood, which He so freely offered to us. And may God keep us from the terrible vice of ingratitude and the forgetfulness of His blessings. Amen" Each day will not go as we like, it will not always be sunshine and rainbows, or storms and disasters but, reminding ourselves in those moments to give thanks and praise!!

R E M I N D E R S

1. ALL PARTICIPANTS in any Youth Group activity (*Youth members AND friends*) must complete a General Information and Emergency/Medical Form. This form only needs to be completed 1 time each year.
2. Any time a Youth Group activity involves leaving the church, ALL PARTICIPANTS (*Youth members AND friends*) must complete a Permission, Liability, and Travel Form.
3. As we get closer to an organized Youth Group activity, an Activity/Event Sheet will be posted on the bulletin board.

NOTE: You will find copies of the above forms posted on the bulletin board at church or on the shelf below the bulletin board. Completed forms may be given to any YG Advisor or to Pastor Tom. Thanks!



Join us EVERY 1st WEDNESDAY of the month
for
"Celebration Club"

A fun, faith-filled adventure
for children ages 3 through 4th grade!!

We use:
music
crafts
active games
snacks
and
Bible stories
to immerse the children in God's word.

6:30 – 8:30 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church
(the "Hill" Church, 1 mi. south of Berrysburg)

Come and join the CELEBRATION!!!

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**

September 16, 2018

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Dan Langhans. Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions.

Meeting started at 7:30 PM.

All members present.

Reading of Minutes: Motion to accept by Pat Herb; second by Jamie Doyle. Motion passed by all In attendance.

Reception of Petitions and Communications

- Water test results – going well
- Thank You for Mission Support from the Lower Susquehanna Synod - \$11,831.50.
- Communication from the Upper Dauphin Area School District: St. Johns Church identified as a place of refuge for safety in the event of an emergency of 24 hours duration; renew for 3 years. Motion to accept by Carl Baumgardner; second by Dan Langhans; motion passed by all in attendance.
- Water pump electricity – a one time \$50 reimbursement to the church sexton. Motion to accept by Pat Herb; second by Jeff Buffington; motion passed by all in attendance.

Pastor's Report:

- Church attendance has been on average. Motion to accept by Donna Rabenold; second by Barb Bullcock; motion passed by all in attendance.

Children and Youth:

- Carl said the youth had a great summer. Motion to accept by Jeff Buffington; second by Pat Herb; motion passed by all in attendance.

Treasurer Report:

- Report presented by Jamie Doyle. Motion to accept by Donna Rabenold; second by Carl Baumgardner; motion passed by all in attendance.

Church Property: by Henry Henninger

- Fuel oil for sexton house and furnace cleaning
- Water service repaired.
- New church sign needed on route 25
- Possible barn use for live nativity
- Barn not good as a music venue
- Review bills for the pavilion
- Walk-in cooler room has electricity

Worship & Music: will meet Tuesday

Faith Formation Team:

- Met July 14 – plans made for various activities – meet again in October

Youth Ministry:

- Various activities were planned at the quarterly advisor meeting
- Pastor excited the Youth is in good hands with the advisors in Houston

Mutual ministry: to meet in a few weeks

Women's Report:

- Many activities are planned.
- Italian Dinner on October 7

New Business: The church temperature to be kept at 69 degrees.

Motion to adjourn by Carl Baumgardner; second by Jamie Doyle; motion passed by all in attendance.

Next meeting is October 7 after the church dinner; start at 12:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Darrell Denlinger, Secretary

Treasurer Report - June 2018:

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
Current	\$8,620.32	\$10,418.44	11,394.60	7,644.16
Benevolence	106.68	3,880.58	3,723.90	156.68
Children & Youth	(3,058.76)	(2,385.76)	1,500.22	(3,885.98)
Flower	295.73	430.73	70.00	360.73
Improvement	4,299.00	4,664.00	2,404.29	2,259.71
Memorial	4,955.70	4,956.75	none	4,956.75

November Worship Schedule

November Gifts

Konde Diocese -

Bob and Doris Schaffer

Celebrate Inserts -

Mary Ann and Dennis

Smeltz

Tree 4 Hope -

Bob and Doris Schaffer

Altar Flowers

Nov 4

All Saints Day Flowers

Nov 11

Carl and Louise

Baumgardner

Nov 18

Nov 25

Doris Schaffer

**as of print date,
subject to change*

Altar Guild
Lector

Carol & Dale Hassinger
Matt Williard

Usher's for the Month of November Jeff Buffington (L)
Jeff Lehman (E), Eric and Angela Mattern(LAY)

November 4, 2018

Holy Communion

All Saints Day

Greeter

Acolyte

Superintendent

Pianist

Larry and Karen Gehring

Gabe Gehring and Aidan Roadcap

Jeff Lehman

Sandy Paul

November 11, 2018

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

Fay Nichols

Hoyt Schlegel and Haylen Donovan

Ken Koller

Carol Hubler

November 18, 2018

Thank Offering

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

Carol and Mike Hubler

Madeline Williard and Abigail Gilroy

Roy Henry

Lois Watson

November 25, 2018

Holy Communion

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

Tim and Lori Motter

RJ Henry and Gary Leitzel

Larry Gessner

Judy Ferree



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2018						
				1 All Saints' Day	2	3 10:00 Youth Group Meets to Prepare for Congregational All Saints Sunday Dinner <i>Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</i>
4 All Saints' Sunday 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Jr. High, Sr. High, & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons 11:30 Congregational Dinner, Served by Youth Group, with Congregational Discussion to Follow Daylight Saving Time Ends	5 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 5:30 Book Discussion Group Gathering 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville	6 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:00 Quarterly Youth Advisor Planning Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal Election Day	7 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club 6:30 – 8:00 Midweek Bible Study	8	9 <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	10 <i>Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</i> Martin Luther's Birthday (1483)
11 25th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Jr. High, Sr. High, & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Celebration Time for Young Persons 2:00 Dedication of Berrysburg/Mifflin Twp. Hometown Hero Banners 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting 6:00 St. John Women of the ELCA Meeting	12 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting <u>at</u> <u>St. John</u> 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – St. John at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens	13 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	14 6:30 – 8:00 Midweek Bible Study	15 <i>Deadline to Submit Items for December/ January "St. John's Epistle"</i>	16	17 <i>Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</i>
18 26th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Jr. High, Sr. High, & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Annual Thankoffering Worship, Led by St. John Women of the ELCA 11:15 Downstairs Advent/Christmas Deco- ration Party with Pizza Afternoon – Youth Group Gathering	19 9:00 Blanket Making for Luther- an World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball League Match – Valleys E.C. Church at St. John	20 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Worship & Music Com- mittee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	21 7:00 Berrysburg Area Thanksgiving Worship hosted by <u>St. John</u>	22 <i>Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off</i> Thanksgiving Day	23	24 <i>Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off</i>
25 Christ the King 9:00 SONday Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Jr. High, Sr. High, & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons	26 <i>Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day</i>	27 <i>Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day</i> 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	28	29	30 Andrew, Apostle	

<u>Pastor's Office</u> <u>Hours:</u> 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. <i>(Other times by appointment)</i>	The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	Stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
	Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little@gmail.com	717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
	Tammy & Bill Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
	Judith Ferree	Organist	jferree@epix.net	717-362-4228
	Carol Hubler	Choir Director	Mchubler@gmail.com	570-758-5052
	Rebecca Conte	Secretary	Rlkconte06@gmail.com	570-262-2664
	Daniel Langhans	Council President	langhans@pa.net	717-365-3794
	Fay Nichols	Prayer Chain Coordinator	Fnichols46@comcast.net	717-433-4483

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

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

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE