

**SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE**

OCTOBER 2013

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

I wanted to use this space this month to update you on the work of the "Prayerful Planning Group". The Prayerful Planning Group, as you might recall, is the group of folks who assembled for the first time in January in response to a long-running bulletin and newsletter invitation for members of the St. John congregational family who would be interested in coming together to give prayerful consideration to our present building facilities and what God might be calling us to be and do in this regard. When we first gathered, however, we quickly found that the Holy Spirit had much more in mind for this group than being simply about "bricks and mortar". By May, we had developed four top goals as our focus: **1. Growing our participation in Christian Education, especially Sunday School, 2. Having a facility that will lead to greater community presence and involvement here on The Hill, 3. Assuring the continuity of our annual Strawberry Festival, and 4. Strengthening the Sunday morning greeter ministry.**

Over the summer, the whole Group broke up into four sub-groups to focus on these four goals, with a plan to reconvene the whole Group on Monday evening, September 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. The Prayerful Planning Group remains a very open-ended group, with no set membership, and we would cordially welcome you to that September 30 meeting if you would like to become a part of things – it's not too late to add your creativity and energies to the mix!

My expectation is that the September 30 meeting will result in things to share and consider when we come together as a whole congregational family for our traditional All Saints' Sunday dinner and discussion. (While you're marking your calendar for the September 30 evening meeting, please also write in the first Sunday of November – November 3 – All Saints' Sunday, following worship, when we will gather for another wonderful fundraising dinner prepared and served by members of youth group and our advisors, followed by this time of sharing about "the state of the parish". You won't want to miss the chicken and waffles or the conversation and fellowship!)

In closing, speaking of "fellowship" and depending on when you are reading these lines, I hope you will be planning on joining in our Annual Square Dance (on the evening of the 29th) and our cruise on the Millersburg Ferry (on the afternoon of the 6th). Please don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an email if you'd like to learn more about either!

Pastor Tom

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION TO BE OFFERED

First Holy Communion Instruction for baptized young persons in 4th Grade or older who have not yet communed will be held on Tuesday, October 1, and Tuesday, October 22, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. both evenings. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Reformation Sunday, October 27. If you know of an eligible young person who has not yet been contacted about the class, please speak with Pastor Tom as soon as possible.

IT'S TIME FOR "BLANKET SUNDAY"

On Sunday, October 6, we will enjoy a beautiful display of the blankets that have been made by the "Blanket Bunch" since last fall for Lutheran World Relief. We will include a "blessing of the blankets" and receive a special ingathering offering to help to offset the cost of shipping the blankets to wherever in the world they will be needed in the year ahead.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Our annual "Walk in the Woods" is being planned for Sunday, October 6. *This year, our "Walk" will actually be more of a "Float"! We have rented time for a cruise on the Millersburg Ferry from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M., including time at anchor out in the river for devotions and singing.* When we return to shore, we will continue with our traditional hot dog roast and food shared together, probably at Wiconisco Park, south of Rt. 209 near the Ned Smith Center. Exact details are still being worked out, so please "stay tuned". Please plan to bring along a snack to go with hot dogs and a container of drink to share, and sign up on the sheet on the foyer bulletin board. *Please be aware that we are limited to a total of 50 people on board the ferry.*

PLAYBALL!

On Monday, October 7, a new season of dartball will begin. Dartball is scored like baseball except that, instead of pitching and hitting a ball, darts are thrown at a baseball field-shaped chart. St. John is part of a church dartball league, involving five other congregations in our area. Games start at 7:30 P.M. each Monday, either at our church or at one of the other churches in the league, and are usually over by 9:15 P.M. If you are 10 or older and are interested in a night of very good fellowship, fun, and food, please come and join our team. For the youngest players, league rules require the presence of a parent or guardian. Just speak to our coach, Henry Henninger, if you have any questions or would like to be part of the team.



YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Come out and join us at Youth Group. If you are in grades 6th thru 12th. We have lots of fun activities planned.

October 13 – The youth group will have a meeting from 4:30-6:00 to plan the Halloween Party. After planning the party we will be painting the baseball backstop at the church. Youth should wear old clothes.

October 14 - The youth group will be helping to load the truck that is going to New Windsor and then we will head down to the Corn Maize in Lancaster.

October 27 – Is our Annual Halloween Party for all ages. Youth are to be at the church at 2:00 p.m. to set up. The party will be from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. There will be a movie afterwards for the Youth Group Members.

Hope to see you at Youth Group, Ben Paul, VP

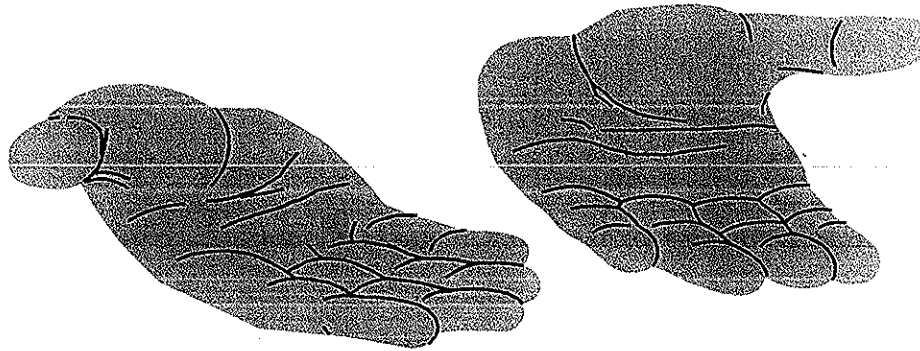
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Our next meeting will be October 13, 2013 at 6:00 P.M. We hope to see you all there.

Our leaders for the month are Helen Henninger, Arlene Doyle, and Cora Mace.

This month we will be electing officers for the position of Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary and Assistant Secretary. I can tell you we now have a full ballot.

Please keep in mind our mission work. If you have anything we can use for these projects please donate. Material for LWR Quilts and Yarn for making Prayer Shawls. If you would like to help with the prayer shawls please contact Barbara Bullock. If you are interested in quilting please contact Fay Nichols or Pat Herb.



Annual World Hunger ingathering Sunday October 20, 2013

Our annual World Hunger Fund Ingathering Church program will be on October 20, 2012. If you would like your specific contribution included on your year end financial statement you will need to provide either your name or envelope number on your contribution unless you are using the envelope provided in your actual envelope box.

Over the years we have assembled 4 Enterline cousins that have graciously agreed to match all world hunger offerings received during the first 3 Sundays in October on a 1 for 1 basis. Every dollar received will be doubled that Sunday.

As your World Hunger Coordinator since 1979 you have responded very generously over those years as our compilation of statistics reveal that as of 2012 we had given \$ 72,735.88. This includes Hurricane Sandy relief of \$4600 in 2012

The ELCA World Hunger initiated program titled GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD in 2011. Early in 2013 we once again decided to go with the God's Global barnyard theme. What kind of animals or fowl will we buy in October for this program? We have to wait and see what the final results are that Sunday! Last year we had \$ 2045.00 to work with.

As we did last year when we have a final figure for Oct,2013 we will have all teens, children and interested adults come to the Sunday School room after church service. All of you will have dollars available to choose how we are going to spend that money to buy animals, fowl or farm. Bring your ideas along with maybe your parents and as a team we will make decisions on how best we can help others somewhere in God's World that are less fortunate than we are as Americans.

A handout will be available soon on what is available in God's Global Barnyard and will be distributed during Oct for your education on what's available and the cost for the animals or fowl .

In Larry's opinion to many of our fellow Christians like to pick and choose their own appropriate bible passages but like to ignore God's, Christs, and the apostles writings and action during the 1sr century concerning Justice for the less fortunate in their environment and within our world today. Remember the world's population just in my lifetime has gone from about a 2 Billion estimate in 1950 to about 7 Billion today. Think of the strain on the planet. We Americans use bout 25 to 30 percent of the world's natural resources with 5% of the population. I will say no more

We as a church have promoted World Hunger each and every Sunday. You,our members ,provide offerings almost every week through the entire year and for your continued support we need to thank all who continue to help this worldwide cause to try with God's help and mercy to get this mammoth problem under control.

Larry Gessner, Fay Nichols, Pastor and Council

REGISTER NOW FOR MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Midweek Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, October 9, and then will meet weekly on subsequent Wednesdays through November 20, when we will take a break for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Class will be held each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. We will continue our multi-year journey of studying individual books of the Bible, using resources from our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Book of Faith emphasis on Bible study. This fall, we will turn our attention to the Book of Acts – the dramatic story of how the Holy Spirit starts with a handful of frightened disciples to unleash a movement for Jesus that will literally change the world – considering how those lessons and practices of the earliest Christian Church might inform what we do in the 21st Century. We will cover most of the 8-week study during the fall and then, as we did last year, we will finish any “leftovers” at the start of the winter period that we have between Christmas and the beginning of Lent, adding to this a brief study of the letter of the Apostle Paul to the Galatians. For our short period of spring study, due to the late date of Easter, we will tackle a brief but dramatic study of the Letter of James. No previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and discuss God's Word together! So that the correct number of study books can be ordered for our study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) no later than Tuesday, October 1.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

EVERYONE, young and older, is welcome to attend the adult Sunday School class on Sunday, October 20th at 9:00am. Bryan Henninger will be the “teacher” telling about his work & travels, especially in Asia. The cultures, religions, both city and rural life, food, interesting people he has met and any questions you may have can be discussed. Bryan is looking forward to his visit and having time to spend with St. John friends. Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 20th!

2014 BUDGET MEETING TO BE HELD

The meeting to prepare the 2014 Current Fund Budget will be held on **Monday, October 21, from 6:00 to 7:00 P.M.** All treasurers are especially needed for this important meeting.

UPPER DAUPHIN CONFERENCE REFORMATION WORSHIP

On Reformation Sunday evening, October 27, at 7:00 P.M., we are all invited to join together in conference worship at Simeon United Lutheran Church in Gratz. Special choirs are planned, Pastor Martine Joseph of Simeon will preach, and other conference pastors will take part. The evening's offering will benefit our conference weekly broadcast of *Sing for Joy* Sunday mornings on local radio station “Love 99”.

PRAY FOR OUR STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The following (22!) young members of St. John are currently involved in higher education. Their names and places of study are as follows (please see the soon-to-be-updated bulletin board display for photos and contact information):

Grant Barder	Triangle Tech
Daniel Bruner	The Pennsylvania State University
Timothy Bruner	West Chester University of PA
Rachel Denlinger	University of Cincinnati
Olivia Enders (beginning Spring, 2014)	Harrisburg Area Community College
Rose Kell	Gettysburg College
Morgan Klinger	Susquehanna University
Kimberly Langhans	The Pennsylvania State University
Shawnita Latsha	Altoona Campus, The Pennsylvania State University
Jennifer Lehman	Harrisburg Campus, The Pennsylvania State University
Blake Maurer	Messiah College
Kaylene Maurer	Harrisburg Area Community College
Jacob Paul	West Chester University of PA
Alayna Peters	Shenandoah University
Devin Radel	The Pennsylvania State University
Kelsey Rothermel	Harrisburg Area Community College
Courtney Rudisill	Bloomsburg University of PA
Kerilyn Schaeffer	Bloomsburg University of PA
Sara Shade	Messiah College
Callie Spicher	Shippensburg University of PA
Dwight Switzer	Temple University
Cody Thompson	Elizabethtown College

In addition to these young persons, we also note that **Robert Hassinger** is a student in a doctoral program, leading toward his PhD from Temple University; that **Heidi Lehman** is pursuing a degree in Radiology at Harrisburg Area Community College, that **Camella Leitzel** is pursuing her Masters Degree in Education from Millersville State University, that **Carrie Schlegel** is working on her Bachelors Degree, and that **Cory Shade** is working on a Masters Degree in Counseling from Messiah College. Please remember these students with your prayers and expressions of caring. If any students have been missed, or if any of the above information is in error, please contact Pastor Tom and corrections will be made in the next issue of the *Epistle*.



CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Ryne Crabb**, who was joined in marriage to **Christina Lynn Gehlbach** at Independence Grove in Libertyville, IL on Friday, July 26. They were blessed with many friends and family members who were able to travel the distance to attend their ceremony. They spent the weekend touring Chicago and attended the Cubs game on Monday evening with over 40 friends and family members. Ryne and Chrissy are going to Antigua in February for their honeymoon. Congratulations!

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Font

On Sunday, August 25, Pastor Tom presided at the baptism of **Madalyn Jency Leitzel**, infant daughter of **Camella & Michael Leitzel**. Two weeks later, Sunday, September 8, saw the celebration of the baptism of **Kyan Alek Peters**, son of **Alek & Adriane Peters**. Welcome to this new sister and new brother in Christ!

At the Altar

On Saturday, August 31, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Tausha Mace** (granddaughter of Doug Schreffler and great-granddaughter of Sue Lebo) & **Joseph Martin** at the church. 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!

At the Graveside

On September 12, Pastor Tom presided at memorial worship at the church for **James Lower**, who died at Harrisburg Hospital on September 7, after a months-long illness. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Jim, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to all of his loved ones.

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2013*

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Jim Watson.

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, Karen Gehring, Craig Peters, Sandra Shade, Cheryl Shadle, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences – John Ferree, Carol Hassinger, Kris Kell, Ken Koller, Eric Mattern

Motion by Jim Bullock, 2nd by Craig Peters to accept the May Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications: Thank you from Lutheran Camping Corp for our donation.

Motion by Jamie, 2nd by Sandra to give \$200 to the Berrysburg Fire Co. annual appeal.

Bergey Water Treatment is now donating our quarterly water treatment service at no charge to us. A thank you card will be sent.

Thank you from Devon Radel for our support of his mission trip.

Motion by Jim Watson, 2nd by Karen to send a gift of \$200 from Local Benevolence in honor of Bishop Hoover's retirement to the Bishops Discretionary Fund for those in need of specialized care.

Pastor's Report: Motion by Craig, 2nd by Jamie to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Reports: Motion by Cheryl, 2nd by Sandra to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Committee is planning to remove some trees. They are renting a lift for \$300 and Committee will take care of removal.

Discussion on requests for ceiling fans to be installed in the sanctuary to help cool the summer heat. Motion by Craig, 2nd by Karen to have proposal brought to Council next Sunday after worship in order to move on this as quickly as possible. Motion passed unanimously.

Finance Committee: Next meeting 7/29 - Audit

Worship & Music: Met 5/21 and still doing research on posting audio/or video of our services online. Recommending not doing Youth Encounter group in October this year. Next meeting 9/17.

Christian Education: Met 5/14 and finalized 10/6 outing on Millersburg Ferry boat in lieu of "Walk in the Woods". Square dance at Helen & Lynn Henninger's – 9/29.

Stewardship: No report

Evangelism: Next meeting in August

Youth Ministry: Planning meeting 8/20 at 7:15pm for Officers and Advisors. 9/8 Kickoff meeting will be a pool party at the home of Dennis & Mary Ann Smeltz from 3-6pm.

Mutual Ministry: No report

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report

History Committee: Lois Leshner and Helen Henninger are coordinating the history booklet which is in final editing. Pricing information in April minutes was premature. Final pricing is still being determined.

Green Team: Met 7/14 for "field trip" event to learn about solar power at the home of Dennis and Mary Ann Smeltz. The Green Team thanks Dennis and Mary Ann for opening their home and sharing their green knowledge with a group of 19 St. John members as well as for the ice cream! A good time was had by all.

Other Reports: Prayerful Planning Group- Met 5/5 and broke into committees to work on 4 areas of interest. 9/30 is next meeting.

Strawberry Festival: wrap up meeting held 7/9. Reaffirmed commitment to continuing festival into future for a very long time. 3/4/14 will be the kickoff meeting for 2014. Final results from 2013 Festival will be in the bulletin next week.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: Proposed Mission Statement has been written by the upstairs adult Sunday School class and others. Council will give prayerful thought on this until October meeting and then it will be presented to the Congregation at the next regular Congregational meeting for approval as well.

No communion on 1st Sunday in August because Pastor Tom is away. August 18 will be communion when Pastor Tom returns.

St. Matthews in Perkasio Kellers Church in Bucks County is holding a Fall Stewardship "Renewal of Commitment" and would like Pastor Tom to speak as an outside Pastor. This date is 11/24 which coincides with our Thank offering service which is led by the women of our congregation. Motion by Craig, 2nd by Jamie to approve Pastor Tom's attendance at St. Matthews without using a vacation day on 11/24. Motion passed unanimously. Halifax UM Church gives scholarships to their graduating seniors among others. Prayerful consideration will be given to if St. John should start doing this for our members as well. Council will revisit this topic at the October meeting.

No Council meeting in August.

Next Council Meeting: September 8, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church

Adjournment: Motion by Cheryl, 2nd by Sandra to adjourn at 8:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

**Treasurers Report for
May 2013**

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	6,144.94	9,530.75	9,177.39	6,498.30
Benevolence	53.56	1,390.02	1,390.00	53.58
Memorial	20,809.59	152,753.78*	150,000.00*	23,563.37
Improvement	3,953.24	436.00	77.50	4,311.74
Bicent CkAcct	13,886.75	150.47	918.78	13,118.44
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	123.51	229.00	317.00	35.51

*Includes CD which matured and purchase of new CD.

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	6,498.30	11,427.75	10,401.38	7,524.67
Benevolence	53.58	1,767.03	1,767.00	53.61
Memorial	23,563.37	960.46	-	24,523.83
Improvement	4,311.74	454.00	17.34	4,748.40
Bicent CkAcct	13,118.44	15,721.54	8,847.29	19,992.69
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	35.51	207.00	215.00	27.51



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR OCTOBER 2013

Altar Guild for Month of OCTOBER Carol & Dale Hassinger

Lector for Month of OCTOBER Jamie Doyle

Ushers for the Month of October & Sound System Technicians
(L) Ken Koller (E) Carol Hassinger, Judith Cheatham & Harry Weaver, Jr.

OCTOBER 6, 2013

20th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller
Sunday School Pianist- Louise Baumgardner
Greeters- The Brian Thompson Family
Acolytes- Kelsey Henninger & Cameron Thompson

OCTOBER 13, 2013

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday School Superintendent- Fay Nichols
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul
Greeters- Jim & Barb Bullock
Acolytes- Ryan Henninger & Gracie Gehring

OCTOBER 20, 2013

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
World Hunger In-Gathering

Sunday School Superintendent- Larry Gessner
Sunday School Pianist- Carol Hubler
Greeters- The Enders Family
Acolytes- Owen Mattern & Tyler D'Alesandro

OCTOBER 27, 2013

Reformation Sunday
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Lynn Henninger
Sunday School Pianist- Lois Watson
Greeters- Larry & Karen Gehring
Acolytes- Katherine Gessner & Reyann Cheatham

OCTOBER 2013



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:00-8:00 First Holy Communion Instruction 7:30 St. Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30 - 8:00 Midweek Bible Study <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	3	4	5 Pastor Tom's Day Off
6 The 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion with LWR Ingathering Offering 1:30 Depart Church for Annual Walk in the Woods on the Millersburg Ferry	7 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match	8 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg. 7:30 St. Choir Rehearsal	9 6:30 - 8:00 Midweek Bible Study <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	10	11	12 Pastor Tom's Day off 7:00-9:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group Meets at the Church - Please Contact Ray Matter for More Information
13 The 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 11:15 Fair Trade Coffee & Tea Sampling and Purchase. 11:15 Mutual Ministry Comm. Mtg. 4:30 Youth Group Meeting (Halloween Party Planning) 6:00 Women's Group Meeting 7:30 Congregation at Council Mtg.	14 7:30 A.M. Youth Group members meet at Church to Load Truck for New Windsor MD and Travel to Strasburg, PA Corn Maze 9:00 Blanket Making LWR 7:30 Dartball Match Columbus Day-Observed	15 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 1:00 Gathering with Our Residents at the Manor at Susq. Village 6:15 Evangelism Comm. Mtg 7:30 St. Choir Rehearsal	16 6:30 - 8:00 Midweek Bible Study	17	18 Luke, Evangelist Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off - No Office Hours	19 Pastor Tom's Day Off
20 The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with World Hunger In-Gathering Deadline to Submit Items for November St. John Epistle	21 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:00 Finance Comm. Mtg. to Plan 2014 Budget 7:30 Dartball Match	22 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastor's Mtg. 6:00-8:00 First Holy Communion Instruction 7:30 St. Choir rehearsal	23 6:30 - 8:00 Midweek Bible Study	24	25	26 Pastor Tom's Day Off 9:00 St. John Host Workshop by Lower Susquehanna Synod Treasurer's Office
27 Reformation Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with First Holy Communion 2:00 Youth Group Set Up for Party 4:00 Halloween Party 7:00 UDC Reformation Worship at Simeon United Lutheran, Gratz	28 Simon & Jude, Apostles (transferred) 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match	29 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastor's Mtg. 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 St. Choir rehearsal	30 6:30 - 8:00 Midweek Bible Study	31 Reformation Day		

