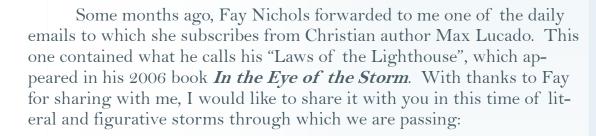
# ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

# A Letter from The Pastor.....

Dear Friends in Jesus,



The <u>Laws of the Lighthouse</u> contain more than good ideas, personal preferences, and honest opinions. They are God-given, time-tested truths that define the way you should navigate your life. Observe them and enjoy secure passage. Ignore them and crash against the ragged rocks of reality. The wise captain shifts the direction of her or his craft according to the signal of the lighthouse. A wise person does the same. Herewith, then, are the lights I look for and the signals I heed:

- -Love God more than you fear hell.
- Once a week, let a child take you on a walk.
- Make major decisions in a cemetery.
- When no one is watching, live as if someone is.
- Succeed at home first.
- Don't spend tomorrow's money today.
- Pray twice as much as you fret.
- Listen twice as much as you speak.
- Only harbor a grudge when God does.
- Never outgrow your love of sunsets.
- Treat people like angels; you will meet some and help make some.



# 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.

- 'Tis wiser to err on the side of generosity than on the side of scrutiny.
- God has forgiven you; you'd be wise to do the same.
- When you can't trace God's hand, trust his heart.
- Toot your own horn and the notes will be flat.
- Don't feel guilty for God's goodness.
- The book of life is lived in chapters, so know your page number.
- Never let the important be the victim of the trivial.
- Live your liturgy.

To sum it all up: Approach life like a voyage on a schooner. Enjoy the view. Explore the vessel. Make friends with the captain. Fish a little. And then get off when you get home.

God go with, guide, and bless you in your journeys of all kinds!

Pastor Tom

## Pastoral Acts

# At the Altar

On Saturday, August 18, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Sara Feidt** and **Joshua Paul**. We pray God's blessing on Josh and Sara, that they may each be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

# OUTH MINISTR

# News from Miss Laurie Young Christians Minister

Happy autumn everyone! I hope all the rainy weather we've had up to this point is NOT an indication of the amount of snowfall that is coming our way! I like snow, but at this rate, we might be looking more like Siberia than Central Pennsylvania. I guess we'll just have to wait and see what God has in store for us!!

Now that we're back into the regular Sunday School schedule, I just wanted to remind everyone that we have classes structured for EVERY young Christian:

SONday Celebration for ages pre-school through 4th grade

Jr. High Class with Olivia Williard for 5th and 6th graders

Catechism instruction for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders

Sr. High Class with Matt Williard for 9th through 12th graders

Classes run from 9:00 - 10:00 each Sunday morning. Start the week out right by learning about and experiencing God's love! If you're already participating, bring a friend!!

Speaking of which, Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> is "Bring a Friend" to SON-day Celebration! We'll have lots of activities focusing on friendship and our BEST friend, Jesus! Grab your "bestie" and join us for the fun!!

Also mark your calendars for another outside movie experience! Join us on **Saturday, October 20**th, for a "Drive-in by the Fire"!! Starting at 6:00, we'll be roasting marshmallows and making s'mores!! As soon as it's dark enough, we'll start the show! Sit in your car or outside on a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy watching on the "big screen" (or in our case, the side of the shed)!

Another program I hope to launch this month is "Celebration Club" – a fun, faith-filled interactive experience for children ages 3 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade! The Club will meet one Wednesday each month from 6:30-8:30 pm. We'll use music, crafts, active games, snacks and Bible stories to immerse the children in God's word – it will be like a mini VBS experience! I'll keep you posted on the start date in my weekly email. I hope you'll join in the Celebration!!

Enjoy the sights and smells of autumn and have a blessed October!

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



# Midweek Bible Study

#### Outdoor Schedule

October 14

Midweek Bible Study will get back underway on Wednesday, October 11, with an in-depth look at *Women of the Bible*. We often think of the Bible as being mostly about men and don't expect to see or hear much about faithful women. But, as this



study will remind us, our God is a surprising God whose work has and does include as many bold and important and memorable women as men. We will meet each Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. through November 14, when we will take a break for Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Then, as we have done the past several years, we will continue our fall study during our winter study time, following the beginning of the new year. 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 books can be ordered for our study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) by Sunday, September 30.

#### 2019 Current Fund

The meeting to prepare the 2019 Current Fund and other budgets will be held on Wednesday, October 3, from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M. All treasurers are especially needed for this important meeting.

# First Holy Communion Class

First Holy Communion Instruction for baptized young persons in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade or older who have not yet communed is being held on Monday, September 24, from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. and Wednesday, October 3, from 7:30 to 9:00 P.M. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on our traditional Reformation Sunday, October 28. 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

# Dartball Season to begin

A new season of dartball will begin in early October. 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 assistant coach, Fay Nichols, if you have any questions or would like to be part of the team.







Join the fun – first choir rehearsal on October 2nd at 7:30



Please contact Pastor Tom, Judy Ferree or Carol Hubler if you have any questions or need additional information.

See you Oct. 2nd.



# Pray for Our Students in Higher Education

The following young members of St. John are currently involved in a first venture in higher education. Their names and places of study are as follows (please see the updated bulletin board display in the foyer for their photos):

Allison Mace Harrisburg Area Community College

Shannon Motter Mansfield University of PA

Zachary Thompson Messiah College

Thank you to Lori Motter, who coordinates our ministry of outreach to our young members who are involved in undergraduate study!

In addition to the above young persons, we also note that **Valerie Buffington** is working on her Bachelors Degree in Organizational Behavior/Applied Psychology through Albright College, **Rachel Denlinger** is pursuing her Bachelors Degree in Nursing in an accelerated program at the Penn State Hershey College of Medicine and that **Kristen Spicher** is pursuing her Bachelors Degree in Nursing at the Penn State Harrisburg Campus.

Finally, we also have a number of congregational family members who are pursuing post-graduate degrees: **Timothy Bruner** is in the midst of his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Arcadia University, **Camella Leitzel** is pursuing her Masters Degree in Education from Millersville State University, **Nicholas Motter** has begun work on his Masters Degree in Education at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and **Gwen Switzer** is doing further work at the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences

What wonderful and varied ways St. John congregational family members are training to serve in God's Good World! 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*.



# 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



#### "Celebration" Calendar

#### September:

9th 9:30 "Celebration" Service with Celebration Choir and "Blessing of the Backpacks"

12:00 Annual Congregational Picnic and Knoebel's Outing

16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 "Return to SONday" Celebration – special activities marking our return to regular Sunday schedule with SONday Celebration from 9:00-10:00, and Celebration Time during church

29<sup>th</sup> 11:00 Pillow Bicentennial Parade w/float featuring the Celebration Choir

#### October:

7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 Bring a Friend to SONday Celebration

**20**<sup>th</sup> 6:30 Drive-in by the Fire

#### **November:**

4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 Celebration Hayride

18<sup>th</sup> Christmas Decoration and Pizza Party

**25**th "Celebration" Christmas Book Fair Preview

# **Book Discussion Group**

Book discussions will resume this fall. All are welcome, and the first meeting will be a light supper and discussion at Ann and Pastor Tom's home on Monday October 8, 5:30 PM. No book required for this first gathering. Please bring a food to share, and Ann will provide drinks, plates, bowls and utensils. Join us for the fun and supportive fellowship!

#### 2018 Dates:

October 8

November 5

December 3

# Calling All Youth!!

#### **October Events**

7 - Risser-Marvel Farms

28 - Halloween Party

The Youth Group is considering options in building a Ga Ga Pit, if any youth and/or adult would like to dedicate time to the group for discussion and completion, we welcome the assistance.

The Youth Group is always looking for service projects!! Fall is the perfect time to help a neighbor and/or family member with small projects around the house. If you see or know someone who could use our help please get in touch with any youth group advisor.

All St. John youth in <u>grades 5 through 12</u> are eligible for Youth Group. The Youth Group advisors have met to plan the next few months and we have a lot in store! We hope you can join us!

Youth Group gets together every 3rd Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted in the schedule for our monthly get together. We would love to have all our youth attend these monthly get together's, its always fun and more often than not, hot dogs and/or pizza!



# Youth Group News

Recapping September - We successfully packed our 500 school kits for the LYO, held our first meeting of the year where we decided to hold off on elections until our Chicken and Waffle Dinner and assisted Miss Laurie with the Bicentennial Parade in PillowAt the Youth Group meeting prior to the Annual Square Dance, we decided to hold off on elections until our Chicke and Waffle Dinner in November.

October is Corn Maze Month. This year we have changed the date of our annual Corn Maze to hopefully accommodate more youth and their parents, this year we will be traveling to the Risser Marvel Farm Corn Maze in Campbelltown on **Sunday October 8**, immediately following the Women of ELCA's Italian Dinner. On **Sunday, October 28**, we will be holding our Annual Halloween Party!

# Looking Ahead

#### **November Events:**

November is CHICKEN and WAFFLES month at St. John! November will also provide an opportunity to complete a service project to benefit the Bethesda Mission in Harrisburg—details will be shared in the Senior High Sunday School class.

#### **December Events:**

Berrysburg will be holding a Winter Carnival this month. The Youth Group will participate in some way—watch for specifics.

# Youth Group Schedule

October Events

**Sunday, Oct. 7:** *Immediately following worship* - the Women of the ELCA will be serving an Italian Dinner. Free will offerings go to supporting the Snack Pack programs to feed students from UDA elementary and middle schools.

Sunday, Oct. 28: (5:00-7:00) – at the church, Annual Halloween Party for Youth Group

**November Events** 

**Saturday, Nov. 3:** (10:00-?) – *the church*, Please plan to help **prepare the food** for the Chicken and Waffles dinner. The more help we have the faster the work will go.

**Sunday, Nov. 4:** (9:00-?) – *the church*, Meet in the kitchen to set tables and prepare to serve the annual Chicken and Waffles Dinner. Clean-up happens immediately after the dinner.

**Sunday, Nov. 18:** *Immediately following Worship*, \*The Faith Formation Team has organized an opportunity for all youth of St. John and their families to make ornaments for the Christmas tree in the Sunday School room.

November TBA - Service Project to benefit the Harrisburg Bethesda Mission (Senior High Class Only)

**December Events** 

**Sunday, Dec. 9:** Times to be announced - *Meet at the church*, \*Caroling

**Sunday, Dec. 16:** Look for times and details from Miss *Laurie – the church*, \*Advent Program – The Youth Group will participate in a LIVE NATIVITY.

December TBA - Assist with Berrysburg Winter Carnival

#### **REMINDERS:**

- 1. <u>ALL PARTICIPANTS</u> 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, <u>ALL PARTICIPANTS</u> (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!

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

July 8, 2018

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

3 excused absences: Carol Hassinger, Jeff Buffington, and Henry Henninger; all other members present

**Reading of Minutes:** Motion to accept by Jamie Doyle; second by Donna Rabenold. Motion passed by all In attendance.

### Pastor's Report:

- Water test passed
- · A thank you note was received from the Northern Dauphin Human Services Center.
- · Idea from the Mutual Ministry Meeting held earlier today What to do with the old dishes above the sink in the kitchen? Referred to Sandra Lamenza.
- Motion to give \$500 to the Berrysburg and Community Fire Fighter Annual Appeal by Carl Baumgardner; second by Dan Langhans; motion passed by all in attendance.
- The 500th Anniversary Reformation Quilt is to be kept here. Where to put it? Motion by Pat Herb; second by Barb Bullock; passed by all in attendance.
- · Honor and Memory Veterans Banner for St. Johns congregational members who served; to be placed In Berrysburg; cost is \$150. Motion by Carl Baumgardner; second by Pat Herb; Motion passed by all in attendance.
- Eight new members will be received next Sunday. Motion by Carl Baumgardner; second by Barb Bullock; motion passed by all in attendance.
- Motion to accept the Pastor's Report by Donna Rabenold; second by Carl Baumgardner; motion passed by all in attendance.

#### **Children and Youth:**

• To attend at Knoebels Grove on September 9. Motion by Jamie Doyle; second by Pat Herb; motion passed by all in attendance.

# **Treasurer Report:**

• Two reports for May and June; motion to accept by Pat Herb; second by Donna Rabenold; motion passed by all in attendance.

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting Minutes - continued

July 8, 2018

# **Church Property:**

No meeting was held

· Water leak between the Sexton house and the pavilion. The leak will be repaired.

Youth Ministry: A nice time was experienced in Houston. Thank you to all the advisors.

Mutual ministry: next meeting October 7

Women's Report: no meeting in summer

• 105 jars of Jelly were sold at the Strawberry Festival; 21 loaves of bread; \$483 was made.

**Strawberry Festival:** Wrap up meeting was held June 26; June 12 for next year's Strawberry Festival.

Motion to adjourn by Donna Rabenold; second by Pay Herb; 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:

	<b>Prior Balance</b>	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
Current	\$10, 842.18	\$9,291.00	\$9,777.97	\$9,592.73
Benevolence	\$206.68	\$1232.68	\$1126.00	\$106.68
Children & Youth	\$(1,581.58)	\$1,415.00	\$1,446.94	\$(1,613.52)
Flower	\$322.73	\$442.73	\$125.00	\$317.73
Improvement	\$3,333.06	\$4,091.06	\$99.06	\$3,992.00
Memorial	\$4,039.21	\$5,595.44	\$1,501.75	\$4,093.69

# September Worship Schedule

#### **October Gifts**

**Konde Diocese -**

Kim & Barry Williard Jr.

Celebrate Inserts -

Joe & Arlene Doyle

Tree 4 Hope -

Kim & Barry Williard Jr.

**Altar Flowers** 

October 7

Alex & Robin Langhans

October 14
OUTDOOR WORSHIP

October 21 Olivia Williard

October 28

\*as of print date, subject to change Altar Guild Carol & Dale Hassinger

Lector Jamie Doyle

Usher's for the Month of October Tammi Spicher (L) Ken Koller (E), Betty Leitzel and Karen Gehring(LAY)

October 7, 2018 Greeter The Maurer Family

Holy Communion Acolyte Allysa Rabenold & Madeline Williard

Superintendent Jeff Lehman Pianist Carol Hubler

October 14, 2018 Greeter The James Watson Family

OUTSIDE SERVICE Superintendent Ken Koller

Pianist Louise Baumgardner

October 21, 2018 Greeter The Jodi Thompson Family

Acolytes Landon Mace & Avery Mace

Superintendent Roy Henry Pianist Lois Watson

October 28, 2018 Greeter Maryjane Zellner

Holy CommunionAcolytesAllysa Rabenold & Lilly Rabenold

**Reformation Sunday**Superintendent
Pianist
Larry Gessner
Louise Baumgardner

	0	October 2	er 2018			
	1 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	2 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Faith Formation Team Gathering 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	3 6:00 Finance Committee Meeting to Prepare 2019 Budgets 7:30 – 9:00 First Holy Communion Instruction	4	rð.	6 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
7 20th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 Bring A Friend SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class, Jr. High, Sr. High, & Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons 11:15 Mutual Ministry Committee Brief Meeting 11:30 Congregational Italian Dinner by Women of the ELCA of St. John to Benefit Weekend Snack Pack Ministry 12:30 (approx.) Congregational Council Meeting 12:30 (approx.) Youth Group Corn Maze Outing	8 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball League Match  Columbus Day  (observed)	Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	10 6:30 – 8:00 Midweek Bible Study	Pastor Tom on Vacation Today through Tuesday, October 23, returning to the office on Wednesday, October 24	2	13
14. 21st Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Combined Youth Group Sunday School Class 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:15 OUTDOOR WORSHIP – Old Fashioned Hymn-Sing, with Celebration Time for Young Persons (Guest Worship Leader, Mr. James Watson)	15 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball League Match  Deadline to Submit Items for November "St. John's Epistle"	16 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	7.1	18 Luke, Evangelist	19	<b>20</b> 6:00 <b>Drive-In by</b> <b>the Fire</b> Movie Night with Miss Laurie
21 22 <sup>md</sup> Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Combined Youth Group Sunday School Class 9:00 Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Celebration Time for Young Persons and Annual World Hunger Ingathering (Guest Worship Leader, Mr. James Watson)	92 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball League Match	23 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	24 8:00 Pastor Tom Returns to the Office 6:30 — 8:00 Midweek Bible Study	89 52	97	27 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
28 Reformation Sunday/Simon & Jude, Apostles 100 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 and First Holy Communions 5:00 – 7:00 Youth Group Halloween Gathering	29 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball League Match	30 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	Reformation Day (6:30 – 8:00 Midweek Bible Study Halloween			

Saturday

Friday

Thursday

Wednesday

Tuesday

Monday

Sunday

Pastor's Office	The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	Pastor	Stjohnhillchurch @frontier.com	717-362-9519 (O) 717-362-7895 (H)
<u>Hours:</u> Mon, Tues - 8:00 A.M.– 9:30 A.M.	Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister	misslaurie.little @gmail.com	717-365-3255 (H) 717-571-5058 (C)
Wed, Thurs -	Tammy & Bill Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon Friday	Judith Ferree	Organist	jjferee@epix.net	717-362-4228
	Carol Hubler	Choir Director	Mchubler @gmail.com	570-758-5052
8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. (Other times by appointment)	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