

## ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

Dear Friends in Jesus,

The month of October, with educational pursuits of all kinds back in full swing, is a really good time to take stock of your own continuing growth and education in the Faith. We often think of this in terms of young persons (who are well-served here at St. John with Miss Laurie's weekly SON-Day Celebration and monthly Celebration Club for our youngest members, a creative Youth Sunday School gathering with Matt & Olivia Williard upstairs in our **Youth Zone**, and my weekly Confirmation Class for those preparing for Affirmation of Baptism), but I am especially referring to all of us post-high school adults. Too often, I'm afraid, we tend to think of Christian Education as something that ends when we "graduate" from confirmation class around about 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, having learned by then all that we need, but nothing could be further from the truth.

(If you doubt me on this, you can do a quick two-question self-assessment. Simply ask yourself: 1. When a Jehovah's Witness or a Mormon appears at my door, do I feel competent giving my own testimony by sharing with them what I as a Lutheran Christian believe... or does the thought of standing toe to toe with them cause me to cower behind the closed door in fear and intimidation? And 2. When a friend or relative who is active in a "fundamentalist" or "pentecostal" congregation sends something my way purporting to give THE Christian view on one of the hot topics of our time, do I feel competent in evaluating its biblical truth (or lack thereof) and discussing it with them... or do I simply see a couple of biblical citations that I don't recognize and figure "Oh, if they're quoting the Bible it must be so"?)

Assuming you see the potential for continually growing in your faith understandings, as we all need to do (including we pastors by the way), please let me commend to you **three** very good places to begin. **First**, your own daily plan of Bible reading. If you are looking for a starting point, our congregational family provides two very usable tools in this regard – first the ***Christ in Our Home*** quarterly devotional booklets and second the "Preparing for Next Week" section at the bottom of the back page of our weekly ***Celebrate*** bulletin inserts, which has a nice selection of varied daily readings. Or, if you feel ready for a bigger biblical adventure like reading through the Old Testament or the New Testament or the entire Bible in a year, there are many places to find reading plans that will get you there by reading larger chunks of the Bible each day (please contact me if you can't find a plan like this and I will fix you up).



Since our own personal daily Bible reading often seems to raise more questions than it answers, coming together with other sisters and brothers in the faith on Sunday mornings to share in Bible study is the **second** very important step to take. A vibrant adult class led by a rotating team of fellow biblical students gathers each week at 9:00am upstairs, starting with a very brief opening (which includes a chance to share joys and concerns, pray, and do a bit of singing). For part of the year a second more topical study will also be available on Sunday mornings for post-high school adults – watch for more news about this study getting together after the Christmas holidays. No one is ever forced to share or speak out loud – you can participate at your own pace!

And then **finally**, on Wednesday evenings in the fall, winter, and spring, I lead a 1½-hour long study from 6:30 to 8:30pm downstairs in the conference room. Our fall study, which will get underway on October 9, will take us through ***The Letter to the Hebrews***, a New Testament book which is quite unfamiliar to most of us but whose opening words are so important to the story of Jesus that they have a long tradition of always being read in worship on Christmas Day. Here again you don't need to have any previous experience with Bible studies to take part and you can participate out loud as much or as little as is comfortable for you – absolutely no pressure! So that I can order the correct number of study books for our time together, please register in advance (by simply emailing, calling or speaking with me) no later than Tuesday, October 1.

Please don't hesitate to contact me about any or all of the above. And make this a year to grow!

***PASTOR TOM***

*When You wake up say: Jesus I Love You...  
When leaving the house say: Jesus come with me...  
When you feel like crying say: Jesus hug me...  
When you feel happy say: Jesus I adore you...  
When you do something say: Jesus help me...  
When you make a mistake, say: Jesus forgive me...  
When you go to sleep say: Jesus Thank You Jesus  
and cover me with your holy mantle.*

*News from Miss Laurie*  
*Young Christians Minister*

Happy autumn, everyone! It's hard to believe it's October, but those leaves are starting to change color and the smell of fall is in the air, so it **MUST** be true! Only a month until we turn those clocks back, so enjoy the daylight while we still have it!! And enjoy the fall activities we have scheduled here at St. John's, too!

Our second Celebration Club happens on October 2<sup>nd</sup>! Join us from 6:30 – 8:30 pm as we hear the story of the Prodigal Son! We'll have lots of activities, and a craft to reinforce the story, too! There is music, fun and treats abound, so mark your calendar and plan to be part of the fun!! All children preschool through 4<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend!!

On Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> during SONday Celebration, we're going to go outside and have an Autumn Leaf Hunt! Of course then we'll have to make a craft with leaves and have some leaf activities. And we'll talk about how things change, like the leaves in fall, but one thing is constant – Jesus **NEVER** changes!

Another October activity is the annual Autumn Drive-In Movie Night! This year it is scheduled for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, and **EVERYONE** (even if you're not a kid) is welcome to attend! It is so cool to sit out under the stars and watch an entertaining show, so come out and join us! We'll have the movie rain or shine; we'll just move inside if the weather doesn't cooperate! The pre-show fun starts at 6:00 and we'll get the show started as soon as it gets dark enough. Put this one on your calendar and plan to attend!

There are lots of ways to fellowship and expand your faith here on the "hill"! This fall, come out and join the celebration!

*Miss Laurie*

## *First Holy Communion*

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 30, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. and Tuesday, October 8, from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. First Holy Communion will be celebrated on our traditional 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

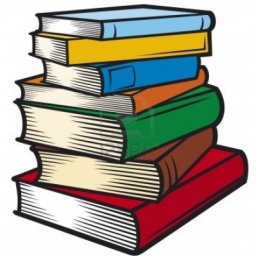


## *Ingathering Sunday*

On Ingathering Sunday, October 6, when we ask God's blessing on our blankets and blanket-making ministry, we will also take time to prayerfully dedicate to God's service our beautifully remodeled kitchen. Then, immediately following worship, all interested persons are invited to come downstairs for a kitchen tour and "tutorial", as well as a fellowship time with our Fair Trade coffee and tea products.

## *Fall Reading and Fellowship*

It's that time again – book discussions will resume on October 7 at 5:30 P.M.! Each meeting will include a light supper and discussion. Please bring a food item to share and Ann will provide drinks, plates, bowls, and utensils. Join us for lively discussion and supportive fellowship. October's topic will be the book *Spoken From the Heart* by former First Lady Laura Bush. Questions or you need a copy of the book? Please talk with Ann Bruner. All are welcome!



## *Dartball Season Begins*

A new season of dartball will begin on **Monday, October 7**. 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 about 9:00 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, Larry Gehring, or to Pastor Tom if you have any questions or would like to be part of the team.

## *Finance Committee*

The Finance Committee meeting to prepare the 2020 Current Fund and other budgets will be held on **Wednesday, October 2, from 6:00 to 7:30 P.M.**

The 3rd quarter audit is scheduled for **Monday, October 19th at 7:00**. Treasurers are reminded to have their books at the church for this meeting. Thank you. Pat Herb

## *Prayer 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):

Reyann Cheatham	Harrisburg University of Science & Technology
Caleb Enders	Commonwealth Technical Institute Hiram G. Andrews Center Johnstown, PA
Ryan Henninger	Harrisburg Area Community College
Allison Mace	Harrisburg Area Community College
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.

And finally, we also have a large number of congregational family members who are pursuing post-graduate degrees: **Timothy Bruner** is in the finishing stages of his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Arcadia University, **Bryan Henninger** is working on his Masters Degree at the Pennsylvania State University at State College while also serving as an undergraduate instructor, **Nicholas Motter** is pursuing his Masters Degree in Education at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, **Benjamin Paul** is at work on his Masters Degree in Biology at Bloomsburg University, **Jacob Paul** is working on his Masters Degree in Business Administration through the Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, **Kristen Spicher** is pursuing her Masters Degree for Certified Nurse Practitioner through the University of Southern California, 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*.



# St. John's Youth Group

## Upcoming Events

**Oct 11** - Bethesda Mobile Mission

**Oct 27** - Tentative Date for Halloween Activity

**Nov 3** - Chicken and Waffle Dinner

## *Bethesda Mobile Mission*

We will be once again picking up our Mobile Mission Friday night adventures. This event is for High School Youth Group Members only! If you have not participated in one of these trips, please take a moment to consider attending! Please see an advisor if you would like to ride along on Oct 11!

### DONATIONS

We are asking the congregation to consider donating for this trip

Sternos  
Cans of Soup  
Matches

## *Halloween Party*

We set the date for the Halloween party as Sunday, October 27th. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. or right after church. After a pizza or sub lunch, we will head to Schwartz Farms in Hegins for a corn maze. After the corn maze, we will head back to church for snacks and a movie. Everything will wrap up at 5:00 p.m.



## *Chicken and Waffle Dinner*

On Saturday, November 2nd at 9:00 a.m., we will meet at the church to set-up tables and cut-up potatoes. The dinner will be Sunday, November 3rd right after church

## Advisor's Meeting

**October 13** - Directly following worship

**ALL YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS** must complete a General Information and Emergency/Medical Form. This form only needs to be completed 1 time each year and this is the annual renewal time! Please check the bulletin board for copies and return to one of the Youth Group Advisors.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

St. John's Facebook:  
[facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch](https://facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch)

St. John's Children and Youth Ministry:  
[facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry](https://facebook.com/childrenandyouthministry)



The Women of the ELCA of St. John's Lutheran will once again be hosting an Italian dinner immediately following worship on Sunday, Oct. 20. The format will be the same as past fellowship meals. Lunch will be served and you can stay as long as your schedule allows. A free will offering will be taken and given to the local "Snack Pack" ministry. Please plan to join us and look for the sign-up sheets in the foyer to volunteer main dishes and desserts. Thank You for your support and willingness to help.

And Looking ahead to November: The annual Thank Offering service will be held Sunday, November 24 and the month of November will be our annual "Fill the Pew" month for Snack Pack. Thank you for your support of these programs.

### *Books of the Bible*

#### PUZZLE:

Can you find the names of the twenty five books of the Bible in this paragraph? This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone who found it in the seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, kept himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are not easy to spot... that is a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. The truth is, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help, books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. And punctuations and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember there are twenty five books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph.

## October Worship Schedule

### October Gifts

#### **Celebrate Inserts -**

*Kim and Barry Williard Jr.*

#### **Tree 4 Hope**

*Kim and Barry Williard Jr.*

#### **Konde Diocese -**

*Kim and Barry Williard Jr.*

### Altar Flowers

#### ***October 6***

*Alex & Robin Langhans*

#### ***October 13***

*Matt & Olivia Williard*

#### ***October 20***

*Kim & Barry  
Williard Jr.*

#### ***October 27***

*Gail Billow*

*\*as of print date,  
subject to change*

**Lector**  
**Altar Guild**

Jamie Doyle  
Carol and Dale Hassinger

**Usher -** Matt Williard (L), Olivia Williard(E),  
Gary Leitzel and Betty Leitzel (LAY)

#### October 6, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist  
Prayer  
Scripture

Angela Enders and Family  
Gabe Gehring and Gary Leitzel  
Ken Koller  
Sandy Paul  
Janet/ Darrel Denlinger  
Hoyt Schlegel

#### October 13, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist  
Prayer  
Scripture

James and Lois Watson  
Aidan Roadcap and Cole Roadcap  
Roy Henry  
Carol Hubler  
Pat Herb  
Matthew Williard

#### October 20, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist  
Prayer  
Scripture

Larry and Karen Gehring  
Hoyt Schlegel and Gary Leitzel  
Larry Gessner  
Judy Ferree  
Fay Nichols  
Heidi Lehman

#### October 27, 2019

Greeter  
Acolytes  
Superintendent  
Pianist  
Prayer  
Scripture

Fay Nichols  
Caroline DeSoto and Avery Mace  
Lynn Henninger  
Lois Watson  
Fred Weaver  
Kelsey Henninger

**Acolyte Schedule will resume October 6!**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>October 2019</b>						
		<b>1</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 6:00 Finance Committee Meeting to Prepare 2019 Budgets 6:30 Monthly Celebration Club with Miss Laurie	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
<b>6 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons, Blessing of Blankets and Dedication of New Kitchen 11:30 Kitchen "Tours" and Fellowship Time with Fair Trade Coffee & Tea 11:30 Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting	<b>7</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 5:30 Monthly Book Discussion Group Gathering 6:30 Altar Guild Training Gathering 7:30 Church Dartball League Match	<b>8</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:00 Faith Formation Team Gathering 7:00 First Holy Communion Instruction 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b> <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i> 6:30 – 8:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>10</b> <i>Pastor Tom on Vacation Today through Tuesday, October 22, returning to the office on Wednesday, October 23</i>	<b>11</b> Youth Group Evening Mission Trip to Bethesda Mobile Mission	<b>12</b>
<b>13 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Celebration Time for Young Persons (Guest Worship Leader, Mr. James Watson) 11:15 Youth Group Advisor Gathering	<b>14</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball League Match <b>Columbus Day (observed)</b>	<b>15</b> <i>Deadline to Submit Items for November "St. John's Epistle"</i> 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <b>Luke, Evangelist</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Sunny Sermon by Miss Laurie, Celebration Time for Young Persons and Annual World Hunger Ingathering (Guest Worship Leader, Mr. James Watson) 11:30 Congregational Italian Dinner by Women of the ELCA of St. John to Benefit Weekend Snack Pack Ministry	<b>21</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball League Match	<b>22</b> 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 8:00 Pastor Tom Returns to the Office	<b>24</b> 5:30 Community Meal at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtville	<b>25</b> 7:00 Rehearsal for Hughes/Lebo Wedding	<b>26</b> 2:00 Marriage of Teresa Hughes and John Lebo
<b>27 Reformation Sunday</b> 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Celebration Time for Young Persons and First Holy Communions 11:30 – 5:00 Youth Group Halloween Outing & Movie	<b>28</b> <b>Simon &amp; Jude, Apostles</b> 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball League Match	<b>29</b> 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:30 – 8:00 Midweek Bible Study	<b>31</b> <b>Reformation Day</b>  <b>Halloween</b>		

<p><u>Pastor's Office</u>  <u>Hours:</u>  Mon, Tues -  8:00 A.M.– 9:30 A.M.</p> <p>Wed, Thurs -  8:00 A.M. – 12:00  Noon</p> <p>Friday  8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.  <i>(Other times by  appointment)</i></p>	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 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	717-329-7447

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Church Website: [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)

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

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE