

# *ST. JOHN'S*

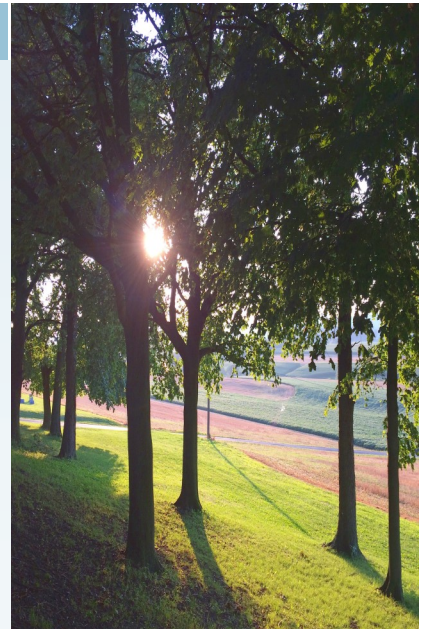
## *EPISTLE*

### *A Letter from The Pastor.....*

Dear Friends in Jesus,

September is a month of transition, from the things of summer to the things of the coming autumn, and our congregational family life is no exception. Much too soon it seems for many of us, we gather for our final outdoor worship experience on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 2. I would like to use the rest of my letter this month to highlight the Sunday schedule changes which take place in the two weeks following Labor Day.

Our schedule on the **Sunday following Labor Day (September 9)** will again this year be a kind of mixture of summer and autumn. From 8:45 to 9:15 A.M., I will lead a combined Adult Sunday School Class downstairs in the conference room. Our 9:30 A.M. worship, also on our summer schedule, will be a "SONDay Celebration" worship, featuring a time of sharing from our crew which attended the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX back at the end of June and also including a Sunny Sermon by Miss Laurie, music by the Celebration Choir, and our **Annual Blessing of the Backpacks** led by me (for which all students – Preschool through Grade 12 – are asked to bring along their school backpacks for a time of recognition, blessing, and prayer, as a new school year gets underway). As has become our annual custom, when our worship ends at 10:30 A.M., it will be time to head out for our congregational outing to Knoebel's, where we have a pavilion set aside for our use and where everyone attending will gather with their covered dish and container of drink for sharing to join in lunch together, followed by plenty of time for riding. (Our younger members will have some ride tickets provided, through the recent Subway card fundraiser.)



## 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.*

Then, on **Sunday, September 16** and following Sundays, we will be fully back to our fall schedule of SONDay Celebration (a creative and vibrant Sunday School experience for those in Grades 4 and younger) Jr. High Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Sr. High Sunday School downstairs, getting underway at 9:00 A.M. Also at 9:00 A.M., the Adult Sunday School Class which typically meets upstairs on the main floor will return to their usual gathering place there – please stay tuned for news about plans for the balcony level Adult Sunday School Class and their plans for later September. Worship will then follow at 10:15 A.M., including time out for a “Celebration Time” experience for our younger members.

Thank you very much for letting me share with you in this way, and especially for your continued partnership in this wonderful congregational family that is St. John, the Hill Church!

***Pastor Tom***

### ***Pastoral Acts***

#### At the Font

Pastor Tom presided on Sunday, July 22, as we welcomed **Ayden Lin Henninger**, son of **Bryan & Rita Henninger**, into the Kingdom of God and the St. John Congregational Family in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray God's blessings on Ayden, his parents and other family members, and his sponsors as they live out the promises they have made!

On Sunday morning, July 15, Pastor Tom presided as we had the honor of welcoming **Marie Farner; Sara Feidt; Eric Miller; Joshua Paul; Nicholas & Janine Schaffner** and their children **Mark, Jacob, Isaac, & Eli**; and **Kellie Shoop** and her children **Maclyn & Ayden** into the St. John congregational family. We also celebrated as **Carissa Barder** made affirmation of her baptism late last year. Sara, the Schaffner's, and the Shoop's came to us from other branches of the one Christian Family, by making affirmation of their baptisms, while Marie, Eric, and Josh came to us by transfer from sister Upper Dauphin Conference congregations. Please be sure to personally welcome them and update your congregational directory (see separate article of updates enclosed in this *Epistle*).

#### At the Altar

On Saturday, June 23, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Cody Thompson** and **Maura Simonetti** at the church. We pray God's blessing on Maura and Cody, that they may each be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

#### At Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at funeral worship at the church on Saturday, August 11, for **Margery Romberger**, who died peacefully at the home of her daughter, Ann, in Richland, MI on July 12. Interment was at Maple Grove Cemetery in Elizabethtown. We pray God's comfort in the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus for Marge's family and friends

## *News from Miss Laurie*

Happy September everyone! I can hardly believe that it's back to school time already! Many young people have already begun their school year; we at Little Hands Nursery School will begin on September 10<sup>th</sup>! I hope all our young friends are off to a FABULOUS start!!

Before looking ahead, I just wanted to recap some of the fun we had over the summer! In July, we had a great ride on "Rolling River Rampage", our VBS adventure! Even though we had to cancel TWO days due to the weather (a FIRST for me), we still "passed through the waters" with a record number of young people (and helpers)! Thanks to everyone who helped make our program a fantastic experience!!

In August, as a "Grand Finale" to VBS, we had a "Water Fun Night" with a slip-n-slide, sprinklers, water balloons and a "food party"!! It was a great time and a great way to wrap-up our program!!

Now it's time to mark your calendars for some fun activities coming in September:

**September 9<sup>th</sup> - 9:30** "Celebration" Service w/ a Sunny Sermon and music from the Celebration Choir, and "Blessing of the BackPacks". Annual Congregational Picnic and Knoebel's Outing  
(Immediately following the Celebration Service.)

**September 16<sup>th</sup> - 9:00** "Return to SONday" Regular Sunday schedule resumes with SONday Celebration from 9-10 and Celebration Time during church.

**September 29<sup>th</sup> - 11:00** Pillow Bicentennial Parade We're re-creating the St. John's float featuring our Celebration Choir.

There's always something happening on "the hill" so join us for the fun and fellowship as we begin another new (Sunday) School year!!

*Miss Laurie*

*See Pg.7 For the Celebration Calendar Fall Events*

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)



Find us on  
**Facebook**

## Outdoor Schedule

*Sept 2 - Holy  
Communion*

### *Blessing of the Backpacks*



During our **9:30 A.M.** worship on Sunday, September 9, Pastor Tom will again be leading what has come to be our annual **Blessing of the Backpacks**. All persons from Pre-School through Grade 12 (members of the congregation as well as friends they will hopefully invite!) are asked to bring their school backpacks along to worship that morning, during which they will be called forward for a time of recognition, prayer, and blessing, as a new school year gets underway. Each participant will also receive a small “keepsake” to put in their backpacks as a reminder of the fact that God goes with each of them through the joys and challenges of the school year to come!

### *Confirmation Call with Pastor Tom*

On Sunday morning, September 16, those baptized members of St. John who are in at least 7<sup>th</sup> Grade and who have not yet been confirmed will begin a new year of study with Pastor Tom. The focus this year will be a close-up look at the Bible. Two of our young members are in their second of two years of study, leading toward their Confirmation next year on the Day of Pentecost, while three other young persons will begin a first year of study.

### *Festival of Harvest Home*

On the fourth Sunday of September, September 23, we will observe our annual Festival of Harvest Home. On that day, everyone attending worship is encouraged to bring non-perishable food items (canned goods must be purchased—home canned foods are still not able to be accepted) or fresh produce for the decorating of the chancel and then delivery to the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center in Lykens.



### *Annual Square Dance*

Our Annual Congregational Square Dance is coming right up – on Sunday, September 23, beginning at 6:00 P.M. in the barn of Lynn & Helen Henninger. This evening is designed for square dancers of all ages and abilities, including those who, like Pastor Tom, have only rarely, or never, attended a square dance. (Our caller gives us plenty of instruction in the basics.) There is also lots of room for those who only want (or are only physically able) to come and watch the mayhem. There will, of course, also be lots of fellowship, snacks, and fun. The only “price” of admission – besides your enthusiasm – is a snack and a container of drink to share. The evening will wrap up by around 8:00/8:30. Autumn is always a busy time, but please try to make this evening a priority in your schedule. It is a great opportunity to spend time together as a congregational family, relaxing and having fun. This year, y’all come!



HOW CAN YOU



KEEP FROM SINGING?



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.**





## *Annual Strawberry Festival*

As we look back on our Annual Strawberry Festival, held June 13 here on The Hill, we were truly blessed to have such a wonderful turnout in spite of the threatening weather, leading to, as reported during worship on July 29, record total receipts for the day of **\$23,446.00**. Our total expenses of **\$9,383.31** were also a bit higher than in previous years, primarily because we again added some equipment to continue fine tuning how we organize and carry out the Festival, resulting in our second highest net proceeds ever of **\$14,062.69**, which were added to the “Bicentennial”/Local Benevolence Fund. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the Strawberry Festival another wonderful success!

*Looking ahead to 2019: Please mark your family calendars for next year's Festival, already scheduled for Wednesday, June 12. Also, the first planning meeting for next year's Festival, open to all interested persons, will be held on Tuesday, March 5, beginning at 6:30 P.M. at the church.*

## *Annual Yard Sale Report*

A small but hardy crew, spearheaded by Fay Nichols, again organized and carried out our annual Yard Sale on August 9, 10, and 11 in the pavilion. A wonderful record total of **\$2,301.80** was raised over the three days, with a bit more money continuing to trickle in as of “press time”, all of which will be sent to the Domestic Disaster Relief fund of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thank you to all who helped with publicity, set up, working the days of the sale, and clean up afterward!



## *Congratulations!*

To **Courtney (Rudisill) & Eric Miller** on the safe and healthy birth of **Brielle Grace** at Hershey Medical Center on July 30. Brielle weighed 6 pounds 7 ounces and was 20½ inches long. Congratulations, too, to the Rudisill and Miller families!



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### "Celebration" Calendar

#### **September:**

**9<sup>th</sup>** 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 re turn 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<sup>th</sup>** "Celebration" Christmas Book Fair Preview



### **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

**Marzette Hoffman** – Room #105, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg

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

**Marlin Koppenhaver** – Room #12, 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. #36, 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

### 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 grades 5 through 12 are eligible for Youth Group. The Youth Group advisors met to plan the Youth Group calendar for the upcoming year. Here is what is planned for the month of September. Please mark your calendars with these opportunities for service and fun!

#### **Sunday, Sept. 9:**

(9:30 Worship) - *This day is all about the youth at St. John!*

\*Presentations from the youth who attended the Youth Gathering in Houston this summer

\*Blessing of the backpacks

\*Annual trip to Knoebels

#### **Sunday, Sept. 16:**

(3:00-6:00) Pavilion - *LTO Gathering to assemble the school kits.*

\*Short devotional

\*Fun activity

\*Pizza

#### **Sunday, Sept. 23:**

(5:30-?) - *Helen and Lynn Henninger Farm, Shippen Dam Road*

\*Meet at the farm at 5:30 to elect Youth Group officers

\*Annual Square Dancing at 6:00

#### **Saturday, Sept. 29:**

*Pillow Bicentennial Parade* (Watch for times. . .)

\*Miss Laurie and the preschool/elementary children of St. John will be building a float. The Youth Group is invited to walk along the float to hand out candy and other treats during the parade.

### **REMINDERS:**

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!



## Our Faith Active in Our Financial Giving

In recent years, Congregational Council has asked that we all periodically receive an update in the *Epistle* about how we are doing in meeting our ministry commitments adopted in our annual budget.

Regarding our Current Fund... (The Current Fund is the fund from which most day-to-day bills get paid, much like your home's checking account.) With 25 of 52 Sundays behind us as of June 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received **\$73,764** out of our total 2018 budget. Adjusting for the effects of some lump-sum gifts at the beginning of the year, we have **actually received \$71,108** in offerings and other income, meaning we are **short of our goal by \$2,656**. This amount of shortfall is a very typical result at this point in the year.

As to the Children & Youth Ministry Fund, through which Miss Laurie's ministry with us is being funded, we have **received \$8,285** in offerings and Thrivent Choice Dollars as of the end of June (again adjusting for some lump-sum gifts at the beginning of the year) which, while not quite enough money to completely cover our expenditures, is still **a bit over \$4,000 ahead** of where we projected we might be in our giving at this point in this second year of ministry together (which is very important because we will need to continue to grow together in order to fully cover expenditures in coming years as planned, without the help of interest from our Memorials Account).

Finally, as to the gifts we share with our Lower Susquehanna Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to be exactly on **budget** as of June 30, we would have received and forwarded **\$5,769** out of our total 2018 commitment of \$12,000. As of June 30, we have **actually received and shared a total of \$7,213**, meaning that we are **ahead of our commitment by \$1,444**.

Thank you for your partnership in the ministry of St. John, and for your financial stewardship. Again, please watch for future updates every few months, and please feel free at any time to ask questions of or share ideas with Treasurer Jamie Doyle, Pastor Tom or any member of Council!

## Congregational Directory Updates

Please make the following changes and additions in order to keep your congregational directory, received back in January, up to date:

### Changes/Corrections:

- +New telephone number for Stephen Boyer: 717-829-6540
- +Correction for telephone number for Sharon D'Alesandro – area code should be 717
- +Add daughter, Julia, to listing for Taylor & (Eileen) Denlinger
- +New address for Warren Hassinger: Providence Place, Rm. #107, 24 Hikes Hollow Road, Pine Grove, PA 17963
- +Add son, Ayden, to listing for Bryan & (Rita) Henninger
- +New address for Marzette Hoffman: Premier at Susquehanna, Rm. #610, Millersburg, PA 17061
- +New Telephone number for Brandon Hoover: 717-451-2155
- +New address for Kerilyn Kramer: 207 Gap St., Valley View, PA 17983
- +Add spouse (Alexis) to listing for Jennifer Lehman
- +Remove Joann Leitzel following her death
- +New address for Gary & Kris MacCready: 215 S. Crossroads Rd., Lykens, PA 17048
- +Add a telephone number for Gary MacCready: 717-525-1785
- +Remove Mervin Mace from his listing with Cora following his death
- +Remove non-member brackets from Eric Miller's name
- +Add daughter, Brielle, to listing for Courtney & Eric Miller
- +New address and telephone number for Fay Nichols: 251 Airport Rd., Lykens, PA 17048, 717-433-4483
- +New address for Martha Rebuck: Rm. #6, Stonebridge Health and Rehab. Center, 102 Chandra Drive, Duncannon, PA 17020
- +Remove Margery Romberger following her death
- +New address for Troy & Vickie Schaeffer: 207 Gap St., Valley View, PA 17983
- +New address for Dwayne Switzer: 4350 Oley Turnpike Road, Reading, PA 19606
- +With Cody Thompson's marriage, remove him from Jodi's listing and create a new listing:

**THOMPSON, Cody & (Maura)**

619 Goldsborough St.

Easton, MD 21601

717-856-8248

- +New address for Dawn Warner: 4210 Williamsburg Drive, Apt. J, Harrisburg, PA 17109 (but please note that Dawn does still get mail at PO Box 160, Berrysburg)

### New Members Received on July 15:

**FARNER, Marie**

49 Mar-Bob Road

Halifax, PA 17032

717-362-8984

**PAUL, Joshua & Sara**

609 Botts Road

Millersburg, PA 17061

717-460-0670 (Josh) 717-829-3007 (Sara)

**SCHAFFNER, Nicholas & Janine**

Marc, Jacob, Isaac, Eli

148 Fisher Road

Lykens, PA 17048

570-850-4808 (Nick) 570-850-4817 (Janine)

**SHOOP, Kellie**

Maclyn, Ayden

735 Mountain House Road

Halifax, PA 17032

717-513-6928

## September Worship Schedule

### September Gifts

#### Konde Diocese -

*Rosena Barry*

#### Celebrate Inserts -

*Fred and Jean Weaver*

#### Tree 4 Hope -

*Fred and Jean Weaver*

### Altar Flowers

*September 2*

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

*September 9*

*September 16*

*Gehring Family*

*September 23*

*September 30*

*Jeff & Heidi Lehman*

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

Altar Guild  
Lector

Jean and Fred Weaver  
Vincent Lamenza

Usher's for the Month of September Dan Langhans (L)  
Fred Weaver (E ), Jean Weaver and Lois Leshner (LAY)

### September 2, 2018

Holy Communion

### **OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Greeter

John and Judy Ferree

### September 9, 2018

Promotion Sunday

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

Delmar and Ginny Enders

Ken Koler

Carol Hubker

### September 16, 2018

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

The Craig Shade Family

Roy Henry

Sandy Paul

### September 23, 2018

Harvest Home

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

The Lynn Mace Family

Larry Gessner

Judy Ferree

### September 30, 2018

Greeter

Acolytes

Superintendent

Pianist

The Baumgardner Family

Lynn Henninger

Sandy Paul

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
September 2018						
2 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP with Holy Communion 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4 & Younger	3 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off  Labor Day	4 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.	5	6	7	8 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
9 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 SONDay Celebration Worship, with Report on National Youth Gathering in Houston, Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunny Sermon, and Celebration Choir 10:30 Departure for Congregational Outing to Knoebel's 6:00 Women's Group Meeting Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East Grandparent's Day	10 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief  7:00 Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting at Zion Lutheran, Rife  7:30 Final Summer Dartball League Fun Match at St. John	11 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.	12	13	14 Holy Cross Day	15 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off  Deadline to Submit Items for October "St. John's Epistle"
16 Seventeenth 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 3:00 – 6:00 Upper Dauphin Lutheran Youth Organization Kickoff Event at St. John 7:30 Congregational Council Meeting	17 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	18 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting	19	20	21 Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist	22 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off  Autumn Begins
23 Eighteenth 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 Harvest Home Collection 6:00 Congregational Square Dance at Home of Lynn & Helen Henninger	24 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief	25 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Property Committee Meeting	26	27	28 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off (instead of 9/29) 5:00 Rehearsal for Hassinger/Werth Wedding (in VA)	29 Michael and All Angels SONDay Celebration Crew in Parade and Women of St. John Doing Pizza Stand at Pillow Bicentennial Celebration 5:00 Marriage of Eli Hassinger and Elena Werth (in VA)
30 Nineteenth 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						

Pastor's Office

Hours:

Mon, Tues -  
8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

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

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

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr.	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](http://www.stjohnhillchurch.org)

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

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE