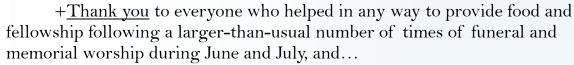
ST. JOHN'S EPISTLE

Dear Friends in Jesus,

As summer 2019 winds down, I find the theme of thankfulness is much on my mind. Now I would never for a moment hold myself up as an example of the kind of thankful and joyful living that God desires, but even a "thankfulness-challenged" individual like myself can't help but be thankful as I consider our congregational family life over these past months! Just to identify some obvious times of God's Work being done in and through us...



+<u>Thank you</u> to everyone (including the 25 on-site adult helpers) who in any way worked with Miss Laurie to provide a vibrant and faithful Vacation Bible School (going *To Mars and Beyond*) over five evenings at the end of July for more than 70 young persons, and...

+<u>Thank you</u> to the hardy work crews who came together early on two different mornings during Vacation Bible School week to pick and freeze hundreds of pounds of sweet corn for next year's Annual Strawberry Festival and other congregational family meals. (Be sure to check out the final financial report for this year's Festival later in this *Epistle* as a reminder of what that hard work is all about!) And...

+Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to host approximately 250 worshipers on the evening of July 28 to mark the start of the Berrysburg-Mifflin Township Bicentennial celebration, including a wonderful time of ice cream and fellowship which followed in the pavilion (and which reminded many of us of the energy and spirit of the Strawberry Festival itself), and...

+Thank you to everyone who worked with Sheila Barder and Camie Leitzel in any way to pull together and host a very successful Congregational Yard Sale. Just when it seemed that there wouldn't be a yard sale this year, God had other ideas, with the result that over \$1,800 has already been raised to help those who suffer from such disasters as hurricanes and tornadoes, with a few dollars still continuing to trickle in as I write these lines, and...

+<u>Last but most certainly not least, thank you</u> for all of your great work in God's name in vital places in our communities beyond this Hill – for instance in such recent major projects as the Pillow Carnival and the previously-mentioned Bicentennial Celebration, where Hill Church folks were as always much in evidence. I could go on, but hopefully you get the idea – thank you, thank you, thank you, and THANK GOD!



And, in closing, a reminder that our Sunday following Labor Day (September 8) will again be a kind of transition time from summer to fall: I will lead a combined Adult Sunday School Class downstairs in the conference room on our summer schedule, from 8:45 A.M. to 9:15 A.M. Our worship at 9:30 A.M. will be a "SONDay Celebration" worship as we prepare to transition back to our fall schedule, including a Sunny Sermon by Miss Laurie, music by the Celebration Choir, and our Annual Blessing of the Backpacks (for which all students – Preschool through Grade 12 – are asked to bring along their school backpacks for a time of recognition, blessing, and prayer which I will lead, as a new school year gets underway). When our worship ends at 10:30 A.M., it will be time to head out for our congregational outing to Knoebel's – which we missed last year due to severe weather - 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 our Subway card fundraisers. Hope to see you there!

PASTOR TOM

Sunday September 8

Annual
Blessing of
the Backpacks

PASTORAL NEWS

During our <u>9:30 A.M.</u> "Celebration Worship" on Sunday, September 8, 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!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Kim Langhans and Stephen Geib, who were joined in marriage at Stephen's home congregation in Lancaster County on Saturday, July 13, and are now making their home in Elizabethtown. We pray God's richest blessings on Stephen and Kim as they live our their vows of faithfulness!

And to new parents **Christina & Ryne Crabb** on the safe and healthy birth of **Kaitlyn Miaya** at Geisinger Holy Spirit on July 17. Kaitlyn weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces and was 19 inches long.

And also to new parents **Carissa & James Barder** following the safe and healthy birth of **Wyatt James** just one week later on July 24 at Harrisburg Hospital. Wyatt was 21½ inches long and weighed in at 8 pounds 14 ounces.

Congratulations, too, to the Crabb and Barder families!

News from Miss Laurie Young Christians Minister

Holy end of summer, Batman – it's back to school time already!!! It's hard to believe that summer, as we know it, is over and we're back to the old grind! I hope everyone got off to school on a good note!

After a great summer with lots of awesome activities, we're looking ahead at some dates to fill in on your "pre-autumn" calendar! Please include the following:

Wednesday, September 4th is the first Celebration Club of the season!! Join us from 6:30 – 8:30 as we "kick things off"!! Remember, Celebration Club meets the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month! Each session is like a mini VBS, with music, a Bible story, a craft, lots of fun activities, a snack, and goodies galore! If your child is in preschool through 4th grade, join the "Clubbers" the first Wednesday of each month for an awesome evening of faith!

Sunday, September 8th at 9:30 is our annual Celebration Service and Blessing of the Backpacks! The "Strawberry Jammers" will sing, there will be a Sunny Sermon, and the Youth will have a presentation of some of the things they've been up to! Join us for this kidfriendly service!

Immediately following the Celebration Service (on Sunday, September 8th), we'll caravan up to Elysburg for our Annual Congregational Picnic and Knoebel's Grove Outing! Hopefully the weather will cooperate this year! Join us for the food and fellowship – and all the kids will get ticket books for rides!!

Sunday, September 15th we'll return to our **regular schedule** of SON-day Celebration from 9:00 – 10:00 and Celebration Time during worship.

Wishing all our friends a happy, healthy, mind-expanding school year!! And don't forget to expand your FAITH as well! See you at the Celebration!!

Miss Laurie

Confirmation Class Resumes

On Sunday morning, September 15, those baptized members of St. John who are in at least 7th 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 Martin Luther's *Small Catechism* as well as what it means to be a Lutheran Christian. Three 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.

Harvest Home

On the fourth Sunday of September, September 22, 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 Scheduled

Our Annual Congregational Square Dance is coming right up — on Sunday, September 29, 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 — you'll be glad you did. It is a great opportunity to spend time together as a congregational family, relaxing and having fun. This year, y'all come!

Remodeled Kitchen to be Dedicated

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". Please watch your bulletin for further details.

Strawberry Festival

As we look back on our Annual Strawberry Festival, held June 12, the final financial report confirms what we experienced that day here on The Hill – that it was indeed a time of record-setting support and participation, leading to, as reported during worship on July 28, record total receipts for the day of \$26,402.91. Deducting our total expenses of \$10,405.91 left us with our highest net proceeds ever of \$15,637.00, which were added to the "Bicentennial"/Strawberry Festival Fund. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make the Strawberry Festival another wonderful success!

Looking ahead to 2020: Please mark your family calendars for next year's Festival, already scheduled for Wednesday, June 10. Also, the first planning meeting for next year's Festival, open to all interested persons, will be held on Tuesday, March 3, beginning at 7:00 P.M. at the church.

Amazon Smiles Program

If you are an Amazon.com shopper, our congregation is now registered with the "Amazon Smiles" program, whereby Amazon donates one half of one percent of your purchase amount to a charitable organization that you select. Please note that, to qualify, your purchase has to be made through the "smile" side of things, to which you will find a very easily identifiable link from the main part of the Amazon.com website. All monies received in this way will be automatically deposited for use in the Current Fund.



Fall Book Discussion Schedule

It's that time again - book discussions will resume in October! 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!

Fall Dates and Books:

October 7, Spoken From the Heart by Laura Bush

November 4, Becoming by Michelle Obama

December 2, A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle (Book and Movie)



Questions or need a copy of the book? Talk with Ann Bruner. All are welcome!

Upcoming Events

Sept 8 - LYO School Kits

Oct 11 - Bethesda Mobile
Mission

Oct 27 - Tentative Date for Halloween Activity

Nov 3 - Chicken and Waffle Dinner

Advisor's Meeting

October 13 - Directly following worship

St. John's Youth Group

LYO School Kits

On Sunday, September 15th, the youth group will be meeting in our pavilion from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. to assemble the LYO School Kits with youth groups from other area churches. This year we are responsible for providing 484 notebooks and 200 erasers. The youth group is asking for monetary donations toward the purchase of these items. If you wish to give a monetary donation, please place the donation in the container by the bulletin board in the foyer. If you have any questions, please see a youth adviser. Thank you in advance for your support. All Youth group members should plan to attend!

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

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.

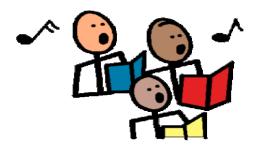


St. John's Facebook: facebook.com/stjohnhillchurch

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







Join the fun – first choir rehearsal on Tuesday, September 24th at 7:30



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

See you Tuesday, Sept. 24th



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

May 5, 2019

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Dan Langhans.

Pastor Tom offered prayer and devotions.

Meeting started after Family Fiesta.

Excused absences: Henry Henninger, Matt Williard

Past meeting minutes - motion to accept by Ron Erb; second by Sandra Lamenza; passed by all present.

Reception of Petitions and Communications

- Water test passed.
- Reyann Cheatam has graduated from Sci Tech of Harrisburg High School.
- Ryan Henninger graduating from Upper Dauphin Area High School.

Pastor's Report:

- St. Johns Church had a strong April with middle of average yearly attendance.
- Motion to accept by Donna Rabenold; second by Barb Bullock; passed by all present.

Children and Youth:

Report pending

Treasurer Report:

- Second best year ever for giving ahead of budget.
- Piano purchased through Improvement Fund.
- Motion to accept by Dan Maurer; second by Donna Rabenold; passed by all present.

Church Property:

- Sandra to research church ceiling
- Some drawer improvements to the kitchen
- Light needed over the kitchen sink.
- Fixing many small things- many persons helping
- Ice maker in refrigerator not working.
- Looking into sound system
- Painting has been done.
- Old mural to be hung out of sunlight to discourage fading.

Worship & Music:

Some persons are allergic to flowers

Faith Formation Team:

- Met April 17 getting ready for summer
- Sunday Celebration
- Vacation Bible School
- New Youth Room
- Next meeting in August
- May 26 start summer schedule

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

May 5, 2019

Youth Ministry:

- Good Friday observance
- Getting ready for Mobile Mission
- Lock In went well.

Mutual Ministry: no meeting

Women's Report: report by Pat Herb

- Meeting today May 5
- Family Fiesta
- Jams and Jellies
- Cookbook large number of recipies
- Blanket Bunch fund raiser canceled.

Altar Guild:

- Met past Tuesday
- Looking for volunteers
- Next meeting April 21, 2020

Strawberry Festival Meeting:

- Plans moving along
- Ponies & horses needed
- 500 pounds of corn local corn is tastier than bought corn
- Next meeting May 20
- Question asked Why held on Wednesday?

Unfinished Business:

- Elevator maintenance
- Discussion with Port Elevator
- KONE contract needs 90 day written notice to end
- Old vendor not willing to bend
- Decision to stay with KONE Elevator
- Getting money credit for maintenance pressure test from KONE

June 9 is Confirmation Day.

Next Council Meeting is July 14 at 4 P.M.

Motion to adjourn by Ron Erb; second by Donna Rebenold; motion passed by all present.

Respectfully submitted, Darrell Denlinger, Secretary

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 vour faith journey.

Pastoral Acts

At the Font

Pastor Tom presided on Sunday, June 23, as we welcomed William Henry "Hank" Langhans, son of Alex & Robin Langhans, into the Kingdom of God and the St. John Congregational Family in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

And then the following month, on Sunday morning, July 14, Pastor Tom presided as we had the honor of welcoming **Emerson** and **Hendrix Donnelly**, the twin daughters of **Jena Crabb & Adrianna Donnelly** in an outdoor liturgy of Holy Baptism.

We pray God's blessings on Hank, Emerson and Hendrix, their parents and other family members, and their sponsors as they live out the promises they have made!

On Sunday morning, June 16, Pastor Tom presided as we had the honor of welcoming Lacy Adams, Ira & Marilyn Antes, Gary & Terri Daniels and Daisy & Wayne Thomas into the St. John congregational family. Lacy, Daisy, and Wayne came to us from other branches of the one Christian Family, by making affirmation of their baptisms, while Marilyn, Ira, and Gary came to us by transfer from sister Lutheran Christian congregations. Terri was received as an Associate Member, while keeping her primary membership at Redeemer Lutheran in Lancaster. Please be sure to personally welcome them and update your congregational directory (see separate article of updates which was included in the July/August *Epistle*).

At the "Altar"

On Saturday, June 29, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Daisy Sollick** and **Wayne Thomas** at their Elizabethville home. We pray God's blessing on Wayne and Daisy, 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 Reed's Funeral Home in Pillow on June 20, for **Martha Rebuck**, who died at Stonebridge Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Duncannon on June 13. Interment was at Northumberland Memorial Gardens in Stonington.

On June 25, Pastor Tom presided at a graveside interment in our church cemetery for **Henry Henninger**, who died at his home on June 20. Then, four weeks later, on July 22, Pastor Tom helped to lead a time of memorial worship for Henry's gathered family and friends at the church.

Following his July 13 death at Premier at Susquehanna, funeral worship for **Myron Riland** was led by Pastor Tom at the church on July 17, with interment in the church cemetery.

And, following his sudden death while on vacation with his family in Myrtle Beach on July 10, **Lynn Troutman's** funeral worship was led by Pastor Tom at the church on July 27, also with interment in the church cemetery.

We pray God's comfort in the promise of the Resurrection of Jesus for the family and friends of Martha, Henry, Myron, and Lynn!

Our Faith In Our Financial Givinng - As of June 30

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 half of the year's 52 Sundays behind us as of June 30, to be right on **budget**, we would have received \$79,189 out of our total 2019 budget. Adjusting for the effects of some lumpsum gifts at the beginning of the year, we have **actually received** \$76,228 in offerings and other income, meaning we are **short of our goal by** \$2,961. This amount of shortfall is a very typical result at this point in the summer.

As to the Children & Youth Ministry Fund, through which Miss Laurie's ministry with us is being funded, we have **received \$9,769** 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 **almost \$1,800 ahead** of where we projected we might be in our giving at this point in this third year of ministry together (which is very important because we will need to continue to grow together in order to fully cover expenditures without the help of interest from our Memorials Account, as planned beginning next year).

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 **\$6,000** or half of our total 2019 commitment of \$12,000. As of June 30, we have **actually** received and shared a total of **\$5,048**, meaning that we are **behind** our commitment by **\$952**.

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!

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

May 5, 2019 **Treasurer Report** – March 2019

Current	Prior Balance \$10,190.14	Receipts \$14,551.77	Expenses \$12,393.43	Ending Balance \$12,348.48
Benevolence	\$859.68	\$1,294.00	\$2,045.00	\$106.68
Children & Youth	\$2,217.34	\$945.00	\$2195.08	\$96626
Flower	\$342.28	\$713.99	\$ 736.57	\$319.70
Improvement	\$15,827.27	\$7031.00	\$8,174.17	\$14,684.10
Memorial	\$1,196.15	\$875.22	\$ -	\$2,071.37
Bicentennial	\$22,342.24	\$95.76	\$1,750.00	\$20,688.00

September Worship Schedule

Lector Vincent Lamenza **September Gifts** Altar Guild Fred and Jean Weaver **Celebrate Inserts -Usher -** Dan Langhans (L), Jeff Buffington (E), Fred and Jean Weaver Jean Weaver and Lois Lesher (LAY) Tree 4 Hope Fred and Jean Weaver <u>September 1, 2019</u> Greeter The Lynn Mace Family **Konde Diocese -Outdoor Worship Holy Communion** Delmar and Ginny Enders <u>September 8. 2019</u> Carl and Louise Baumgardner-Greeter Promotion Sunday Superintendent Roy Henry Prayer Fred Weaver **Altar Flowers** Scripture Kelsey Henninger September 1 September 15, 2019 Greeter Daniel and Angela Maurer **Outdoor Worship** Superintendent Larry Gessner Matthew Williard Prayer September 8 Scripture Jean Weaver Carl and Louise Baumgardner The Jodi Thompson Family September 22, 2019 Greeter Superintendent Lynn Henninger September 15 Prayer Ann Bruner Dana and Chris Klouser Scripture Olivia Williard September 22 <u>September 29, 2019</u> Greeter Maryjane Zellner and Ar; leen Donnelly Jeff Lehman **Holy Communion** Superintendent Prayer Helen Henninger Scripture Larry Gessner September 29

Acolyte Schedule will resume October 6!

*as of print date, subject to change

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		September	ber 201	19		
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Adult Sunday School 9:30 <u>OUTDOOR WORSHIP</u> with Holy Communion 9:30 SONDay Celebration for Grades 4	2 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off Labor Day	\$ 9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.	4 6:30 – 8:30 Celebration Club Monthly Get Together with Miss Laurie	ام	9	7 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost 8:46 Adult Sunday School 9:30 SONDay Celebration Worship, with Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunny Sermon, and Celebration Choir 10:30 Departure for Congregational Outing to Knoebel's 6:00 Women's Group Meeting Grandparent's Day	9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Mid- dle East 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief 7:30 Church Dartball Summer Fun Match at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens	9:30 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting	11	12	13 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off	14 Holy Cross Day Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Vouth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 3:00 – 6:00 Upper Dauphin Lutheran Youth Organization Kickoff Event at St. John 4:00 Congregational Council Meeting Deadline to Submit Items for October "St. John's Epistle"	16 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Re- lief	17 Pastor Tom on Vacation today through Wednesday, September 25, returning to the office on Thursday, September 26	18	19	08	21 Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
929 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Harvest Home Collection (Guest Worship Leader – Matthew Williard)	23 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief Autumn Begins	9.4 6:15 Property Committee Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	25	Pastor Tom Returns to the Office 5:30 Community Meal at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville	54 7-	28 Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
29 Michael and All Angels 9:00 SONDay Celebration 9:00 Confirmation Class 9:00 Youth and Adult Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 6:00 Congregational Square Dance at Home of Lynn & Helen Henninger	30 9:00 Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief					

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 Becker	Sexton	No Email	717-319-0703
8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon	Judith Ferree	Organist	jjferee@epix.net	717-362-4228
Friday	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	717-329-7447

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