

SAINT JOHN'S EPISTLE

APRIL 2013

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

If you are reading this letter after Easter Sunday, March 31, and you happen to take a look around you, you will pretty quickly be tempted to conclude that Easter is indeed over – the bunnies and eggs and all the rest will have been quickly put away in favor of the next big thing on the calendar – perhaps Memorial Day and the beginning of the summer travel season. It's how our secular, consumer-driven, calendar works, after all.

But it is definitely not how our liturgical, Jesus-centered, calendar works. And it is to that calendar that I want to encourage you to pay attention...

You see, for Christians, Easter – the cosmos-changing news that Jesus has overcome sin and death and the grave – is simply way too big to be covered in one quick day. And so, for many centuries now, Christians have very wisely set aside not just one day... not just several days... not just a week... but actually a “week of weeks” - 7 weeks plus one day, or 50 days in total – to be reminded again and again and again and, just maybe, have it sink in at least a little bit. You see, we need that time – we need that reminding – because the news of Easter is so unlike anything else we have ever heard or will ever hear in the rest of our lives – Good News that radically and completely overpowers all of the bad news of which we tend to hear so much.

So, please make it your plan this year to make use of all 7 of the Sundays of Easter to be in worship with your congregational family. And then, on May 19, plan to be present for that 50th Day of the Season – we call it the Day of Pentecost – as we celebrate with several of our young members who will be confirmed in their faith and share together in Word and Sacrament.

By the way, taking part in the spring midweek Bible Study of the Gospel of John, that I will be leading each Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M., is another great way to mark the Season of Easter. Deadline to sign up is Easter Sunday, March 31!

Oh, and, finally, one correction from an article in last month's *St. John's Epistle*... The organ upgrade project, which was approved at January's Part 2 of our Annual Congregational Meeting, actually totals just under \$32,600 instead of \$36,600, as I listed it in that article. If you were there in January for the vote, and you were scratching your head about that cost, I apologize for my typo!

Blessings to you and yours this (50-day-long) Easter Season!

Pastor Tom

SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPE

If you are looking at a paper copy of this *St. John's Epistle*, you will find included with it a special offering envelope for a gift toward the cost of our congregational subscription plan for *The Lutheran*. If your home currently receives a subscription, the yearly cost of that subscription is a very low \$7.95. If you wish to make a gift, simply place your gift in the envelope and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church. If you do not receive a "hard copy" of the *Epistle*, and would like to make a gift, please see Pastor Tom for an envelope or simply place your gift in a regular envelope and mark it "*The Lutheran Subscription Offering*". Thank you for your help!

REGISTER FOR SPRING MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY

Midweek Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, April 10, and then will meet weekly through May 22, when we will take a break for the summer. Class will be held each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. We will continue our multi-year journey of studying individual books of the Bible, using resources from our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Book of Faith emphasis on Bible study. After spending the fall and winter looking at the Gospel of Luke, we will turn to the Gospel of John for this spring study. No previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and discuss God's Word together! So that the correct number of study books can be ordered for our study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) **no later than Easter Sunday morning, March 31.**

PLAY BALL!

Sign up on the foyer bulletin board for *Lutheran Night at the Senators*, which is coming up on Friday, May 3, as the Harrisburg Senators host the Binghamton Mets. \$4 of every \$10 box seat ticket we purchase as a church group will be donated to the camping ministry of our Lower Susquehanna Synod, and Bishop Hoover will again throw out the first pitch. Fireworks will close out the evening. **Deadline to sign up and pay for tickets (check payable to "St. John Lutheran" and given to Pastor Tom) is Sunday, April 14.**

HUNGER DOCUMENTARY

There is going to be a showing of a documentary on April 20, beginning at 7 PM at the Capital Cinema in York. The documentary is entitled, "A Place at the Table." The description is below.

50 million people in the US – one in four children—don't know where their next meal is coming from, despite our having the means to provide nutritious, affordable food for all Americans. Directors Kristi Jacobson and Lori Silverbush examine this issue through the lens of three people who are struggling with food insecurity: Barbie, a single Philadelphia mother who grew up in poverty and is trying to provide a better life for her two kids; Rosie, and Colorado fifth-grader who often has to depend on friends and neighbors to feed her and has trouble concentrating in school; and Tremonica, a Mississippi second-grader whose asthma and health issues are exacerbated by the largely empty calories her hardworking mother can afford. Their stories are interwoven with insights from experts including sociologist Janet Poppendieck, author Raj Patel and nutrition policy leader Marion Nestle; ordinary citizens like Pastor Bob Wilson and teachers Leslie Nichols and Odessa Cherry; and activists such as Witness to Hunger's Mariana Chilton, Top Chef's Tom Colicchio and Oscar-winning actor Jeff Bridges. Ultimately, *A Place at the Table* shows us how hunger poses serious economic, social and cultural implications for our nation, and that it could be solved once and for all, if the American public decides as they have in the past—that making healthy food available and affordable is the best interest of us all.

LOOKING AHEAD TO STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL TIME...

This year's Strawberry Festival will take place on Wednesday, June 12, in our grove and pavilion. Although serious planning is just getting underway for the Festival, Brad Crum has again been booked as entertainment for the early/mid afternoon timeslot, singing as Elvis. Please save the date of June 12 in your family's calendar, and please spread the news to your friends and neighbors.

...AND TO OUTDOOR WORSHIP...

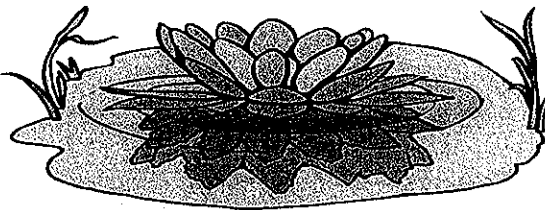
Our schedule of summer outdoor worship has also been finalized by Worship & Music Committee and Congregational Council. These Sundays will be: May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend, when we will be celebrating the Festival of the Holy Trinity with Holy Communion), June 16, July 7 (Independence Day Weekend – “Colonial” Order for Holy Communion), July 21 (Vacation Bible School Closing Program, followed by Annual Picnic), August 4, and September 1 (Labor Day Weekend – Holy Communion). We will again have the chance to enjoy the outdoor beauty of “the Hill” in worship for a total of six times this summer!



CHURCH CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

Our Camperson, Angie Maurer, has information on summer church camping opportunities of all kinds for people of all ages. Schedules and registration information are available for the camps of our Lower Susquehanna Synod, Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, as well as for Camp Mt. Luther in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. Please bear in mind that, for members of St. John, camping scholarships are provided from the Sunday School treasury, making any week-long experience a great value as well as a life-changing experience. **Special discounts are available for those who register soon. Please see Angie for further information!**

News from St John's Women of the ELCA



Our next meeting will be April 14, 2013 at 6:00 PM. Our leaders for the evening are: Pat Herb, Elsie Krout, and Angela Maurer.

On April 4, 2013 there will be an executive meeting at 6:30 PM in the fellowship area to decide what to do for our Mother/Child Banquet. If you are in an executive position please plan to attend. If you are planning to attend the Mother/Child Banquet please bring a covered dish of any kind and enthusiasm for a very good time

As I told you about the ladies doing the prayer shawls in the last Epistle I am also including a crochet pattern for the shawls in this Epistle. If you have a supply of yarn you are not using please consider making a donation to these ladies. Contact Barb Bullock for more information.

The ladies would like to say thank you for the donations received on World Day of Prayer / Bold Women's Sunday.



Crochet Directions

Chain 54 stitches or desired width of shawl.

Chain 1, turn, single crochet in each of the stitches to end. Chain 3 and turn.

Double crochet in top of each single crochet. Repeat this row 2 more times.

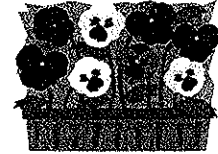
Chain 1 and do 1 row of single crochet to end. Chain 3 and turn.

Do 3 rows of double crochet. Repeat pattern to end (1 row single, 3 rows double)

End with 1 row of single. Finish with fringe.

Developed by Rita Glod

***Note:** that crocheting typically uses more yarn than knitting, so you might have to adjust the width and size of hook or use another 1/2 skein. It has been suggested that 7 skeins of the same dye lot be purchased and crochet two shawls each using 3 1/2 skeins. Another suggestion, if you are trying to obtain 3 skeins, is to integrate other yarn colors into the shawl.



WORSHIP SERVICES FOR APRIL 2013

Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord," plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Altar Guild for Month of April

Pat and Harold Herb

Lector for Month of April

Robert Weaver

Ushers for April (L) Kris Kell (E) Betty Leitzel, Carl and Louise Baumgardner

APRIL 7, 2013

The 2nd Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Jeff Lehman
Sunday School Pianist- Carol Hubler
Greeters- The Jim Watson Family
Acolytes- Reyann Cheatham & Blair Warner

APRIL 14, 2013

The 3rd Sunday of Easter

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul
Greeters- The Brian Thompson Family
Acolytes- Ryan & Kelsey Henninger

APRIL 21, 2013

The 4th Sunday of Easter

Sunday School Superintendent- Larry Gessner
Sunday School Pianist- Lois Watson
Greeters- Jim & Barb Bullock
Acolytes- Allison Mace & Katherine Gessner

APRIL 28, 2013

The 5th Sunday of Easter

Sunday School Superintendent- Lynn Henninger
Sunday School Pianist- Judy Ferree
Greeters- The Enders Family
Acolytes- Tyler D'Alesandro & Owen Mattern

April 2013



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor Tom's Day Off 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR	2 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal	3	4	5 Late Afternoon Youth and Pastor Tom Depart for LYO Trip to Baltimore	6 Late Evening - Youth and Pastor Tom Return from Baltimore Trip
7 The 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion 12:30-5:00 Upper Dauphin Area Marching Band Event in Pavilion and Grove	8 Pastor Tom's Day Off (Instead of April 6) 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:00 Conf. Spring Assembly at St. Peters Lutheran Church Halifax	9 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal <i>Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</i>	10 6:30-8:00 Midweek Bible Study	11	12	13 7:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group at the Church Pastor Tom's Day Off
14 The 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 11:15 Mutual Ministry Comm. Mtg. 2:30-4:00 Prayerful Planning Group Gathering 6:00 Women's Group Meeting 7:30 Congregational Council Meeting	15 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 6:15 Property Committee Meeting	16 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Evangelism Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	17 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	18	19	20 Pastor Tom's Day Off <i>Deadline to Submit Items for May "St. John's Epistle"</i>
21 The 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	22 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR	23 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	24 6:30 Midweek Bible Study	25 Mark, Evangelist 5:30 -7:00 Community Dinner Salem UCC Elizabethville	26	27 Pastor Tom's Day Off
28 The 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	29 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR	30 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal				

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2013*

The Council Meeting was called to order by Vice President John Ferree.

Pastor Tom offered devotions.

Present – James Bullock, Jamie Doyle, John Ferree, Karen Gehring, Pat Herb, Ken Koller, Eric Mattern, Sandra Shade, Cheryl Shadle and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences –Kris Kell, Craig Peters & Jim Watson

Motion by Ken Koller, 2nd by Karen Gehring to accept the January Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

Gideon's Ministry contacted Pastor Tom about giving a 5-10 minute "Temple Talk" and setting up a card rack so people could take flyers. No special offering will be taken. Topic was tabled for future consideration.

Bob Weaver offered to make a display case for 175th St. John Plates to be placed in the church. Council accepted offer.

Pastor Tom will be Baccalaureate speaker again at Upper Dauphin Area High School on June 2, 2013.

UDA Marching Band would like to use the pavilion and rest rooms on Sunday April 7, 2013 from 12:30-5:00pm to host a 5K run fundraiser. They are hoping for 100 participants. We have youth members involved. Motion by Ken Koller and 2nd by Jamie Doyle to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's Report: Motion by Ken Koller, 2nd by Eric Mattern to accept Pastor's report. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor's vacation schedule: Sunday, June 30, 2013, August 4, 2013, August 11, 2013 and January 5, 2014.

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

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Getting information on a potential new vacuum cleaner.

Patching/ caulking wall in addition has occurred.

Lawn tractor will be taken for service.

Carpet in Sunday School room has spots and will be cleaned.

Finance Committee: No report

Worship & Music: Sing for Joy Donation targeted for May to receive matching funds. Tabled until April meeting.

Talked about general policy regarding marriages of unrelated persons to our congregation. Members or persons closely related only. No "rush weddings" without the 3 month preparation and counseling. Can have civil service and then "blessing service" after 3 months. Motion by Sandra Shade and 2nd by Carol Hassinger to accept Committees recommendations. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussed Christmas Eve service and possible earlier single Christmas Eve service and concluded that no changes be made to current 2 service schedule.

Christian Education: Mike Youst, a representative from Lutheran camping program will be here on February 24th. Discussed issue of low attendance in Sunday School especially by our younger members.

Stewardship: No report

Evangelism committee: Next meeting February 19th.

Youth Ministry: Youth did a great job on the Spaghetti Supper held on January 20th as well as on the Youth Led service today. Snow tubing, skiing and snow boarding trip, Baltimore trip and Bethesda Mission outing are upcoming.

Mutual Ministry: Next meeting in April

Executive: No report

Nominating: No report

History Committee: Patrons for History Book is being edited.

Green Team: Meeting was held 2/10/13 to view "Truthland". Next meeting will be in April. Looking for topics and speakers on Alternative energy like Solar, Geothermal, Wind, etc.

Other Reports: Long Range Planning Committee renamed themselves "Prayerful Planning Group" – next meeting Sunday, March 3 at 6:30-8:00pm. Looking for new members.

Unfinished Business: Usher List was distributed and responsibilities discussed.

Bulk mailing permit will not be renewed. Net postage savings is approximately \$100 annually.

New Business: Sweetheart Banquet February 16 at 6:00pm.

Fire extinguishers and emergency lights received annual maintenance check from Peiffers

Oil tank down to ¼ full. Motion by Sandra Shade and 2nd by Ken Koller to fill it. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Council Meeting: March 10, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church

Adjournment: Motion by Cheryl Shadle, 2nd by Carol Hassinger to adjourn at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Doyle, Secretary

**Treasurers Report for
January 2013**

	Prior Balance	Receipts	Expenses	EOM
Current	4,176.70	9,447.24	7,616.80	6,007.14
Benevolence	53.30	1,316.16	1,316.00	53.46
Memorial	35,484.11	803.62	-	36,287.73
Improvement	3,647.06	461.00	-	4,108.06
Bicent CkAcct	17,727.05	0.61	1,255.00	16,472.66
Bicent Svngs	5,300.19	-	-	5,300.19
Flower	28.61	114.00	80.00	62.61



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. BOX 270
BERKYSBURG, PA 17005

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor	stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com	362-9519 (O)
		362-7895 (H)
Tammy & Bill Becker, Sextons (no email)		319-0703
Judith Ferree, Organist	jjferree@epix.net	362-4228
Sandra Paul, Secretary	rbpaul@epix.net	362-4117
James Watson, Council President	loisbull17@gmail.com	362-3247
Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)		362-9108

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Pastor's Office Hours:

Monday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Tuesday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.
Wednesday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Thursday	8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon
Friday	8:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

(Other times by appointment)



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Parish Website: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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Other Websites of Interest: Ev. Lutheran Church in America www.elca.org
Lower Susquehanna Synod www.lss-elca.org