

**SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE**

DECEMBER 2011 / JANUARY 2012

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation. (Habakkuk 3:17-18)

In mid-November, I again encountered these words as a part of my daily Bible reading – in my opinion, some of the most defiantly hopeful words in all of Scripture. Habakkuk, who was called to speak the Word of God some 600 years before Jesus' birth, found himself living in a world that seemed to be coming unglued – frightening crises in world politics, a domestic economy that was in the tank, and very little, if any, obvious sign of God's greatness and power. In short, Habakkuk was speaking to a world very much like our own! And, in the midst of all the darkness, it is as if Habakkuk shakes his fist at his fears and his doubts and says, come what may, I'm going to trust in God!

I don't know about you, but I seem to see that the accumulated stresses and strains of world affairs, the economy, sickness and suffering amongst our friends and loves ones, and, yes, even the unfolding scandal at Penn State, are taking their toll on all of us. I seem to see people who have less resilience, less patience, less kindness, and even less good cheer than would typically be the case. In the face of all of this, I wonder what Habakkuk might say... Let me propose an "update" to his words for our time:

Though the Eurozone fails to take care of the problems in Greece and Italy, and my retirement and college savings suffer with Market jitters; though the economy continues to limp along, and sickness and death seem to be all around; though the politicians bluster and bluff, and institutions and leaders we thought to be above reproach be shown to be frail and failing, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation!

In other words, I think that Habakkuk would say that is in times exactly like these that we most need to dig deeply in God's means of grace, in Word & Sacrament (in plain words, get our Sunday morning priorities in order), that we most need to hold our heads up high and remember who is really in charge here, that we most need to muster the strength to treat each other with the grace and love with which God has first treated us, and that we most need to get our "eye on the ball" with regard to the meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons – a divine gift that Habakkuk did not have – God come into our hurting world as one of us, taking on the worst the world can dish out and conquering it all so that we too might conquer! So – remember – hold your head high and be the person God has called you to be, come what may!

As I close, let me add a family note... Timothy, Dan, Ann, and I want to join in wishing you and yours a most blessed and holy Christmas and a hopeful beginning to the new year 2012! It is hard to believe, but we are preparing to celebrate our twelfth Advent and Christmas with you, and it again with much joy and anticipation that we do so. May the God who has come to us in love and grace bless you now and always!

Pastor Tom



CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

At **4:00 P.M.** on Christmas Eve, a quiet liturgy of Holy Communion will again be held. Carols accompanied by the piano will be a part of our liturgy, and we will get to enjoy all the beautiful Christmas decorations, but there will not be a candlelighting service. We will gather together upstairs near the front of the Nave, so that our typically smaller attendance does not feel “lost” in this large space. This worship opportunity is designed especially for those folks who, for whatever reason, are not able to come to the later traditional worship.

Then, at **8:00 P.M.**, our traditional candlelight festival liturgy of Holy Communion will again take place in the nave with carols galore. We will be blessed with special musical preludes to begin both worship services. Please note that, as has been our practice the past few years, these preludes will begin again this year at 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M., so that the most worshipers can enjoy the music. **If you have music of any kind that you would like to share at either or both services, please contact Pastor Tom as soon as possible if you have not already done so.**

For anyone attending the 8:00 worship with portable oxygen, we will again have a special area, with comfortable seating and a great view, set aside on the north side of the back of the balcony, across from the choir. This will keep those with oxygen safe from the candles being held by worshipers on the main floor, as well as those being held by members of the choir. We will again have on hand a number of battery-operated “candles”, with tips that resemble a flame, for use by those in this “flame-free” seating area during the candlelighting. Also, Pastor Tom and his assistants will bring Holy Communion to anyone seated in this special area.

AND since Christmas Eve comes on a Saturday this year, **Christmas Day** therefore falls on a Sunday! **We will gather at 9:00 A.M. for our traditional “Happy Birthday, Jesus!” party and then for a Liturgy of Holy Communion at 10:15.** The morning worship isn’t in any way a repeat of the night before – different readings from Scripture and so forth – but it is another great opportunity to sing those wonderful carols as we worship and as we commune. Please don’t miss it – it will fit beautifully in between the opening of the presents and Christmas dinner!



MEN’S CHOIR MEMBERS WANTED!

A Men’s Choir will again be forming to sing for Christmas Eve worship. Two rehearsals will be held – on Tuesday, December 13, and Tuesday, December 20, from 6:30 to 7:30 both evenings. A final rehearsal will be held before 4:00 P.M. worship on Christmas Eve. Since this is a new group that comes together each time, and not a standing choir, all males of any age or experience with singing are especially welcome to join the group. Please speak with Pastor Tom, Ray Matter, or Carol Hubler to learn more.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO BE HELD

As specified in our congregational constitution, our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in two parts. On **Sunday, December 11**, we will meet following worship to take action on the election of four members to our Congregational Council and to adopt a Current Fund budget for 2012. On **Sunday, January 15**, we will again meet following worship to receive and act on reports of the ministry of our congregation conducted during 2011, and conduct such other business as may come before the gathered body. For both parts of the meeting, it is **very important** that we have a good turn out of voting members! Voting members are confirmed members of the congregation who have communed and made a contribution of record during 2010 or 2011.

To aid you in preparing for the December 11 meeting, a copy of the proposed budget for 2012 is included in this *Epistle*. Its projected Current Fund budget increase of \$3,065 (from \$124,261 to \$127,326) represents a 2.5% increase from 2011. This overall increase includes 1) a \$1,991 (2.1%) increase in Pastor Tom's area of the budget (the amount of the salary/housing allowance increase will serve to put him slightly above the bottom of the synodical range for a pastor with his years of experience), 2) well-deserved small increases for our other compensated folks, and 3) a \$1,000 increase in fuel oil expense, partially offset by a \$500 decrease in electricity expense (reflecting savings realized from our switch to a new electricity supplier and use of energy-efficient light bulbs).

With regard to Congregational Council elections, our Nominating Committee is bringing the following four names for congregational action: Jim Bullock, Jamie Doyle, Carol Hassinger, and Jim Watson.

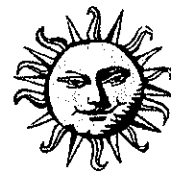
Please don't miss this opportunity to help in the faithful strengthening of our ministry together – plan to join in these brief but important gatherings on December 11 and January 15!

WINTER SESSION OF BIBLE STUDY

Midweek Bible Study will resume for its winter session on Wednesday, January 11, meeting weekly through February 15, when we will take a break for Lent and Holy Week. Class will be held each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. We will be continuing our multi-year process of studying individual books of the Bible, using resources from our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Book of Faith emphasis on Bible study. For our winter study, we will be finishing our study of I and II Samuel. No previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and discuss God's Word together! **Please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) no later than Wednesday, January 4 (when he returns to the office). Those who were not a part of the fall study of I & II Samuel, will be able to make extra copies of the study material.**

BISHOP HOOVER TO VISIT OUR UPPER DAUPHIN CONFERENCE

Our Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop Pen Hoover will be spending the day in our Conference on Monday, January 23. He will be available for ½-hour private appointments during the afternoon, and will be present at 7:00 P.M. that evening to share in the Conference Cabinet meeting, which will be held at St. Michael Lutheran in Klingerstown. If you would like to schedule a private appointment to meet with Bishop Hoover, please contact Pastor Beth George, Conference Dean, at 692-2676.



LOOKING AHEAD – SUMMER IS COMING!

The date has been set for our Annual Strawberry Festival in 2012. It will take place on Wednesday, June 13, in our grove and pavilion. *Note that the date this year returns to the more familiar **second Wednesday in June**.* Although serious planning has not yet begun for the Festival, Brad Crum has again been booked as entertainment for the early/mid afternoon timeslot, singing as Elvis.

Also, the dates of Vacation Bible School have been set. Because we will have a large contingent of youth and adults attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, we have had to shift earlier by a week, to Monday, July 9 through Friday, July 13, with the closing program taking place on Sunday, July 15, outside in the pavilion.

Please save these dates in your family's calendar, and please spread the news to your friends and neighbors. Summer will be here before we know it!

2012 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

A new altar flower sponsor chart is posted in the foyer. Please sign up to sponsor flowers in honor or in memory of a loved one or event. (Please note that the month of January has usually been a difficult month to fill.) Please direct any questions to Coordinator Cheryl Shadle (692-2405). Sponsors are also needed in 2012 for the ***Celebrate*** bulletin inserts (\$22/month), for the ***Konde Diocese Pastors Salary*** (\$50/month), and for the ***Internet/Email Connection*** (also \$50/month). Please sign up on the foyer bulletin board for these items.

LECTOR SCHEDULE FOR 2012

The following is the schedule of folks who will serve as lectors during 2012:

January	-	The Shade Family
February	-	Carol Hassinger
March	-	James Watson
April	-	Robert Weaver
May	-	Amy Gehring
June	-	Lorraine Henninger
July	-	Carl Baumgardner
August	-	The Ray & Joyce Matter Family
September	-	Vincent Lamenza
October	-	Jamie Doyle
November	-	James Bullock
December	-	The Denlinger Family

We thank them for serving in this important ministry of worship!

PLEASE HELP!

As we near the end of the year, please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you have turned in **at least one communion record card** this year. If during the year you have been living and worshipping out of the area, or if you have communed even once at another congregation, please be sure to have that congregation send notice to Pastor Tom. If you are a contributing member of the congregation, please be sure that **you have used your offering envelopes at least once** this year, so that you are on record as having made a contribution. Please do your part to make sure that our parish records are as accurate as possible!



CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Joshua and Laci Stadheim**, upon the birth of a daughter, **Abigail Renae**, on October 15 at 2:58 P.M. Abigail was 18 inches long and weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces.

And to **Timothy Bruner**, who was inducted into the Upper Dauphin Area High School chapter of the National Honor Society on November 10.

Congratulations!



AND THANK YOU!

Dear members of St John,

Thank you again for your outpouring of support for ALS research through the annual Walk to Defeat ALS in Washington DC. Your collective donations of \$695 added to my Sandy's Vision of Hope team total of \$6080! Your generosity, kindness and willingness to participate in this very important cause are greatly appreciated. Thank you very much! -Sandy Stuban

Thank you to those who contributed toward the flood relief fund set up by the Klingerstown Lutheran Parish. Including a gift of love from our local benevolence (Strawberry Festival) fund of \$500, a total of \$1,210 was forwarded to this fund by our congregational family. Thank you!

The youth group would like to thank our congregational family for all the support we received at our 3rd Annual Chicken and Waffle Dinner. With your support, we raised \$623.00. We really appreciate all that you do for us. As you know, we are raising money to send 13 youth and 4 adults to the 2012 ELCA National Youth Gathering in July 2012. Thank you again!

Lower Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Share your gifts!

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.” (1 Corinthians 2:4-6)

See your pastor for a nomination form and description of position.
Nominee information needs to be in the synod office by **1/20/12**

The following positions need nominees for election at the 2012
Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly.

For the **2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly**, Upper Dauphin
1 lay male nominee
(to be elected at the Spring Conference Assembly)

Lower Susquehanna Synod Council –

2 clergy
2 lay female
1 lay male nominees

Gettysburg Seminary Board –

1 lay female

2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, (at large) –

1 lay male
4 clergy
1 male youth
1 female young adult

From our Thrivent Chapter

There will be an Educational Event entitled "Making a Difference: Sharing your time, talents, and treasures." This will be sponsored by Thrivent Financial on Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 PM at Tree of Life Lutheran Church, 1492 Linglestown Road in Susquehanna Township. The workshop will last an hour and be followed by a catered buffet dinner at 5:00 PM. There is no cost. But please, RSVP Pastor Richard Geib at 238-8733 or pastor@tree-of-life.us by Monday, December 5 if you plan to attend.

This event is open to all Thrivent members.

News from the Women of the ELCA at St John

December 11, 2011 Christmas Caroling at 2:00 PM

December's Meeting - December 11, 2011 at 6:00 PM

Leaders Lois Leshner, Faye Weaver,
Louise Baumgardner, & Lois Watson

All members are to bring a snack.

If there are any changes to the *Women's Booklet* please let Pat Herb know by December 18th.

Also if you are only using a cell phone make sure to add that to your information.

The women of St John are collecting Christmas Cards to send to our service men and women who are working hard to keep our freedom. This project is called **Operation Christmas Card**. You can help. There will be a box in the narthex to place your card into and we will make sure they get sent out to the collection area in Shrewsbury, MA.

There are a list of "Do's and Don'ts" to follow.

1. Do not seal the envelope
2. Only write supportive notes
3. You may include your email or mailing address
4. Sticker and glitter are ok.
5. Envelopes may be decorated

Deadline to submit a card is December 11, 2011.

Now all you have to do is bring them to the church and place them in the appointed box and we will take care of it from there. You can be sure this will make some service man or woman feel special at Christmas this year. I know the Kindergarten Class at St John's will do their part. Thank you for your help.

News from our Sunday School

On **December 18, 2011 at 6:00 PM** we will have our ***Annual Advent Dinner & Program***. For the new members of St John bring a covered dish and an appetite for good food and lots of fellowship.

On **December 25, 2011** we will be celebrating with a ***Happy Birthday Jesus Party*** during the Sunday School hour. For those who have never been to our party please bring a non perishable food item to put under the tree at the appointed time.

It was decided to give everyone a calendar of events for the next year. So mark your calendars for coming events so you don't forget.

2011

December 11	Christmas Caroling to Shut ins
December 18	Advent Dinner and Program
December 25	Happy Birthday Jesus Party

2012

February 22	Ash Wednesday
April 1	Palm Sunday
April 8	Easter Sunday
May 17	Ascension Thursday
May 27	Pentecost Sunday
June 13	Strawberry Festival
July 9 - 13	Bible School
July 15	VBS Closing Program & Picnic
August 9 - 11	Yard Sale
September 9	Promotion Sunday

From the Sunday School Teachers and Officers we say

"Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year "!



WORLD HUNGER UPDATE 11-20-11!. YOUR IN GATHERING OFFERINGS FOR SUNDAY 10-23-11 INITIALLY CAME TO 1245.50, MATCHED WITH 1245.50 BY ENTERLINE COUSINS, AND ANOTHER 600 FROM THRIVENT PRODUCED \$3,091.50 ADDITIONAL FUNDS TODAY BOASTED OUR FINAL AMOUNT TO \$3130.00

Our theme this year was God's Global Barnyard.

Pastor's Children Sermon on 11-13-11 concerned the theme and children were provided a handout listing 8 possibilities on how our offerings should be spent.

The following children and youth were present after church. Aiden, Kelsey, Ray Ann, Hoyt, Owen, Zachary, Cameron, Gracie, Gabe, Marlee, Ryan, and Katherine.

We had a good discussion with many options on just what should be purchased. We settled on 2 Family farms at 1430, 4 Alpaca's at 700, 4 Sheep at 500 and 2 Fish farms 500.

Final offering expenditures were exactly \$3130.00 for our God's Global Barnyard project since initiation in March. This order for these animals, fowl's and fish will be routed through our Benevolence through the Lower Susquehanna Synod and to the ELCA in Chicago for implementation relative to our wishes as expressed in the previous paragraph.

We will never know the final results of ST' John's actions but at least 6 families and 2 fish cooperatives will be helped by your efforts in 2011.

In closing this was Christ the King Sunday and the Gospel was matt 25: 31-46 with the key verse being 'Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me'.

O Jesus by your loving spirit, enable us to be doers of your word. Amen

Thank you so much by your generosity and may God continue to bless our church families during the new year of 2012.

Your World Hunger Coordinators,
Fay Nichols and Larry Gessner

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Altar

On Reformation Sunday, October 30, Pastor Tom presided at First Holy Communion for **Cameron Thompson**, who had completed instruction with him earlier in the month. Congratulations, Cameron and family!

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at graveside funeral worship for **David Schreffler**, who died at his home on November 14. Worship was held on November 21 at Sweitzer's Memorial Cemetery in Berrysburg. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Dave, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to Aleta and to all of his family and loved ones.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

December

Sunday-December 11th: The congregational Christmas caroling to shut-ins. The information on the time will be in the bulletins.

January

The youth group will start selling Little Caesars pizzas during the month of January to continue to raise money for New Orleans. Delivery will be in February.

Sunday-January 1st Youth group members will be helping with worship.

Sunday-January 8th: Meeting to plan the Spaghetti Supper.

Sunday-January 22nd: Annual Spaghetti Supper. Youth group members meet at the church to set up at 2:00p. Dinner starts at 5:00pm.

We hope all youth group members are able to help at these events!

Thanks, Shannon Motter - Vice President



The Sunday School Teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?"

"No sir," little Johnny replies, I don't have to. My mom is a good cook."

Date	CHALLENGE	SURVEY	SAMPLER
December 1	Luke 4:14—5:11	Luke 5:1-11	Luke 3:21-22
December 2	Luke 5:12—6:11	Luke 5:12-26	Luke 5:12-16
December 3	Luke 6:12—7:50	Luke 6:12-38	Luke 6:20-23
December 4	Luke 8:1—9:50	Luke 9:10-27	Luke 9:18-22
December 5	Psalms 5,6; Proverbs 1:20—3:12	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Psalm 5:11-12
December 6	Luke 9:51—10:42	Luke 9:57-62	Luke 10:29-37
December 7	Luke 11:1—13:9	Luke 11:1-13	Luke 11:1-4
December 8	Luke 13:10—14:35	Luke 13:18-30	Luke 13:18-21
December 9	Luke 15:1-32	Luke 15:11-32	Luke 15:3-7
December 10	Luke 16:1—17:19	Luke 17:1-4	Luke 16:10
December 11	Luke 17:20—18:30	Luke 18:18-27	Luke 18:15-17
December 12	Psalms 7,8,9,10	Luke 18:35-43	Psalm 9:1,2
December 13	Luke 18:32—19:27	Luke 19:1-10	Luke 19:1-6
December 14	Luke 19:28—20:26	Luke 19:28-39	Luke 19:36-38
December 15	Luke 20:27—21:38	Luke 21:1-4	Luke 21:1-4
December 16	Luke 22:1-71	Luke 22:14-23	Luke 22:19-20
December 17	Luke 23:1-56	Luke 23:26-56	Luke 23:38
December 18	Luke 24:1-53	Luke 24:1-12	Luke 24:1-9
December 19	Proverbs 3:13—5:23	Proverbs 3:5-8. 11-14	Proverbs 3:5,6
December 20	Acts 1:1—2:42	Acts 1:1-11; 2:1-21	Acts 2:1-4
December 21	Acts 2:43—4:4	Acts 2:2; 4:3-47	Acts 2:46-47
December 22	Acts 4:5—5:11	Acts 4:32-37	Acts 4:32-35
December 23	Acts 4:5:12—6:7	Acts 6:1-7	Acts 5:12-16
December 24	Acts 6:8—8:3	Acts 6:8-15 7:58—8:3	Acts 6:8
December 25	Acts 8:4-40	Acts 8:26-40	Acts 8:35-38
December 26	Ruth 1:1—4:22	Ruth 1:1-18	Ruth 1:15-18
December 27	Acts 9:1-43	Acts 9:1-9	Acts 9:20-22
December 28	Acts 10:1—11:18	Acts 10:34-48	Acts 10:34-35
December 29	Acts 11:19—12:25	Matthew 18:1-6	Acts 11:17-18
December 30	Acts 13:1—14:7	Isaiah 55:6-9	Acts 13:48-49
December 31	Acts 14:8—15:35	Romans 1:16-17	Acts 15:6-9



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Date	CHALLENGE	SURVEY	SAMPLER
January 1	Acts 15:36—16:40	Ephesians 4:22—5:2	Acts 16:9-10
January 2	Psalms 11,12,15 Ecclesiastes 1:1—2:26	Isaiah 52:7-10	Psalms 11:7
January 3	Acts 17:1—18:11	Matthew 28:16-20	Acts 18:8-11
January 4	Acts 18:12—19:20	Acts 1:6-11	Acts 19:11-12
January 5	Acts 19:21—20:16	Acts 17:16-34	Acts 20:35
January 6	Acts 20:17—21:14	2 Timothy 4:1-5	Acts 21:13
January 7	Acts 21:15—22:29	John 21:15-17	Acts 21:39—22:1
January 8	Acts 22:30—23:35	Ephesians 4:11-16	Acts 28:30-31
January 9	Proverbs 6:1—7:27 Ecclesiastes 3:1—4:16	John 14:1-11	Ecclesiastes 3:1-2
January 10	Acts 24:1—25:12	Matthew 25:31-46	1 Thessalonians 1:1-3
January 11	Acts 25:13—26:32	1 Corinthians 2:6-16	1 Thessalonians 2:13
January 12	Acts 27:1—28:31	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	1 Thessalonians 3:11-13
January 13	1 Thessalonians 1:1—3:13	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	1 Thessalonians 4:1
January 14	1 Thessalonians 4:1—5:28	2 Thessalonians 1:3-12	1 Thessalonians 5:1-2
January 15	2 Thessalonians 1:1—3:18	Revelation 21:1-14	1 Thessalonians 5:15-18
January 16	Psalms 16, 17; Ecclesiastes 5:1—6:12	Genesis 1:13	Psalms 17:8
January 17	Genesis 1:1—2:3	Genesis 1:26-31	Genesis 1:1
January 18	Genesis 2:4—3:24	Psalms 8:3-9	Genesis 1:27
January 19	Genesis 4:1—5:32	John 1:1-5	Genesis 5:1-2
January 20	Genesis 6:1—8:12	Proverbs 3:19-24	Genesis 7:12-16
January 21	Genesis 8:12—9:29	Ephesians 2:8-10	Genesis 9:16-17
January 22	Genesis 10:1—11:32	Romans 11:33-36	Genesis 11:4-9
January 23	Psalms 18, 19; Proverbs 8:1—9:18	Genesis 12:1-3	Psalms 19:1-2
January 24	Genesis 12:1—13:18	Genesis 17:1-8	Genesis 12:1-2
January 25	Genesis 14:1—5:11	Genesis 21:1-7	Genesis 15:5-6
January 26	Genesis 16:1—17:27	Genesis 22: 1-14	Genesis 17:15-16
January 27	Genesis 18:1—19:38	Hebrews 11:8-12	Hebrews 11:8-12
January 28	Genesis 20:1—21:34	Galatians 3:6-9	Galatians 3:6-7
January 29	Genesis 22:1—23:20	John 8:52-59	John 8:58
January 30	Psalms 20, 22, 23, 24	Genesis 25:19-26	Psalms 23
January 31	Genesis 24:1-67	Genesis 25:27-64	Genesis 25:11



book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.



WORSHIP SERVICES FOR DECEMBER, 2011

Altar Guild for Month of December

Donna Rabenold

Lector for Month of December

The Denlinger Family

Usher's & Sound System Technicians for the Month of December

Craig Peters (L), Karen Gehring (E), Robert & Faye Weaver

DECEMBER 4, 2011

2nd Sunday in Advent
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Larry Gessner
Sunday School Pianist- Jean Weaver
Greeters- The Enders Family
Acolytes- Gracie Gehring & Reyann Cheatham

DECEMBER 11, 2011

3rd Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent- Shannon Motter
Sunday School Pianist- Louise Baumgardner
Greeters- Larry & Karen Gehring
Acolytes- Ryan Henninger & Cameron Thompson

DECEMBER 18, 2011

4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul
Greeters- The Bruner Family
Acolytes- Bryce Roadcap & Blair Warner

DECEMBER 24, 2011

The Nativity of our Lord/Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

Greeters- The Tim Motter Family
Acolytes- Blair Warner & Zachary Thompson

DECEMBER 25, 2011

Christmas Day

Sunday School Superintendent- Fay Nichols
Sunday School Pianist- Carol Hubler
Greeters- Mike & Carol Hubler
Acolytes- Kelsey Henninger & Allison Mace



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JANUARY 2012

Altar Guild for Month of January

Donna Rabenold

Lector for Month of January

The Shade Family

Ushers & Sound System Technicians for the Month of January -

John Ferree(L), Kris Kell (E), Warren Hassinger or Tamara Spicher, Ken Koller or Mervin Mace

JANUARY 1, 2012

The Name of Jesus

Sunday School Superintendent-

Larry Gessner

Sunday School Pianist-

Lois Watson

Greeters-

Gary & Betty Leitzel

Acolytes-

Reyann Cheatham & Gracie Gehring

JANUARY 8, 2012

The Baptism of Our Lord
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-

Lynn Henninger

Sunday School Pianist-

Judy Ferree

Greeters-

The Eric Mattern Family

Acolytes-

Owen Mattern & Tyler D'Alesandro

JANUARY 15, 2012

The 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent-

Jeff Lehman

Sunday School Pianist-

Jean Weaver

Greeters-

The D'Alesandro Family

Acolytes-

Allison Mace & Reyann Cheatham

JANUARY 22, 2012

The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent-

Shannon Motter

Sunday School Pianist-

Louise Baumgardner

Greeters-

Miriam Hoover

Acolytes-

Nicholas D'Alesandro & Bryce Roadcap

JANUARY 29, 2012

The 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent-

Ken Koller

Sunday School Pianist-

Sandy Paul

Greeters-

Bob & Faye Weaver

Acolytes-

Zachary Thompson & Blair Warner

January 2012



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 The Name of Jesus 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word & Carols (Guest Worship Leader Mr. James Watson and members of Youth Group)</p>	<p>2 7:30 Dartsball Match- Faith United Methodist at St. John</p>	<p>3 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4 Pastor Tom Returns to the office</p>		<p>6 The Epiphany of Our Lord</p>	<p>7 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>Pastor Tom Off-Returning on January 4</p>						
<p>8 The Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion with Baptismal Presentations 11:30 Mutual Ministry Comm. Mtg. 4:30 Youth Group Mtg. 6:00 Women's Group Mtg. 7:30 Congregational Council Mtg.</p>	<p>9 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartsball Match- St. Christopher Luth. At St. Johns Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East</p>	<p>10 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>			<p>14 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>15 The 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting Part 2</p>	<p>16 9:00 Blanket Making 7:30 Dartsball Match- St. John at Lykens UMC Pastor Tom Vacation Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	<p>17 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Worship & Music Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 Confession of Peter 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>		<p>20 Deadline to Submit Items for February "St. John's Epistle"</p>	<p>21 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>22 The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 2:00 Youth Group Meets to Prepare for Annual Spaghetti Supper 5:00 Annual Spaghetti Supper</p>	<p>23 Bishop Hoover's Day in Upper Dauphin Conf. Afternoon Appointment Available 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartsball Match-St. John at Valleys Church, Halifax</p>	<p>24 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 Conversion of Paul 6:30 Midweek Bible Study</p>			<p>28 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>29 The 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 6:00 Green Team Meeting</p>	<p>30 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartsball Match - St. John at Messian Lutheran, Fishersville</p>	<p>31 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>				

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Congregational Council Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2011

The Council meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Council President Dan Langhans.

Pastor Tom Bruner offered devotions.

Present -- Karen Gehring, Kris Kell, Darrell Denlinger, Lorraine Henninger, Mike Henninger, John Ferree, Craig Peters, Dan Langhans, Mary Peters, Pat Herb, Dale Hassinger and Jeffrey Lehman.

Excused Absence -

Reception of Petitions and Communications: A Thank You was received from Bethesda Mission for our donation.

A rebate check for the amount of \$290 was received from Olan Mills for the directory photos. A motion to use \$180 of this money to pay for the extra directories purchased by the Church and the rest of the monies \$110 is to be sent to The Klingerstown Flood Relief Fund was made by Craig Peters and 2nd by Darrell Deninger. MPU

In January the Gideon's will be a guest speaker and a passive display of material will be placed in the narthex.

Pastor's Report: Motion to accept the Pastor's report was made by Loraine Henninger and 2nd by Dale Hassinger. MPU.

Report of the Treasurers: A motion to accept all the Treasurer reports was made by Mary Peters and 2nd by Mike Henninger. MPU

Report of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Minimal damage was sustained during the heavy rains and flooding.

Routine maintenance was preformed: furnace cleaned and septic pumped.

The old inefficient light bulbs are being changed out for the new high efficiency fluorescent bulbs.

The stars were put up on the steeple.

Finance: The Mildred Boyer memorial of \$137,785.00 accrued 3% interest before being moved into an Annuity. The amount moved was \$140,050.05

Worship and Music: A motion to have outdoor service on June 3rd, June 17th, July 1st, July 15th, August 5th, and September 2nd and having the 1st, 3rd, and 2nd as communion dates, the 15th as Bible School Sunday and the 5th as Hymn sing Sunday was made by Dale Hassinger and 2nd by John Ferree. MPU

Christmas Eve service and special music is being reviewed.

Christian Education: Daily Bible reading will be continued for another year beginning the end of November.

A \$400.00 gift will be given to Crossfire from the Benevolence fund.

Stewardship: None

Evangelism: None

Youth Ministry: None

Mutual Ministry: None

Executive: None

Nominating: A list of names is being assembled.

History: The History book is now in the editing stages.

Green Team: None

Unfinished Business: Other avenues are being sought for gift of love held over from last meeting.

New Business:

A motion to adjourn at 9:00pm was made by Dale Hassinger 2nd by John Ferree. MPU. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting – Nov. 13, 2011 2:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey Lehman Secretary

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

TREASURER REPORTS- September 2011

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	\$9,841.24	\$ 9,756.27	\$12,287.60	\$7,309.91
Memorial	\$31,155.49	\$ 748.61	\$ 00	\$ 31,940.10
Benevolence	\$65.36	\$1,584.05	\$1,584.00	\$65.41
Improvement	\$117.57	\$2,427.00	\$116.00	\$2,428.57
BiCent Ck. Act.	\$17,433.91	\$435.00	\$600.00	\$17,268.91
BiCent Savings	\$5,300.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,300.19
Flower Fund	\$55.56	\$115.00	\$105.00	\$65.56

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Berrysburg, Pa				
Proposed Budget for 2012	1st Annual C	Congregational	Meeting	Dec 11,2011
Current Expenses:	2010	2011	2011	2012
The Ministry:				
Pastor's Salary & Housing Allowance	53,240	54,480	54,480	55,928
Social Security	4,073	4,168	4,168	4,278
Pension (Contribution)& Death Benefits	6,878	7,038	7,038	7,224
ELCA Medical & Dental Insurance	18,054	18,122	18,122	18,904
ELCA Disability, Survivor Benefits	1,891	2,522	2,522	1,987
Travel Reimbursement	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2 Weeks Continuing Education	550	550	550	550
Book Periodical & Personal Office Exp	300	300	300	300
Total Ministry:	(2.8%) 90,986	(2.4%)93,180	(2.4%)93,180	(2.1%)95,171
Worship:				
Organis't Salary	2,900	3,000	3,000	3,120
Organist Social Security & Medicare	222	230	230	239
Choir Music & Supplies	250	250	250	250
Church Bulletins & Insert	200	200	200	250
Worship Aid & Supplies	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Offering Envelopes	800	850	850	850
Printing of Bulletins	2,000	2,100	2,100	2,220
Printing Social Security & Medicare	153	161	161	170
Supply Pastor	200	200	200	200
Youth Ministry	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
"The Lutheran Every Home Plan"	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
Delegates & Convention Expenses	350	450	450	550
TOTAL	10,225	10,591	10,591	10,999
Office Expenses:				
Paper,Supplies & Archival Supplies	550	550	550	550
Postage & Box Rent	700	700	700	700
Copier Maintenance & Supplies	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Telephone & Internet	1,000	1,800	1,800	1,900
TOTAL:	3,350	4,150	4,150	4,250
Maintenance Expenses:				
Fuel	5,500	5,500	5,500	6,500
Electricity	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,500
Insurance Church Property	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,100
Workman's Compensation	700	700	700	700
Organ & Public Address System	200	200	200	200
Janitor's Salary	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,260
Janitor's Social Security	84	90	90	96
Janitor's Supplies	150	150	150	150
Property & Equipment Maintenance	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
TOTAL:	16,234	16,340	16,340	16,906
TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSES:	(2.4%) 120,795	(2.9%)124,261	(2.9%)124,261	(2.5%)127,326
BENEVOLENCE-SYNOD & ELCA:	(2.1%) 12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P. O. BOX 270
BERRYBURG, PA 17005

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit #1
Berrysburg, PA 17005

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Thomas Bruner, Jr., Pastor.....362-9519 (O)
 362-7895 (H)
 Carrie & Steven Schlegel, Sextons.....576-2834 OR 433-0455
 Judith Ferree, Organist.....362-4228
 Sandra Paul, Secretary.....362-4117
 Daniel Langhans, Council President.....365-3794
 Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator362-9108

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E-MAIL ADDRESS AT CHURCH – stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com

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.

Web sites of Interest:

Ev. Lutheran Church in America www.elca.org
 Lower Susquehanna Synod www.lss-elca.org