



**SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE**

DECEMBER 2014/JANUARY 2015

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

Following my letter last month, which included mention of the new *Weekend Snack Pack Program* hunger ministry, I've had a good many folks ask me how they can help. At the bottom of this letter is a survey form, which has also appeared a couple of times in our Sunday bulletins, with which you can indicate your willingness to lend a hand. Please note that the form and any checks should be returned to Sandra Shade, who is the Treasurer of the new ministry fund (which has been established under our congregation's financial "umbrella"). If you don't regularly see Sandra, I would also be happy to pass your response on to her – please just be sure that it is clearly marked to Sandra's attention, preferably in an envelope. For more information about the ministry, please speak with Sandra or Barb Bullock or Pat Herb.

Thank you for your help and support of this new hunger ministry, and for your ongoing and generous support of our other congregational work to fight hunger locally – the food collection box in the foyer for the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center (for more information or to volunteer to help with delivery of the food to the pantry, please speak with Bob & Doris Schaffer) and the monthly community meal in Elizabethtown (for more information or to volunteer to lend a hand, please speak with Fay Nichols).

Finally, before the survey form below, a personal 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 2015! It doesn't seem possible, but we are preparing to celebrate our 15th Advent and Christmas with you, and it is again with much joy and anticipation that we do so. May the One who is "Immanuel" - God With Us – bless you now and always!

Pastor Tom

WEEKEND SNACK PACK PROGRAM PARTICIPATION SURVEY

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----------|-------|
| 1. | Volunteer to help with the program (pack food packages, sort food, etc.) | YES | NO |
| 2. | Would you be willing to support this program financially? | YES | NO |
| a. | Sponsor a child \$2.00 per week/\$80.00 per school year | YES | NO |
| b. | Annual donation | Amount \$ | _____ |
| c. | One time donation | Amount \$ | _____ |

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail address _____

All checks should be made payable to "St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church" with the following note in the memo section: "Weekend Snackpack Program"

Please return this form and any check(s) directly to Sandra Shade or mail to the church at: PO Box 270, Berrysburg, PA 17005-0270, Attn. Sandra Shade

DID YOU PICK UP YOUR ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLET?

If you have not yet done so, please be sure to pick up your household's copy of our Advent devotional booklet *Wait for the Lord* at the church as soon as possible. The Season of Advent begins on November 30 this year, and it is Pastor Tom's hope that we will all make use of this common resource for Bible reading during the Advent Season of preparation, much as we did back in Lent – in addition to the regular daily Bible reading which we each do throughout the rest of the year, not instead of. This year's devotional includes daily meditations from the great spiritual leader and guide Henri Nouwen which tie in with the readings on the litanies we will be using each week in worship for the lighting of our Advent Wreath. (And, thanks to a bulk discount in ordering the booklets, there are also some extra copies available for your family members and friends who are not officially a part of our congregational family – please see Pastor Tom.)

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 9, and Tuesday, December 16, 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 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 14**, 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 2015. On **Sunday, January 18**, we will again meet following worship to receive and act on reports of the ministry of our congregation conducted during 2014, and conduct such other business as may come before the gathered body. *We will also take some time on January 18 to talk about tentative plans with regard to 1. calling a part-time staff person to work in the area of Ministry with Children & Youth and 2. constructing a kitchen/social hall adjacent to the pavilion. Please note that no votes will be taken and no official decisions will be made on January 18 – it will be a time of information sharing and question and answer only.* 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 2013 and/or 2014.

To aid you in preparing for the December 14 meeting, a copy of the proposed budget for 2015 is included in this *Epistle*. Its projected Current Fund budget increase of \$7,648 (from \$133,608 to \$141,256) represents a 5.7% increase from 2014. This overall increase includes 1) a \$6,977 (7.0%) increase in Pastor Tom's area of the budget (keeping his salary and housing allowance still just a bit above the minimum guideline for 2015 adopted by our Lower Susquehanna Synod but especially showing the effects of a steep increase – over \$5,000 – in the cost of insurances) and 2) well-deserved small increases for our organist, secretary, and sexton.

With regard to Congregational Council elections, our Nominating Committee is bringing the following four names for congregational action: Gail Billow, Joseph Doyle, Dale Hassinger, and Tamara Spicher.

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 14 and January 18!

CHRISTMAS EVE 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 these preludes will begin 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.

Come and worship! Worship Christ, the newborn King!!

WINTER SESSION OF BIBLE STUDY

Midweek Bible Study will resume for its winter session on Wednesday, January 14, meeting weekly through February 11, when we will take a break for Lent and Holy Week. We will meet each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M., and we will be finishing our study, begun in the fall, taking a look at the beliefs and practices of other denominational branches of our Christian Family, as well as other world religions, using a resource called *Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith*. (If you have ever found yourself wondering what makes us distinct from our Amish neighbors – or our United Church of Christ neighbors or our Mormon neighbors – this class will attempt to address those questions.) Since each session of the study is independent from the rest, interested folks can easily "jump in" for this winter part of the study. As always, no previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and discuss God's Word together! If you were not a part of the fall study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) no later than Friday, January 9, (when he returns to the office) so that the correct number of new study books can be ordered.

LOOKING AHEAD – SUMMER IS COMING!

The date has been set for our Annual Strawberry Festival in 2015. It will take place on Wednesday, June 10, in our grove and pavilion. 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, and – new this year – the local musical group *Shotgum*, of which our own Darrell Denlinger is a part, will be performing in the late afternoon/early evening.

Also, the dates of Vacation Bible School have been set, running Monday, July 20, through Friday, July 24, with the closing program taking place on Sunday, July 26, 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!

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. (And, following January 1, please remember that the same record keeping need exists in the new year.) Please do your part to make sure that our parish records are as accurate as possible!

“FIGHT FOR BRIAN” CAMPAIGN REACHES GOAL

Thanks to the generous support of our congregational family and many neighbors in the larger community, we have reached our goal of raising \$1,500 from the sale of *Fight for Brian* wristbands and other donations, and have received a 1/3 (\$500) match from the Dauphin County Chapter of Thrivent Financial! In keeping with the wishes of Brian and Jodi, the money raised has been divided between leukemia research and their own extra financial needs in these challenging months. The display will remain in the Sunday School Room through Sunday, November 30, so that – if you are reading these lines prior to that time – any final wristbands can be purchased and, especially, any final “*Notes of Hope*” can be written for Brian. Please see Marlee Mattern or Pastor Tom with any questions.

2015 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). New 2015 sponsor sheets have also been posted on the foyer bulletin board for the *Celebrate* bulletin inserts (\$22/month), for supporting one month of a *Konde Diocese Pastors Salary* (\$50/month), and for our support of the *Malaria Initiative of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* (\$50/month). Please sign up on the foyer bulletin board to sponsor any of these ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events.

LECTOR SCHEDULE FOR 2015

The following is the schedule of folks who will serve as lectors during 2015:

January	-	The Shade Family
February	-	Carol Hassinger
March	-	Judith Cheatham
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 be present in worship on Sunday, January 18, as we join in praying God's blessing on them as they share God's Word throughout the coming year!)*

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Altar

On All Saints Sunday, November 2, two of our young members, **R.J. Henry** and **Landon Mace**, received their First Holy Communions, following the successful completion of instruction with Pastor Tom. We welcome these young men to the Lord's Table and pray that this will be just the beginning of a lifetime of participation in this Sacrament of Love!

CONGRATULATIONS!

To **Chelsea Peters** and **Logan Beard**, who were joined in marriage on Saturday, October 4, at Our Lady of Help Roman Catholic Church in Lykens, where they are residing following their honeymoon trip.

And to our new parents:

Ryan & Courtney Langhans, on the birth of **Owen Ryan Langhans**, on Thursday, October 16, at Harrisburg Hospital,

Justin & Lacey Adams, on the birth of **Alex Justin Adams**, on Thursday, November 13, at Geisinger Medical Center,

and **Timothy & Yalonda Rabenold**, on the birth of **Emily Mae Rabenold**, on Wednesday, November 19, at Harrisburg Hospital.

Congratulations and all God's Blessings!

SAINT JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BERRYSBURG, PA17005
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2015 1ST ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2014

	2013	2014	2015
Current Expenses:			
The Ministry:			
Pastor's Salary & Housing Allowance	(1.0%) 56,487	(2.9%) 58127	(2.1%)59374
Social Security	4,321	4447	4919
Pension (Contribution)& Death Benefits	7,297	7509	7715
ELCA Medical & Dental Insurance	19,519	21462	24881
ELCA Disability, Survivor Benefits	1,399	939	2572
Travel Reimbursement	6,000	6000	6000
2 Weeks Continuing Education	700	700	700
Book Periodical & Personal Office Exp	400	400	400
Total Ministry:	(1.0%)96,123	(3.6%) 99584	(7.0%)106,561
Worship:			
Organis't Salary	3,240	3360	3480
Organist Social Security & Medicare	248	257	266
Choir Music & Supplies	250	250	250
Church Bulletins & Insert	250	250	250
Worship Aid & Supplies	1,100	1100	1100
Offering Envelopes	900	900	900
Printing of Bulletins	2,340	2460	2580
Printing Social Security & Medicare	179	188	197
Supply Pastor	200	200	200
Youth Ministry	1,000	1000	1000
"The Lutheran Every Home Plan"	1,050	1050	1050
Delegates & Convention Expenses	550	550	650
TOTAL	11,370	11565	11923
Office Expenses:			
Paper,Supplies & Archival Supplies	550	650	650
Postage & Box Rent	600	600	600
Copier Maintenance & Supplies	1,100	1150	1150
Telephone & Internet	1,900	1900	1900
TOTAL:	4,150	4300	4300
Maintenance Expenses:			
Fuel	7,500	7500	7000
Electricity	2,500	2300	2300
Insurance Church Property	4,100	4300	4400
Workman's Compensation	700	700	700
Organ & Public Address System	200	200	200
Janitor's Salary	1,260	1356	1460
Janitor's Social Security	96	103	112
Janitor's Supplies	250	300	300
Property & Equipment Maintenance	1,400	1400	2000
TOTAL:	18,006	18159	18472
TOTAL CURRENT EXPENSES:	(1.8%) 129,586	(3.1%) 133608	(5.7%)141,256
BENEVOLENCE-SYNOD & ELCA:	12,000	12000	12000



WORSHIP SERVICES FOR DECEMBER, 2014

Altar Guild for Month of December

Donna Rabenold

Lector for Month of December

The Denlinger Family

Usher's for the Month of December

Jeff Lehman (Roy Henry (E), Robert & Faye Weaver

DECEMBER 7, 2014

2nd Sunday in Advent
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent- Larry Gessner
Sunday School Pianist- Judy Ferree
Greeters- Joe & Arlene Doyle
Acolytes- Gracie Gehring & McKenzie Lower

DECEMBER 14, 2014

3rd Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent- Lynn Henninger
Sunday School Pianist- Jean Weaver
Greeters- The Roy Henry Family
Acolytes- Cameron Thompson & Aidan Roadcap

DECEMBER 21, 2014

4th Sunday in Advent

Sunday School Superintendent- Jeff Lehman
Sunday School Pianist- Louise Baumgardner
Greeters- Robert & Faye Weaver
Acolytes- Gabe Gehring & R J Henry

DECEMBER 24, 2014

The Nativity of our Lord/Christmas Eve
Holy Communion

Greeters- Lynn & Helen Henninger
Acolytes- Owen Mattern & Ryan Henninger

DECEMBER 28, 2014

1st Sunday of Christmas

Sunday School Superintendent- Ken Koller
Sunday School Pianist- Sandy Paul
Greeters- The Denlinger Family
Acolytes- Eli Conte & McKenzie Lower

December 2014



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 No Dartsball Match Pastor Tom off Dec 1 through Dec 3	2	3	4 5:30 - 6:30 Free Community Dinner at Salem UCC Elizabethville	5	6 Pastor Tom's Day Off
7 The 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Preparation for Advent/Christmas Program 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion	8 7:30 Dartsball Match Lykens United Methodist at St. John	9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal	10	11	12	13 Pastor Tom's Day Off
14 The 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Preparation for Advent/Christmas Program 10:15 Liturgy of the Word, with Reception of New Members 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting -Part 1 11:30 Fellowship Time with Fair Trade Coffee and Tea for Purchase 2:00 Christmas Caroling to Shut-in members 6:00 Women's Group Meeting 7:30 Congregational Council Meeting	15 7:30 Dartsball Match -St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville	16 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 1:00 Gathering with Residents at the Manor at Susqu. Village 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal Hanukkah	17	18	19	20 Pastor Tom's Day Off Winter Begins
21 The 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Preparation for Advent/Christmas Program 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 6:00 Annual Advent/Christmas Program and Covered Dish Dinner Winter Begins	22 No Dartsball Match	23 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting	24 The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve 4:00 Quiet Liturgy of Holy Communion 8:00 Candlelight Liturgy of Holy Communion	25 The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day	26 Stephen, Deacon & Martyr	27 John, Apostle & Evangelist Pastor Tom's Day Off
28 The 1st Sunday of Christmas (The Holy Innocents, Martyrs) 9:00 Happy Birthday Jesus! Party 10:15 Liturgy of the Word	29 7:00 Dartsball League All Star Game at Faith United Methodist Church, Fisherville	30 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting	31 New Year's Eve			



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JANUARY 2015

Altar Guild for Month of January

Donna Rabenold

Lector for Month of January

The Shade Family

Ushers for the Month of January

James Bullock (L), Jamie Doyle (E), Tammi Spicher & Kris Kell

JANUARY 4, 2015

The 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Sunday School Superintendent-

Fay Nichols

Sunday School Pianist-

Carol Hubler

Greeters-

Ray & Joyce Matter

Acolytes-

Reyann Cheatham & McKenzie Lower

JANUARY 11, 2015

The Baptism of Our Lord
Holy Communion

Sunday School Superintendent-

Larry Gessner

Sunday School Pianist-

Lois Watson

Greeters-

Harold & Pat Herb

Acolytes-

Kelsey Henninger & Aidan Roadcap

JANUARY 18, 2015

The 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent-

Lynn Henninger

Sunday School Pianist-

Judy Ferree

Greeters-

Fred & Jean Weaver

Acolytes-

R J Henry & Owen Mattern

JANUARY 25, 2015

The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Sunday School Superintendent-

Jeff Lehman

Sunday School Pianist-

Jean Weaver

Greeters-

The Clint Gehring Family

Acolytes-

Cameron Thompson & Gabe Gehring

January 2015



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 The 2nd Sunday of Christmas 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of Lessons and Carols (Guest Worship Leader Mr. James Watson)</p>	<p>5 9:00 Blanket Making for LWR 7:30 Dartball Match - St. John at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens</p>	<p>6 The Epiphany of Our Lord 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>Pastor Tom off January 1 he will return to the office on January 9th</p>	<p>1 The Name of Jesus New Year's Day</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11 The Baptism of Our Lord 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Young Person's Church and Baptismal Presentations 11:30 Mutual Ministry Comm. Mtg. 4:30 Youth Group Meet to plan Spaghetti Supper 6:00 Women's Group Mtg.</p>	<p>12 9:00 Blanket Making 6:00-7:15 Meeting of Study/ Search Team for Children's /Youth Ministry 7:30 Dartball Match- Valleys Church at St. John</p>	<p>13 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 6:30-7:30 Midweek Bible Study 7:30-9:00 Meeting of Ministry Team Studying a New Kitchen/Social Hall</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>18 The 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany/ Confession of Peter 9:00 Sunday School 9:00 Confirmation Class 10:15 Liturgy of the Word with Annual Blessing of the Lectors and Anthem by Young Person's Choir 11:15 Annual Congregational Meeting, Part 2</p>	<p>19 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off 9:00 Blanket Making LWR 7:30 Dartball Match-St. John at Faith United Methodist, Fisherville Martin Luther King Jr. Day (observed)</p>	<p>20 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 1:00 Gathering with Our Residents at The Manor at Susquehanna Village 6:15 Worship & Music Mtg. 7:30 Sr. Choir Rehearsal <i>Deadline to Submit Items for February "St. John's Epistle"</i></p>	<p>21 6:30 - 8:00 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>22 5:30-6:30 Free Community Dinner at Salem UCC, Elizabethtown</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>
<p>25 The 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany/ Conversion of Paul 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Liturgy of the Word 2:00 Youth Group Meets to Prepare for Annual Spaghetti Supper 5:00 Annual Spaghetti Supper</p>	<p>26 9:00 Blanket Making 5:30-9:00 Pastor Tom at Lower Sess. Synod Office in Harrisburg for Nomination Comm. Mtg. 7:00 Upper Dauphin Court at Salem Killingier 7:30 Dartball Match - St. John at Lykens United Methodist</p>	<p>27 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Meeting 6:15 Property Comm. Mtg. 7:30 Senior Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 6:30 - 8:00 Midweek Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Pastor Tom's Day Off</p>

News from St John Women of the ELCA

At the election in November's meeting Fay Nichols and Lorraine Henninger agreed to be Co-Presidents for the next two years. Arlene Doyle has been re-elected as Vice President. Jean Weaver is Chairperson for Christian Action Committee.

The next meeting will be December 14 at 6:00PM. The leaders for the month will be Fay Nichols and Ginny Enders. All ladies should remember to bring a snack for time of Christmas Fellowship after the meeting.

Ladies we are trying to have a card shower for Margery Romberger. Her address is 6132 North 37th Street, Richland, MI 49083. I am sure Marge will hearing from you.

A friend of mine sent me this poem and I thought you may enjoy it.

The Christmas Spirit

When the Christmas spirit springs to life
In the human heart each year,
The world becomes, for a little time,
A haven of love and cheer.

The poor in body are clothed and fed,
And the lonely know once more
The warmth of hearing a welcome knock
On a too long silent door.

For these few days we remember well
That all mankind is kin,
Bound by the love of the Babe who found
No room in that long ago inn.

But the days go by, and the spirit dies,
So busy with living we are,
And the poor and the lonely are left once more
In hunger and apathy.

I have been guilty too, God knows,
Too busy to lend a hand,
Too busy to stop for a friendly chat,
Too busy to understand.

"No more, no more let this happen to me,
Dear Lord" I earnestly pray,
"Let me keep the Spirit the whole year through
As bright as it is today."

Have a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2014

The Council Meeting was called to order by President Jim Watson.

Pastor Tom offered prayer and handed out a letter from Lower Susquehanna Synod, concerning Same-Gender Marriage. We will be discussing the letter in the next few Council Meetings.

Present - James Bullock, Lorraine Henninger, Roy Henry, Ken Koller, Jeff Lehman, Cheryl Shadle, Sandra Shade, Eric Mattern, Jim Watson and Pastor Tom

Excused Absences – Carol Hassinger, Sandra Lamenza, Jamie Doyle

Motion by Roy Henry, 2nd by Cheryl Shadle to accept September Council minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Reception of Petitions and Communications:

Quarterly Water test passed

Pastor's Report:

Motion by Eric Mattern, 2nd by James Bullock to accept Pastor's report. Motion Passed unanimously. Motion by Lorraine Henninger, 2nd by Eric Mattern to approve Pastor Tom's Health Insurance as the Gold Plus Plan, Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion by Cheryl Shadle, 2nd by Roy Henry to accept the treasurer's reports. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Church Property: Met Sept 30, removed a tree at the Sextons house, will not be replacing at this time. Looking at hanging the Advent Stars Oct 18 @ 9am weather permitting. Front church doors were painted. The downstairs women's bathroom is not working, they will be sealing off the water and turning the space into storage. The men's bathroom will remain downstairs.

Finance Committee: Budget meeting Oct 13 @ 6pm.

Worship & Music: Met on Sept 16, finalized outside worship services, May 31, June 14, July 5, July 26, Aug 9, and Sept 6. Motion by Cheryl Shadle, 2nd by Lorraine Henninger to accept the

extended Summer Schedule for 2015 will start Memorial weekend (May 24) through Labor Day weekend (Sept 6), motion passed unanimously.

Christian Education: Will meet Oct 16, 2014.

Stewardship: No Report

Evangelism: Will meet Oct 15, 2014

Youth Ministry: Oct 13, 8 youth and 2 adults will travel to New Windsor. Oct 26 @ 4 pm the youth group Halloween Party. November 2, chicken and waffle dinner.

Mutual Ministry: met Oct 12, reviewed the fall in the attendance for September, did not see any major concerns or problems within the church.

Executive: No report

Nominating: Dale Hassinger, Tammi Spicher, Gail Billow and Joe Doyle are the proposed nominees.

History Committee: No report

Green Team: Great Honey Bee presentation and hospitality by Randy and Sandy Paul.

Other reports: met with Charlie Roberts, we now have a job description for a Youth Leader. Still working on the floor plans for the new kitchen facility.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Next Council Meeting: November 9, @ 7:30

Adjournment: Motion by Cheryl 2nd by Eric Mattern to adjourn at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Shade

**Treasurers Report for
October 2014**

	<u>Prior Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>EOM</u>
Current	4,527.56	8,471.65	11,124.43	1,874.78
Benevolence	54.16	1,040.03	1,040.00	54.19
Memorial	31,249.53	151,519.22*	150,000.00*	32,768.75
Improvement	3,521.77	2,381.00	338.29	5,564.48
Bicent CkAcct	26,380.42	1,466.65	1,500.00	26,347.07
Bicent Svngs	5,300.91	-	-	5,300.91
Flower	269.36	130.00	134.50	264.86

*Includes maturity of CD and purchase of new CD.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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.net362-4117
 James Watson, Council President loisbull17@gmail.com..... 362-3247
 Lorraine Henninger, Prayer Chain Coordinator (no email)..... 362-9108

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stjohnhillchurch.org

Physical Address (for deliveries): 215 St. John Road Elizabethville, PA 17023

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 270 Berrysburg, PA 17005

* * * * *

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)

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.