

**SAINT JOHN'S
EPISTLE
JULY/AUGUST 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,

I first want to thank Lorraine Henninger for calling my attention to the following story, which was a part of a Senior High Sunday School lesson posted online by Pastor Robert Chell, Lutheran Campus Pastor at South Dakota State University, back in May, in which he, in turn, attributed the story to a Roman Catholic Jesuit priest by the name of Anthony DeMello. Did you follow all that?! Please read on:

There was a monastery in decline, whose leader sought help from a Christian hermit. The hermit told him that the decline was due to the sin of ignorance – the Messiah was among the brothers and they were not aware of this! The leader returned home to the monastery astonished, and he wondered who it might be. He shared the news with the other brothers and each in turn began wondering who it was. Mentally, each began ruling out those with obvious faults – the crabby cook, the surly gardener, and so on, until, eventually, everyone had been so ruled out. At this point, they realized that the Messiah might well be in disguise, and so they each tried a different strategy. They began treating each other as if each were the Messiah. And so, very soon, the monastery was flourishing, as others were drawn to the joy and happiness of the place.

“They began treating each other as if each were the Messiah.” If, as we believe, Jesus the Messiah is indeed in our midst... And, if we take seriously Jesus' teaching, that it is chiefly in loving one another as he has loved us that we follow him... Then, what should our congregational family look like and how should we behave?

Treating each other as if each were the Messiah... What do you think?!

Pastor Tom

SUMMER SCHEDULE RETURNS FOR JULY AND AUGUST

As we have done for the past two summers, beginning on Sunday, July 7, and running through the Sunday of Labor Day weekend, September 1, we will gather for **Sunday School** at **8:45 A.M.**, going straight into the lesson of the morning (and skipping the opening time in which we join the rest of the year). These classes will end at 9:15 A.M., with **worship** beginning at **9:30 A.M.** Once again, Pastor Tom will do his best to make sure that worship ends promptly by 10:30 A.M., for those who must travel to family gatherings or work responsibilities.

INTRODUCTION/REVIEW CLASS TO BE HELD

Pastor Tom will be leading an Inquirer's Class on Monday, July 8, from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. This class is designed for those who are either thinking about or planning on joining the congregation, as well as current congregational members who desire a bit of a refresher in the basics of Lutheran Christian history and belief. Simply speak with Pastor Tom any time prior to the class to register. New members will be received later in July.

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOLAR ENERGY

The Green Team invites our whole congregational family to participate in a field trip to the home of Dennis & Mary Ann Smeltz to learn about their solar energy system on Sunday, July 14. We will meet at the church at 1:30 P.M. to carpool to their home, which is located outside of Dalmatia. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the church foyer, and please contact Jamie Doyle with any questions.

IT'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TIME!

A registration form for Vacation Bible School (VBS) was included in each May and June *St. John's Epistle*. VBS will be held July 15-19, from 6:30 to 8:30 each evening, with a closing program on Sunday morning, July 21. We are using a new and exciting curriculum this year, which has been prepared by the World Hunger Appeal of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, entitled *Taking Root: Hunger Causes, Hunger Hopes*. As is the case each year, there will be classes available for young persons from Pre-School through Senior High (note that this latter category is a slight change – no longer cutting VBS off at Grade 9 for older youth would like to participate). There will be a great mix of learning, storytelling, craft-making, fun with friends, and, yes, the snacks – all of it in the beautiful setting of The Hill. **Registrations are already due but, if you have not yet gotten yours in, please contact Pastor Tom or any Sunday School teacher as soon as possible.** We are looking forward to a truly fun and truly inspiring week for all young persons!



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR JULY 2013

Altar Guild for Month of July

Carol & Mike Hubler

Lector for Month of July

Carl Baumgardner

Usher's for July are (L) John Ferree, (E) Sandra Shade, Lorraine & Henry Henninger,

JULY 7, 2013

The 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion

OUTDOOR WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School 8:45 A.M.

Greeters – Ray & Joyce Matter

JULY 14, 2013

The 8th Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School 8:45 A. M.

Greeters- Harold & Pat Herb

Acolytes- Kelsey Henninger

JULY 21, 2013

10:00 A.M. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CLOSING PROGRAM AND PICNIC

JULY 28, 2013

The 10th Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School 8:45 A. M.

Greeters- The Clint Gehring Family

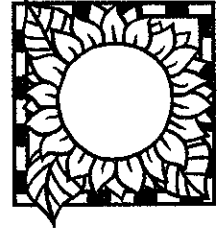
Acolytes- Gracie Gehring & Owen Mattern

JULY 2013



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day	2 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg.	3 Thomas, Apostle Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off Independence Day	4 Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off Independence Day	5	6 Pastor Tom's Day Off
7 The 7th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP - Holy Communion	8 6:30-8:30 Inquirer's Class	9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:30 Annual Strawberry Festival Wrap-Up Mtg.	10	11	12	13 Pastor Tom's Day Off 7:00-9:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group Meets at the Church
14 The 8th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word 1:30 Green Team - Field Trip to Smeltz 7:30 Congregational Council Meeting	15 6:30—8:30 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	16 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting 1:00 Gathering with Our Residents at the Manor at Susq. Village 6:30—8:30 BIBLE SCHOOL	17 6:30—8:30 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	18 6:30—8:30 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	19 6:30—8:30 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL	20 Pastor Tom's Day Off 9:00 A.M. Pavilion Set-up for Vacation Bible School Closing Program
21 The 9th Sunday after Pentecost 10:00 Vacation Bible School Closing Program & Pronic 11:15 Mutual Ministry Mtg.	22 Mary Magdalene, Apostle	23 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Meeting	24	25 James, Apostle	26	27 Pastor Tom's Day Off
28 The 10th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word 4:00 Installation of Pastor Martine Joseph at Simeon United Lutheran, Gratz	29 Pastor Tom on vacation through Tuesday, August 13 returning to the office on Wednesday, August 14	30	31			



SUNDAY SERVICE FOR AUGUST 2013

Altar Guild for Month of August

Jean & Fred Weaver

Lector for Month of August

The Ray & Joyce Matter Family

Usher's for August are (L)—James Bullock (E)—Kris Kell, Martha Rebeck & Lois Leshner

AUGUST 4, 2013

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost

OUTDOOR WORSHIP 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School 8:45 A.M.

Greeters- The Lehman Family

AUGUST 11, 2013

The 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship 9:30 A.M.

Hymn Sing

Sunday School 8:45 A.M.

Greeters - The Scott Peters Family

Acolytes- Reyann Cheatham & Allison Mace

AUGUST 18, 2013

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship 9:30 A.M.

Holy Communion

Sunday School 8:45 A.M.

Greeters - John & Judy Ferree

Acolytes- Tyler D'Alesandro & Cameron Thompson

AUGUST 25, 2013

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Worship 9:30 A.M.

Sunday School 8:45 A.M.

Greeters - Delmar & Ginny Enders

Acolytes- Ryan Henninger & Kelsey Henninger

August 2013

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 The 11th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 OUTDOOR WORSHIP - (Guest Worship Leader - Mr. James Watson)	5	6 6:00 Pavilion Set-up for Congregational Yardsale	7 6:00 Yardsale Items Arranged in the Pavilion	8 9:00-?? Annual Congregational Yardsale Domestic Disaster Relief	9 Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East 9:00-?? Annual Congregational Yardsale	10 9:00 - 12:00 Annual Congregational Yardsale Concludes 7:00-9:00 A.M. Men's Prayer Group Meets at the Church
11 The 12th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 -Hymn Sing (Guest Worship Leader - Mr. James Watson)	12 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly Begins in Pittsburgh	13	14 Pastor Tom Returns to the Office	15 Mary, Mother of Our Lord	16	17 Pastor Tom's Day off
18 The 13th Sunday after Pentecost Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Churchwide Assembly Concludes 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of Holy Communion	19	20 Deadline to Submit Items for September "St. John's Epistle" 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 6:15 Evangelism Comm. Mtg.	21	22 1:30 Pastor Tom Leads Worship at Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg	23 Pastor Tom's Day Off (instead of 8/31)	24 Bartholomew, Apostle Pastor Tom's Day Off
25 The 14th Sunday after Pentecost 8:45 Sunday School 9:30 Liturgy of the Word	26	27 10:00 Pastor Tom at Conf. Pastors Mtg. 7:00 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Meeting	28	29	30 7:00 Rehearsal of Mace/Martin Wedding	31 2:00 Marriage of Tausha Mace & Joseph Martin

IT'S SOON YARSALE TIME AGAIN

Once again this year, all proceeds from our Annual Yardsale will go to the Domestic Disaster Fund of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The sale will take place in the pavilion on Thursday, August 8, from 9:00 A.M. - ?; Friday, August 9, from 9:00 A.M. - ?; and Saturday, August 10, from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon. Help will also be needed on Tuesday, August 6, to ready the pavilion for the sale (beginning at 6:00 P.M.); on Wednesday, August 7, to bring out and arrange the items for sale (also beginning at 6:00 P.M.); and on Monday, August 12, to pack up any leftovers (time to be announced). For now, please be thinking about when you might sign up to staff the yardsale and start gathering AND PRICING those treasures that you will have for sale!

PASTORAL ACTS

At the Altar

On Saturday, June 1, Pastor Tom presided at the marriage of **Holly (Billow) & Corey Scheib** at the church in a 3:00 P.M. service. We pray God's blessing on these young persons, that they may be given the grace and strength to faithfully live out their vows of commitment!

At the Graveside

Pastor Tom presided at graveside funeral worship and interment of ashes for **Thomas Kelley**, who died in Glenview, IL on January 8. Worship was held in our church cemetery on June 3. We pray that God will grant rest and peace to Tom, and the hope and joy of the Resurrection to his wife, Sally (who is related to the Henninger and Troutman Families) and to all of his family and loved ones.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

During worship on June 16, we honored four young persons upon their graduation from high school, all of whom received their diplomas on June 7. They are, from Halifax Area High School, **Cody Thompson**, and, from Upper Dauphin Area High School, **Timothy Bruner, Olivia Enders** and **Kaylene Maurer**. We pray God's blessing on these young members as they celebrate these milestones and look to new opportunities and challenges!

The congregation's prayers and congratulations also go to **Ray Bush** who, along with his wife, **the Rev. Vicky Bush**, joined our congregation back in January of 2012. On May 11, Ray graduated from Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, PA with his Master of Divinity degree. He has been endorsed as a candidate for ordination by the North American Lutheran Church (one of the groups of Lutheran Christians who have chosen to separate from our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and, when he finishes a year-long internship at St. Paul congregation in Millersburg in August, is planning to pursue a call and ordination in the NALC.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

P.O. BOX 270
 BERRYBURG, PA 17005

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.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