



The Grapevine

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 15 N. Church St., Thurmont, MD 21788

Number 70

July/August 2014

Travels With Wubby

I've been driving around with Wubby-elephant in my car, hoping for a chance to return him to the place he's needed. Last Sunday, my family came over for a cookout, and as I was cleaning up afterwards, I saw him: Wubby-elephant lying there in the yard. I called my daughter right away and told her, but they were already halfway back to DC and couldn't take the time to turn back. Knowing the great importance of Wubby-elephant, I offered to jump in my car and try to catch up with them, but it was too late. They do have a spare Wubby at home (it's a Wubby-cat, but it'll do in a pinch), so hopefully there will be no crisis until Wubby-elephant is back where it belongs.



You see, a Wubby is a pacifier attached to a stuffed animal. My 14-month-old granddaughter Aria loves her Wubbies, and in fact will NOT go to sleep without one. She holds the stuffed animal close and the pacifier goes in her mouth and she drifts off to sleep. And if Wubby is missing...well, 3AM with an inconsolable toddler is indeed a crisis.

So—Wubby-elephant is more than just another baby toy! Wubby-elephant makes for a happy baby and two parents who can make it through the next day after a good night's sleep.

Driving around with Wubby-elephant in my car, I've looked at it and thought, that's what we all need! Something we can hold close to bring us peace when we're the most frazzled.

God's loving care for us does just that, but like any comfort, it works best when we hold it close. That's why it's so important for us to gather to worship as a faith community, so that we can draw close to God's presence through the hearing of the word, the common sharing of the bread and cup of Jesus and the power of praying, singing and simply being together.

I love having good, frank, honest conversation with people who don't come to church or for a variety of reasons stopped coming. I have often heard people say that they stopped going to church because it felt like an obligation, one more duty to feel guilty about if it's not done. That's when Jesus' words in Mark 2:27, "The Sabbath was made for human beings, not human beings for the Sabbath," come to mind. Taking one day a week to tend to our spiritual well-being and relationship with God is a gift, not a duty. God offers us not just permission, but an invitation to set aside one day to turn off the cell phone, leave the e-mails unanswered, and take a break from work. It's a gift that we can only appreciate if we actually take it.

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Often in the summer our “regular” schedules are thrown off or we are out of town and worship slips out of our routines. I encourage you to continue to worship regularly wherever you are. Do you “hafta” go to church to be in God’s good graces and be a “good Christian?” No, of course not! God’s love is unconditional! But—God offers the gift of Sabbath to us every week, and we’re missing out if we don’t accept that gift.

So—see you at church this summer, or go explore a worship community where you’re traveling and be enriched by experiencing something new.

Summer blessings to each of you, dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

Pastor Susan



New Prayer Kiosk in the Day Entrance

“What’s that for?” you might be asking the next time you come through the day entrance at St. John’s. Directly across from the side door you may see a (soon-to-be-installed) computer screen and keyboard. Well, it’s actually for something rather important . . . prayer. “Oh really? . . . That’s a little strange.” If you said that to yourself you probably will not be alone. It is strange, different, and new but it is really just a new way of facilitating the age-old practice of praying for one another. When we pray for one another we are drawn more closely together, drawn more closely as one in Christ, and we can show others our love as we pray for them. The Outreach Team wanted to engage a significant project this year that connected those who come through our church with the part of the body of Christ that is St. John’s. The idea was a “prayer request” kiosk. Here is how it works:

1. Someone uses the computer keyboard in the day entrance to enter a prayer request (requests can be anonymous).
2. That request is forwarded automatically via e-mail to those who have signed up for a month to be praying for those making requests.
3. That’s it!

The Outreach Team would like to thank the Church Council and Fundraising Team for supporting this project and Brian Getz and Kurt Johnson for their work in getting the kiosk ready. The computer is being configured for this single purpose; it is not for general Internet use. We would encourage you to use the prayer kiosk. We know that God answers prayer!!

Summer Worship Schedule (June 8 through September 7)
8:30 and 10:00 a.m.

1st Sunday of month: ONE service at 10:00 w/refreshments

Ecumenical Mission to Kenya

Please continue to keep this mission in your prayers as the group (sponsored by the Emmitsburg Council of Churches) prepares to depart on July 13. Among the participants, you will remember, are our very own Betsy Miller, Kathrin Muegge, and Lisa Riffle—all of whom are wildly excited about their opportunity to be involved firsthand with such a vitally important humanitarian venture.

Full details of the mission’s goals were published in the April *Grapevine*. Simply put, they include providing on-site and regional medical and dental clinics, holding Bible School, offering agricultural education, and upgrading a solar power system.

The team will spend eleven days at the mission site in Kenya and return home on July 30. Should you wish to offer monetary assistance for the mission trip, please place checks in the offering plate made out to: “Emmitsburg Council of Churches” with the memo: “Kenya Mission 2014.” . . . And be sure to extend your well-wishes to Betsy, Kathrin, and Lisa when you see them!

Summer Lunch Program 2014: Our week to cover the Thurmont Summer Lunch program is July 28-August 1. This important community ministry needs people to serve lunch and lead an activity for any child who could benefit. The food is already prepared and ready to serve. If you are available during the weekdays, please sign the volunteer sheet in the back of the church or let Pastor Susan know.

Bible on Tap: Bible on Tap is taking a break for the summer and will resume Thursday, September 4, 7:00 PM, at the Shamrock Restaurant's bar.

Adult Catechumenate to be offered in the Fall

Confirmation classes are not just for kids! The Adult Catechumenate has been a long tradition in the church, dating back to New Testament times. In the early church, it was a period of preparation and education in the faith leading to baptism. While it is geared toward those new to the faith, it has also come to be a time of growing and grounding in a faith where the person is already baptized and confirmed.

Our Adult Catechumenate classes will meet the first Sunday of each month, after the luncheon, for about an hour and will cover the same basics as we did in the youth confirmation classes, including creeds, prayer, Bible, teachings of Jesus and Lutheran theology. The classes will begin October 5 if there is sufficient interest. If you are interested, or know a friend, neighbor or coworker who would like to learn what Lutheran Christianity is about, please contact Pastor Susan by September 1.

***Where are you going this summer?
Send us your vacation photos
for the September Grapevine.***

HERCULES

by Ann Marie Bezayiff

As you exit the main train terminal in Rome, hotels and outdoor restaurants surround the area. The pizzerias feature thin-crust pizzas, pastas with a variety of sauces and lamb with artichokes. On one particular day, after a full day of touring, we decided to try a pizzeria located near our hotel. It was 5:00 and we were the only customers. This was not unexpected because the Italians don't eat dinner until 8:00 or later. Most restaurants don't open before 7:00.

The owner was preparing for the evening customers but he was more than happy to make pizzas for us. His English was excellent. "I was born in New Jersey," he told us. "My father and his brothers immigrated to New Jersey. My mother is an American. When my father took her to visit his family in Rome, she fell in love with Rome and Italy. She wanted to live here. So my father moved us back to Rome and began helping my uncle with this restaurant. I was eight years old at the time." He brought out a picture of his family, eight boys and three girls. "My nickname is Hercules. I'm Hercules because I have eight sons." It took us a minute to think through what he was saying and when we smiled, he repeated, "Eight boys. That's a Herculean task, almost superhuman." We agreed.

"I visit every year. I take my family to New Jersey. I like America. Perhaps my father should have stayed. I don't know but now my family is here."

"Are Americans so different from the Italians?"

"Maybe not so different, but I think in Italy the people look back too much. They see the old, the ruins and the past. In America, everyone looks forward, not so much the past."

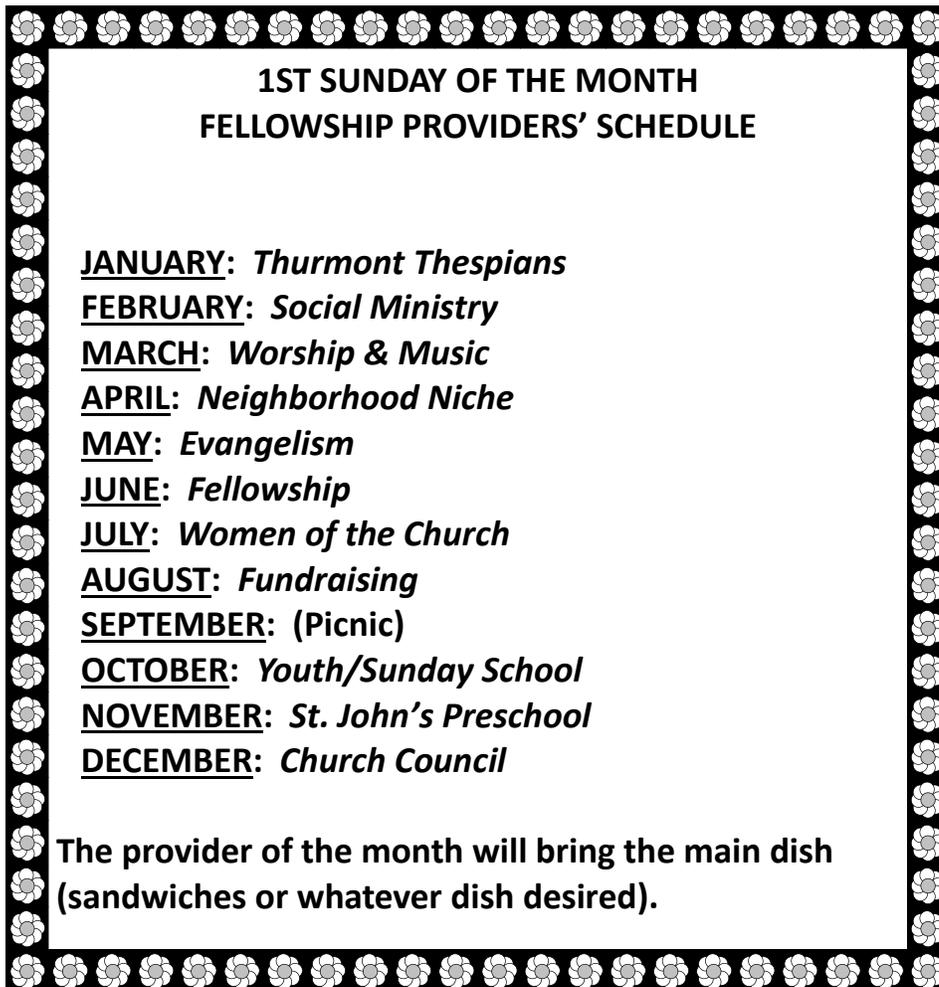
As we walked around Rome, I too was fascinated by the past. The miracle of Italian art and music transcend time and place. Around every corner are churches filled with art, engineering feats like the Colosseum, and the unique architecture of the buildings surrounding us. However, the city roads were constructed centuries ago and are crowded with traffic never imagined and parking is non-existent. The infrastructure is stretched to its limits trying to provide water and power and health care for everyone. They cope with mass immigration from North Africa. Refugees crowd the streets selling touristy items while waiting to get into France and Germany, where work is available. Italy tries to care for them as best they can.

When it comes to our personal lives, remembering the past is often essential and necessary but we certainly don't want to get stuck in that place. It shouldn't consume us with thinking like, "I should have done this or I could have done that. They did this to me! Life has treated me unfairly. If only..."

(continued)

Christians recognize the significance of the past but try to stretch forward. Difficult? Certainly. It's all about knowing that we're part of something greater. We understand that we are included in God's personal architectural plan; we are art in the making. We look forward to a future with Christ because of the resurrection and the promise of life everlasting. Now that's a future, an impressive future. I think our Herculean friend would agree.

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 42:18-19



**1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
FELLOWSHIP PROVIDERS' SCHEDULE**

JANUARY: *Thurmont Thespians*
FEBRUARY: *Social Ministry*
MARCH: *Worship & Music*
APRIL: *Neighborhood Niche*
MAY: *Evangelism*
JUNE: *Fellowship*
JULY: *Women of the Church*
AUGUST: *Fundraising*
SEPTEMBER: *(Picnic)*
OCTOBER: *Youth/Sunday School*
NOVEMBER: *St. John's Preschool*
DECEMBER: *Church Council*

**The provider of the month will bring the main dish
(sandwiches or whatever dish desired).**

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS: Tuesday, July 8 and Thursday, August 14, 2014

Council Highlights — June 12, 2014



Defer approvals of Financial Report statements until October 1, when issues with Church Windows computer operating system will be reconciled. Brian Getz will research alternative accounting applications to Church Windows.

Bid for furnace replacement from DeWees and Mick's received. Monies for the furnace to come from Endowment Fund.

Sidewalk outside of church building has been repaired.

License to handle/serve food is renewed.

Historical Society (Creager House) will repair the wall facing the Parsonage.

July Council Meeting set for Tuesday, July 8 at 7:00pm.

Kelli Donaghue will research liability and availability of space to provide Zumba Classes, with all donations coming to St. John's.

Respectively submitted,
Carol Donovan, Secretary



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Parent Orientation will be held on Wednesday, August 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. After a brief orientation, the parents will visit the classrooms and meet with the teachers.

Our 2014-15 school year will begin on Tuesday, September 2, on a staggered schedule.

News from the THURMONT THESPIANS . . .

Successful Graduation Dance at St. John's

Thursday night June 19th had St. John's Fellowship Hall rocking with teens dancing up a storm as we celebrated 9 high school graduates among our membership. The cast of *Anne of Green Gables* got indoctrinated into ballroom dancing with a quick lesson at 6:30 p.m. and by 7:00 the room was doing the Cha Cha . . . Pastor Susan paid us a visit and supplies the pictures. I can attest she was on the dance floor with all those kids!! Even newly-baptized Kaylee Robbins made an appearance and was passed around in her little pink dancing dress!! Amazingly enough the decorations were put away and the room set up for Food Bank by 11 p.m. — a good time was had by all!!



Spencer Charles Watson Scholarship Awarded at Graduation Dance

Beth announced at the Graduation Dance that the group is designating a Spencer Charles Watson Scholarship Award from the many donations made to us in his name. This year it went to Ann Urian to study Technical Theatre at Full Sail University in Florida. Annie is hands down the best sound person we have ever had man those mikes and we are pleased as punch that she is persuing an education in technical theatre!! Spence would be so proud!! *Congratulations to Ann Urian!!!*

***Anne of Green Gables* plays at the American Legion July 17 - 27**

This year we are doing the classic *Anne of Green Gables*, which tells the story of a spunky young orphan adopted by a sister and brother on Prince Edward Island and all the uproar that goes with it in a village much like Thurmont was when I grew up - or maybe when my mother grew up, if you are really sticky on the years.

We have had 39 audition and at last count still have 38 in attendance - even spied Raphaella Smaldone of *Honk* fame in the cast even though this year is for teens. We needed some little ones to round out the community and our youngsters from other years who have been bitten by the acting bug came out with high hopes.

Sarah Marusich is directing and it's her first time doing double casts and using everyone who comes - no small feat. But she is equal to the task and rehearsals progress.

For those of you who saw *Smoke on the Mountain* and fell in love with the twins, those same folks appear in Cast 2 of this production. They are playing major roles — Annabelle Perry as Anne and Josh Flanick as Gilbert Blythe — and will appear onstage Friday the 18th, Sunday the 20th, Thursday the 24th and Saturday the 26th at 7:30 p.m.

Courtney Lake of Waynesboro is playing Anne in Cast 1 and our own Mallory Donaghue portrays Marilla (the Aunt) in Cast 1, so perhaps you might want to come twice!! Rachel Johnson is Marilla in Cast 2 so in any event you will recognize faces on that stage!!

Make your reservations early at 301-271-7613 with Becky Urian.





Cast of *Anne of Green Gables*

Back Row: Nate Kopit, Joshua Flanick, Daniel Flanick, Siglinda Lyons, Elijah Miller
5th Row: Emily Weller, Rachel Johnson, Veronica Smaldone, Evie Pecher, Mallory Donaghue,
Melissa Brown
4th Row: Sarah Getz, Elizabeth Buchheister, Annabelle Perry, Jordan Witt, Arminda Barrows
3rd Row: Erin Kopit, Tara O'Donnell, Adrianna Bussey, Danelle Bare
2nd Row: Sarah Johnson, Madelyn Tatum, Samantha Grimes, Addison Eyler
Front Row: Morgan Blood, Daniel Puckett, Katelyn C. Manning, Kaitlyn C. Pinnell

7/2 Gayle Spahr
 7/10 Elaine Baltzell
 7/10 Nancy Creager
 7/12 Luke Bradley
 7/12 Steven Dart
 7/13 Diana Hoover
 7/13 MaryBeth Johnson
 7/15 Elizabeth Dart
 7/20 Jessica Miller
 7/20 Sam Royer, IV
 7/22 Christoph Muegge
 7/22 Jonas Muegge
 7/27 Macks Myers
 7/27 Taylor Zentz
 7/31 Erin Fox



BIRTHDAYS

8/2 Kim Beard
 8/2 Emily Johnson
 8/7 Betty Kerns
 8/7 Don Valentine
 8/9 Cathy Delauter
 8/17 Dorothy Stowell
 8/20 Karen Fox
 8/21 Allison Dart
 8/22 Bill Riffle
 8/23 Ed McKissick
 8/26 William Willhide
 8/27 Belle Grimes
 8/27 Brenda Toms
 8/28 Melissa Spahr
 8/30 Delores Sheeler

Please remember in your prayers . . .

ST. JOHN'S MEMBERS

Marie Seiss Janet Heckert
 Luke Bradley Dorothy Stowell
 Jane Tresselt

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Dale Wireman – friend of Debbie Ayers
 Kristen Kelly – daughter-in-law of Forrest & Mary Lou
 Roy Stonesifer—family of Jen Wathen

 Larry Haga – family of Becky Smith
 Joseph Reed - family of Becky Smith
 Mary Porter— sister-in- law of Gayle Spahr & Judy May
 Jeremy Hahn
 Kevin Orndorff— son-in-law of Debbie Ayers
 Michele Myers—niece of Harriet Valentine
 Rick Baker - brother of Darlene Fogle & Debbie Ayers
 Franklin Shriner—friend of Randy Spahr
 Howie Cavell—nephew of Gayle Spahr & Judy May
 Jacque Kerr—cousin of Gayle Spahr & Judy May

 Andrea Scotto
 Ethel Brauer—friend of Carolyn Fraley

July 2014 Worship Assistants' Schedule

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTANT MINISTER	LECTOR	WELCOMERS	ALTAR
7/6/14	<u>10:00 a.m.</u>	S. Dart	L. Riffle	J. & C. Ford	May & Angleberger
7/13/14	8:30 a.m.	B. Riffle	J. Ford	H. & R. Valentine	May & Angleberger
7/20/14	8:30 a.m.	S. Brown-Hobbs	G. Spahr	Dart Family	J. Nolan & N. Riffle
7/27/14	8:30 a.m.	J. Ford	C. Fraley	B. & J. Urian	J. Nolan & N. Riffle

SING & REJOICE SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	WELCOMERS	PRAYER
7/6/14	10:00 a.m.	<u>ONE SERVICE—Traditional at 10:00 a.m.</u>			
7/13/14	10:00 a.m.	M. Donaghue	S. Getz	S. & R. Johnson	C. Kreitz
7/20/14	10:00 a.m.	A. Wathen	A. Mumm	S. & N. Miller	K. Johnson
7/27/14	10:00 a.m.	S. Getz	R. Johnson	T. & A. Mumm	C. Kreitz

August 2014 Worship Assistants' Schedule

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	ASSISTANT MINISTER	LECTOR	WELCOMERS	ALTAR
8/3/14	10:00 a.m.	<u>ONE SERVICE—Sing and Rejoice at 10:00 a.m.</u>			
8/10/14	8:30 a.m.	S. Dart	M. Skillinger	D. & D. Valentine	G. Spahr
8/17/14	8:30 a.m.	L. Riffle	S. Brown-Hobbs	H. & R. Valentine	G. Spahr
8/24/14	8:30 a.m.	K. Muegge	J. Ford	B. & C. Roderick	G. Spahr
8/24/14	8:30 a.m.	B. Riffle	L. Riffle	L. & N. Riffle	G. Spahr

SING & REJOICE SERVICE

DATE	SERVICE	LECTOR	ACOLYTE	WELCOMERS	PRAYER
8/3/14	10:00 a.m.	C. Kreitz	M. Donaghue	J. & C. Muegge	G. Spahr
8/10/14	10:00 a.m.	K. Donaghue	S. Getz	C. Fox & M. L. Royer	M.B. Johnson
8/17/14	10:00 a.m.	J. Muegge	A. Mumm	Hauk Family	K. Donaghue
8/24/14	10:00 a.m.	G. Spahr	R. Johnson	S. & R. Johnson	B. Watson
8/24/14	10:00 a.m.	C. Muegge	M. Donaghue	S. & N. Miller	K. Johnson

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Food Bank 6-7:30 pm	2	3	4	5
6 10:00 a.m. ONE SERVICE— Traditional	7	8 Food Bank 6-7:30 pm Church Council 7:00 p.m.	9	10	11 Food Bank 3:00-5:30 pm	12
13 8:30 - Traditional Service 10:00 - S&R	14	15 Food Bank 6-7:30 pm	16	17 Thurmont Thespians' <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> 7:30 pm at American Legion	18 Food Bank 3:00-5:30 pm <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> 7:30 pm at American Legion	19 <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> 7:30 pm at American Legion
20 8:30 - Traditional Service 10:00 - S&R 2:30 pm Service at St. Catherine's <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> 2:00 pm at American Legion	21	22 Food Bank 6-7:30 pm	23	24 <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> 7:30 pm at American Legion	25 Food Bank 3:00-5:30 pm <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> 7:30 pm at American Legion	26 <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> 7:30 pm at American Legion
27 8:30 - Traditional Service 10:00 - S&R <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> 2:00 pm at American Legion	28	29 Food Bank 6-7:30 pm	30	31		

August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">3</div> <p>10:00 a.m. ONE SERVICE—Sing & Rejoice</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">4</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">5</div> <p>Food Bank 6-7:30 pm</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">6</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">7</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">8</div> <p>Food Bank 3:00-5:30 pm</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">9</div>
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">10</div> <p>8:30 - Traditional Service 10:00 - S&R</p> <p>2:30 pm Service at St. Catherine's</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">11</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">12</div> <p>Food Bank 6-7:30 pm</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">13</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">14</div> <p>Church Council 7:00 pm</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">15</div> <p>Food Bank 3:00-5:30 pm</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">16</div> <p>Miller/Fox Wedding</p>
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">17</div> <p>8:30 - Traditional Service 10:00 - S&R</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">18</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">19</div> <p>Food Bank 6-7:30 pm</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">20</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">21</div> <p>Worship & Music 10:00 a.m.</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">22</div> <p>Food Bank 3:00-5:30 pm</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">23</div> <p>Thurmont Thespians' Book Sale 9:00-3:00</p>
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">24</div> <p>8:30 - Traditional Service 10:00 - S&R</p> <p>Thespians' Book Sale — 9:00-3:00</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">25</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">26</div> <p>Food Bank 6-7:30 pm</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">27</div> <p>Preschool Parent Orientation 7:30 p.m.</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">28</div>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">29</div> <p>Food Bank 3:00-5:30 pm</p>	<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">30</div>
<div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">31</div> <p>8:30 - Traditional Service 10:00 - S&R</p>						

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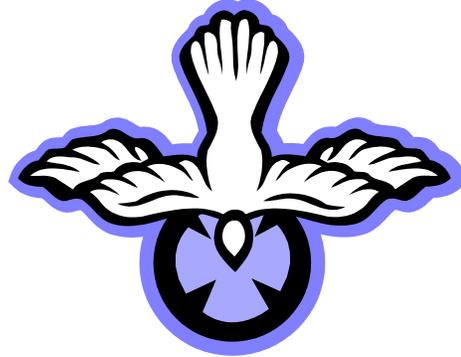
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Thurmont Thespians

Beth Watson, 301-416-0864

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**St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
*15 N. Church Street
Thurmont, MD 21788*

"Loved by God ... to love others!"
Ministers: The People of St. John's
Pastor: Rev. Susan Beck

Summer Schedule
(June 8 through September 7)
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
10:00 AM Sing & Rejoice Worship



*Please submit articles for the
September 2014 Grapevine by
August 20.*