



# The Grapevine

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 15 N. Church St., Thurmont, MD 21788  
Number 83 November 2015

Grace and peace to you, brothers and sisters in Christ!

It is with joy that I introduce myself to you as your (short-term) interim pastor. I'll say more about what my role will be in a few moments, but first I'd like to introduce myself to you briefly.

I am a 2010 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg (with Pastor Susan). Until this past June, I had been serving as the Associate Pastor of Zion Lutheran in Middletown, MD where I worked extensively with faith formation ministries and helped lead the congregation in exciting new worship services.

While serving at Zion, I have also been serving as a Chaplain in the United States Navy Reserve. I am assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion, United States Marine Corps, headquartered in Baltimore. My regular work as a Reservist means I work about 2 days a month (usually not Sundays). Last year I returned from a one-year deployment to Djibouti, Africa to serve in support of the US mission in Africa and the Global War on Terror.

I have been married for 20 years to Laurel, whom I met in high school, and we have two amazing kids. Our son, Cole, is 16 and a junior at Middletown High School. Our daughter, Sydney, is 14 and a sophomore at Middletown. They are both in the marching band and are excellent students with ambitious goals. We are all looking forward to being a part of your community over the next few months.

Which brings me to my work with you. Because I am actively seeking a permanent, full-time call, I have signed a contract to serve with you for three months. That contract can be extended by mutual agreement. What I hope to do while working with you is to begin to ask the questions that come in the midst of transition. I'll be leading worship as we go into the seasons of Advent and Christmas. I'll be meeting with folks who need pastoral guidance and working with leadership to start looking ahead by looking backwards as together we figure out what it means to be God's people in Thurmont.

I look forward to getting to know you and working with you for this phase of your journey. I will typically be at the church on Fridays but please contact me or the office to confirm before you come looking for me. Please don't hesitate to contact me on my cell phone: 301-401-7762 or by email: [cdfrigm@gmail.com](mailto:cdfrigm@gmail.com). I have a busy, but flexible schedule, so please don't hesitate to be in touch if you need something from me.

Yours in Christ,

+Pastor Cris

PS While you won't normally see me like this, this is the most current picture I have. ●



## *Special Sundays in NOVEMBER . . .*

**November 1: All Saints' Sunday.** We will commemorate those loved ones who have died by lighting candles during the service — **ONE service at 10:45 a.m.**

**November 22: Christ the King Sunday and Annual Congregational Meeting.** The meeting will be held after the second service, following lunch. We will be looking at the Budget for 2016 and electing new members to the Church Council.

**November 29: First Sunday of Advent.**

## *Other Dates to Remember . . .*

**Friday, November 6:** Opening night of ***God's Favorite*** at the Thurmont American Legion. See page 4 of this *Grapevine* for complete details.

**Thursday, November 12:** Church Council meets at 7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, November 28:** First performance of ***Sanders Family Christmas*** here in the sanctuary of St. John's. See page 5 for further details.

### ***Sunday School Update***

We have been blessed with regular attendance in the two classes for youth and one for adults. Total attendance each week has been as follows:

Sept. 13—13; Sept. 20—13; Sept. 27—18; Oct. 4—10; Oct. 18—14

The adult class has been studying the Holy Spirit. The youth classes have been using lessons provided through sermons for children or contemporary issues.

Plans are being made for two service projects—Angel Tree and “Samaritan’s Purse” Christmas shoeboxes. We are also beginning to plan a Christmas program.

The Sunday School is partnering with Social Ministry on the Angel Tree project, which will support the Seton Center’s “Helping Hands” program. We will gather gift items from suggestions provided by the Seton Center for specific age ranges and gender. All items will be taken to the Seton Center, where they will provide a much-valued “Christmas shopping” experience for some local families. Watch for our Angel Tree ornaments which will be hanging on a small Christmas tree in our narthex. Take as many ornaments as you would like and purchase the items listed on the back. Place all gift items unwrapped into our large, open gift box in the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 13.

We will work during the Sunday School hour and after the second service on Sunday, November 15, to wrap and fill our Christmas shoeboxes. Fliers listing needed items are located at the back of the sanctuary. Donations of \$7 for each box are also needed to ensure their delivery to children in need throughout our world. Filled boxes will be taken by Sunday School and Social Ministry members to our local drop-off point.

Thank you in advance for helping to share God’s love as we work together on these projects and send them out with our blessings. Many helpers are needed for these projects and your attendance and support are appreciated.

Sunday School will also work with others to develop a Christmas program. Please contact a Sunday School staff member or Chris Kreitz to share your ideas and availability.

In thanksgiving to God for all things,  
Marcia Andersen

**“Thank You” to St. John’s from the Thurmont Ministerium and Thurmont Food Bank  
for our contribution of \$126.00  
from the proceeds of the Heifer Project**

**THE THURMONT MINISTERIUM**  
and  
**The Thurmont Food Bank**  
*A Ministry of the Thurmont Ministerium*  
P.O. Box 74  
Thurmont, Maryland 21788-0074

Date: SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

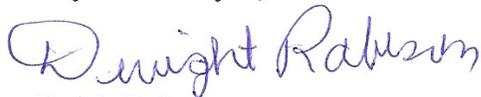
St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church  
15 N Church Street  
Thurmont, Maryland 21788-2028

SEPT. 3, 2015                      \$126.00  
Thank you for sharing your produce sale  
with us!

The pastors of The Thurmont Ministerium, thank you for the gracious and generous gift you made to support the work of the Thurmont Food Bank, a ministry of the Thurmont Ministerium

We have been blessed by this gift and the gifts of many others. We are deeply grateful to live in a loving and compassionate community that reaches out to others. **THANK YOU** for helping us be a blessing to seniors and families with children in need within our community. With your gracious help, we are able to serve an average of 350 households with over 1200 individuals each month. What a great service you provide in our very local community!

May God bless you,



Dwight Robeson  
Treasurer  
Thurmont Ministerium and Thurmont Food Bank

The Thurmont Ministerium is a 501© (3) organization. **Please keep this letter for Income Tax purposes as your record of the donation given.**

No products or services were given in exchange for this donation.



**THANK YOU FOR  
BLESSING THE HUNGRY!**

*from the Thurmont Thespians . . .*

## **A Testament to His Character**

*by Matt Bannister*

“Are you sure? Do you think I can do it?”

Those were the first words from Rob Hughes, upon his casting as Joe Benjamin in the Thurmont Thespians upcoming production of Neil Simon’s *God’s Favorite*. That’s as close to a ‘Why me?’ moment as Rob will likely have.

In this hilarious, contemporary adaptation of the Biblical story of Job, Joe Benjamin suffers all kinds of ailments designed to test his faith in God. Rob, a survivor of two liver transplants and blind in one eye, has had his own tests to overcome; but if you’re expecting to meet a man who questions the hand he’s been dealt, who asks ‘Why me?’, then you’ll be disappointed.

“There are plenty of people worse off than me.” Rob shrugs and talks about the perspective his life experiences have given him. In 1997 as a nineteen-year-old member of the military, Rob awoke one morning to excruciating pain. Originally assuming he had simply made the wrong dinner choice at the Mess Hall, he continued with his duties until he was unable to stand. While he outwardly looked severely jaundice, internally he was bleeding from the esophagus. Diagnosed with Autoimmune Hepatitis, a disease that attacks the liver, Rob and his father were informed he had six months to live unless a donor could be found. A tragic car accident involving a distant cousin led to Rob’s first liver transplant operation in 1998 and a second chance.

The medication he was receiving should have prevented the Autoimmune Hepatitis from attacking the new organ, but over the next thirteen years Rob’s second liver began to fail. By December of 2011, Rob was in the final stages of liver failure. Despite being at the top of the Georgetown donors list, Rob’s wife Sandra was informed he was too sick for the operation, they had done all they could do, and that she should say goodbye. Less than twenty-four hours later a phone call from the University of Maryland Hospital informed them they had a liver and were ready to carry out the operation. Rob never lost his faith in God, and Sandra prayed throughout for a miracle that arrived at the eleventh hour.

In the last four years, high blood pressure and diabetes have contributed to the loss of sight in one of his eyes and threatened the sight in his other. That didn’t prevent Rob making a return to the stage, after an absence of fifteen years, in The Fredericktowne Players 2014 production of *See How They Run* – a cast that has created lasting friendships in Rob’s life.

Looking forward to *God’s Favorite*, Rob says “I am very grateful for the opportunity ... although I wouldn’t mind a few less lines!” When Rob takes the stage, with his real-life son Robert playing his stage son Ben, it will be an emotional moment for all those who know the sacrifices and hard times endured by this humble man and his loving wife and children. *[Ed.: Please see photo of Rob and his son on the following page.]*

*Rob and Sandra are supporters of the Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland, [www.thellf.org](http://www.thellf.org), and Transplant Recipients International Organization, [www.trioweb.org](http://www.trioweb.org)*

**\*\*\*\*\*Performances of God’s Favorite can be seen at the American Legion in Thurmont on Nov. 6, 7, 13 & 14 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 8 & 15 at 2:00 p.m.; dinner theater—Sat., Nov. 14 at 6:00 p.m. Call 301-271-7613 for reservations.**



*Rob & Robert Hughes*

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**Don't forget!!!** . . . The Thurmont Thespians are adding **Sanders Family Christmas** to our announced schedule this year. Some sequels really are as good as the original and this is one of them—at least we hope you will agree. The entire cast of *Smoke on the Mountain* has come together to perform **Sanders Family Christmas** this holiday season! Please pass the word around town as we do something that hasn't been done in a while—perform the show right here **in the sanctuary of St. John's!** The talent and the testimony continue in this family-friendly comedy which we hope many will enter our doorways to see.

**Our first performance will be a post-Thanksgiving weekend showing on Saturday, November 28, at 2:00 pm. Subsequent performances are as follows:**

**Friday, December 4 & 11 at 7:30 pm**  
**Saturday, December 5 & 12 at 7:30 pm**  
**Sunday, December 6 & 13 at 2:00 pm**

Please do snip out this information, post it somewhere so you won't forget, and call our House Manager, Becky Urian, for reservations at 301-271-7613. In all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, treat yourself and someone else to a good, old-fashioned songfest! We're certain you will be delighted that you did!!!



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS — October 7, 2015

Next Council Meeting: November 12 at 7:00 p.m.

- Old Business:**
- A) Nominating Committee update. Two new members for 2016 Church Council are identified. Several additional names were presented.
  - B) November's Congregational Meeting is set for the 22nd.
    - 1) Budget will be put forth.
    - 2) New Church Council members to be elected.
  - C) Supply Pastor for October 18, 2015, is Pastor Cris Frigm.
- New Business:**
- A) Budget Committee suggests Council adopt last year's budget (2015). Belle motioned to accept; Carol D. seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
  - B) Snow removal will be completed by Larry Stull.
  - C) Call Committee selections presented. One member of the 2011 Call Committee will again serve on the new committee.
  - D) Synod-approved Supply Pastor rates for 2016 reviewed and approved.
- Open Discussion:**
- A) Next Council meeting will be November 12, 2015.
  - B) Notice of the Congregational Meeting date of November 22, 2015, will be published in the weekly service bulletin.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Donovan, Secretary

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### PRESCHOOL NEWS

The four-year-old classes will have their pictures taken on November 5 and 6. This same age-group will be taking a field trip to Fountain Rock Nature Center on November 18. School will be closed for Thanksgiving break beginning Wednesday, November 25, with classes resuming on Monday, the 30th.



#### FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH FELLOWSHIP PROVIDERS' SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER  
DECEMBER

ST. JOHN'S PRESCHOOL  
CHURCH COUNCIL

*Light refreshments will be provided.*



**Gridlock in the Express Lane**  
(from the column entitled *From Olives to Apples*)  
by Ann Marie Bezayiff

David decided to barbecue, but unfortunately he'd forgotten a key item, the hamburger buns. "I'll be right back," he called as he walked out the front door. However, the quick run to the corner store turned into more than a few minutes. Finally, when David did return, I met him at the door with a questioning look.

"I don't know why I attract these people." He handed me a couple of grocery bags which I placed on the kitchen counter. "A few extra things?"

Checking through the groceries, I pulled out the package of buns. Satisfied, I said, "So tell me your story."

He'd quickly passed through the aisles gathering his items and found an express check-out with only a woman ahead of him. Since her three items were already on the belt, he thought he'd be out in no time, but he was wrong.

The cashier turned to this woman customer, now reading a Tabloid paper. "Ma'am, are you ready to check out?"

"I'm not done reading." Meanwhile a line of people began forming behind her, some stretching their necks to see what was holding up the line. David turned around at some of the mumbled comments and said, "It's not me."

"If you'd like I can take the next person in line."

Definitely in a mood, the woman huffed. "No, I'm next in line. They can wait." The forty-something, smartly-dressed woman carefully returned the Tabloid paper back into the rack and walked over to the cashier who rang up the items.

While she bagged the items, the customer looked over the receipt. She pulled out the weekly sales ad and put it in the cashier's face. "You charged me \$3.99 for this water. It's listed on sale for \$2.99."

"Ma'am, if you read underneath the picture, it says you need to buy four items to receive the discount. That's four items including the case of water."

"Three, four items. What difference does it make? You can ring it up for three."

"I'm sorry, ma'am, but I can't. The purchases are automatically monitored and my supervisor will know if I gave you the sale price without buying four items."

She glared at the cashier. "I don't believe this."

"I can call my supervisor." The customer was fuming.

"What would you like to do, ma'am?" The woman glanced back at the disgruntled faces behind her. "I'll find another item."

"I can put your items to the side."

*(continued)*

“No, I’ll be right back.” She looked back at those waiting in line. “They’ll just have to wait.” Frustrated, several customers left for other, longer lines or left the store, but David waited, stuck in place.

Five minutes later, she returned with an oversized candy bar from the back of the store. “Here.”

The cashier rang up the candy bar and handed the woman a new receipt. She looked it over and grudgingly paid for the items. “Hum.”

“You have a nice day,” the cashier said.

The woman only stared back. “Aren’t you supposed to put the bag in my cart?”

The cashier sighed, still patient, and walked around the counter to place the bag in her cart. The woman stared at her.

“Is there something else?”

“I’m just thinking. No there’s nothing else.” She left.

The cashier glanced at the security guard who was watching as the woman left. “Um um, she’s not even the first one today.” She shook her head. “It’s going to be one of those days.”

We can all identify with such behavior? Entitlement, self-centeredness and control, control over strangers, innocently waiting in a grocery check-out line.

So what is the lesson here?

Perhaps love, tolerance, patience? If this cashier found the strength to remain calm during this exchange with this difficult customer, then how much more does God show his patience and tolerance towards our actions, our failures? He remains steadfast, ever patient, even as we make life difficult for ourselves and those around us (and usually without trying).

*Bible Verses on Patience:*

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.

*1 Corinthians 13:4*

And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil. *2 Timothy 2:24 ESV*

Later that same day, David set up the barbecue and grilled some great burgers. A side salad and a pot of beans finished the meal. So glad he had the patience to stay in line to purchase that one item. I told him, “Patience has its own reward.” He rolled his eyes, “I don’t know why I attract these people.” We laughed. If you knew David, you’d know why.

[Visit my Facebook page for more articles: Ann Bezayiff-author or twitter me @bezayiff]

# November 2015 Worship Assistants' Schedule

## TRADITIONAL SERVICE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>WELCOMERS</u>	<u>ALTAR</u>
11/1	10:45 a.m.	S. Brown-Hobbs	J. Ford	C. & J. Ford	G. Angleberger J. May
11/8	8:30 a.m.	S. Dart	C. Fraley	B. & J. Urian	G. Angleberger J. May
11/15	8:30 a.m.	K. Muegge	S. Brown-Hobbs	H. & R. Valentine	G. Angleberger J. May
11/22	8:30 a.m.	L. Riffle	C. Fraley	N. Riffle	G. Angleberger J. May
11/29	8:30 a.m.	J. Ford	G. Spahr	D. & D. Valentine	G. Angleberger J. May

## SING & REJOICE SERVICE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>WELCOMERS</u>	<u>PRAYER</u>
11/1	10:45 a.m.	<u>ONE SERVICE — Traditional at 10:45 a.m.</u>		
11/8	10:45 a.m.	B. Riffle	T. & A. Hauk	G. Spahr
11/15	10:45 a.m.	M. Andersen	T. & A. Mumm	K. Donaghue
11/22	10:45 a.m.	C. Donovan	C. Donovan G. Spahr	B. Watson
11/29	10:45 a.m.	C. Kreitz	C. Fox M. L. Royer	C. Kreitz

**\*\* Please Note \*\***

*If you cannot be present on the assigned date,  
be sure to trade with another assistant. Thank you!*

# November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Sunday School 9:40  <b>ONE SERVICE</b> Traditional 10:45	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	7:30 <i>God's Favorite at American Legion</i>	7:30 <i>God's Favorite at American Legion</i>
<b>8</b> Traditional Worship — 8:30  Sunday School 9:40  Sing & Rejoice 10:45  2:00 <i>God's Favorite</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	12  Church Council 7:00 p.m.	13  7:30 <i>God's Favorite at American Legion</i>	14  7:30 <i>God's Favorite at American Legion (Dinner theatre--6:00)</i>
<b>15</b> Traditional Worship — 8:30  Sunday School 9:40  Sing & Rejoice 10:45  2:00 <i>God's Favorite</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Traditional Worship — 8:30  Sunday School 9:40  Sing & Rejoice 10:45  <b>ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>  Thanksgiving  	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  Myers Family Gathering— Fellowship Hall 10:00—9:30  Sanders Family Christmas—2:00 p.m. in Sanctuary
<b>29</b> Traditional Worship — 8:30  Sunday School 9:40  Sing & Rejoice 10:45	<b>30</b>					

# December 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 <i>Sanders Family Christmas</i> 7:30 p.m. in Sanctuary	5 <i>Sanders Family Christmas</i> 7:30 p.m. in Sanctuary
6 Sunday School 9:40  <b>ONE SERVICE</b> Sing & Rejoice 10:45  <i>Sanders Family Christmas</i> 2:00 p.m. in Sanctuary	7	8	9	10  Church Council 7:00 p.m.	11  <i>Sanders Family Christmas</i> 7:30 p.m. in Sanctuary	12  <i>Sanders Family Christmas</i> 7:30 p.m. in Sanctuary
13 Traditional Worship — 8:30  Sunday School 9:40  Sing & Rejoice 10:45  <i>Sanders Family Christmas</i> 2:00 p.m. in Sanctuary	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Traditional Worship — 8:30  Sunday School 9:40  Sing & Rejoice 10:45	21  Preschool Christmas Program in the Fellowship Hall	22  Preschool Christmas Program in the Fellowship Hall	23	24  7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve FAMILY SERVICE  10:00 p.m. CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 	26
27  <b>ONE SERVICE</b> 10:45 <b>“HYMN SING”</b>	28	29	30	31		



IT'S ALMOST POINSETTIA TIME!!!



It's not too early to begin thinking about Christmas flowers!

This year we will once again display only **RED** poinsettias.  
The price is **\$7.00 each**.

If you wish to put a plant(s) in the sanctuary for Christmas, be sure to fill out the information below and return it with your payment to the church office **by Sunday, December 13th**. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_ Price Each: \$7.00 Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

**Church Office: 301-271-7877**

**Interim Pastor: Rev. Cristopher Frigm**

Email: [cdfrigm@gmail.com](mailto:cdfrigm@gmail.com)

(Cell) 301-401-7762

**Administrative Assistant: Dede Himes**

Email: [admin@saintjohnlutheran.org](mailto:admin@saintjohnlutheran.org)

Council President: John Brown

Web Site: [www.saintjohnlutheran.org](http://www.saintjohnlutheran.org)



**St. John’s Preschool: 301-271-4109**

Chairperson: Stacey Brown-Hobbs, 301-271-2390

**Registrar: Marie Skillinger**

Email: [stjpreschl@aol.com](mailto:stjpreschl@aol.com)

**Thurmont Thespians**

**Beth Watson**, 301-416-0864

Email: [beth.watson@myactv.net](mailto:beth.watson@myactv.net)

**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

Interim Pastor: Rev. Cristopher Frigm

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

**8:30 AM Traditional Worship**

**9:40 AM Sunday School, all ages**

**10:45 AM Sing & Rejoice Worship**



*Please submit articles for the  
December 2015/January 2016  
Grapevine by November 20.*