
Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:

PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270

717-362-9519 | pt@stjohnhillchurch.org | www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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.

Adopted December 8, 2013

Serving Today

The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr.	Pastor
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Judy Ferree	Organist
Ty Troutman	Senior Choir Director
Faye Weaver and Family	Greeters
Courtney Foreman	Lector
Abby and AJ Adams	Acolytes
Craig Peters	Lead Usher
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of April, the ***Celebrate Insert, Tree 4 Hope***, and our support of one pastor for one month in the ***Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania*** is sponsored for April by Delmar and Ginny Enders in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

This week's **Altar Flowers** are presented by Roy and Rachel Henry in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary.

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book in the foyer and please worship with us again and join in other congregational family activities!

Creation Care Sunday Liturgy

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

(brief silence follows)

P: God of life,

C: **BY THE RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON YOU MAKE EVERYTHING NEW. NEWNESS SCARES US, AND WE CONFESS TO SHUTTING OUR DOORS IN FEAR. WE HAVE NOT LISTENED TO VOICES THAT CHALLENGE US. WE HAVE RESISTED THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVING US IN NEW DIRECTIONS. OUR HEARTS ARE SLOW TO BELIEVE YOUR PROMISES. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND RENEW US TO EMBRACE WITHOUT FEAR THE NEW LIFE YOU HAVE GIVEN US IN JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.**

P: People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism we have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that our sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in us both now and forever.

C: **AMEN.**

*Opening Hymn **WOV** #767 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

*Greeting:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

*Prayer of the Day:

God of all creation, How splendid and majestic is the world you created! It reveals your glory; it teaches us about you. When you made us in your image, you gave us this command: care for the world and for all the creatures in it, for this is our common home. Yet your holy creation cries out, for our home is "burdened and laid waste," scorched and scarred. Come among us that we might remember our interdependence. Let us see the face of your Son in those who suffer from the destruction of our common home. Help us to be stewards who honor you in the world you have made for the good of all creation and for future generations. May your justice reign forever! Amen.

Choir Anthem

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Acts 4:5-12

Psalm: 23

Second Reading: I John 3:16-24

*Gospel: John 10:11-18

Response after the reading is announced: **GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

Response after the reading is concluded: **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

Care for Creation Object Lesson

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

We Proclaim Our Faith:

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S ONLY SON, OUR LORD, WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED, AND WAS BURIED; HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD. ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN; HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, HE IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER, AND HE WILL COME TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST, TRUE GOD, BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER IN ETERNITY, AND ALSO A TRUE HUMAN BEING, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, IS MY LORD. HE HAS REDEEMED ME, A LOST AND CONDEMNED HUMAN BEING. HE HAS PURCHASED AND FREED ME FROM ALL SINS, FROM DEATH, AND FROM THE POWER OF THE DEVIL, NOT WITH GOLD OR SILVER BUT WITH HIS HOLY, PRECIOUS BLOOD AND WITH HIS INNOCENT SUFFERING AND DEATH. HE HAS DONE ALL THIS IN ORDER THAT I MAY BELONG TO HIM, LIVE UNDER HIM IN HIS KINGDOM, AND SERVE HIM IN ETERNAL RIGHTEOUSNESS, INNOCENCE, AND BLESSEDNESS, JUST AS HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD AND LIVES AND RULES ETERNALLY. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.

-Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*

Offering of Our Gifts and Choir Anthem

*Prayers of the Church

*Our Lord's Prayer:

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME, THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD; AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US; AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL. FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Blessing:

God of love and life, restore us to your peace, renew us through your power and teach us to love all that you have created and to care for the earth as your gift and our home.

*Dismissal:

P: Alleluia. Go in peace. Love and care for God's Creation.

C: **WE WILL. THANKS BE TO GOD. ALLELUIA!**

*Closing Hymn #739 "Touch the Earth Lightly"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

* * * * *

* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, April 21

9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)
9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am **Creation Care Worship** (In-Person and On Zoom)
1:30-5pm Girl Scout Troop Social Media Workshop in "Sunday School" Room

Monday, April 22

10am Visitation Time Before Timothy Enders Funeral Worship
11am Funeral Worship for Timothy Enders (fellowship meal follows interment in our cemetery)

Tuesday, April 23

8-10am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
6:15pm Property Committee Monthly Meeting
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 24

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Thursday, April 25

Mark, Evangelist

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
5pm Free Community Dinner (Drive Up Only) at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville (This meal in a series of Free Community Dinners is intended to especially benefit persons who are in need of food and/or fellowship support, but there are no income guidelines or restrictions of any kind. This ministry is being supported by a number of area christian congregations, including St. John, as well as local businesses and other organizations.)

Friday, April 26

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Saturday, April 27

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off
8am-3pm Youth Group Hosts the food stand for the Henry & Lorraine Henninger Public Sale (Please see Amy's April 7 youth group email for information about how to help.)

Next Sunday, April 28

Fifth Sunday of Easter
9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
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9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
11:15am Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting

Looking Ahead

The second planning meeting for our Annual Strawberry Festival will be held at the church on **Monday, April 29, beginning at 6:15 P.M.** (Please don't forget that the Festival itself is planned for June 12.)

The May **Summer Sign Off with Pizza Party** gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** will be held in-person at the church on Wednesday, May 1, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

The St. John Women of the ELCA will be having an event on May 14th at 6pm! Please join us to make care kits for Lifeline Pregnancy Center in Millersburg. We will be assembling adult kits and **also looking to install some new leaders for our group.** Please consider becoming a leader of this great mission! This is an easy way to do a lot of good works for our church and to get involved with minimal time out of your schedule. We would love to see some new women of the congregation take part! If you have any questions about our program please see Rachel Henry, Barb Bullock or Ginny Enders.

It's Jam Making Time

Hey folks we will be starting to make the jams and jellies for the Strawberry Festival very soon. Most of the time we get the jars back, but this didn't happen this year. For those who can help it would be greatly appreciated. We are asking for the items needed below. This has always been a very good project and sell out each year! For more information contact Fay Nichols at 717-329-7447. **Items Needed:** Jars (8 oz. jelly jars), Sugar, Sure Jell, Fruits, Lids for jars left from last year, and Monetary donations.

Congregational Council has appointed **Sandra Lamenza** as our new Financial Secretary, taking the place of **Pat Herb**. We thank Sandra for being willing to take on this new and challenging ministry, continuing the work done so long and so well by Pat!

Please join us for our May book group. We'll be discussing **The Secret Chord by Geraldine Brooks on Monday, May 13, 6:30 pm** either in the pavilion or fellowship hall, depending on weather. Please bring a snack to share! Everyone is welcome! If you need a copy of the book, please talk with staff at the Elizabethville Library. All local copies are in use, but they will order the book for you from a neighboring library. If you have questions, please contact Ann (rahbruner@gmail.com).

Pastor Tom is looking for a second acolyte to serve on the evening of Thursday, May 9, as we host Community Ascension Day Worship at 7:00 P.M. Please speak with him to learn more or to volunteer to serve in this important ministry!

Please place your non-perishable food donations for the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center in Lykens on any shelf inside the north (right side, coming in the front doors) closet in the foyer, where the door is labelled accordingly. As the contributions add up, deliveries will be made to the pantry by **Larry Gessner**. Thank you!

Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness:

- **Cindy Carr** – At Home, Undergoing Treatment for Autoimmune Disorder and Resulting Organ Damage
- **Judy Cheatham** – Rm. #47B, Complete Care at Annapolis, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **Cora Mace** – Rm. #3647, Roosevelt 3, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022
- **Joyce Matter** – Discharged from UPMC Harrisburg on 4/15
- **Steven Schlegel** – Home, Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy Treatments
- **Faye Weaver** – Discharged from UPMC Community Osteopathic on 4/11

Our Faith Active in Worship – April 14, 2024

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$3,112
Current – Offerings Received	\$3,601
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$625
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$285
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$920
Total Attendance:	Zoom – 15, In Person – 81

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