

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 17023
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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
Kim Williard	Lector
Kyan Peters and Brady Dresel	Acolytes
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of April, our support of the **Celebrate Insert** and **Tree 4 Hope** is presented by Ty and Kim Troutman in memory of Ty's father Paul "Silas" Troutman whose birthday was in April. Our support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** is sponsored for April by Amber & Aaron Schreffler and Family in loving memory of David & Aleta Schreffler.

This week's **Altar Flowers** are presented by Roy and Rachel Henry in celebration of their 19th 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!

Sunday Morning Liturgy – ELW Setting 10

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements
Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Confession and Forgiveness Pg. 94-96

*Opening Hymn #365 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

*Apostolic Greeting:

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

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm: 116:1-4, 12-19

Second Reading: I Peter 1:17-23

*Gospel Acclamation (sung in unison):

ALLELUIA! LORD AND SAVIOR: OPEN NOW YOUR SAVING WORD. LET IT BURN LIKE FIRE WITHIN US; SPEAK UNTIL OUR HEARTS ARE STIRRED. ALLELUIA! LORD WE SING FOR THE GOOD NEWS THAT YOU BRING. (Pg 205)

*Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

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

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

Young Persons Go with Miss Laurie for Celebration Time

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*

Musical Anthem by Senior Choir

*Offertory Hymn (#182) (sung as gifts are brought forward):

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. CAST ME NOT AWAY FROM YOUR PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME. RESTORE TO ME THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION, AND UPHOLD ME WITH YOUR FREE SPIRIT.

*Prayers of the Church

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right side of page

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God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Blessing:

P: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and bless us by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

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

*Closing Hymn **WOV** #671 "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, Sunday, April 23

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 Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons (In-Person & Zoom)
 5:30pm Church Dartball League Banquet at Lykens United Methodist Church

Monday, April 24

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
 9am "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
 7pm Second Planning Meeting for June 7 Annual Strawberry Festival (All interested folks are welcome and encouraged to attend – Zoom attendance will also be an option.)

Tuesday, April 25

Mark, Evangelist

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
 6:15pm Property Committee Meeting
 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 26

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Thursday, April 27

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
 5:30pm Free Community Dinner at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown (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 28

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

Saturday, April 29

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, April 30

Fourth Sunday of Easter
 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 Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons (In-Person & Zoom)

Looking Ahead

The May Gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** will take place on Wednesday, May 3, at the church from 6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

RJ's Eagle Scout Court of Honor: The Henry Family would like to invite the St. John Congregation to join us for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Roy Henry, Jr (RJ) on Sunday, May 7, 2023, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown. The Court of Honor will begin at 2:00pm in the pavilion, and there will be a meal to follow. **Please use the below form to RSVP by April 28th, Rachel or Roy Henry at 717-439-3897/henryfamily2004@gmail.com**

Book Group - May 2023:

Join us for our May book group. We'll be discussing **The Book of Longings** by Sue Monk Kidd on **Monday, May 8, 6:30 pm** in the fellowship hall.

A few copies are available in the church library -- and more at your local public library, both physical copy and ebook. If you have questions or need to locate a book, please contact Ann (rahbruner@gmail.com). Everyone is welcome!

Synod Assembly

Pastor Tom is still seeking a male voting member (confirmed congregational family member who has communed and contributed in this or the prior year) to join him and Sandra Lamenza (our female voting member) in attending this year's Annual Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly, with the theme **Created for Community**. The business of the assembly will be held in two parts – on the evening of Friday, June 2, on Zoom (and so in the comfort of your own home) and on Saturday, June 3, in-person at Trinity Lutheran, Camp Hill. All costs for voting members are borne by our congregational family budget, so all that anyone willing to serve needs to be able to contribute is their time.

Amy Gehring continues to collect donations to Bethesda Mobile Mission. Gently used, unstained, clean blankets and casual clothing for MEN & WOMEN are always a need since the homeless do not typically have the ability to launder items. Sleeping bags, tarps, mats, backpacks/large totes or bags are also useful. New underwear, socks, batteries (all sizes), toilet paper, candles, and matches are highly valued. Those served by the Bethesda Mobile Mission also need TRAVEL SIZE toiletries—don't leave those small bottles behind when you are traveling. Pass them along to Amy. Please contact Amy at church with any questions or call her at 1-717-503-7623. Donations can be placed in the designated hampers in the foyer.

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Our Faith Active in Worship – April 16, 2023

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,080
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$120
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$40
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$290
Total Attendance	Zoom – 22, In Person – 70

"St John's Restoration 250" Financial Update – As of April 16, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$82,980
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$122,405
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$11,410

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, Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **Timothy Enders** – Rm. #120, The Gardens at York Terrace, 2401 W. Market St., Pottsville, 17901
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Cora Mace** – Rm. #3647, Roosevelt 3, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022
- **Joyce Matter** – Rm. #128, Viva Senior Living at Harrisburg, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111 (717.909.0417)
- **Steven Schlegel** – Undergoing Testing
- **Jean & Fred Weaver** – In Need of Prayer