

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 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

Delmar and Ginny Enders

Greeters

Courtney Foreman

Lector

Brady Dresel and Kyan Peters

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 placed by Wayne and Daisy Thomas to the Glory of God in loving memory of Wayne's mother, Margaret Thomas.

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 #377 "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

*Apostolic Greeting

Pg. 203

*Kyrie (sung in unison)

Pg. 203

*Hymn of Praise: "Glory to God..." (sung in unison)

Pg. 204

*Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

Psalmody: Psalm 22:25-31

Second Reading: I John 4:7-21

*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: John 15:1-8

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*

Offering of Our Gifts and Choir Anthem

*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

Pg. 208

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 Easter Good News.

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

*Closing Hymn #449 "We Know That Christ Is Raised"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

* * * * *

* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, April 28

- 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 In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 11:15am Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting

Monday, April 29

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 9-11am "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
- 6:15pm Second Planning Meeting for our Annual Strawberry Festival (Please don't forget that the Festival itself is planned for June 12.)

Tuesday, April 30

- 8-10am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 1

6:30-8pm **Summer Sign Off with Pizza Party** gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie**

From Wednesday morning until Saturday evening, Pastor Tom and Ann are planning some time away. In Pastor Tom's absence, Pastor Patrick Wirick, who serves the Klingerstown Parish, will be on call for any emergency needs for pastoral care, particularly in the event of a death or a critical illness. Should you need to get in touch with Pastor Pat, please call Fay Nichols, our Telephone Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 717-329-7447, who will both place the concern on the prayer chain and contact Pastor Pat. Because the pastors in our conference are still "stretched thin" with the continued inability of the Rife/Killinger Parish to locate an interim pastor, if an emergency is other than a death or critical illness, please clarify when you contact Fay whether you would like Pastor Pat to be notified or if you are calling "only" to place your need on the telephone prayer chain. Or, Pastor Pat can be reached directly by calling 717.439.9037.

Next Sunday, May 5

- Sixth 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 Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)

Looking Ahead

On the 40th Day of Easter, **Thursday, May 9**, we will observe the festival of **Ascension of Our Lord** when we will host a joint worship at **7:00pm** including our United Church of Christ neighbors of their "Northern Cluster". For that evening, we have invited Mr. Thomas Dressler to come and serve as our organist for worship. Tom is a professional organist, harpsichordist, speaker, and music director from Albrightsville, PA who first established a link with our congregational family when he came to do research in our archives concerning Pastor J. Michael Enderlein, from whom he is descended and whose possible connections with the great Johann Sebastian Bach as a young man back in Germany Tom is researching. While here, Tom thoroughly enjoyed playing our organ and expressed the hope that he might return some time and play for worship, with this

being the result. Our worship order will celebrate Jesus' Triumphant Ascension in scripture and prayer, with a very generous measure of Tom's organ skills spread throughout.

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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 Elizabethtown 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).

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

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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!

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** – Rm. #128, Viva Senior Living at Harrisburg, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111 (717.909.0417)
- **Steven Schlegel** – Home, Receiving Outpatient Chemotherapy Treatments

Our Faith Active in Worship – April 21, 2024

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Current – Approx. Budget Goal | \$3,112 |
| Current – Offerings Received | \$1,931 |
| Benevolence – Offerings Received | \$100 |
| Improvement – Offerings Received | \$30 |
| Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received | \$270 |
| Total Attendance: | Zoom – 14, In Person – 80 |

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