

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:

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717-362-9519

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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.

Laurie Little

Rita Glace

Ron and Bonnie Erb

Judy Ferree

Ty Troutman

Olivia Williard

Harold and Pat Herb

Marc and Jacob Schaffner

Joshua Paul

Pastor

Young Christians Minister

Holy Communion Assistant

Altar Guild Preparation

Organist

Senior Choir Director

Lector

Greeters

Acolytes

Council President

For the month of March, 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 in celebration of Lynn and Helen's 59th wedding anniversary on April 4th, presented by their grandchildren Sadie and Ayden..

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book in the foyer. As we celebrate our Lord's Supper, we welcome to our table all baptized Christians who have received the sacrament in their home congregations. All persons who do not yet commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. 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

Order for Procession with Palms

Opening Hymn #344 "All Glory, Laud, and Honor"

P: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

C: **HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!**

Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

Psalm: 31:9-16

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Acclamation (sung in unison): *(please remain seated)*

WE ARE TURNING, LORD, TO HEAR YOU; YOU ARE MERCIFUL AND KIND – SLOW TO ANGER, RICH IN BLESSING, AND WITH LOVE TO US INCLINED. (Pg. 205)

Passion Gospel Reading:

L: Announcement of the Reading

C: Hymn #703, v. 1-2

L: Matthew 26:14-35

C: Hymn #703, v. 3-4

L: Matthew 26:36-75

C: Hymn #353, v. 1-2

P: Matthew 27:1-66

C: Hymn #353, v. 3-5

Silence for Meditation

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

Announcements

*Nicene Creed

Pg. 104

*Prayers of the Church

Musical Anthem by Senior Choir

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

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL LORD, AND FILL TO THE BRIM OUR CUP OF BLESSING. GATHER A HARVEST FROM THE SEEDS THAT WERE SOWN, THAT WE MAY BE FED WITH THE BREAD OF LIFE. GATHER THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF ALL; UNITE THEM WITH THE PRAYERS WE OFFER NOW. GRACE OUR TABLE WITH YOUR PRESENCE AND GIVE US A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME.

*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray... our Savior and Lord. All: **AMEN.**

We Share in God's Supper

*Great Thanksgiving (spoken):

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

P: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*We Respond in Praise (sung in unison):

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAV'N AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. (Pg. 207)

*Eucharistic Prayer:

P: ...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All Sing: **CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN. (Pg. 207)**

P: ...be all honor and glory in your Holy Church, now and forever.

All Sing: **AMEN, AMEN, AMEN. (Pg. 207)**

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right Pg. 208

We Partake of Our Lord's Supper (As we share in the sacrament, please join in singing the praise song "O Lamb of God" on Pg. 208)

*Post Communion Blessing:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

All: **AMEN**

God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Post Communion Prayer:

P: Let us pray... Christ our Lord.

All: **AMEN**

*Blessing and Dismissal:

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

All: **AMEN**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

*Closing Hymn #343 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

* * * * *

* Please stand, if able to do so.

Our Faith Active in Worship – March 26, 2023

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,167
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$160
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$135
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$360
Total Attendance	Zoom – 24, In Person – 70

“St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of March 26, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$83,280
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$121,705
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$11,810

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)

Attention

All Women of St. John’s Congregational Family!

**A very important meeting is scheduled for
April 16th at 2:00 p.m.**

**The future of our ministry together as the
Women of St. John will need to be
discussed and addressed and new
ideas are most welcome.**

Please make every effort to attend this meeting.

Thank you.

Today, Sunday, April 2

9am	Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9am	Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)
9am	SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am	Worship, Including Liturgy of Palms, Dramatic Reading by Vincent Lamenza of The Passion According to St. Matthew , Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom)
11:30am	Youth Group Gathering at the Church Starting with Pizza Lunch
4pm	Congregational Council March/April Meeting

Monday, April 3

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
9am	“Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief

Tuesday, April 4

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off (instead of 4/8) – No Planned Office Hours

Wednesday, April 5

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:30-8pm	Celebration Club with Miss Laurie
7pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal/Practice Session for Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday	
8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
7pm	Worship, Including Holy Communion and Concluding with the Solemn Stripping of the Altar, in Remembrance of Jesus’ Arrest and Humiliation (In-Person and On Zoom)

Triduum Observance Begins, Continuing Through Easter Sunday Morning

Friday, April 7

Good Friday	
8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:15pm	Practice for Youth Group Participants in Good Friday Liturgy
7pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Liturgy – Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross (In-Person and On Zoom)

Saturday, April 8

Holy Saturday/Easter Eve	
9am	Youth Group Members Set Up for Annual Easter Egg Hunt
10am	Annual Easter Egg Hunt for Children in Four Age Groups: Nursery/Preschool, Grades K&1, Grades 2&3, and Grades 4&5 (Please note that, since our Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., it is possible to attend our Hunt and still make the Berrysburg Community Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00 A.M.)
7pm	Easter Eve Quiet Liturgy of Readings and Prayer (In-Person Only, Downstairs in the Chapel)

Next Sunday, April 9

Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East

- 6:30am Brief Outdoor Sunrise Worship
9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)
9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am Worship, Including Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom)

Looking Ahead

Join the Youth Group for a FREE showing of the PG rated movie...

FAMILY CAMP

Monday, April 10th

at the Colonnade in Millersburg

Doors Open at 6:15 p.m. ~ Movie Starts at 6:30 p.m.

"When their pastor encourages the congregation to sign-up for a week away at family camp, Grace believes she's found the perfect cure for her imperfect clan - even if they'd all rather be anywhere but at rustic Camp Katokwah. FAMILY CAMP is a laugh-out-loud comedy that will touch the hearts and tickle the funny bones of every family member from eight to eighty."

**** Concession stand will be open!!! ****

**** Bring your friends and family! ****

***** NO NEED TO SIGN-UP! *****

Our spring session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on Wednesday, April 19 and run for six weeks, meeting each week from 6:30 to 8:00pm and wrapping up prior to Memorial Day weekend. Prior to April 19, the folks who have signed up will make the decision whether we will meet in a hybrid fashion (in-person with a Zoom option) or via Zoom only – Pastor Tom will be open to doing whatever the group decides. For our spring study, we will be “following the lead” of Book Discussion Group, reading and discussing the acclaimed book *Walking the Bible* by Bruce Feiler, in which he engages us in his experiences of traveling over and through those lands we commonly refer to as the “Holy Lands”, helping us see familiar biblical passages with new perspectives. Depending on how our gatherings run, we may finish with a May 24 Movie Night to take in the film based on the book together, maybe even with popcorn! ***To take part in this spring study, you do not have to have taken part in Book Discussion Group in March or April – nor will you be “bored” if you did!*** And, as always with these studies, no previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and (if and when you are comfortable doing so) discuss God’s Word together! So that the correct number of study books can be ordered for our study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) and let him know if you will need a copy of the book **by the end of the day on Maundy Thursday, April 6.**

Book Discussion Group for April:

Walking the Bible movie, based on the book by Bruce Feiler - **April 17 6:30 pm at church.** Everyone is welcome to bring food or drink to share.

Please call or email Ann 717.362.7895 rahbruner@gmail.com with any questions.

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

For the month of May, sponsors are still needed for the altar flowers for Sunday, May 7, and Sunday, May 28 (festival Day of Pentecost and so inside worship with Holy Communion even though Memorial Day weekend). The cost to sponsor the altar flowers is \$35/week, with the signup sheet temporarily posted on the south closet door in the foyer. To sponsor either date in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please either sign up in person or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can take care of signing you up.

To make sure that our blessed prayer shawls get to as many folks in need of God's healing touch as possible, it is now possible for anyone from the St. John congregational family to deliver a prayer shawl to a person who is known to them to be hurting in body, mind, and/or spirit, and who would be blessed by receiving one of our shawls. To obtain a shawl, please first contact Pastor Tom, who will help you with the process. ***(Please bear in mind that it is the intention of the prayer shawl ministry that each person receive just one shawl “for life”, to be used in whatever time(s) of brokenness they may face.)***

Please see the bright blue container at the computer desk in the Sunday School Room to recycle your AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt and Button Cell batteries in Alkaline, NiMH, NiCAD, Zinc Air and Non-Lithium types, 9 volts and below. All batteries must be dry cell only, and they cannot be leaking or have broken cases. Through the efforts of Larry Gessner, batteries that are in especially good condition are being recharged and donated to Bethesda Mission, while all others are recycled.

The Youth Group continues to collect aluminum – aluminum only, please – in the lower level of the barn, facing toward Elizabethville. ***Please be sure to place your aluminum inside the sliding door and not outside in the pull-in space, where the animals tend to create a mess with donations.*** Thank you for your help with this major fundraiser for our youth and help for our environment!

The first quarter audit will be held at the church on **Wednesday, April 19th at 9:30am.** Please have all records there. Thank you. Pat Herb