

## 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](mailto:pt@stjohnhillchurch.org) | [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://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
James Watson	Holy Communion Assistant
Sheila Barder and Dana Klouser	Altar Guild Preparation
Ronald and Bonnie Erb	Greeters
Courtney Foreman	Lector
Lilly Rabenold and Avery Brosius	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 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

This week's **Altar Flowers** are presented in Honor of Lynn and Helen Henninger's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 4/4/64 by Tonya, Bryan, Sara, Rita, 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 – Easter “Celebration” Worship

### God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements  
Prelude and Silent Prayer

\*Gathering Song - “Great is the Lord”

Great is the Lord. He is holy and just.  
By His power, we trust in His love.  
Great is the Lord. He is faithful and true.  
By His mercy, He proves He is love.  
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory.  
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.  
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice.  
Now lift up your voice.  
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!  
(repeat)

Great is the Lord. He is faithful and true.  
By His mercy, He proves He is love.  
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory.  
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.  
Great is the Lord; now lift up your voice.  
Now lift up your voice.  
Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

\*Prayer of the Day

See Celebrate

### We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

See Celebrate

Psalm 133

See Celebrate

Second Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2

See Celebrate

\*Gospel: John 20:19-31

See Celebrate

Celebration Choir

Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie

Sermon

### We Respond to All That God Gives Us

\*A New Creed:

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

-The United Church of Canada, 1968

Offering of Our Gifts and Offertory Song: “You Are My All In All”

You are my strength when I am weak; You are the treasure that I seek. You are my all in all.  
Seeking You as a precious jewel; Lord to give up I'd be a fool. You are my all in all.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name.  
Taking my sin, my cross, my shame; rising again I bless Your name. You are my all in all.  
When I fall down, You pick me up; when I am dry, You fill my cup. You are my all in all.  
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name. Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name. (3 times)  
Worthy is Your name. (2 times)

Prayers of the Church  
Words of Institution of Holy Communion  
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.**

We Receive Jesus' Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine

Post Communion Prayer:

P: Let us pray...

**C: POUR OUT UPON US THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LOVE, O LORD, AND UNITE THE WILLS OF THOSE WHOM YOU HAVE FED WITH ONE HEAVENLY FOOD; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.**

### **God Sends Us to Share the Good News**

Easter Object Lesson –

\*Benediction

\*Sending Song - "Because He Lives"

God sent His son- they called Him, Jesus  
He came to love, heal and forgive.  
He lived and died, to buy my pardon.  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

(chorus):

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.  
Because He lives, all fear is gone.  
Because I know, he holds the future.  
And life is worth the living just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a new born baby.  
And feel the pride and joy he gives.  
But greater still, the calm assurance  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives!

(chorus)

Because He, because He, because He lives. Because He, because He lives! (2 times)

(repeat verse 1 and chorus)

And life is worth the living just because He lives!!  
Because He lives!!

\*Postlude and Silent Prayer

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Please stand, if able to do so.

**Today, April 7**

- 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 Easter Celebration Worship, with Sacrament of Holy Communion and Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)

**Monday, April 8**

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 9-11am "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
- 6:30pm April gathering of Book Discussion Group (In-Person) If you have questions or need to locate a book, contact Ann [rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com))

**Tuesday, April 9**

- Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East**
- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, April 10**

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

**Thursday, April 11**

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

**Friday, April 12**

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

**Saturday, April 13**

- Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

**Next Sunday, April 14**

- Third 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 In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 6pm Congregational Council Meeting

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For the month of May, sponsors are needed for our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month) and for our altar flowers for Sunday, May 26 (\$35 per week). To sponsor either of these ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please simply stop by to sign up or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can sign you up.

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!

The Youth Group continues to collect aluminum – aluminum only, please – in the lower level of the barn, facing toward Elizabethtown. **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!

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 be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you turn in one communion record card this year – **only one is needed each year**. Also, if you are a contributing member of the congregation, please be sure that you **use your offering envelopes at least once** this year, so that you are on record as having made a contribution. Please help to make sure that our parish records are as accurate as possible!

**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, Monetary donations

\* \* \* \* \*

**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
- **Timothy Enders** – Rm. #120, The Gardens at York Terrace, 2401 W. Market St., Pottsville, 17901
- **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)
- **Robert Schaffer** – Discharged from UPMC Harrisburg on 4/2
- **Steven Schlegel** – Home Receiving Next Every-Third-Tuesday Chemotherapy Treatment on 4/9
- **Faye Weaver** – UPMC Community Osteopathic (Simpson Rehab), Rm. #291

**Our Faith Active in Worship – March 28, 29, 31, 2024**

<b>Current – Approx. Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$3,112</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$5,381
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$460
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$329
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$639
Total Attendance 3/28:	<b>Zoom – 7, In Person – 43</b>
Total Attendance 3/29:	<b>Zoom – 10, In Person – 54</b>
Total Attendance 3/31 Sunrise:	<b>In Person – 46</b>
Total Attendance 3/31 10:15:	<b>Zoom – 18, In Person – 129</b>

**"St John's Restoration 250" Financial Update – as of March 31, 2024**

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project (under \$88,000 Budgeted)	\$80,055
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$136,490
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$250

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