

## 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](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
Ron and Bonnie Erb	Greeters
Dana Klouser	Lector, Lead Usher
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of August, the **Celebrate Insert, Tree 4 Hope** and support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** is sponsored by Matt and Olivia Williard in honor of Madeline's 16<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

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!

### Outdoor Worship Liturgy

#### God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements  
Keyboard Prelude and Silent Prayer  
\*Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the creator of wind and rain, field and ocean, the bread of life coming down from above, the power at work within us and this world.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

*(brief silence follows)*

P: God and Father of all,

C: **WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED. WE HAVE THOUGHT BETTER OF OURSELVES THAN OTHERS. WE HAVE TOLD LIES, SAID HURTFUL THINGS, ACTED IN WAYS WE WISH WE COULD TAKE BACK, AND LOOKED THE OTHER WAY WHEN ACTION WAS NEEDED. IN YOUR MERCY, O GOD, FORGIVE US, CLEANSE US, AND HEAL US, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR. AMEN.**

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, we are a new creation: our sins are taken away and we are made new. Let us be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven us.

C: **AMEN.**

\*Opening Hymn **LBW** #369 "The Church's One Foundation"

\*Greeting:

P: From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

\*Prayer of the Day

#### We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6

Psalm: 138

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-8

\*Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

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

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

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*

\*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:

P: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine upon us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

C: **AMEN**

\*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Proclaim the good news

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

\*Closing Hymn **LBW** #365 "Built on a Rock"

\*Keyboard Postlude and We Depart to Serve

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Please stand, if able to do so.

**Today, Sunday, August 27**

8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)  
9:30am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)  
9:30am **Outdoor Worship** in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom)

**Monday, August 28**

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

**Tuesday, August 29**

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

**Wednesday, August 30**

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

**Thursday, August 31**

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

**Friday, September 1**

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

**Saturday, September 2**

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

**Next Sunday, September 3**

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)  
9:30am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)  
9:30am **Indoor** Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion (In-Person and On Zoom)

**Looking Ahead**

Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Join us for the “blast off” of a new season of Celebration Club! Celebration Club meets the FIRST Wednesday of each month and runs from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. We have music, Bible stories, active games, crafts, and LOTS of treats!! Each session is like a mini VBS! Mark your calendars and join us for the fun!! -Miss Laurie

**Women of the ELCA**

**Our first event will be on September 6<sup>th</sup> at the church for all women of the congregation from 6:30-7:30pm (only an hour of your time!). We will be having an ice cream social and Bonnie Kent of Northern Dauphin Human Services will be our speaker for the evening. There will be a free will offering at this event. Please sign up at the church or by emailing Rachel at [henryfamily2004@gmail.com](mailto:henryfamily2004@gmail.com) so we can have a general count for ice cream 😊**



**Stay tuned for an event in December, March and May!!**

\* \* \* \* \*

**Our worship on Sunday, September 10, will again be a kind of transition time from summer to fall:**

Adult Bible Study will meet on our summer schedule, from 8:45 A.M. to 9:15 A.M. Our worship (outdoors in the beauty of our grove pavilion) at 9:30 A.M. will be a **SONDay Celebration** worship as we prepare to transition back to our fall schedule, including a Sunny Sermon by Miss Laurie and **our Annual Blessing of the Backpacks & Devices** led by Pastor Tom (for which all students – Preschool through Grade 12 – are asked to bring along their school backpacks (or devices) for a time of recognition, blessing, and prayer, as a new school year gets underway). **And this from Miss Laurie:** Immediately after the “Celebration Service”, we’re trying something new and we’re calling it - a Celebration “Sundae” SONday! Stay after the service and join us for a make-your-own ice cream sundae treat!! Yummy!

For the month of September, a sponsor is still needed for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month). To sponsor this ministry in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please either sign up in person on the bulletin board in the foyer on the south side of the entrance or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can take care of signing you up.

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Our Faith Active in Worship – August 20, 2023**

<b>Current – Approx. Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,796</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$8,679
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$355
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$81
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$216
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom – 5, In Person – 83</b>

**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)
- **Steven Schlegel** – Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- **Jean & Fred Weaver** – In Need of Prayer

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