

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:

PO Box 244, Berrysburg, 17005-0270

717-362-9519

stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com | 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

Pianist

Kim Williard

Lector

Roy Henry

Council President

For the month of July:

Our **Celebrate** lectionary bulletin, our support of **Tree 4 Hope**, and our support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** are sponsored by Matt and Olivia Williard in honor of Madeline's 15th Birthday.

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. If you are a visitor, 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, abounding in steadfast love toward us, healing the sick and raising the dead, showering us with every good gift.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(brief silence follows)

P: Just and gracious God,

C: **WE COME TO YOU FOR HEALING AND LIFE. OUR SINS HURT OTHERS AND DIMINISH US; WE CONFESS THEM TO YOU. OUR LIVES BEAR THE SCARS OF SIN; WE BRING THESE ALSO TO YOU. SHOW US YOUR MERCY, O GOD. BIND UP OUR WOUNDS, FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND FREE US TO LOVE, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR. AMEN.**

P: The Apostle Paul assures us: "When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross." Jesus says to us, "Your sins are forgiven." Be at peace, and tell everyone how much God has done for us.

C: **AMEN.**

Opening Hymn **LBW** #239 "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

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: Proverbs 25:6-7

Psalm: 112

Second Reading: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

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 GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS CREATED ME TOGETHER WITH ALL THAT EXISTS. GOD HAS GIVEN ME AND STILL PRESERVES MY BODY AND SOUL; EYES, EARS, AND ALL LIMBS AND SENSES; REASON AND ALL MENTAL FACULTIES. IN ADDITION, GOD DAILY AND ABUNDANTLY PROVIDES SHOES AND CLOTHING, FOOD AND DRINK, HOUSE AND FARM, SPOUSE AND CHILDREN, FIELDS, LIVESTOCK, AND ALL PROPERTY – ALONG WITH ALL THE NECESSITIES AND NOURISHMENT FOR THIS BODY AND LIFE. GOD PROTECTS ME AGAINST ALL DANGER AND SHIELDS AND PRESERVES ME FROM ALL EVIL. ALL THIS IS DONE OUT OF PURE, FATHERLY, AND DIVINE GOODNESS AND MERCY, WITHOUT ANY MERIT OR WORTHINESS OF MINE AT ALL! FOR ALL OF THIS I OWE IT TO GOD TO THANK AND PRAISE, SERVE AND OBEY HIM. 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**

Closing Hymn **LBW** #260 "On Our Way Rejoicing"

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Proclaim the good news

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

Keyboard Postlude and Silent Prayer

Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **Judy Cheatham** – Rm. #47B, Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **Timothy Enders** – Rm. #122, 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, Commonwealth Senior Living at Harrisburg, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111 (717.909.0417)
- **Ken Nace** – At Home, Continuing to Recover from Surgery
- **Donna Rabenold** – At Home, Continuing Lower-Level Maintenance Chemotherapy Through Fall
- **Mary Yeager** – Rm. #435, UPMC West Shore, 1995 Technology Pkwy., Mechanicsburg, 17050

Our Faith Active in Worship: August 21, 2022

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,606
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,775.25
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$262
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$209
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$360
Total Attendance	Zoom – 14, In Person – 76

“St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of August 21, 2022

Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ 220,000
Memorials Interest Money Designated for Project (Letting \$100,000 Reserve of Interest)	\$ 88,000
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$ 71,845
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$ 36,400
Total Pledges & Gifts Still Needed to Reach Goal	<u>\$ 23,755</u>

Pledge/Gift Forms Are Available Digitally in the July/August **St. John’s Epistle** and in Hard Copy at the Bulletin Stand at Worship on Sundays and on the Table Outside Pastor Tom’s Office Any Time.

Today, Sunday, August 28

As Dauphin County has returned to a “Low”/Green COVID level, in keeping with current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, masks are not required for anyone without symptoms or COVID exposure gathering indoors in person on Sunday morning, but they remain an option for everyone. Of course, please do not attend any kind of in-person activity if you aren’t feeling well for any reason or have reason to think that you may have been directly exposed to the virus.

- 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)
- 12:45pm All Interested Folks Meet at the Colonnade Theater in Millersburg to Attend As a Group **Where the Crawdads Sing** at 1:00 P.M.

Monday, August 29

8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Tuesday, August 30

8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Wednesday, August 31

8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Thursday, September 1

8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
2pm Pastor Tom Leads Worship at Polk Assisted Living in Millersburg

Friday, September 2

8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
8pm (approx.) Annual **Farewell to Summer Drive-In Movie Night with Miss Laurie** (Look for more information from Miss Laurie’s emails!)

Saturday, September 3

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, September 4

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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- 8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9:30am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
- 9:30am **Outdoor Worship**, Including the Celebration of Holy Communion, in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom) **(We will have approximately 80 well-spaced metal chairs set up in advance, but anyone who would prefer to do so is also welcome to bring along their own camp chairs to create their own well-spaced seating. Please keep in mind that this will be an outdoor service on a Hill known for its cool breezes – be sure to dress warmly and bring a sweater or jacket!)**

Looking Ahead

Kellie Shoop and Guy Snyder IV have announced their intention to wed on Saturday, September 10 (at Himmel's Church with Pastor Tom presiding), and ask our prayers.

Our worship on Sunday, September 11, 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 song by the young persons' **Celebration Choir**, a Sunny Sermon by Miss Laurie, a **Food Truck Party: We've "On a Roll" with God** VBS slideshow, 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). When our worship ends at 10:30 A.M., it will be time to head out for our congregational outing to Knoebel's, where everyone attending will gather with their covered dish and container of drink for sharing to join in lunch together, followed by plenty of time for riding. Our younger members will have some ride tickets provided.

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"THE BLANKET BUNCH IS STARTING BACK" On Monday, September 12th at 9:00 a.m. the blanket bunch plans to get back into action. New members are always welcome. If you can tie a knot, you have passed the entrance exam. We look forward to adding more helpers to our group. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you. Pat Herb.

You are Invited to Book Discussion and Fellowship!

Monthly times of reading and sharing continue in the beauty of our pavilion. Next up:

- **Monday, September 12, 6:30pm – The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See**

Everyone is welcome, so if you would like to participate and haven't joined in before, you can borrow a physical or e-copy of the current book at your local library or pick up a copy at church. Questions? Call or email Ann at 717-362-7895 or rahbruner@gmail.com

In order to help those who faithfully carry out the important ministry of offering counting and record keeping do so efficiently, please help with the following:

1. Counter-signed checks are no longer accepted by **Mid Penn Bank**, and so all checks must be made payable to "St. John Church", no endorsing a check over to the church.
2. **Please** feel free to write a single check even if it's for multiple envelopes or purposes.
3. **Please** no staples or tape on your checks or envelopes.
4. Please write clearly on your envelopes. (If no designations are made, enclosed offering will go to Current Fund.)
5. For **Restoration 250** contributions, if no Memorial is designated, the amount will appear on your year-end Giving Statement.
If a Memorial is included, the amount will not appear on your year-end Giving Statement and your "Thank You" note will instead serve as your receipt for tax purposes.

As part of our planned "return to normal" in October, we are looking to re-start our Sunday morning Greeter and Usher ministries.

- **Greeters** are the folks who, as the name suggests, say a first warm "hello" to those arriving for worship. In addition, they are there to point the way (to the restroom, upstairs for worship, etc.) for those who may be entering those doors for the first time. Greeters are posted in the foyer, just inside the main doors, ideally by no later than 10:00am. Greeter(s) on a given Sunday morning may be an individual, a couple or other team of two, or an entire family of three or more. Louise Baumgardner and Lois Watson will be preparing a Greeter schedule for distribution to everyone who is willing to serve, but it is absolutely no problem if an assigned Sunday morning won't work for those assigned. Simply contact another nearby Sunday's Greeter(s) and arrange a swap, and then please let Pastor Tom and Rachel (if in time to update the bulletin) know about the change.
- **Ushers** typically work in teams of four for the Sundays in a given month, under the guidance of that month's Head Usher, who is a member of Congregational Council. Before worship, ideally no later than 10:00, one usher is stationed at the elevator door to welcome those arriving that way and help with any elevator questions, while the others are posted upstairs to distribute bulletins and help with any other needs. In "normal" times, the usher team receives the morning offering and works together on Holy Communion Sundays to guide everyone forward to the altar and back. Persons who would be new to this ministry would receive orientation from the Head Usher prior to their service. Here again, if an Usher cannot serve on an assigned Sunday, they simply notify the Head Usher and a swap/coverage is arranged.

If you would be interested in serving in either or both of these important ministries of hospitality, whether or not you ever have before, please contact Pastor Tom, who will be happy to answer any questions and who will then pass your name along for scheduling.