

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

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	Organist
Marc and Jacob Schaffner	Acolytes
Matt Williard	Lector
Clint and Amy Gehring	Greeter
Roy Henry	Council President

For the month of December, our **Celebrate** lectionary bulletin inserts, 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 all sponsored by Pastor Tom and Ann with love and gratitude to God and to our St. John Congregational Family for another year of faithful ministry accomplished in Jesus' name.

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:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our life, our mercy, our might.

P: As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

(brief silence follows)

P: Great and Holy One,

C: **IN THIS TIME OF WANING DAYLIGHT, WE CONFESS THE SHADOWS OF SIN IN OUR LIVES. WE BUILD OURSELVES UP AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS. WE RELY ON OUR OWN EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR LIVES SECURE. YET YOU, O LORD, ARE THE POTTER, AND WE ARE THE CLAY. COME TO RESTORE US IN YOUR IMAGE, REMAKE US INTO YOUR PEOPLE, AND REBULD WHAT SIN HAS BROKEN, THAT WE AND THE WHOLE CREATION MAY REJOICE. AMEN.**

P: Fear not, people of God: the Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In Jesus Christ, God comes to set us free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God.

C: **AMEN.**

*Opening Hymn #249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

*Apostolic Greeting

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*Kyrie (sung in unison)

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

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*Prayer of the Day

Advent Wreath Litany

See Insert

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm: 146:5-10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

*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: Matthew 11:2-11

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

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 Musical Anthem by Senior Choir

*Offertory Hymn (#186) (sung):

**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

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God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Blessing:

P: The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, bless
you now and forever.

C: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Bring Good News to the poor.

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

*Closing Hymn #259 "Fling Wide the Door"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Our Faith Active in Worship – December 4, 2022

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,606
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,565
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$285
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$130
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$860
Total Attendance	Zoom – 15, In Person – 70

“St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of December 4, 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	\$76,915
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$55,250
Total Pledges & Gifts Received <u>in Excess of Goal</u> – (Memorials Interest Saved for the Future	+ \$165

Pledge/Gift Forms Are Available in Hard Copy by the Guestbook in the Foyer.

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. #122, The Gardens at York Terrace, 2401 W. Market St., Pottsville, 17901
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Dale Hassinger** – Entering UPMC Harrisburg on 12/14 for Knee Surgery
- **Cora Mace** – Rm. #3647, Roosevelt 3, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022
- **Roni Mace** – Undergoing Intensive Antibiotic Therapy at Home
- **Joyce Matter** – Rm. #128, Commonwealth Senior Living at Harrisburg, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111 (717.909.0417)
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Today, Sunday, December 11

As we in Dauphin County continue to dwell close to the line between the Low/Green level and Medium/Yellow level of COVID-19 Community Transmission as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it continues to be the case that the very best things we can do in this transition time are

- *getting fully vaccinated*
- *wearing a mask if you have 1. COVID symptoms or 2. a positive test for COVID or 3. exposure to someone with COVID. (Better yet, our congregational family policy has been to ask that folks in any of these three categories please simply avoid in-person activities entirely and join in worship via Zoom.)*

In addition, those at high risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged to mask when indoors and masks are a good additional protective measure for everyone.

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 (In-Person & Zoom)
11:15am	Part One of our Annual Congregational Meeting (In-Person and On Zoom. (All voting members—those confirmed members who have communed and contributed during 2021 or 2022—are especially encouraged to attend this brief, but very important, meeting!))
11:40am	Congregational Council Meeting (Upstairs immediately following Congregational Meeting)
4:00pm	Congregational Family Advent/Christmas Gathering (Our time together will once again have a much more interactive and intergenerational feel as all ages come together for One Starry Night . After numerous activities inside from 4-6pm, including a light supper, during which folks may come and stay when and for as much time as they are able, we will head outside to our pavilion for a Live Nativity presentation of the story of Jesus’ Birth, following which we will finish up inside with warm refreshments.)

Monday, December 12

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
7pm	Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Messiah Lutheran, Fisherville (Please speak to one of our coaches, Larry Gehring or Mike Henninger, or to Pastor Tom if you have any questions or would like to be part of the team.)

Tuesday, December 13

Pastor Tom Taking Medical Day for Routine Preventive Colonoscopy – No Office Hours
7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 14

8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Thursday, December 15

8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Friday, December 16

8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Saturday, December 17

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 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 (In-Person & Zoom)
- 2:30-5pm Girl Scout Troop Event in "Sunday School" Room
- 6-9pm Advent/Christmas Open House Hosted by Ty and Kim Troutman (All members of the St. John Congregational Family who can stop by at any point during those hours are invited to do so. As Kim herself said, ***"They can stay for five minutes or for hours; it doesn't matter. This will give us a chance to get to know them all better."*** While many of us may already know their home as "the Christmas house in Loyaltown" their address (also in the current directory) is 100 Deitrich Road, Lykens.)

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2023 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please stop by the table and take along those of family members and neighbors!

Our winter session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on Wednesday, January 11 and run for six weeks, meeting each week from 6:30 to 8:00pm and wrapping up in time for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Pending COVID and other illness developments, we will plan to meet in-person at the church, with the option for participants who would prefer to do so to "Zoom in" (and the possibility of going to Zoom-only if necessary). The title of our study this winter will be ***Dialogues On: Race***, during which we will take time, as Brothers and Sisters in Jesus, to honestly and respectfully reflect on and talk about what our Bible, our Church traditions, and our history tell us about this potentially difficult and divisive topic. Using a study book and a documentary-style DVD, we will delve into the scholarship, the stories, and the experiences of people of many different racial backgrounds as we engage in this six-week process. 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) **by the end of the day next Tuesday, December 20.**

Three new 2023 sponsor sheets are now available (currently on the table outside Pastor Tom's office, but soon being posted on a bulletin board in the foyer area) – for continuing ministry support for our ***Celebrate*** bulletin inserts (\$22/month); for ***Tree 4 Hope***, an innovative anti-poverty ministry begun by our neighbors at Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, and serving those in need in Guatemala, involving an orphanage, mission trips from our area, a girls' school called "Hope Academy" - a world mission with a local connection (\$50/month) – and for providing one month of a ***Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary*** (\$50/month) . To sponsor any of these three ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please stop by the table to sign up or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can place your name on the desired month(s). ***Please note that a separate sign-up calendar will soon be posted for 2023 altar flowers.***

If you are an Amazon.com shopper, our congregation is registered with the "Amazon Smiles" program, whereby Amazon donates one half of one percent of your purchase amount to a charitable organization that you select. Please note that, to qualify, your purchase has to be made through the "smile" side of things, to which you will find a very

easily identifiable link from the main part of the Amazon.com website. (Once there, it can be a bit tricky to pick out our congregational name from all of the "St. John's" – look for **St John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Berrysburg, PA.** Once you have selected us the first time, we will automatically be designated each time you shop and you won't need to re-do the search.) All monies received in this way will be automatically deposited for use in the Current Fund.

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.)***

Poinsettia Order Form for 2022

Poinsettias will be on display for worship Sunday, December 18th, Christmas Eve Services and Christmas Day. Thank you for your support!!!

Color: 15 Red & 15 White Price per plant: \$8.25

Total Quantity Wanted: _____

Color PREFERRED: _____

Total Amount of Order: _____



Please print desired memorial as you want it printed in the bulletin:

Presented by:

In honor of:

In Memory of:

For the Many Blessings of:

Please return this order form with payment to the Co-Chairs of the Flower Fund Committee: Sheila Barder & Dana Klouser. **Please order by December 11, 2022**