

Sunday Morning Liturgy

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on High who guides us into peace.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Let us come before God in confession..

(brief silence follows)

P: To you, O God,

C: **WE LIFT UP OUR SOULS. YOU KNOW US THROUGH AND THROUGH;
WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO YOU. REMEMBER NOT OUR SINS;
REMEMBER US WITH YOUR STEADFAST LOVE. SHOW US YOUR
WAYS; TEACH US YOUR PATHS; AND LEAD US IN JUSTICE AND
TRUTH, FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR GOODNESS IN JESUS CHRIST OUR
SAVIOR. AMEN.**

P: Sisters and brothers, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation. Remember the gift of baptism: our sin is washed away in the name of Jesus; we belong to Christ; we are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

C: **AMEN.**

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

Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the refining fire of the Holy Spirit, and the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, be with you all.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Prayer of the Day

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalms: Isaiah 12:2-6

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

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

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

Musical Anthem – Caroline DeSoto

Prayers

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: May God direct our ways in peace, make us abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen our hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

C: **AMEN**

Closing Hymn #259 "Fling Wide the Door"

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Christ is with us.

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

Organ Postlude and Silent Prayer

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Berrysburg, PA
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
Matt Williard	Lector
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, shining forth as a Light on the Hill in the darkness of our world!

Today, Sunday, December 12

9am Adult Bible Study (On Zoom)
9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person) – Masking and safe distancing are required for everyone present – both adults and young persons – to do our best to protect our (unvaccinated per current guidelines) younger congregational family members!
9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)
10:15am Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom) – Masking is required for everyone who is not yet fully vaccinated, as our area continues to remain at the highest level of virus transmission.
11:15am Part One of our Annual Congregational Meeting (In-person and on Zoom. We will take action on the election of five members to our Congregational Council and proposed budgets for 2022. A copy of the main 2022 budgets is included in the December/January St. John's Epistle, as well as the names of the Council nominees being proposed by our Nominating Committee. All voting members – those confirmed members who have communed and contributed during 2020 or 2021 – are especially encouraged to attend this brief, but very important, meeting!)
11:30am Congregational Council Meeting (time approximate – immediately following Congregational Meeting)
2pm Women's Group Meeting in person
4-5:30pm In-Person **"Gingerbread Bash" Advent Event** for All Ages

Monday, December 13

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

Tuesday, December 14

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

Wednesday, December 8

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

6:30-8pm Midweek Bible Study (On Zoom)

7pm Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer 1. for All Educators/Students/Families and 2. for Our Health Professionals (**Please make use of the list of health care professionals at the end of this bulletin information, taking a few minutes to lift each person up to God by name. To add names to the list, please contact Pastor Tom with their information.**)

Thursday, December 16

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, December 17

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

Saturday, December 18

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9am Adult Bible Study (On Zoom)

9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person) – Masking and safe distancing are required for everyone present – both adults and young persons – to do our best to protect our (unvaccinated per current guidelines) younger congregational family members!

9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)

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2022 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please stop by the table and take along those of family members and neighbors!

Attention Musicians!! In the remaining time until our Senior Choir is once again "up and singing" it would be great to share in the musical gifts of the members of our talented congregational family at least one Sunday each month, if not more often. Persons of any age or level of experience, who might be interested in playing any kind of instrument or singing, alone or with a partner, are asked to please speak with Carol Hubler or Judy Ferree.

You are invited to celebrate this Season of Advent with a “Reverse Advent Calendar” thanks to Grayson and Courtney Foreman – please see Miss Laurie’s letter in the **December/January St. John’s Epistle** or pick up a direction sheet upstairs on the usher/bulletin table outside worship for the details!

The Maurer Family Tree Farm of Dalmatia has graciously donated one of this years Christmas trees on display at the church.

Our winter session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on **Wednesday, January 12** and continue through February 23, after which we will break for the Season of Lent. We will meet each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Please stay tuned for more information as to our format – in person/Zoom/hybrid, which will be guided in good measure by what is happening COVID-wise closer to that time. The topic of our winter study is also authored by our fall Bible Study writer, Rabbi Evan Moffic – **What Every Christian Needs to Know About the Jewishness of Jesus: A New Way of Seeing the Most Influential Rabbi in History**. In this new study, Rabbi Moffic, in his own words, shares with us “a new introduction to the rebel rabbi named Jesus.” 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 Thursday, December 23.

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.

Three new 2022 sponsor sheets have also been posted on the foyer bulletin board – 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, and, now, a new 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) . Please sign up on the foyer bulletin board to sponsor any of these three ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events. **Please note that, until we get closer to returning to all of the “normal/regular” details of worship, a sign-up sheet won’t be posted for altar flowers. Please stay tuned for updates about when we will be resuming our flower ministry!**

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.)**

If you are not currently comfortable taking part in in-person worship, there are **three** very simple options for giving your tithes and offerings. You are welcome to 1. mail your offering to the church (PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270) or 2. drop it by the church and place it in the red plastic tub that is prominently visible in the Sunday School Room, on the table just outside Pastor Tom’s office door. In addition, 3. if neither of those is easily done, you may wish to contact your bank about setting up an automatic payment, as some of our congregational family members also have done, whereby the offering you direct is sent by your bank as a check mailed directly to the church. In all cases, Pastor Tom will then see that all offerings received get securely passed along to our counters.

Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **Louise Baumgardner** – Discharged from Penn State Hershey Medical Center on 12/7/2021
- **Judy Cheatham** –Rm. #47B, Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Warren Hassinger** – Rm. #103 – Connections Unit, Providence Place of Pottsville, 2200 First Avenue, Pottsville, 17901
- **Marzette Hoffman** – Rm. #805, Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab. Center
- **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)
- **Donna Rabenold** – At Home, Undergoing Weekly Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer
- **Lois Watson** – Continuing Her Recovery at Home

Our Faith Active in Worship – December 5, 2021

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,545
Current – Offerings Received	\$3,604
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$150
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$35
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$848
Total Attendance	Zoom – 16, In Person – 73

Medical Professionals in Our Prayers in this Time of COVID-19 (updated 8/23/21)

- Paulette Warner, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation
- Jenna Troutman, RN
- Jodi Thompson, CCMA
- Gwen Switzer, RTR
- Payton Stutzman, Hospital Clinical Assistant
- Kristen Spicher, RN
- Sara Shaffer, RN
- Steven Schlegel, Paramedic
- Michelle Scheff*, MS, CCC/SLP (Speech Therapist in Seattle, WA)
- Joanne Rheem*, Healthcare Administrator
- David Rheem*, Healthcare Administrator
- Dr. Todd Peters* (Chief Medical Officer in Baltimore, MD)
- Joshua Peters, PA-C (Serving in Colorado)
- Dr. Alayna Peters (Doctor of Pharmacy in Hagerstown, MD)
- Courtney Peifer*, Psych Technician
- Sara Paul, Family Practice Center Medical Receptionist
- Bobby Paul, BS
- Angela Paul, PTA
- Cindy Nicholson*, RN
- Whitney Ney, RN
- Haley Nestor*, BSN, RN
- Shannon Motter, RN
- Courtney Miller, B.S. R.T(R)(CT)
- Roni Mace, RN
- Heidi Lehman, RT (R)
- Shawnita Latscha, RT (RDMS, RVT)
- Rose Kell, MS (Occupational Therapist in California)
- Nichole Holman*, RN
- Dr. Tonya Henninger & Dr. Sarah Bork* (Hospitalists in Seattle, WA)
- Abigail Francisco*, RN
- Robert Foreman, Paramedic
- Courtney Foreman, RN
- Glenn Fontaine*, RN (Serving in Michigan)
- Ann Fontaine*, PA-C (Serving in Michigan)
- Olivia Enders, CNA
- Dr. Seth Eisenberg* (Anesthesiologist in Atlanta, GA)
- Rachel Denlinger*, RN (Serving in Charleston, SC)
- Gary Daniels, EMT
- Dr. Timothy Bruner & Dr. Gabrielle Fregeau* (Doctors of Physical Therapy in Ocean County, NJ)
- Dr. Daniel Bruner & Dr. Richelle Demers* (Doctors of Chiropractic)
- Dr. Jerrel Boyer* (Neurosurgeon in Chicago, IL)
- Dr. Brett Bellis* (Doctor of Chiropractic)
- Chelsea Beard, EFDA

*denotes someone who is a part of our extended congregational family