

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, who shapes the whole creation, who comes with might and mercy, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Let us approach the throne of grace with repentant hearts.

(brief silence follows)

P: Faithful God,

C: **WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE BEEN UNFAITHFUL TO YOU. LIKE DRY LEAVES AND WITHERED GRASS, OUR LIVES ARE BLOWN ABOUT BY OUR SINS AND THE POWERS OF EVIL AROUND US. RESTORE US, O GOD; LET THE LIGHT OF YOUR FACE SHINE ON US, AND WE SHALL BE SAVED. AMEN.**

P: God is patient, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. In the name of Jesus Christ, I bring us this good news: We are free from all that imprisons us; our sins are forgiven; God heals our broken hearts. Let us live in peace and harmony as we wait for the day of God.

C: **AMEN.**

Opening Hymn #249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" (verses 1 and 5)

Apostolic Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm: 126

Second Reading: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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

Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us and Share in God's Supper

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

Piano Anthem

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

Benediction:

P: God most high, God with us, God poured out on us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

C: **AMEN**

Closing Hymn #257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 5 and 6)

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Jesus is with us.

C: **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.
Laurie Little
Judy Ferree
Williard Family
Roy Henry

Pastor
Young Christians Minister
Keyboardist
Lector
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 all of the faithful ministry accomplished in Jesus' name this past year, especially in these uniquely challenging times!

Today, Sunday, December 13

- 9:00am Faith Formation Time On Zoom (Adult Bible Study, Youth Class, Confirmation Class, and SONday Celebration)
- 10:15am Worship On Zoom ***(Those folks who for whatever reason do not otherwise access the Zoom platform are invited to the Sunday School Room, where Roy and Rachel Henry – and eventually the other members of the Video Ministry Team – are making it possible to join worship on Zoom on the large-screen TV. Please remember that 1. maintaining safe spacing and 2. wearing a mask covering both nose and mouth at all times is required for everyone over the age of two, with no exceptions for any reason. Of course, please do not attend this or any other in-person activity if you aren't feeling well for any reason or if you have been exposed any time in the prior 14 days to a person who subsequently develops COVID-19-like symptoms or who tests positive for COVID-19. Since there will not be any other in-person activities in the Sunday School Room or anywhere else prior to 10:15am, those folks coming to the Sunday School Room for their Zoom-ing can arrive as early – or as late – as they wish.)***
- 11:15am Part One of our Annual Congregational Meeting on Zoom (We will take action on the election of four members to our Congregational Council and proposed budgets for 2021. A copy of the main 2021 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 2019 or 2020 – are especially encouraged to attend this brief, but very important, meeting!

6-7pm Advent Zoom-cebration ***(Please make plans to join in this hour, celebrating and showcasing the talents of our congregational family.)***

Monday, December 14

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

Tuesday, December 15

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

Wednesday, December 16

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 17

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, December 18

8:00 – 9:30 A.M. Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Saturday, December 19

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 9am Faith Formation Time On Zoom (Adult Bible Study, Youth Class, Confirmation Class, and SONday Celebration)
- 10:15am Worship On Zoom ***(Those folks who for whatever reason do not otherwise access the Zoom platform are invited to the Sunday School Room, where Roy and Rachel Henry – and eventually the other members of the Video Ministry Team – are making it possible to join worship on Zoom on the large-screen TV. Please remember that 1. maintaining safe spacing and 2. wearing a mask covering both nose and mouth at all times is required for everyone over the age of two, with no exceptions for any reason. Of course, please do not attend this or any other in-person activity if you aren't feeling well for any reason or if you have been exposed any time in the prior 14 days to a person who subsequently develops COVID-19-like symptoms or who tests positive for COVID-19. Since there will not be any other in-person activities in the Sunday School Room or anywhere else prior to 10:15am, those folks coming to the Sunday School Room for their Zoom-ing can arrive as early – or as late – as they wish.)***
- 6-7pm Youth Group Gathering on Zoom

Looking Ahead

On the Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, we will again have two opportunities to gather in worship, both available only on Zoom this year. At **4:00 P.M.**, Miss Laurie and Pastor Tom will lead a time of Celebration Worship, with a focus on our young persons, including a Sunny Sermon and contemporary music set within worship that will, in general, be simpler and less formal than our festival carol worship later that evening. Then, at **8:00 P.M.**, our Festival Carol Worship will focus on the great carols of Christmas with an improvised-for-Zoom time of candle lighting. Our goal at both 4:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M. is to once again provide the most meaningful opportunities to worship our Newborn King for the most people of God. Please come and worship at one or both times, as we gather in these unique and memorable ways in this challenging time!

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2021 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please stop by the tables any time the church is unlocked, doing your best to be sure to

1. touch/pick up only those envelopes you are actually taking along,
2. maintain safe distancing from anyone else who might happen to be there doing the same thing, and
3. wear a mask covering both nose and mouth at all times.

If you are an Amazon.com shopper, perhaps especially in this time of pandemic, 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 2021 sponsor sheets have been posted on the foyer bulletin board – for continuing ministry support 1. for our Celebrate bulletin inserts (\$22/month); 2. 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 a girls' school called “Hope Academy” - a world mission with a local connection (\$50/month) – and 3. 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 be sure to print all sign-up information, especially names, clearly and legibly. Thank you!!)***

As many in our congregational family have been regularly doing for months now (thank you!!), while we are temporarily not gathering for 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.

While we are following COVID guidelines established by Congregational Council, please note that spaces within the church building, such as the Sunday School Room, will not be available for non-congregational-ministry functions as they would be in “normal” times.

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Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **Heidi Challenger** – Discharged from Community General Osteopathic on 12/3
- **Warren Hassinger** – Rm. #107, Providence Place, 24 Hikes Hollow Road, Pine Grove, 17963
- **Lorraine Henninger** – At Home On Hospice Care
- **Marzette Hoffman** – Rm. #803, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg, 17061
- **Cora Mace** – Rm. #3647, Roosevelt 3, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022
- **Joyce Matter** – Rm. #328, Polk Personal Care, 301 North St., Millersburg
- **Ray Matter** – Harrisburg, Rm. #726

Our Faith Active in Worship – December 6, 2020

Current – Budget Goal	\$ 2,806
Current – Offerings Received	\$ 5,312
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$ 296
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$ 88
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$ 626
Worship Attendance (On Zoom)	94

Medical Professionals in our Prayers in this time of COVID-19:

- **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**
- **Joanne Rheem*, Healthcare Administrator**
- **David Rheem*, Healthcare Administrator**
- **Alayna Peters, Doctor of Pharmacy (Practicing in Hagerstown, MD)**
- **Courtney Peifer*, Psych Technician**
- **Sara Paul, Family Practice Center Medical Receptionist**
- **Bobby Paul, BS**
- **Cindy Nicholson*, RN**
- **Whitni Ney, RN**
- **Haley Nestor*, BSN, RN**
- **Shannon Motter, RN**
- **Courtney Miller, B.S. R.T(R)(CT)**
- **Roni Mace, RN**
- **Heidi Lehman, RT (R)**
- **Alexis Lehman*, EMT (Professional Firefighter/Responder in Metro Washington, DC Area)**
- **Shawnita Latsha, RT (RDMS, RVT)**
- **Nichole Holman*, RN**
- **Dr. Tonya Henninger & Dr. Sarah Bork* (Hospitalists in Seattle, WA)**
- **Robert Foreman, Paramedic**
- **Courtney Foreman, RN**
- **Glenn Fontaine*, RN (Serving in Michigan)**
- **Ann Fontaine*, PA-C (Serving in Michigan)**
- **Olivia Enders, CAN**
- **Dr. Seth Eisenberg* (Anesthesiologist in Atlanta, GA)**
- **Rachel Denlinger*, RN (Serving in Charleston, SC)**
- **Terri Daniels, BS, RRT**
- **Gary Daniels, EMT**
- **Timothy Bruner & Gabrielle Fregeau*, Doctors of Physical Therapy (Practicing in Ocean County, NJ)**
- **Daniel Bruner & Richelle Demers*, Doctors of Chiropractic**
- **Dr. Jerrel Boyer* (Neurosurgeon in Chicago, IL)**
- **Brett Bellis*, Doctor of Chiropractic**

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

Updated 11-23-20