

## 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 #257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

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

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings and Musical 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

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 #267 "Joy to the World"

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

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## 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!

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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!

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### Today, Sunday, December 19

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.

### Monday, December 20

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom's Office Hours
6:30-7:30pm	Cub Scout Lion Den Meeting in Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday, December 21

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom's Office Hours
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### Wednesday, December 22

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom's Office Hours
7pm	Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer 1. for All Educators/Students/Families and 2. for Our Health Professionals ( <b>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.</b> )

### Thursday, December 23

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom's Office Hours
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### Friday, December 24

Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

4pm	Christmas Eve "Celebration" Worship with Musical Prelude before the Hour (In-Person and On Zoom)
8pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Musical Prelude before the Hour (In-Person and On Zoom)

For both times of worship, masking is required for everyone who is not yet fully vaccinated, as our area continues to remain at the highest level of virus transmission.

### Saturday, December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day  
Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

### Next Sunday, December 26

First Sunday of Christmas

9am	Adult Bible Study (On Zoom)
9am	SONDay Celebration "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party (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.

**From next Sunday afternoon until the morning of Thursday, January 6, Pastor Tom is planning his annual family time away. In his absence, Pastor Godfred Effisah (pronounced eh-FEE-suh), who serves the Rife/Killinger Parish, will again be on call for any emergency needs for pastoral care. Should you need to get in touch with him, please call Fay Nichols, our Telephone Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 717-329-7447, who will both place the concern on the prayer chain and contact Pastor Godfred. Or, Pastor Godfred can be reached directly by calling 571-572-0119. For all non-emergency matters, Pastor Tom will return to the office on the morning of January 6.**

## Looking Ahead

Youth Group is planning an **Ugly Christmas Sweater Party** on Thursday, December 30, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. at the church. Please see Olivia's emails for all the details!

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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!

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

**Please join us for upcoming Book Group Discussions!** Coming up next - **Monday, January 10, at 6:30 pm on Zoom.** The topic will be **The Invention of Wings** by Sue Monk Kidd. Pick up a copy of the book on the bench under the bulletin board in the foyer. If those copies are gone, or with any questions, please call or email Ann at 717-362-7895 or [rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

**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.

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.

Containers are located in the foyer for food donations for the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center in Lykens. Please drop off non-perishable food items at any time and, as the contributions add up, deliveries will be made to the pantry by **Larry Gessner**. Thank you!

As we look forward to a new bi-annual Congregational Family Directory, which will become available in January with the Annual Congregational Report, there has been a good bit of interest expressed in including best email addresses along with mailing addresses and telephone numbers in the new directory. If you would like to share your best email address(es) for the upcoming directory, please send that information with your permission to both Rachel and Pastor Tom, and it will be included. **Please note that, even though Pastor Tom and/or Miss Laurie might already have your email address(es), they will not share that information for the directory or for any other reason without your further permission, as they agreed when given that information, so please be sure to send this new email if interested!**

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.

### Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **Louise Baumgardner** – Continuing Her Recovery at Home
- **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 12, 2021

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,545</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,313
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$186
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$171
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$132
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom – 20, In Person – 78</b>

**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