

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 #248 "People, Look East" (**verses 1 and 4**)

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: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

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 #267 "Joy to the World" (**verses 1 and 4**)

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.	Pastor
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Judy Ferree	Keyboardist
Williard Family	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 all of the faithful ministry accomplished in Jesus' name this past year, especially in these uniquely challenging times!

Today, Sunday, December 20

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

Monday, December 21

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

Tuesday, December 22

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

Wednesday, December 23

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 (**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 24

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

4pm "Celebration" Worship On Zoom (**Miss Laurie and Pastor Tom will lead this 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 8:00 P.M. worship.**)

6-7pm

Pastor Tom and Miss Laurie Offering "Drive Through" Holy Communion at the Church (**All interested folks are encouraged to drive in for Holy Communion, including both the bread/wafer and wine. Everyone communing in their car will be required to be wearing a mask covering both nose and mouth while Pastor Tom and Miss Laurie bring the elements to their window. The exact location of the drive through (in front of the church building vs. nearer the pavilion) will depend on the weather conditions, but will be readily visible to all who are coming by. In the event of extreme weather, we will cancel and publicize that cancellation through all the regular congregational family "channels".**)

8pm

"Festival Carol/Candlelight" Worship On Zoom (**For our traditional time of singing "Silent Night" by candlelight, Pastor Tom is asking everyone to please have their own "candle" lined up at home – anything from an actual candle to the light on a cell phone. When the time comes, we will all be asked to dim/turn out the other lights wherever we are as we sing "together".**)

Friday, December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day

Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours

Saturday, December 26

Stephen, Deacon & Martyr

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, December 27

First Sunday of Christmas/John, Apostle & Evangelist

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**)

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Next Sunday, December 27 – Wednesday, January 6

From next Sunday afternoon until the morning of Wednesday, January 6, Pastor Tom is planning his annual 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. (In these times of COVID-19 precautions, please remember that he, like Pastor Tom, would be responding to any emergency needs via the telephone instead of in-person as would normally be the case.) For all non-emergency matters, Pastor Tom will return to the office on the morning of January 6.

Looking Ahead

Our 10:15 A.M. worship on January 3, the Second Sunday of Christmas, will feature our traditional Liturgy of Lessons & Carols, with Jim Watson once again as the overall worship leader, assisted by our youth, who will share the readings from the Bible.

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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.

Our winter session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on **Wednesday, January 13** and will continue until Ash Wednesday. We will meet each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M., once again on the Zoom platform. Our topic will be ***The Letter of James***. With its powerful message about the importance of really living our faith in concrete ways in our hurting world, James has a lot to say to us in these times. (And we will talk about why Martin Luther, for his part, despised James and wished it had never been included in the Bible!) No previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and (as 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) no later than next Sunday morning, December 27.

Next Up for Book Discussion Group is a gathering via Zoom on **Monday, January 11, at 7:00 P.M.** Everyone is welcome, so if you would like to participate and haven't joined in before, you can pick up a copy of the current book, **God Never Blinks: 50 Lessons for Life's Little Detours** by Regina Brett, on the bench under the bulletin board in the foyer, just inside the main doors. Please let Ann know if we run out of books, and she'll order more. Also, please get in touch with her if you have any other questions – 717.362.7895 or rahbruner@gmail.com.)

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.

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. ***(At the request of the food pantry, as they are relocating in Lykens, our faithful delivery person, Larry Gessner, is waiting for their go-ahead to deliver our steadily growing accumulation of food.)*** Thank you!

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

- **Darrell Denlinger** – Discharged from Penn State Hershey Medical Center on 12/11
- **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. #705

Our Faith Active in Worship – December 13, 2020

<i>Current – Budget Goal</i>	\$ 2,806
Current – Offerings Received	\$ 3,130
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$ 714
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$ 20
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$ 192
Worship Attendance (On Zoom)	80

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