

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 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
Rob Erb	Holy Communion Assistant
Judy Ferree	Organist
Delmar & Ginny Enders	Altar Guild Preparation
Matt Williard	Lector
John & Judy Ferree	Greeters
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. As we celebrate our Lord's Supper, we welcome to our table all baptized Christians who have received the sacrament in their home congregations. All persons who do not yet commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please worship with us again and join in other congregational family activities!

THANK YOU to the members of the Decorating Committee for beautifying our congregational family home during this holiday seasons!

2023 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please take yours, your family's, your neighbor's. Thank you for your help!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Musical Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Carol #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*Greeting:

P: Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! 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 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

(The lector will read the odd-numbered verses. Please join in reading the bold print even-numbered verses.)

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Carol #294 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

*Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

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

Carol #300 "The First Noel"

Announcements

*Nicene Creed

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*Prayers of the Church

Offering of Our Gifts and Anthem by Senior Choir

*Offertory Prayer:

A: Let us pray... our Savior and Lord. All: **AMEN.**

We Share in God's Supper

*Jesus' Words of Institution of Holy Communion

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right

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We Partake of Our Lord's Supper (As we share in the sacrament, please join in singing the following carols: #267, #277, #279, #283, #296)

*Post Communion Blessing:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

All: **AMEN**

*A Celebration of the Light (*As the light is passed to the congregation, symbolizing the spreading of Christ's light to all people, please remember – tip only unlighted candles to receive the flame from those already lighted.*)

Pastoral Prayer

Carol #281 "Silent Night, Holy Night!"

*Blessing and Dismissal:

P: May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry us into new and abundant life.

All: **AMEN**

P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold us with love and strength.

All: **AMEN**

P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

All: **AMEN**

P: And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always.

All: **AMEN**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with us.

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

*Carol #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" and Extinguishing of Candles

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

* * * * *

* Please stand, if able to do so.

Poinsettia Sponsors

The Henninger Family

In loving memory of Henry and Lorraine Henninger

Clint and Amy Gehring

In thankfulness for our children, Gracie and Gabe, and for the gift of
God's grace

LuAnn Ressler

In memory of Jeffery Ressler
In memory of Mary & "Juney" Yeager
In memory of nephew, Mason Miller

Chris and Dana Klouser

In memory of George and Mary Yeager
In memory of Richard Klouser and Jean Kessler

Tim and Lori Motter

In honor of the birth of The Christ Child and for blessings of our
parents, children and congregational family

Kim and Barry Williard, Jr

In honor of Barry & Barb Williard
In memory of Paul & Lovel Welker

Judy and John Ferree

In honor of Christ, the new-born King and in loving memory of John's
parents and our grandparents

Jim & Lois Watson

In loving memory of Jim's parents, Austin & Jean Watson

Mike & Carol Hubler

In celebration of the birth of Jesus and in honor of all the dedicated &
enthusiastic choir members and accompanist, who, over the years,
have enhanced & enlightened our worship. Thank You!

Bonnie and Ron Erb

In memory of John & Mary Ellen Hoover by daughter, Bonnie Erb
In memory of Paul & Gloria Erb by son, Ron Erb

Delmar and Ginny Enders

In honor of the Christ Child's birth

Sheila and Brian Barder

In honor of the birth of Jesus
In memory of Sheila's parents, Marie & Jim Casner

Heidi & Jeff Lehman

In honor of our grandchildren, Harper, Robyn and Ollivander
In memory of our dad, Bruce Lehman

Bob and Faye Weaver

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior - Jesus
In loving memory of our loved ones, Ellen & "Pete" Custer and Winnie
& Harry Weaver, Sr.

Gail Billow

In loving memory of Duane Billow, Betty and Warren Hassinger

Carl and Louise Baumgardner

In loving memory of Carl & Mary Baumgardner, Sr.
In loving memory of grandparents, Harry & Winnie Weaver, Sr. and
Baylor I. & Ellen Custer

Rob, Courtney & Grayson Foreman

In honor of Courtney's parents, Kim & Barry Williard
In memory of Rob's parents, Nancy & Jack Foreman

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