

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 | pt@stjohnhillchurch.org | 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
Jim Watson	Holy Communion Assistant
Carol and Mike Hubler	Altar Guild Preparation
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Judy Ferree	Organist
Ty Troutman	Senior Choir Director
Gail Billow	Lead Usher
Jeff and Heidi Lehman	Greeters
Derrick Henry and Grayson Foreman	Acolytes
Matt Williard	Lector
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of December, the **Celebrate Inserts** are presented by Bob and Faye Weaver as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. The support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** are presented by Sandra and Randy Paul for the Glory of God. **Tree 4 Hope** is presented by Delmar and Ginny Enders for the blessing of grandchildren: Miana, Olivia, Caleb, Axten, Sophia and Kyrach.

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this evening. 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!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

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

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 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

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

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

2024 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please take yours, your family's, your neighbor's. Thank you for your help!

Please Read



Poinsettia Pick Up

Poinsettias can be taken **after** the 8:00 PM service on Christmas Eve, December 24.

Plants not picked up on Christmas Eve will be put in the kitchen for pick up during the following week, please.

Check the “Order List” to verify plant(s) ordered **AND** be sure to mark the **Picked Up** box on the order form so we know who received their plants.

A plastic sleeve is available for each plant. They will protect your beautiful poinsettia plant from the cold for your trip home.

Please - **DO NOT** take the plastic saucer. We hope to use them for many years to come.

**Thank you for making this
beautiful poinsettia tree possible!**

Poinsettia Memorials

In memory of John & Maryellen Hoover by Bonnie & Ron Erb

In memory of Paul & Gloria Erb by Bonnie & Ron Erb

In honor of The Christ Child's Birth by Bob & Faye Weaver

In honor of the birth of Jesus and for our many blessings by
Louise & Carl Baumgardner

In honor of our parents, Faye & Bob Weaver and
Mary & Carl Baumgardner, Sr. by Louise & Carl Baumgardner

In honor of the birth of Jesus by Lois & Jim Watson

In memory of our parents, Jean & Austin Watson
by Lois & Jim Watson

In memory of Paulino Ventura, Felomina Ventura, Epehema
Ventura & Melagros Ariola by Wayne & Daisy Thomas

In memory of Duane Billow and Betty & Warren Hassinger by
Gail Billow, Holly, Corey, Granger & Bristol Scheib

In honor of Barry & Barb Williard by Kim & Barry Williard, Jr.

In memory of Paul & Lovel Welker by Kim & Barry Williard, Jr.

In memory of loved ones by Dale & Carol Hassinger

For the many blessings of parents, children and in celebration of
the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ by Tim & Lori Motter

In memory of our parents: George & Mary Yeager; Richard
Klouser & Jean Klouser Kessler by Chris & Dana Klouser

In memory of her husband, Jeff Ressler, her parents George &
Mary Yeager, and her Uncle Terry Witmer by LuAnn Ressler

In memory of their nephew, Mason Miller
by Dana Klouser & LuAnn Ressler

In honor of the Birth of Jesus by the DeSoto Family

In honor of the birth of our Savior, who is Christ the Lord and for
our many blessings by Judy & John Ferree

In celebration of the birth of Jesus and for our
many blessings by the Barder Family

For the many blessings of our family and
church family by Heidi & Jeffrey Lehman

In memory of our parents, Ira "Pete" & Alberta Antes and Eugene
Howard by Marilyn & Ira Antes

For the many blessings of family and friends this holiday season
by Rob, Courtney & Grayson Foreman

In memory of the Christ Child's birth by Delmar & Ginny Enders

In loving memory of husband, father and grandfather,
Andrew Nichols, by the Nichols Family

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