

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
Louise Baumgardner
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!

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.

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.

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.

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020

4:00pm

Christmas Eve "Celebration" Worship

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Musical Prelude and Silent Prayer

Announcements

*Opening Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

*Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

God Promises to Save Us: Isaiah 9:2-7

Carol #267 "Joy to the World" (**all verses**)

God Comes to Save Us: Luke 2:1-20

Video – "Baby Jesus We Love You"

Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie

Carol #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (**all verses**)

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

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

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.**

"That's What Christmas is all About" with Sunny
Carol #281 "Silent Night, Holy Night!" (*all verses*)

God Sends Us to Share the Good News

Benediction:

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy
of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
bless you now and forever.

C: AMEN.

Dismissal:

P: Go tell it on the mountain,

C: THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN!

Closing Carol "The First Noel"

Postlude and Silent Prayer