

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Berrysburg, PA

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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.

Laurie Little

Judy Ferree

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

8:00pm

Festival Carol & Candlelight Liturgy

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

Christmas 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.

Hymn #283 "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" (**all verses**)

Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm: 96

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

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.**

Hymn #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (**all verses**)

Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

Hymn #300 "The First Noel" (**all verses**)

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.

Hymn #282 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (*all verses*)

A Celebration of the Light:

*(When Pastor Tom indicates, please light your "candle" and dim the
other lights where you are, symbolizing the spreading of Jesus' light to
all people.)*

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn #281 "Silent Night, Holy Night!" (*all verses*)

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**

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

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Jesus is with us.

C: **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Piano Postlude and Silent Prayer