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**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](mailto:stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com) | [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://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

Organist

Matt Williard

Lector

Grayson Foreman

Acolyte

Delmar & Ginny Enders

Greeters

Roy Henry

Council President

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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.

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Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book in the foyer and please worship with us again and join in other congregational family activities!

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**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!

**God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise**

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

\*Carol #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

\*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 52:7-10

Psalm: 98

Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-12

Carol #296 "What Child Is This"

\*Gospel: John 1:1-14

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 #267 "Joy to the World"

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.**

Offering of Our Gifts and Musical Anthem

\*Prayers of the Church

\*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**

\*Blessing:

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**

\*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Christ is with us.

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

\*Carol #290 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

\*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Please stand, if able to do so.



*Merry Christmas*

**Today, Sunday, December 25**

*As we in Dauphin County continue to dwell close to the line between the Low/Green level and Medium/Yellow level of COVID-19 Community Transmission as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it continues to be the case that the very best things we can do in this transition time are*

- *getting fully vaccinated*
- *wearing a mask if you have 1. COVID symptoms or 2. a positive test for COVID or 3. exposure to someone with COVID. (Better yet, our congregational family policy has been to ask that folks in any of these three categories please simply avoid in-person activities entirely and join in worship via Zoom.)*

*In addition, those at high risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged to mask when indoors and masks are a good additional protective measure for everyone.*

10:15am "Come As You Are" Worship (In-Person and On Zoom)

*From the end of worship today until the morning of Thursday, January 5, Pastor Tom is planning his annual family time away. In his absence, Pastor Godfred Effisah, 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. For all non-emergency matters, Pastor Tom will return to the office on the morning of January 5.*

**Thursday, December 29**

6-8:30pm Youth Group Christmas Gathering at the Church

**Next Sunday, January 1**

Name of Jesus

9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)

9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)

9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)

10:15am Liturgy of Lessons & Carols, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom) – Guest Worship Leaders Jim Watson and Members of Youth Group

**Looking Ahead**

The January gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** will be held at the church on Wednesday, January 4, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

2023 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please stop by the table and take along those of family members and neighbors!

Upcoming 2023 Dates for Book Discussion Group – all at 6:30 P.M. on Zoom:

**January 9**

**February 6**

**March 6**

Call or email Ann 717.362.7895 [rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com) if you need a book or have any questions.

Because family travel plans will make it impossible for our secretary, Rachel Henry, to have the 2022 Annual Report prepared in time for Part 2 of our Annual Congregational Meeting, which is required by our congregational constitution to be held on January 15, we will be doing things a bit differently next month:

- We will still hold the required congregational meeting right after worship on **January 15**, but our agenda will not include going over the Annual Report as normally. Instead, the floor will be open for any other business as may properly come before the meeting. **There will be at least one item of business to be covered on January 15 – a proposal from Congregational Council (in response to much expressed congregational family interest) that, starting with summer 2023, we worship outside in our pavilion every Sunday during the summer, starting with Memorial Day weekend and ending with Labor Day weekend. (If approved, there will be one exception to this plan for 2023 only – since the Day of Pentecost, and therefore the Rite of Confirmation, falls on May 28, 2023, we will still worship inside on that one summer Sunday.)**
- A Special Congregational Meeting has also been called by Pastor Tom for Sunday, **January 29**, immediately following worship, to go over the 2022 Annual Report. Per our congregational constitution, this will be the only business we can take care of at that special meeting.
- Those having reports to be included in the 2022 Annual Report are asked to please forward them to Rachel no later than Monday, **January 16**, as a Word document only – no hard copies please, as these require re-typing by Rachel.

Please don't hesitate to check with Pastor Tom or with Rachel with any questions!

Three new 2023 sponsor sheets are now available (currently on the table outside Pastor Tom's office, but soon being posted on a bulletin board in the foyer area) – for continuing ministry support for our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month); for **Tree 4 Hope**, an innovative anti-poverty ministry begun by our neighbors at Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, and serving those in need in Guatemala, involving an orphanage, mission trips from our area, a girls' school called "Hope Academy" - a world mission with a local connection (\$50/month) – and for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month). To sponsor any of these three ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please stop by the table to sign up or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can place your name on the desired month(s).

The 2023 altar flower signup sheet has been posted in the foyer, temporarily in its old location on the closet door. The price of altar flowers is unchanged from pre-COVID times, at \$35 each week, and they may still be sponsored in honor or in memory of loved ones or special events. (The summer period from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend is at least temporarily taped off, since on January 15, we will be voting about holding worship outdoors all summer beginning in 2023, in which case we would not need altar flowers for those summer Sundays.) **The most time-critical need for altar flowers is for the first Sundays in January, the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>.** Please see Sheila Barder or Dana Klouser with any questions.

### Our Faith Active in Worship – December 18, 2022

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,606</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$3,371
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$176
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$25
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$431
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom – 19, In Person – 78</b>

### “St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of December 18, 2022

Total Estimated Project Cost	\$220,000
Memorials Interest Money Designated for Project (Letting \$100,000 Reserve of Interest)	\$88,000
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$78,525
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$54,890
<b>Total Pledges &amp; Gifts Received in Excess of Goal – (Memorials Interest Saved for the Future</b>	<b>+ \$1,145</b>

Pledge/Gift Forms Are Available in Hard Copy by the Guestbook in the Foyer.

### Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **Barbara Bullock** – UPMC Community Osteopathic, Rm. #317
- **Cindy Carr** – At Home, Undergoing Treatment for Autoimmune Disorder and Resulting Organ Damage
- **Judy Cheatham** – Rm. #47B, Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **Timothy Enders** – Rm. #122, The Gardens at York Terrace, 2401 W. Market St., Pottsville, 17901
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Cora Mace** – Rm. #3647, Roosevelt 3, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022
- **Joyce Matter** – Rm. #128, Commonwealth Senior Living at Harrisburg, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111 (717.909.0417)

**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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