

## Sunday Morning Liturgy

### God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

**C: AMEN.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*(brief silence follows)*

P: God of glory, God of peace,

**C: WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SHUNNED THE LIGHT THAT REVEALS THE TRUTH ABOUT US. WE CLING TO WORLDLY THINGS RATHER THAN SHARING THE GIFTS OF THIS EARTH. WE TRUST OURSELVES ABOVE ALL. SAVE YOUR PEOPLE, O GOD; SUSTAIN THE RIVERS AND TREES THAT SING YOUR PRAISE; AND FREE US TO LIVE BOLDLY IN THE LIGHT AND TRUTH OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR.**

P: The grace of God shines upon us, bringing salvation to the whole world. We are saved, our sins are washed away, not because of anything we have done, but according to God's mercy in Jesus Christ. Renewed by the Holy Spirit, let us live in hope and joy.

**C: AMEN.**

Opening Hymn #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: I Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm: 148

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

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

Hymn of the Day #300 "The First Noel"

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.**

-The United Church of Canada, 1968

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings and Musical 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.**

### God Sends Us to Share the Good News

Blessing:

P: The Maker of all, the Word, made flesh, the Giver of life, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

**C: AMEN**

Closing Hymn #270 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. The Word made Flesh is with us.

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

Organ Postlude and Silent Prayer

# Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Berrysburg, PA  
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
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, shining forth as a Light on the Hill in the darkness of our world!

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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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### Today, Sunday, December 26

9am Adult Bible Study (On Zoom)  
9am SONDay Celebration "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party (In-Person) – Masking and safe distancing are required for everyone present – both adults and young persons – to do our best to protect our (unvaccinated per current guidelines) younger congregational family members!  
9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)  
9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)  
10:15am Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom) – Masking is required for everyone who is not yet fully vaccinated, as our area continues to remain at the highest level of virus transmission.

**From this afternoon until the morning of Thursday, January 6, Pastor Tom is planning his annual family time away. In his absence, Pastor Godfred Effisah (pronounced eh-FEE-suh), 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 6.**

Today is the day to bring in those Reverse Advent Calendar gifts for the local food pantry. A big thank you to Grayson and Courtney Foreman for organizing this project, with Miss Laurie's help!

### Wednesday, December 29

7pm Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer 1. for All Educators/Students/Families and 2. for Our Health Professionals (**Please make use of the list of health care professionals at the end of this bulletin information, taking a few minutes to lift each person up to God by name. To add names to the list, please contact Pastor Tom with their information.**)

### Thursday, December 30

6-9pm Youth **Group Ugly Christmas Sweater Party** – Please see Olivia's emails for all the details!

### Next Sunday, January 2

Second Sunday of Christmas

9am Adult Bible Study (On Zoom)  
9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person) – Masking and safe distancing are required for everyone present – both adults and young persons – to do our best to protect our (unvaccinated per current guidelines) younger congregational family members!  
9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)  
10:15am Traditional Worship of Lessons & Carols, Led by Jim Watson and Youth Group Readers and Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom) – Masking is required for everyone who is not yet fully vaccinated, as our area continues to remain at the highest level of virus transmission.

### Looking Ahead

The January gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** will be held in-person at the church on Wednesday, January 5, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Mutual Ministry Committee will meet immediately following worship on Sunday, January 9, in hybrid fashion, both in-person and on Zoom.

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2022 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please stop by the table and take along those of family members and neighbors!

**Please join us for upcoming Book Group Discussions!** Coming up next - **Monday, January 10, at 6:30 pm on Zoom.** The topic will be *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd. Pick up a copy of the book on the bench under the bulletin board in the foyer. If those copies are gone, or with any questions, please call or email Ann at 717-362-7895 or [rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

**Attention Musicians!!** In the remaining time until our Senior Choir is once again “up and singing” it would be great to share in the musical gifts of the members of our talented congregational family at least one Sunday each month, if not more often. Persons of any age or level of experience, who might be interested in playing any kind of instrument or singing, alone or with a partner, are asked to please speak with Carol Hubler or Judy Ferree.

If you are not currently comfortable taking part in 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 4th quarter and year end audit will be held Monday, January 10th at 10:30 a.m. at church. All treasurers please have all your records there and remember to also include the year end report for your account. This should be in the proper format and ready to copy into the bulletin of reports. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Pat Herb

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

- **Louise Baumgardner** – Continuing Her Recovery at Home
- **Judy Cheatham** –Rm. #47B, Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Warren Hassinger** – Rm. #103 – Connections Unit, Providence Place of Pottsville, 2200 First Avenue, Pottsville, 17901
- **Marzette Hoffman** – Rm. #805, Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab. Center
- **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)
- **Donna Rabenold** – At Home, Undergoing Weekly Chemotherapy for Breast Cancer
- **Lois Watson** – Continuing Her Recovery at Home

**Our Faith Active in Worship – December 19, 2021**

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,545</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,671
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$1,048
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$20
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$782
<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>Zoom – 32, In Person – 57</b>

**Medical Professionals in Our Prayers in this Time of COVID-19 (updated 8/23/21)**

- **Paulette Warner, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation**
- **Jenna Troutman, RN**
- **Jodi Thompson, CCMA**
- **Gwen Switzer, RTR**
- **Payton Stutzman, Hospital Clinical Assistant**
- **Kristen Spicher, RN**
- **Sara Shaffer, RN**
- **Steven Schlegel, Paramedic**
- **Michelle Scheff\*, MS, CCC/SLP** (Speech Therapist in Seattle, WA)
- **Joanne Rheem\*, Healthcare Administrator**
- **David Rheem\*, Healthcare Administrator**
- **Dr. Todd Peters\*** (Chief Medical Officer in Baltimore, MD)
- **Joshua Peters, PA-C** (Serving in Colorado)
- **Dr. Alayna Peters** (Doctor of Pharmacy in Hagerstown, MD)
- **Courtney Peifer\*, Psych Technician**
- **Sara Paul, Family Practice Center Medical Receptionist**
- **Bobby Paul, BS**
- **Angela Paul, PTA**
- **Cindy Nicholson\*, RN**
- **Whitni Ney, RN**
- **Haley Nestor\*, BSN, RN**
- **Shannon Motter, RN**
- **Courtney Miller, B.S. R.T(R)(CT)**
- **Roni Mace, RN**
- **Heidi Lehman, RT (R)**
- **Shawnita Latsha, RT (RDMS, RVT)**
- **Rose Kell, MS** (Occupational Therapist in California)
- **Nichole Holman\*, RN**
- **Dr. Tonya Henninger & Dr. Sarah Bork\*** (Hospitalists in Seattle, WA)
- **Abigail Francisco\*, RN**
- **Robert Foreman, Paramedic**
- **Courtney Foreman, RN**
- **Glenn Fontaine\*, RN** (Serving in Michigan)
- **Ann Fontaine\*, PA-C** (Serving in Michigan)
- **Olivia Enders, CNA**
- **Dr. Seth Eisenberg\*** (Anesthesiologist in Atlanta, GA)
- **Rachel Denlinger\*, RN** (Serving in Charleston, SC)
- **Gary Daniels, EMT**
- **Dr. Timothy Bruner & Dr. Gabrielle Fregeau\*** (Doctors of Physical Therapy in Ocean County, NJ)
- **Dr. Daniel Bruner & Dr. Richelle Demers\*** (Doctors of Chiropractic)
- **Dr. Jerrel Boyer\*** (Neurosurgeon in Chicago, IL)
- **Dr. Brett Bellis\*** (Doctor of Chiropractic)
- **Chelsea Beard, EFDA**

\*denotes someone who is a part of our extended congregational family