

Sunday Morning Liturgy

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Piano 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" (*verses 1 and 4*)

Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm: 148

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Response after the reading is announced: **GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

Response after the reading is concluded: **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

Hymn #294 "In the Bleak Midwinter" (*all verses*)

Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

Hymn #296 "What Child Is This" (*all verses*)

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

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.**

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" (*verses 1 and 3*)

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Jesus is with us.

C: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Piano Postlude and Silent Prayer

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

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!

Today, Sunday, December 27

9am Faith Formation Time On Zoom (Adult Bible Study, Youth Class, Confirmation Class, and SONday Celebration)

10:15am Worship On Zoom (Those folks who for whatever reason do not otherwise access the Zoom platform are invited to the Sunday School Room, where Roy and Rachel Henry – and eventually the other members of the Video Ministry Team – are making it possible to join worship on Zoom on the large-screen TV. Please remember that 1. maintaining safe spacing and 2. wearing a mask covering both nose and mouth at all times is required for everyone over the age of two, with no exceptions for any reason. Of course, please do not attend this or any other in-person activity if you aren't feeling well for any reason or if you have been exposed any time in the prior 14 days to a person who subsequently develops COVID-19-like symptoms or who tests positive for COVID-19. Since there will not be any other in-person activities in the Sunday School Room or anywhere else prior to 10:15am, those folks coming to the Sunday School Room for their Zoom-ing can arrive as early – or as late – as they wish.)

From this afternoon until the morning of Wednesday, January 6, Pastor Tom is planning his annual 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. (In these times of COVID-19 precautions, please remember that he, like Pastor Tom, would be responding to any emergency needs via the telephone instead of in-person as would normally be the case.) For all non-emergency matters, Pastor Tom will return to the office on the morning of January 6.

Wednesday, December 30

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.**)

Next Sunday, January 3

Second Sunday of Christmas

9am Faith Formation Time On Zoom (Adult Bible Study, Youth Class, and SONday Celebration)

10:15am Liturgy of Lessons & Carols On Zoom (**Thank you to Jim Watson and our readers from Youth Group who will lead this worship in Pastor Tom's absence!** Those folks who for whatever reason do not otherwise access the Zoom platform are invited to the Sunday School Room, where Roy and Rachel Henry – and eventually the other members of the Video Ministry Team – are making it possible to join worship on Zoom on the large-screen TV. Please remember that 1. maintaining safe spacing and 2. wearing a mask covering both nose and mouth at all times is required for everyone over the age of two, with no exceptions for any reason. Of course, please do not attend this or any other in-person activity if you aren't feeling well for any reason or if you have been exposed any time in the prior 14 days to a person who subsequently develops COVID-19-like symptoms or who tests positive for COVID-19. Since there will not be any other in-person activities in the Sunday School Room or anywhere else prior to 10:15am, those folks coming to the Sunday School Room for their Zoom-ing can arrive as early – or as late – as they wish.)

Looking Ahead

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

Mutual Ministry Committee will meet immediately after the conclusion of worship on Sunday, January 10 – by simply staying on Zoom instead of signing off.

Congregational Council will also meet on Zoom on January 10, at 4:00 P.M.

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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.

Our winter session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on **Wednesday, January 13** and will continue until Ash Wednesday. We will meet each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M., once again on the Zoom platform. Our topic will be **The Letter of James**. With its powerful message about the importance of really living our faith in concrete ways in our hurting world, James has a lot to say to us in these times. (And we will talk about why Martin Luther, for his part, despised James and wished it had never been included in the Bible!) No previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and (as you are comfortable doing so) discuss God's Word together! So that the correct number of study books can be ordered for our study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) no later than this morning.

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.

Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **Cynthia Carr** – Quarantined at Home with COVID Infection
- **Warren Hassinger** – Rm. #114 – Connections Unit, Providence Place of Pottsville, 220 First Avenue, Pottsville, 17901
- **Lorraine Henninger** – At Home On Hospice Care
- **Marzette Hoffman** – Rm. #803, Premier at Susquehanna, Millersburg, 17061
- **Cora Mace** – Rm. #3647, Roosevelt 3, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022
- **Joyce Matter** – Rm. #328, Polk Personal Care, 301 North St., Millersburg
- **Ray Matter** – Rm. #202, The Gardens at Blue Ridge, 3625 N. Progress Avenue, Harrisburg, 17110
- **Craig & Sharon Peters** – Quarantined at Home with COVID Infection

Medical Professionals in our Prayers in this time of COVID-19:

- **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**
- **Alayna Peters, Doctor of Pharmacy** (Practicing in Hagerstown, MD)
- **Courtney Peifer*, Psych Technician**
- **Sara Paul, Family Practice Center Medical Receptionist**
- **Bobby Paul, BS**
- **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)**
- **Alexis Lehman*, EMT** (Professional Firefighter/Responder in Metro Washington, DC Area)
- **Shawnita Latsha, RT (RDMS, RVT)**
- **Nichole Holman*, RN**
- **Dr. Tonya Henninger & Dr. Sarah Bork*** (Hospitalists in Seattle, WA)
- **Robert Foreman, Paramedic**
- **Courtney Foreman, RN**
- **Glenn Fontaine*, RN** (Serving in Michigan)
- **Ann Fontaine*, PA-C** (Serving in Michigan)
- **Olivia Enders, CAN**
- **Dr. Seth Eisenberg*** (Anesthesiologist in Atlanta, GA)
- **Rachel Denlinger*, RN** (Serving in Charleston, SC)
- **Terri Daniels, BS, RRT**
- **Gary Daniels, EMT**
- **Timothy Bruner & Gabrielle Fregeau*, Doctors of Physical Therapy** (Practicing in Ocean County, NJ)
- **Daniel Bruner & Richelle Demers*, Doctors of Chiropractic**
- **Dr. Jerrel Boyer*** (Neurosurgeon in Chicago, IL)
- **Brett Bellis*, Doctor of Chiropractic**

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

Updated 12-22-20