

## Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:  
215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023  
For US Mail Deliveries:  
PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270  
717-362-9519

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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.	Pastor
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Dana Klouser	Holy Communion Assistant
Pat Herb	Altar Guild Preparation
Judy Ferree	Organist
Caroline and Stella DeSoto	Acolytes
Matt Williard	Lector
Harold and Pat Herb	Greeter
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.

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book in the foyer. As we celebrate our Lord's Supper, we welcome to our table all baptized Christians who have received the sacrament in their home congregations. All persons who do not yet commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please worship with us again and join in other congregational family activities!

## Sunday Morning Liturgy – ELW Setting 10

### God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

\*Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our life, our mercy, our might.

P: As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

*(brief silence follows)*

P: Great and Holy One,

C: **IN THIS TIME OF WANING DAYLIGHT, WE CONFESS THE SHADOWS OF SIN IN OUR LIVES. WE BUILD OURSELVES UP AT THE EXPENSE OF**

**OTHERS. WE RELY ON OUR OWN EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR LIVES SECURE. YET YOU, O LORD, ARE THE POTTER, AND WE ARE THE CLAY. COME TO RESTORE US IN YOUR IMAGE, REMAKE US INTO YOUR PEOPLE, AND REBULD WHAT SIN HAS BROKEN, THAT WE AND THE WHOLE CREATION MAY REJOICE. AMEN.**

P: Fear not, people of God: the Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In Jesus Christ, God comes to set us free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God.

C: **AMEN.**

\*Opening Hymn #244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

\*Apostolic Greeting

\*Kyrie (sung in unison)

\*Hymn of Praise: "Come, let us join..." (sung in unison)

\*Prayer of the Day

Advent Wreath Litany

Pg. 203

Pg. 203

Pg. 204

See Insert

### We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms: 72:1-7, 18-19

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

\*Gospel Acclamation (sung in unison):

**ALLELUIA! LORD AND SAVIOR: OPEN NOW YOUR SAVING WORD. LET IT BURN LIKE FIRE WITHIN US; SPEAK UNTIL OUR HEARTS ARE STIRRED. ALLELUIA! LORD WE SING FOR THE GOOD NEWS THAT YOU BRING. (Pg 205)**

\*Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

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

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

Young Persons Go with Miss Laurie for Celebration Time

Sermon

### We Respond to All That God Gives Us

\*Nicene Creed

\*Prayers of the Church

Offering of Our Gifts and Musical Anthem

\*Offertory Hymn (#182) (sung):

**LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL LORD, AND FILL TO THE BRIM OUR CUP OF BLESSING. GATHER A HARVEST FROM THE SEEDS THAT WERE SOWN, THAT WE MAY BE FED WITH THE BREAD OF LIFE. GATHER THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF ALL; UNITE THEM WITH THE PRAYERS WE OFFER NOW. GRACE OUR TABLE WITH YOUR PRESENCE AND GIVE US A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME.**

\*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray... our Savior and Lord.

All: **AMEN.**

### We Share in God's Supper

\*Great Thanksgiving (spoken):

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

P: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\*We Respond in Praise (sung in unison):

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAV'N AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. (Pg. 207)**

\*Eucharistic Prayer:

P: ...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All Sing: **CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN. (Pg. 207)**

P: ...be all honor and glory in your Holy Church, now and forever.

All Sing: **AMEN, AMEN, AMEN. (Pg. 207)**

\*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right Pg. 208

We Partake of Our Lord's Supper (As we share in the sacrament, please join in singing the praise song "O Lamb of God" on Pg. 208)

\*Post Communion Blessing:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

All: **AMEN**

### **God Sends Us to Share the Good News**

\*Post Communion Hymn (#204) (sung):

**THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE; TELL EVERYONE WHAT GOD HAS DONE. LET ALL WHO SEEK THE LORD REJOICE AND BEAR CHRIST'S HOLY NAME. SEND US WITH YOUR PROMISES AND LEAD YOUR PEOPLE FORTH IN JOY WITH SHOUTS OF THANKSGIVING. ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

\*Post Communion Prayer:

P: Let us pray... Christ our Lord.

All: **AMEN**

\*Blessing and Dismissal:

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

All: **AMEN**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

\*Closing Hymn #264 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

\*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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\* Please stand, if able to do so.

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

- **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** – Geisinger/St. Luke's Hospital, Rm. #335 (100 Paramount Blvd., Orwigsburg, 17961)
- **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
- **Roni Mace** – Undergoing Intensive Antibiotic Therapy at Home
- **Joyce Matter** – Rm. #128, Commonwealth Senior Living at Harrisburg, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111 (717.909.0417)

**Our Faith Active in Worship – November 27, 2022**

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,606</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,139
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$280
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$120
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$575
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom – 17, In Person – 72</b>

**“St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of November 27, 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	\$76,915
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$55,250

**Total Pledges & Gifts Received in Excess of Goal – (Memorials Interest Saved for the Future) + \$165**

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

**Poinsettia Order Form for 2022**

**Poinsettias will be on display for worship Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve Services and Christmas Day. Thank you for your support!!!**

Color: 15 Red & 15 White Price per plant: \$8.25

Total Quantity Wanted: \_\_\_\_\_

Color PREFERRED: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount of Order: \_\_\_\_\_

Please print desired memorial as you want it printed in the bulletin:

Presented by: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For the Many Blessings of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this order form with payment to the Co-Chairs of the Flower Fund Committee: Sheila Barder & Dana Klouser. **Please order by December 11, 2022**

**Today, Sunday, December 4**

**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.**

9am	Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9am	Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)
9am	Confirmation Class (In-Person)
9am	SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am	Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)
2pm	Women of the ELCA of St. John Monthly Meeting

**Monday, December 5**

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:30pm	Please join us for upcoming Book Group gatherings! We will meet on Zoom. <b>December 5 -- The Parables of Peanuts</b> by Robert L Short Call or email Ann 717.362.7895 <a href="mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com">rahbruner@gmail.com</a> if you need a book or have any questions. Hope to see you there!
7pm	Church Dartball League Match – Valleys EC Church at St. John <b>(Dartball is scored like baseball except that, instead of pitching and hitting a ball, darts are thrown at a baseball field-shaped chart. If you are 10 or older and are interested in a night of very good fellowship, fun, and food, please come and join our team. For the youngest players, league rules require the presence of a parent or guardian. Just speak to one of our coaches, Larry Gehring or Mike Henninger, or to Pastor Tom if you have any questions or would like to be part of the team.)</b>

**Tuesday, December 6**

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
9:30am	Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Gathering
7:30pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, December 7**

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:30-8pm	December Gathering of <b>Celebration Club with Miss Laurie</b> at the Church

**Thursday, December 8**

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
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**Friday, December 9**

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
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**Saturday, December 10**

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

## Next Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday of Advent

- 9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)  
9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)  
9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)  
9am SONday Celebration (In-Person)  
10:15am Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)  
11:15am Part One of our Annual Congregational Meeting (In-Person and On Zoom.)  
***(We will take action on the election of four members to our Congregational Council and proposed budgets for 2023. A copy of the main 2023 budgets is included in the December/January "St. John's Epistle", along with the names of the four nominees for Congregational Council. All voting members – those confirmed members who have communed and contributed during 2021 or 2022 – are especially encouraged to attend this brief, but very important, meeting!)***  
11:40am Congregational Council Meeting (Upstairs immediately following Congregational Meeting)  
4pm Congregational Family Advent/Christmas Gathering (Our time together will once again have a much more interactive and intergenerational feel as all ages come together for **One Starry Night**. After numerous activities inside from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M., including a light supper, during which folks may come and stay when and for as much time as they are able, we will head outside to our pavilion for a Live Nativity presentation of the story of Jesus' Birth, following which we will finish up inside with warm refreshments. Please contact Miss Laurie with any questions!)

## Looking Ahead

On Sunday, December 18, from 6:00 to 9:00pm, Ty and Kim Troutman will be hosting an Advent/Christmas Open House at their home for all members of their St. John Congregational Family who can stop by at any point during those hours, with the goal of having a chance to get better acquainted with more folks. As Kim herself said, ***"They can stay for five minutes or for hours; it doesn't matter. This will give us a chance to get to know them all better."*** While many of us may already know their home as "the Christmas house in Loyaltown" their address (also in the current directory) is 100 Deitrich Road, Lykens.

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Our winter session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on Wednesday, January 11 and run for six weeks, meeting each week from 6:30 to 8:00pm and wrapping up in time for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Pending COVID and other illness developments, we will plan to meet in-person at the church, with the option for participants who would prefer to do so to "Zoom in" (and the possibility of going to Zoom-only if necessary). The title of our study this winter will be ***Dialogues On: Race***, during which we will take time, as Brothers and Sisters in Jesus, to honestly and respectfully reflect on and talk about what our Bible, our Church traditions, and our history tell us about this potentially difficult and divisive topic. Using a study book and a documentary-style DVD, we will delve into the scholarship, the stories, and the experiences of people of many different racial backgrounds as we engage in this six-week process. As always with these studies, no previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and (if and when 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) **by the end of the day on Tuesday, December 20.**

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). ***Please note that a separate sign-up calendar will soon be posted for 2023 altar flowers.***

**Attention Musicians!!** Pastor Tom would like to again schedule special extended musical preludes prior to our 4:00 and 8:00 P.M. Christmas Eve worship, featuring the musical gifts of our whole congregational family. Persons of any age or level of experience, who might be interested in playing any kind of instrument or singing, alone or in a group, are asked to please speak with Pastor Tom as soon as possible.

Please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you turn in **at least one communion record card** this year. Also, if you are a contributing member of the congregation, please be sure that you **use your offering envelopes at least once** this year, so that you are on record as having made a contribution. Please help to make sure that our parish records are as accurate as possible!

To make sure that our blessed prayer shawls get to as many folks in need of God's healing touch as possible, it is now possible for anyone from the St. John congregational family to deliver a prayer shawl to a person who is known to them to be hurting in body, mind, and/or spirit, and who would be blessed by receiving one of our shawls. To obtain a shawl, please first contact Pastor Tom, who will help you with the process. ***(Please bear in mind that it is the intention of the prayer shawl ministry that each person receive just one shawl "for life", to be used in whatever time(s) of brokenness they may face.)***

Please see the bright blue container at the computer desk in the Sunday School Room to recycle your AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt and Button Cell batteries in Alkaline, NiMH, NiCAD, Zinc Air and Non-Lithium types, 9 volts and below. All batteries must be dry cell only, and they cannot be leaking or have broken cases. Through the efforts of Larry Gessner, batteries that are in especially good condition are being recharged and donated to Bethesda Mission, while all others are recycled.

The Youth Group continues to collect aluminum – aluminum only, please – in the lower level of the barn, facing toward Elizabethville. ***Please be sure to place your aluminum inside the sliding door and not outside in the pull-in space, where the animals tend to create a mess with donations.*** Thank you for your help with this major fundraiser for our youth and help for our environment!