

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 | pt@stjohnhillchurch.org | 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
Ty Troutman	Senior Choir Director
Pat Herb	Altar Guild Preparation
Joshua Paul	Holy Communion Assistant and Lead Usher
Mike and Carol Hubler	Greeters
Elsie and Emily Rabenold	Acolytes
Barry Williard	Lector
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of February, the **Celebrate Inserts** are sponsored by Chris and Dana Klouser to the Glory of God in honor of Desiree (2/20) and Collin's (3/8) birthdates. The support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** are sponsored by Lynn and Helen Henninger in celebration of Ayden's and Sadie's February. The **Tree 4 Hope** are sponsored by Vincent and Sandra Lamenza in loving memory of her sister, Debra Lenker.

This week's **Altar Flowers** are presented to the Glory of God in loving memory of husband, Jeff Ressler by LuAnn Ressler.

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

Pg. 94-96

*Opening Hymn #838 "Beautiful Savior"

*Apostolic Greeting

Pg. 203

*Kyrie (sung in unison)

Pg. 203

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

Pg. 204

*Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: II Kings 2:1-12

Psalm: 50:1-6

Second Reading: II Corinthians 4:3-6

*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: Mark 9:2-9

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

Pg. 104

*Prayers of the Church

Offering of Our Gifts and Choir Anthem

*Offertory Hymn (#182) (sung as gifts are brought forward):

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"):

O LAMB OF GOD, YOU BEAR THE SIN OF ALL THE WORLD AWAY; YOU SUFFERED DEATH OUR LIVES TO SAVE: HAVE MERCY NOW, WE PRAY. O LAMB OF GOD, YOU BEAR THE SIN OF ALL THE WORLD AWAY; YOU SET US FREE FROM GUILT AND GRAVE: HAVE MERCY NOW, WE PRAY. O LAMB OF GOD, YOU BEAR THE SIN OF ALL THE WORLD AWAY; ETERNAL PEACE WITH GOD YOU MADE: GIVE US YOUR PEACE, WE PRAY. (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 #671 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

* * * * *

* 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, Complete Care at Annapolis, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **Timothy Enders** – Rm. #120, The Gardens at York Terrace, 2401 W. Market St., Pottsville, 17901
- **Cora Mace** – Rm. #3647, Roosevelt 3, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022
- **Joyce Matter** – Rm. #128, Viva Senior Living at Harrisburg, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111 (717.909.0417)
- **Steven Schlegel** – Home with Continuing Follow-up

Our Faith Active in Worship – February 4, 2024

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$TBD
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,328
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$125
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$50
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$285
Total Attendance:	Zoom – 28, In Person – 77

Today, February 11

- 9am Church Camping/Outdoor Ministry Presentation **for all ages** Downstairs in the “Sunday School” Room
- 10:15am **Jersey Day** Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 11:15am “Souper Bowl” Sunday Offering (This year to benefit the work of **Paws for a Cause** in Tower City, Youth Group members will meet us at the door with soup bowls in hand to receive our votes for which team will win the Super Bowl later today, with a \$1 donation as the suggested “vote”. In addition, we will all have the option to cast a vote for **“I’m only excited for the food”, “I’m only watching for the Ads and the Halftime Show”,** and (new this year) **“I’m only watching hoping to catch a glimpse of Taylor Swift”**. No matter what the vote, let’s have a great response on behalf of those in need in our area!)

From this afternoon until later tomorrow night, Pastor Tom and Ann are planning a quick time away. In Pastor Tom’s absence, Pastor Patrick Wirick, who serves the Klingerstown Parish, will be on call for any emergency needs for pastoral care, particularly in the event of a death or a critical illness. Should you need to get in touch with Pastor Pat, 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 Pat. Because the pastors in our conference are still “stretched thin” with the continued inability of the Rife/Killinger Parish to locate an interim pastor, if an emergency is other than a death or critical illness, please clarify when you contact Fay whether you would like Pastor Pat to be notified or if you are calling “only” to place your need on the telephone prayer chain. Or, Pastor Pat can be reached directly by calling 717.439.9037.

Monday, February 12

Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Planned Office Hours

- 9am-11am “Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
- 7pm Church Dartball League Match – Lykens United Methodist at St. John

Tuesday, February 13

Shrove Tuesday

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Deadline to submit items for inclusion in the February 25 bulletin – one week earlier than typically.

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 7pm Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Optional Imposition of Ashes (In-Person and On Zoom; those who are worshipping in-person and who desire to receive the mark of a cross, traced in ashes on their forehead, will come forward at the appropriate time in the worship, much as we come forward to receive Holy Communion.)

Thursday, February 15

Deadline to Submit Items for Inclusion in March “St. John’s Epistle”

- 10am Visitation Time with Fred Weaver Family in the “Sunday School” Room
- 11am Fred Weaver Funeral Worship (concluding with interment in cemetery and followed by a fellowship meal)

Friday, February 16

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Saturday, February 17

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, February 18

First Sunday in Lent

- 9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9am Youth Group Faith Formation with Matt & Olivia (In-Person)
- 9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
- 9am SONday Celebration (In-Person)
- 10:15am Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 6pm Monthly Congregational Council Meeting

Looking Ahead

Our annual **Wednesdays in Lent** series will begin on Wednesday, February 21, with a meal (6:15 P.M.) and worship (7:00 P.M.) at St. Peter “Hoffman’s” United Church of Christ, Crossroads.

On Sunday, February 25, our gifted members of Youth Group, with main speaker **Gabe Gehring**, will be taking responsibility for the leadership of all parts of our worship at 10:15 A.M!

Also on February 25, a Special Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the close of worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on a proposal **(subject to Congregational Council approval on February 18)** to improve our pavilion kitchen, especially for our Annual Strawberry Festival. Specifically, the plan would be to 1. somewhat expand and also improve the layout of the kitchen work area and 2. create much improved access to take-out serving, including a concrete ramp linking the windows and the pavement, rather than having people navigate over the stones on the incline. With Ty Troutman taking the lead as our “general contractor” and with other “in-house” labor, our materials-only cost is estimated to be somewhere in the area of \$15,000. To fund that cost, Finance Committee is proposing to take \$10,000 from the Strawberry Festival Fund (as has been done several times over the years when it is a matter of re-investing in the Festival) which would be matched by another \$5,000 in already-designated giving, with up to another \$5,000 also likely available in additional giving if we should end up exceeding the \$15,000. ***All voting members – those confirmed members who have communed and contributed during 2022 or 2023 – are especially encouraged to attend this brief, but very important, meeting!***

Michael Henninger and Pamela Kosier have announced their intention to wed on Sunday afternoon, February 25 (at Salem United Church of Christ in Elizabethtown with Pastor Tom and Pastor Ray Holland sharing the worship) and ask our prayers!

* * * * *

For the month of March, sponsors are needed for: 1. our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month); 2. our support of the ministry of **Tree 4 Hope** (\$50/month) – and 3. our providing of one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month). Additionally, sponsors are still needed for our altar flowers for Easter Day, March 31 - \$35/week. ***More time-critically, we are still looking for sponsors for our altar flowers for Sunday, February 18.*** To sponsor any of these ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please either sign up in person in the foyer or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can take care of signing you up.

Amy Gehring continues to collect donations to Bethesda Mobile Mission. Gently used, unstained, clean blankets and casual clothing for MEN & WOMEN are always a need since the homeless do not typically have the ability to launder items. Sleeping bags, tarps, mats, backpacks/large totes or bags are also useful. New underwear, socks, batteries (all sizes), toilet paper, candles, and matches are highly valued. Those served by the Bethesda Mobile Mission also need TRAVEL SIZE toiletries—don’t leave those small bottles behind when you are traveling. Pass them along to Amy. Please contact Amy at church with any questions or call her at 1-717-503-7623. Donations can be placed in the designated hampers in the foyer.

Please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you turn in **one communion record card** this year – **only one is needed**. 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!

Today, February 11

- 9am Church Camping/Outdoor Ministry Presentation **for all ages** Downstairs in the “Sunday School” Room
- 10:15am **Jersey Day** Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 11:15am “Souper Bowl” Sunday Offering (This year to benefit the work of **Paws for a Cause** in Tower City, Youth Group members will meet us at the door with soup bowls in hand to receive our votes for which team will win the Super Bowl later today, with a \$1 donation as the suggested “vote”. In addition, we will all have the option to cast a vote for **“I’m only excited for the food”, “I’m only watching for the Ads and the Halftime Show”,** and (new this year) **“I’m only watching hoping to catch a glimpse of Taylor Swift”**. No matter what the vote, let’s have a great response on behalf of those in need in our area!)

From this afternoon until later tomorrow night, Pastor Tom and Ann are planning a quick time away. In Pastor Tom’s absence, Pastor Patrick Wirick, who serves the Klingerstown Parish, will be on call for any emergency needs for pastoral care, particularly in the event of a death or a critical illness. Should you need to get in touch with Pastor Pat, 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 Pat. Because the pastors in our conference are still “stretched thin” with the continued inability of the Rife/Killinger Parish to locate an interim pastor, if an emergency is other than a death or critical illness, please clarify when you contact Fay whether you would like Pastor Pat to be notified or if you are calling “only” to place your need on the telephone prayer chain. Or, Pastor Pat can be reached directly by calling 717.439.9037.

Monday, February 12

Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Planned Office Hours

- 9am-11am “Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
- 7pm Church Dartball League Match – Lykens United Methodist at St. John

Tuesday, February 13

Shrove Tuesday

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Deadline to submit items for inclusion in the February 25 bulletin – one week earlier than typically.

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 7pm Liturgy of Holy Communion, with Optional Imposition of Ashes (In-Person and On Zoom; those who are worshiping in-person and who desire to receive the mark of a cross, traced in ashes on their forehead, will come forward at the appropriate time in the worship, much as we come forward to receive Holy Communion.)

Thursday, February 15

Deadline to Submit Items for Inclusion in March “St. John’s Epistle”

- 10am Visitation Time with Fred Weaver Family in the “Sunday School” Room
- 11am Fred Weaver Funeral Worship (concluding with interment in cemetery and followed by a fellowship meal)

Friday, February 16

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Saturday, February 17

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, February 18

First Sunday in Lent

- 9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9am Youth Group Faith Formation with Matt & Olivia (In-Person)
- 9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
- 9am SONday Celebration (In-Person)
- 10:15am Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 6pm Monthly Congregational Council Meeting

Looking Ahead

Our annual **Wednesdays in Lent** series will begin on Wednesday, February 21, with a meal (6:15 P.M.) and worship (7:00 P.M.) at St. Peter “Hoffman’s” United Church of Christ, Crossroads.

On Sunday, February 25, our gifted members of Youth Group, with main speaker **Gabe Gehring**, will be taking responsibility for the leadership of all parts of our worship at 10:15 A.M!

Also on February 25, a Special Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following the close of worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on a proposal **(subject to Congregational Council approval on February 18)** to improve our pavilion kitchen, especially for our Annual Strawberry Festival. Specifically, the plan would be to 1. somewhat expand and also improve the layout of the kitchen work area and 2. create much improved access to take-out serving, including a concrete ramp linking the windows and the pavement, rather than having people navigate over the stones on the incline. With Ty Troutman taking the lead as our “general contractor” and with other “in-house” labor, our materials-only cost is estimated to be somewhere in the area of \$15,000. To fund that cost, Finance Committee is proposing to take \$10,000 from the Strawberry Festival Fund (as has been done several times over the years when it is a matter of re-investing in the Festival) which would be matched by another \$5,000 in already-designated giving, with up to another \$5,000 also likely available in additional giving if we should end up exceeding the \$15,000. ***All voting members – those confirmed members who have communed and contributed during 2022 or 2023 – are especially encouraged to attend this brief, but very important, meeting!***

Michael Henninger and Pamela Kosier have announced their intention to wed on Sunday afternoon, February 25 (at Salem United Church of Christ in Elizabethtown with Pastor Tom and Pastor Ray Holland sharing the worship) and ask our prayers!

* * * * *

For the month of March, sponsors are needed for: 1. our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month); 2. our support of the ministry of **Tree 4 Hope** (\$50/month) – and 3. our providing of one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month). Additionally, sponsors are still needed for our altar flowers for Easter Day, March 31 - \$35/week. ***More time-critically, we are still looking for sponsors for our altar flowers for Sunday, February 18.*** To sponsor any of these ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please either sign up in person in the foyer or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can take care of signing you up.

Amy Gehring continues to collect donations to Bethesda Mobile Mission. Gently used, unstained, clean blankets and casual clothing for MEN & WOMEN are always a need since the homeless do not typically have the ability to launder items. Sleeping bags, tarps, mats, backpacks/large totes or bags are also useful. New underwear, socks, batteries (all sizes), toilet paper, candles, and matches are highly valued. Those served by the Bethesda Mobile Mission also need TRAVEL SIZE toiletries—don’t leave those small bottles behind when you are traveling. Pass them along to Amy. Please contact Amy at church with any questions or call her at 1-717-503-7623. Donations can be placed in the designated hampers in the foyer.

Please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you turn in **one communion record card** this year – **only one is needed**. 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!