

## Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

**911 Emergency/GPS Location:**  
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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
Judy Ferree	Organist
Grayson Foreman and Derrick Henry	Acolytes

For the month of February, our **Celebrate** lectionary bulletin inserts are sponsored by Delmar and Virginia Enders to the Glory of God for our many blessings. Our support of **Tree 4 Hope** is sponsored with love and thankfulness to God for our grandchildren, Chanse and Ayden, by Ty and Kim Troutman. Our support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** is sponsored by Lynn and Helen Henninger in celebration of our grandchildren, Ayden and Sadie's February birthdays.

This week's **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Tamara Spicher in honor of Kristen and Callie's Birthdays and Christ's love to all.

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!

## 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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.  
*(brief silence follows)*

P: Holy and faithful God,

C: **WE SO OFTEN CHOOSE OUR OWN WAY INSTEAD OF YOURS. WE THINK WE CAN EVADE YOUR COMMANDMENTS. WE HAVE SPOKEN IN WAYS**

**THAT KILL, STRAYED WITH OUR HEARTS, BETRAYED FRIENDS, AND HATED ENEMIES. WE HAVE BROKEN OUR PROMISES. SEARCH US DEEPLY AND CREATE US ANEW. LIFT THE HEAVY BURDEN OF OUR SIN AND FREE US TO FOLLOW YOUR WAY OF LIFE. AMEN.**

P: "Call upon me," says the Lord, "and I will answer." Our God has come among us to loose every bond and set us free from all that weighs us down. Receive the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior..

C: **AMEN.**

\*Opening Hymn #836 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

\*Greeting:

P: From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

\*Prayer of the Day

Special Musical Anthem

Youth Group Video Presentation

### We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms: 119:1-8

Second Reading: I Corinthians 3:1-9

\*Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

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

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

Puppet Sharing Time with Miss Laurie

Sermon

### We Respond to All That God Gives Us

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 Anthem by Senior Choir

\*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 God of glory dwell in us richly, name us beloved, and shine brightly on our path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon us and remain with us always.

C: **AMEN**

\*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Christ is our light.

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

\*Closing Hymn #574 "Here I Am, Lord"

\*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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\* Please stand, if able to do so.

## Our Faith Active in Worship – February 5, 2023

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,796</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$12,011
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$3,162
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$35
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$1,357
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom – 22, In Person – 68</b>

**Please note that above totals include some yearly one-time lumpsum gifts.**

## “St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of February 5, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$83,330
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$118,785
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$14,680

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

- **Cindy Carr** – At Home, With Two Important Medical Appointments This Coming Week
- **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)

## Today, Sunday, February 12

9am	Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9am	Youth Group Members Meet to Prepare for Leading Worship
9am	SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am	“Jersey Day” Worship led by Members of Youth Group (In-Person and On Zoom)

**Thank you to the following youth members of our congregation for their leadership of our worship this morning: Abigail Adams, Brayden Bender, Abigail Bixler, Tanner Bixler, Caroline DeSoto, Stella DeSoto, Brady Dresel, Gabe Gehring, R.J. Henry, Elsie Rabenold, Briana Radel, Mary Riland, Sarah Riland, Aidan Roadcap, Cole Roadcap, Hoyt Schlegel, and Madeline Williard. We are certainly blessed with enthusiastic and gifted youth. Please be sure to express your appreciation for their presence in the life of our congregational family and for their leadership today!**

11:15am	“Souper Bowl” Collection ( <b>We will observe “Souper Bowl” Sunday with a special offering to benefit the work of the Northern Dauphin Human Services Center. 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 that day (or to vote for the halftime show, or to vote “I couldn’t care less, but I want to help people in need”), with a \$1 donation as the suggested “vote”. Let’s have a great response on behalf of those in need in our area, and let’s see if we’re right in predicting the winner!</b> )
2pm	Monthly Gathering of the Women of the ELCA of St. John

## Monday, February 13

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
9am	“Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
7pm	Church Dartball League Match – Messiah Lutheran at St. John

## Tuesday, February 14

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

## Wednesday, February 15

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

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:30-8pm	Midweek Bible Study (Zoom Only)

## Thursday, February 16

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
2pm	Pastor Tom Leads Worship at Polk Assisted Living, Millersburg

## Friday, February 17

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
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## Saturday, February 18

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

**Next Sunday, February 19**

Transfiguration of Our Lord

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)

4pm Monthly Congregational Council Meeting

**Looking Ahead**

We will observe **Ash Wednesday**, the traditional beginning of the Season of Lent, on February 22 at 7:00 P.M. with a Liturgy of Holy Communion, including the optional imposition of ashes. Those desiring 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.

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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.

Copies of the 2022 Annual Congregational Report (along with remaining 2023 offering envelopes) are available in the foyer, for those who either aren't able to access the pdf copy online or who would prefer to have a hard copy as well.

**THANK YOU** to the following persons who directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John during 2022: Sheila Barder, Carl & Louise Baumgardner, Fay Bixler, Barb Bullock, Larry Gessner, Carol Hassinger, and Harold & Pat Herb. A total of \$1,216 was received and passed on to the support of such ministries as our Children and Youth ministry, the Women of the ELCA of St. John, Lutheran Disaster Relief, our "Restoration 250" project, and our ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you! ***(All Thrivent members have until March 31 to designate 2022 Choice Dollars. A phone call to Thrivent – or logging in to the Thrivent website – is all that it takes to find out about and direct Thrivent Choice Dollars.)***

For the month of March, sponsors are still needed (signup sheet temporarily on the table outside of Pastor Tom's office) for our monthly ministry support for our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month) and for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month). To sponsor either of these ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please either sign up in person or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can take care of signing you up.

**FEBRUARY is St. John's Pack & Play/Pack & Pray for Lifeline Pregnancy Care Center Month:**

Please Pack the crib in the foyer with new and gently used baby and children's items for the Lifeline Pregnancy Care Center in Millersburg. All items are appreciated; however, of greatest need right now are: baby food, new sippy cups, Similac Advance formula, children's toothbrushes and toothpaste, baby gates, baby monitors, diapers Newborn and Size 1, childproofing/safety kits, pjs 12M – 5T, Winter Clothing 12-24M, New girls underwear 3T – 6, and new socks for children and babies. Please speak with contact person Dana Klouser for further information.

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.)***