

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Berrysburg, PA
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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.
Judy Ferree
Barry Williard
Roy Henry

Pastor
Keyboardist
Lector
Council President

Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021

7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Liturgy

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Reflection

We Sign in Keeping Silence Please

Psalm: 51:1-17

Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Second Reading: II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

Invitation to Lent:

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession of Sin:

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

P: Most holy and merciful God,

C: **WE CONFESS TO YOU AND TO ONE ANOTHER, AND BEFORE THE WHOLE COMPANY OF HEAVEN, THAT WE HAVE SINNED BY OUR FAULT, BY OUR OWN FAULT, BY OUR OWN MOST GREIVIOUS FAULT, IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED, BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND BY WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE.**

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: **HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD.**

P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: **HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C: **HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C: **HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C: **HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C: **HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD**

P: Our false judgements, our uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors, and our prejudice and content toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C: **HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

C: **HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD**

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: **HEAR US, O GOD, FOR YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.**

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: **THAT WE MAY SHOW FORTH YOUR GLORY IN THE WORLD.**

P: By the Cross and Passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: **BRING US WITH ALL YOUR SAINTS TO THE JOY OF HIS RESSURECTION.**

P: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: **AMEN**

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

C: **AMEN**

Dismissal:

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Closing Hymn #779 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" (entire song)

We Sign Off in Silence Please

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Our next "Drive Through" Holy Communion with Pastor Tom and Miss Laurie is planned for 11:30 A.M. on Sunday, February 21.

Thanking and Supporting Our Health Care Professionals!

On January 11, Book Discussion Group began a project of gathering items to show appreciation for the nurses (including our own **Shannon Motter**) and health care workers doing the difficult and important work of caring for patients on the COVID floor. We pulled together 3 initial baskets of personal and snack items, and Shannon took them in late that week for both the daytime and nighttime shifts. We would like to restock those baskets and expand our ministry project by gathering items and a small gift to support others on our healthcare worker list (and beyond, if you know of others) who are working hard to keep everyone safe and healthy. Monetary donations (checks payable to "St John Lutheran Church" noting on the memo line "Health Care Workers Ministry" please) will be placed in the Strawberry Festival Fund and used to purchase gift cards for everyone on our prayer list as well as additional Equal Exchange coffees, teas and chocolate bars for the baskets. We will also gather the items below. If you would like to donate them, please place them in the box in the church narthex/entry:

- travel size lotions
- travel size hand sanitizers
- hot cocoa packets
- creamers
- honey sticks
- small, individual packs of nuts

If you know of others who would benefit from this project, please talk with Pastor Tom or with me. We hope to continue to show our support and appreciation beyond those already mentioned and will consider individuals or groups in the order their names are received. Thank you for the gratitude and love you share every day! **-Ann Bruner**

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.