

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

Carol Hubler

Organist

Ty Troutman

Senior Choir Director

Matthew Riland

Lead Usher

Tim and Lori Motter

Greeters

Makayla Crabb and Isaac Schaffner

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 & Sadie's February Birthdays. The ***Tree 4 Hope*** are sponsored by Vincent and Sandra Lamenza in loving memory of her sister, Debra Lenker.

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 brings us safely through the sea, who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

(brief silence follows)

P: Merciful Father,

C: **WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST HEAVEN AND BEFORE YOU. WE DO NOT FULLY LIVE AS YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS. WE USE YOUR GIFTS TO OUR OWN ENDS. FORGIVE US AND RESTORE US, THAT WE MAY RESIST ALL THAT DRAWS US AWAY FROM YOU, AND BE AT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER. AMEN.**

P: We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes us in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of Jesus Christ, forgiving us all our sins and making of us a New Creation.

C: **AMEN.**

*Opening Hymn #323 "God Loved the World"

*Greeting:

P: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

*Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Psalm: 25:1-10

Second I Peter 3:18-22

*Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

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

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

Offering of Our Gifts and Choir Anthem

*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: God our Father bless us and shield us. Christ our Brother shelter us and carry us. God the Holy Spirit guide our journey, both now and forever.

C: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

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

*Closing Hymn #504 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

*Choral Dismissal Song #622 "Neither Death nor Life"

*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, 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 11, 2024

Current – Approx. Budget Goal

Current – Offerings Received	\$3,122
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$360
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$65
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$215
Total Attendance:	Zoom – 16, In Person – 82

Today, February 18

- 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

Monday, February 19

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 9-11am "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
- 7pm Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Valleys EC Church, Halifax

Tuesday, February 20

No Scheduled Office Hours for Pastor Tom

- 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 21

Pastor Tom's Office Hours To Be Determined

- 6:15pm Community Lenten Supper and Worship (7:00) at St. Peter "Hoffmans" United Church of Christ, Crossroads – Pastor Ken Campbell Speaking

Thursday, February 22

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, February 23

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Saturday, February 24

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, February 25

Second Sunday in Lent

- 9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9am Youth Group Members Meet to Prepare for Leading Worship
- 9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
- 10:15am Worship – **Led by Members of Youth Group** (In-Person and On Zoom – Please note that ushers, greeters, and other persons scheduled to serve in worship that morning will not be needed, as the youth will be taking on all those roles.)
- 11:15am Special Congregational Meeting (The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on a proposal **subject to Congregational Council approval this evening** 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

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Easter Flower Order Form

Stauffer's Greenhouse

Pick Up - March 31, 2024**

Tulips come in assorted colors – No color choice **

				<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
White Lily	4/5 blooms	\$11	_____	@ 11.00	_____
Daffodils	6" pot	\$9	_____	@ 9.00	_____
Tulips*	6" pot	\$9	_____	@ 9.00	_____
Regal Geranium	6" pot	\$9	_____	@ 9.00	_____

Order Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **St. John Lutheran Church**

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

Presented by:

In honor of:

In Memory of:

Order forms, along with payment, can be given to any Flower Fund Committee Member: Dana Klouser, Gail Billow, Fay Nichols or Sheila Barder

Absolute last day to order is March 03, 2024

“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!**

1-5pm Girl Scout World Thinking Day Activity in “Sunday School” Room
2pm Marriage of Michael Henninger and Pamela Kosier (at Salem United Church of Christ in Elizabethtown with Pastor Tom and Pastor Ray Holland sharing the worship)

Looking Ahead

Property Committee will meet at the church on Tuesday, February 27, at 6:15 P.M.

St. John will host the second Community Lenten Supper and Worship on Wednesday, February 28. The meal will begin at 6:15 P.M., with worship at 7:00. If you would be able to help with the serving of the meal, please be at the church by 5:30 P.M.

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Thank you for your support of the mission work of our Youth Group with our “Souper Bowl Sunday” collection last Sunday following worship. With \$68 received **for the Chiefs** vs. \$26 **for the 49ers**, we did succeed in predicting the outcome of the game, but **for the Halftime Show & Commercials** with \$53 almost succeeded in besting them both. And **for the Food** had another outstanding showing of \$81.31 which, in normal times, probably would have been enough to clinch the victory, but these are no ordinary times, as the Swifties pushed **for catching a glimpse of Taylor** over the top with \$105.84. (Most importantly this year as every year, the total **\$334.15** raised will be a great help to the work of **Paws for a Cause** in Tower City. Thank you again!)

Please place your non-perishable food donations for the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center in Lykens on any shelf inside the north (right side, coming in the front doors) closet in the foyer, where the door is labelled accordingly. As the contributions add up, deliveries will be made to the pantry by **Larry Gessner**. Thank you!

Easter Sunrise Breakfast

Please join us for the First Annual Fred Weaver Memorial Easter Breakfast on March 31st at 7am. If there are any men of the congregation willing to help please contact Roy Henry at 717-215-9837.

St. John Women of the ELCA Event: March 7, 2024, 6:30-7:30pm

Around the World with Mary Ann Smeltz

Come enjoy an evening with Mary Ann presenting a PowerPoint presentation which will transport those attending to all 7 continents via photos and videos of some of her travels. She has been to 7 continents and has been to 60 countries and counting!