

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023
For US Mail Deliveries:
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717-362-9519

stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com | 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
Matt and Olivia Williard	Greeter
Landon and Bennett Troutman	Acolytes
Barry Williard	Lector
Ty Troutman	Senior Choir Director
Joshua Paul	Council President

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 presented by Grayson Foreman in honor of his Mommy's birthday (Courtney Foreman).

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 – ELW Setting 10

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements
Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer
Cub Scout Pack #86 Flag Ceremony

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

*Apostolic Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 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 2:15-17, 3:1-7

Psalm: 32

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

*Gospel Acclamation (sung in unison):

WE ARE TURNING, LORD, TO HEAR YOU; YOU ARE MERCIFUL AND KIND – SLOW TO ANGER, RICH IN BLESSING, AND WITH LOVE TO US INCLINED. (Pg. 205)

*Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

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

We Proclaim Our Faith:

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS CREATED ME TOGETHER WITH ALL THAT EXISTS. GOD HAS GIVEN ME AND STILL PRESERVES MY BODY AND SOUL; EYES, EARS, AND ALL LIMBS AND SENSES; REASON AND ALL MENTAL FACULTIES. IN ADDITION, GOD DAILY AND ABUNDANTLY PROVIDES SHOES AND CLOTHING, FOOD AND DRINK, HOUSE AND FARM, SPOUSE AND CHILDREN, FIELDS, LIVESTOCK, AND ALL PROPERTY – ALONG WITH ALL THE NECESSITIES AND NOURISHMENT FOR THIS BODY AND LIFE. GOD PROTECTS ME AGAINST ALL DANGER AND SHIELDS AND PRESERVES ME FROM ALL EVIL. ALL THIS IS DONE OUT OF PURE, FATHERLY, AND DIVINE GOODNESS AND MERCY, WITHOUT ANY MERIT OR WORTHINESS OF MINE AT ALL! FOR ALL OF THIS I OWE IT TO GOD TO THANK AND PRAISE, SERVE AND OBEY HIM. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.

-Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*

Offering of Our Gifts and Musical Anthem by Senior Choir

*Offertory Hymn (#186) (sung):

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. CAST ME NOT AWAY FROM YOUR PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME. RESTORE TO ME THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION, AND UPHOLD ME WITH YOUR FREE SPIRIT.

*Prayers of the Church

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right side of page

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God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Blessing:

P: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

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

*Closing Hymn **WOV** #779 "On Eagle's Wings"

*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.

Today, Sunday, February 26

- 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 the Observing of Scout Sunday with Guests from our Cub Scout Pack #86 and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 11:30am Youth Group Meeting
- 1:15-4:30pm Girl Scout Troop Activity in "Sunday School" Room

Monday, February 27

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

Tuesday, February 28

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 6:15pm Property Committee Meeting
- 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 1

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 6:15pm Community Lenten Supper and Worship **at St. John** (In-Person and On Zoom) Worship will begin by approximately 7:00 P.M. and end by 8:00 P.M. – Deacon Ken Campbell from Salem Lutheran, Elizabethville, will be speaking. ***If you are able to help with serving the meal, please be at the church by 5:30 P.M. Pastor Tom is also looking for a person or persons to serve as greeters for this worship. Please speak with him if you would be able to help.***

Thursday, March 2

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 6:30-8pm March Gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** – note change of day

Friday, March 3

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

Saturday, March 4

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, March 5

Second Sunday in Lent

- 9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
- 9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
- 9am Senior High Youth Prepare for Congregational Spaghetti Supper
- 10:15am Worship, Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 11:30am Annual Congregational Spaghetti Luncheon, Served by Youth Group (***The meal is back this year as a sit-down meal with entertainment, beginning immediately following worship. A free-will offering will be received for the Youth Group.***)

Looking Ahead

Due to the delayed delivery of books, the Book Group Discussion scheduled for Monday, March 6, on Zoom has been postponed; please watch for further details about rescheduling, with everyone invited! Next up – **Walking the Bible** by Bruce Feiler. Please call or email Ann 717.362.7895 rahbruner@gmail.com if you need a book or have any questions.

The first planning meeting for our Annual Strawberry Festival will be held on **Tuesday, March 7, beginning at 7:00 P.M.** Since there really isn't a fixed committee and the meeting is literally made up of those interested persons who show up each time, all interested persons are (really!) invited to attend. (Please don't forget that the Festival itself is planned for June 7 – potentially a bit confusing, since it is the first time we have held it on the first Sunday of June.)

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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.

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.

For the month of March, a sponsor is 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). To sponsor this ministry 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.

For those women who are interested in making prayer shawls, there is an abundant supply of various colors of knitting yarn at the church at this time. If anyone is interested, please talk to Pat Herb.

Our Faith Active in Worship – February 19, 2023

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,746
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$247
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$25
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$295
Total Attendance	Zoom – 32, In Person – 60

“St John's Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of February 19, 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	\$121,375
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$12,090

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** – Rm. #120, The Gardens at York Terrace, 2401 W. Market St., Pottsville, 17901
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Helen Henninger** – Discharged from UPMC Harrisburg on 2/21
- **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)