

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location: 215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 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
Sheila Barder	Altar Guild Preparation
Matthew Riland	Holy Communion Assistant and Lead Usher
James & Lois Watson	Greeters
Lilly Rabenold and Tanner Bixler	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 sponsored by Mike and Carol Hubler in loving memory of George Hubler, David Kauffman and Donald Kauffman and for all things bright and beautiful, the Lord God made them all.

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 #787 "On Eagle's Wings"	
*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: Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm: 147:1-11, 20

Second Reading: I Corinthians 9:16-23

*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 1:29-39

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

*Apostles' Creed

Pg. 105

*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 #543 “Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

*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
- **Karen Gehring** – Healing at Home Following 1/29 Outpatient Shoulder Surgery
- **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 – January 28, 2024

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$TBD
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,852
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$269
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$109
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$541
Total Attendance:	Zoom – 28, In Person – 80

“St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of January 31, 2024

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$80,045
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$126,040
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$10,710

Today, February 4

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 Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
1:30-5pm Girl Scout Meeting in “Sunday School” Room

Monday, February 5

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 Faith United Methodist, Fishersville

Tuesday, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 7

8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:30-8pm February **Yes, Jesus Love Me** Gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie**

Thursday, February 8

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

Friday, February 9

Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East

8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Saturday, February 10

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, February 11

Transfiguration of Our Lord
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) (On this “Camping Presentation” and “Super Bowl” Sunday, everyone is encouraged to come to worship dressed in their favorite camping merch or the fanwear of a favorite team or player of any sport and any level of play, from peewee to professional.)
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 that day, 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!)

Looking Ahead

Tuesday, February 13, (a week earlier than typically) will be the deadline to submit items for inclusion in the Sunday, February 25, bulletin.

We will observe **Ash Wednesday**, the traditional beginning of the Season of Lent, on February 14 at 7:00 P.M. with a Liturgy of Holy Communion, including the optional imposition of ashes. 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, will be the deadline to submit items for inclusion in the March **St. John’s Epistle**.

* * * * *

THANK YOU to the following persons who directed Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John during 2023: Sheila Barder, Carl & Louise Baumgardner, Fay Bixler, Barb Bullock, Delmar Enders, Larry Gessner, Michael Henninger, Harold & Pat Herb, Mary Peters, Olivia Williard, and Pastor Tom. A total of **\$1,585** 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, Lutheran World Relief, Youth Group, and our ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you! **(All Thrivent members have until March 31 to designate 2023 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 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 Sundays, March 17 and March 31 (Easter Day) - \$35/week. **More time-critically, we are still looking for sponsors for our altar flowers for Sundays, February 18 and 25.** 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.

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!

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.)**

The Youth Group continues to collect aluminum – aluminum only, please – in the lower level of the barn, facing toward Elizabethville. **Please be sure to place your aluminum inside the sliding door and not outside in the pull-in space, where the animals tend to create a mess with donations.** Thank you for your help with this major fundraiser for our youth and help for our environment!

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!

Financial statements can be picked up in the conference room immediately following the worship service. Any statements not picked up will be mailed. Pat Herb

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