

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

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.
Laurie Little
Judy Ferree
Elsie and Emily Rabenold
Reyann Cheatham

Pastor
Young Christians Minister
Organist
Acolytes
Lector

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Matt and Olivia Williard to wish our Congregational Family a Happy and Healthy 2023!

For the month of January, our **Celebrate** lectionary bulletin inserts, our support of **Tree 4 Hope**, and our support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** are all sponsored by Roy and Rachel Henry for God's many blessings.

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 #302 "As with Gladness Men of Old"

*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

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm: 40:1-11

Second Reading: I Corinthians 1:1-9

*Gospel: John 1:29-42

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

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

Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie

Young Persons Go with Miss Laurie for Celebration Time

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

Blessing of Lectors

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 #301 "Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, Sunday, January 15

As we in Dauphin County continue to dwell close to the line between the Low/Green level and Medium/Yellow level of COVID-19 Community Transmission as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it continues to be the case that the very best things we can do in this transition time are

- ***getting fully vaccinated***
- ***wearing a mask if you have 1. COVID symptoms or 2. a positive test for COVID or 3. exposure to someone with COVID. (Better yet, our congregational family policy has been to ask that folks in any of these three categories please simply avoid in-person activities entirely and join in worship via Zoom.)***

In addition, those at high risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged to mask when indoors and masks are a good additional protective measure for everyone.

9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)

9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)

9am Confirmation Class

9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)

10:15am Worship, Including Blessing of Lectors and Sunny Sermon & Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)

This morning, we ask God's blessing on all the persons who do the important work each week of sharing the Word of God from the Bible with us in worship. The following are the persons who lead this ministry each month, while often sharing it with others at their discretion:

January	Reyann Cheatham
February	Barry Williard
March	Judith Cheatham
April	Donald Deibler
May	Amy Gehring
June	Joshua Paul
July	Carl Baumgardner
August	Gary Daniels
September	Vincent Lamenza
October	Jamie Doyle
November	The Henry Family
December	Matthew Williard

11:15am Part Two of our Annual Congregational Meeting (In-Person and On Zoom) (The floor will be open for any business as may properly come before the meeting, with at least one item of business to be covered – a proposal from Congregational Council (in response to much expressed congregational family interest) that, starting with summer 2023, we worship outside in our pavilion every Sunday during the summer, starting with Memorial Day weekend and ending with Labor Day weekend. (If approved, there will be one exception to this plan for 2023 only – since the Day of Pentecost, and therefore the Rite of Confirmation, falls on May 28, 2023, we will still worship inside on that one summer Sunday.))

Monday, January 16

Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours

9am “Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief

7am Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting on Zoom

Tuesday, January 17

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
9am 4th Quarter and Year-end Audit Meeting (*All treasurers are asked to have ALL records at the church prior to that meeting, including the yearend report that Rachel will include in the bulletin of reports (which should also be in digital form for submission to Rachel). Thank you. -Pat Herb*)
6:15pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting
7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 18

Confession of Peter

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
6:30-8pm Midweek Bible Study

Thursday, January 19

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, January 20

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

Saturday, January 21

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany
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 Sacrament of Holy Baptism and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)

Looking Ahead

Property Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 24, at 6:15 P.M. at the church.

A Special Congregational Meeting has also been called by Pastor Tom for Sunday, **January 29**, immediately following worship, to go over the 2022 Annual Report. Per our congregational constitution, this will be the only business we can take care of at that special meeting. Those having reports to be included in the 2022 Annual Report are asked to please forward them to Rachel no later than **Monday, January 16**, as a Word document only – no hard copies please, as these require re-typing by Rachel. Please don't hesitate to check with Pastor Tom or with Rachel with any questions!

Youth Group will hold a get-together immediately following the conclusion of the Special Congregational Meeting on January 29. All youth are asked to bring along a snack to share with a crockpot main dish for lunch.

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2023 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please stop by the table and take along those of family members and neighbors!

Sponsors are still needed for the month of February:

- for our ministry support for our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month),
- for **Tree 4 Hope** (\$50/month),
- and for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month).

To sponsor any of these three ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please stop by the sign-up sheets or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can place your name on the desired month(s). **A separate sign-up calendar has now been posted for 2023 altar flowers.**

Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **Barbara Bullock** – Rm. #45, Stonebridge Health & Rehab Center, 102 Chandra Drive, Duncannon, 17020
- **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. #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)