

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.

Pastor

Laurie Little

Young Christians Minister

Judy Ferree

Organist

Grayson Foreman and Derrick Henry

Acolytes

Roy Henry

Council President

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 of Lessons & Carols

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Carol #300 "The First Noel"

*Christmas Dialog:

L: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C: **THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.**

L: Those who dwell in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: **WE HAVE BEHELD CHRIST'S GLORY, GLORY AS OF THE ONLY SON FROM THE FATHER.**

L: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: **IN THE WORD WAS LIFE, AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE.**

*Greeting:

P: Today Christ is born: Alleluia, alleluia! 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

Lessons and Carols:

First Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Read by RJ Henry

Hymn #294 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

Second Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Read by Mary Riland

Hymn #277 "Away in a Manger"

Third Lesson: Luke 2:21-40

Read by Gabe Gehring

Hymn #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:41-52

Read by Sarah Riland

Hymn #283 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

Read by Aidan Roadcap

Hymn **WOV** #646 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

Sixth Lesson: Matthew 2:13-23

Read by Madeline Williard

Hymn #296 "What Child Is This?"

Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-18

Read by RJ Henry

Hymn #267 "Joy to the World"

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 **Musical Anthem by Hoyt Schlegel**

*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 Word that Mary brought to birth carry us into new and abundant life.

All: **AMEN**

P: May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold us with love and strength.

All: **AMEN**

P: May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

All: **AMEN**

P: And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
upon us and remain with us always.

All: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. The Word made Flesh is with us.

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

*Carol #290 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

*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

- **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
- **Carol Hubler** – Discharged from Evangelical, Lewisburg on 12/23
- **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)

Today, Sunday, January 1

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 SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am Liturgy of Lessons & Carols, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom) – Guest Worship Leaders Jim Watson and Members of Youth Group

Until Pastor Tom returns to the office on Thursday morning, Pastor Godfred Effisah, who serves the Rife/Killinger Parish, is on call for any emergency needs for pastoral care. Should you need to get in touch with him, please call Fay Nichols, our Telephone Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 717-329-7447, who will both place the concern on the prayer chain and contact Pastor Godfred. Or, Pastor Godfred can be reached directly by calling 571-572-0119.

Tuesday, January 3

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 4

6:30-8pm January gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** at the Church

Thursday, January 5

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, January 6

Epiphany of Our Lord

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

Saturday, January 7

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, January 8

Baptism of Our Lord

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 Recognition of Newly-Baptized, Installation of New Council Members, Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)
11:30am Mutual Ministry Committee Quarterly Meeting
2pm Monthly Meeting of Women of the ELCA of St. John
4pm Congregational Council Monthly Meeting

Looking Ahead

"Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief will resume on Monday, January 9, at 9:00 A.M.

Upcoming 2023 Dates for Book Discussion Group – all at 6:30 P.M. on Zoom:

January 9

February 6

March 6

Call or email Ann 717.362.7895 rahbruner@gmail.com if you need a book or have any questions.

Our Winter Session of Midweek Bible Study will hold its first gathering on Wednesday, January 11, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Our Annual Blessing of Our Lectors will take place during worship on Sunday, January 15.

Because family travel plans will make it impossible for our secretary, Rachel Henry, to have the 2022 Annual Report prepared in time for Part 2 of our Annual Congregational Meeting, which is required by our congregational constitution to be held on January 15, we will be doing things a bit differently this month:

- We will still hold the required congregational meeting right after worship on **January 15**, but our agenda will not include going over the Annual Report as normally. Instead, the floor will be open for any other business as may properly come before the meeting. **There will be at least one item of business to be covered on January 15 – 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.)**
- 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!

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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!

The 4th quarter and year end audit is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th at 9:00 a.m. at the church. 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

Three new 2023 sponsor sheets are now available (currently on the table outside Pastor Tom's office, but soon being posted on a bulletin board in the foyer area) – for continuing ministry support for our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month); for **Tree 4 Hope**, an innovative anti-poverty ministry begun by our neighbors at Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, and serving those in need in Guatemala, involving an orphanage, mission trips from our area, a girls' school called "Hope Academy" - a world mission with a local connection (\$50/month) – and for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month) . **Please note that, most time-critically, sponsors are needed for all three ministries for the month of February.** To sponsor any of these three ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please stop by the table to sign up or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can place your name on the desired month(s).

The 2023 altar flower signup sheet has been posted in the foyer, temporarily in its old location on the closet door. The price of altar flowers is unchanged from pre-COVID times, at \$35 each week, and they may still be sponsored in honor or in memory of loved ones or special events. (The summer period from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend is at least temporarily taped off, since on January 15, we will be voting about holding worship outdoors all summer beginning in 2023, in which case we would not need altar flowers for those summer Sundays.) **The most time-critical need for altar flowers is for the first Sundays in January.** Please see Sheila Barder or Dana Klouser with any questions.

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.)**

Please see the bright blue container at the computer desk in the Sunday School Room to recycle your AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt and Button Cell batteries in Alkaline, NiMH, NiCAD, Zinc Air and Non-Lithium types, 9 volts and below. All batteries must be dry cell only, and they cannot be leaking or have broken cases. Through the efforts of Larry Gessner, batteries that are in especially good condition are being recharged and donated to Bethesda Mission, while all others are recycled.

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!