

## 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](mailto:pt@stjohnhillchurch.org) | [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://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  
Ty Troutman  
James & Lois Watson  
Lilly Rabenold and Briana Radel  
Reyann Cheatham  
Sandra Lamenza  
Joshua Paul

Pastor  
Young Christians Minister  
Organist  
Senior Choir Director  
Greeters  
Acolytes  
Lector  
Lead Usher  
Council President

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

This week's **Altar flowers** are presented in honor of the St. John's Youth Group.

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

Pg. 94-96

\*Opening Hymn #310 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

\*Apostolic Greeting

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\*Kyrie (sung in unison)

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\*Hymn of Praise: "Glory to God..." (sung in unison)

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\*Prayer of the Day

## We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Psalmody: Psalm 111

Second Reading: I Corinthians 8:1-13

\*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 1:21-28

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 THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF THE SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT BY MY OWN UNDERSTANDING OR STRENGTH I CANNOT BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST MY LORD OR COME TO HIM, BUT INSTEAD THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CALLED ME THROUGH THE GOSPEL, ENLIGHTENED ME WITH HIS GIFTS, MADE ME HOLY, AND KEPT ME IN THE TRUE FAITH, JUST AS HE CALLS, GATHERS, ENLIGHTENS, AND MAKES HOLY THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON EARTH AND KEEPS IT WITH JESUS CHRIST IN THE ONE COMMON, TRUE FAITH. DAILY IN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH THE HOLY SPIRIT ABUNDANTLY FORGIVES ALL SINS – MINE AND THOSE OF ALL BELIEVERS. ON THE LAST DAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL RAISE ME AND ALL THE DEAD AND WILL GIVE TO ME AND ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ETERNAL LIFE. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.**

-Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*

Offering of Our Gifts and Choir Anthem

\*Offertory Hymn (#182) (sung as gifts are brought forward):

**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, light-creator; God the Son, Light from Light; and God the Holy Spirit, light-revealer, bless us and give us peace.

C: **AMEN**

\*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Share the Good News.

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

\*Closing Hymn #302 "As With Gladness Men of Old"

\*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Please stand, if able to do so.



**Today, January 28**

- 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)
- 11:15am Youth Group Gathering

**Monday, January 29**

**No Scheduled Office Hours – Pastor Tom Hoping to be in the Office Late Day**

- 9-11am “Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief

**No Church Dartball League Match – St. John Bye Date**

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**No Scheduled Office Hours – Pastor Tom on the Road for a Pastoral Visit**

- 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, January 31**

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

**Thursday, February 1**

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

**Friday, February 2**

**Presentation of Our Lord**

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

**Saturday, February 3**

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

**Next Sunday, February 4**

- Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
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**Looking Ahead**

The February **Yes, Jesus Love Me** gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** will be held in-person at the church on Wednesday, February 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Since February 11 is the day of Super Bowl LVIII in Las Vegas, we will continue with a “tradition” we had only just begun in pre-pandemic days – designating the day as **“Jersey Day”** and encouraging one and all to come to worship that morning dressed in the fanwear of a favorite team or player of any sport and any level of play, from peewee to professional.

And then, immediately following worship, we will again observe “Souper Bowl” Sunday with a special offering to benefit the work of our Youth Group to help local folks in need, this year 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!

Jean Weaver’s daughters report that she has reached a point in her healing where phone calls or short visits would be a welcome boost in her continued progress, but without “too much, too soon”. Especially if you have had a relationship with Jean over the years and have been considering reaching out but weren’t sure whether or not that would be a good idea, please give it a try. (Jean’s daily caregivers, one of whom will almost certainly answer the telephone, will be helpful guides as to the number of visitors and timing.) Also, Marlene and Angela say the same goes for Fred at **Harmony at West Shore**, which is of course much more of a journey.

For the month of February, sponsors are still needed for our ministry gift to **Tree 4 Hope** (\$50/month) as well as for the altar flowers for Sundays, February 11, 18, and 25 (\$35/week). 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.

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.

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

**Fill the Pew!**

The ELCA women of the congregation are holding A Fill The Pew event the month of January. All items received will benefit the Weekend Snack Pack program.

Three items are especially needed at this time: Pop tarts, individual sized cereal, Vienna sausage – 4.6oz cans. Thank you in advance for supporting this event.

**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** – Headed to UPMC Harrisburg on 1/29 for 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
- **Fred Weaver** – Rm. #306, Harmony at West Shore, 1910 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg, 17050

**Our Faith Active in Worship – January 21, 2024**

<b>Current – Approx. Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$TBD</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,423
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$365
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$60
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$415
Total Attendance:	<b>Zoom – 40, In Person – 64</b>

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