
Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:
215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:
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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
Sandra Lamenza	Lead Usher and Holy Communion Assistant
Sheila Barder and Dana Klouser	Altar Guild Preparation
Youth Bible Group	Greeters
Brayden and Brooklyn Bender	Acolytes
Reyann Cheatham	Lector
Joshua Paul	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.

The ***Altar Flowers*** are presented 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 ***WOV*** #698 "We Were Baptized in Christ Jesus"

*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

Recognition of the Newly-Baptized

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm: 29

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

*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 1:4-11

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

*Nicene Creed

Pg. 104

*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 #732 "Borning Cry"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Our Faith Active in Worship – December 31, 2023

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,075
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$185
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$105
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$220
Total Attendance	Zoom – 23, In Person – 39

“St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of December 31, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for	\$82,295
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$125,790
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$10,710

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
- **Ayden Henninger** – Back Home, Following Up on Florida Hospitalization
- **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 Important Tests Coming Up This Week
- **Fred Weaver** – Rm. #306, Harmony at West Shore, 1910 Technology Parkway, Mechanicsburg, 17050

Next Sunday, January 7

9am	Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9am	Confirmation Class (In-Person)
9am	SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am	Worship, Including Recognition of Newly-Baptized, Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)

Today, on the Sunday of the Baptism of Our Lord, we follow a long-standing Hill Church tradition and honor the following persons who have been baptized in our congregation during the past year:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Baptism</u>
Raelynn Elaine Ney	January 22, 2023
Kade Tyler Miller	January 22, 2023
Aaron James Troutman	October 1, 2023
Malorie Lily Troutman	October 1, 2024

Each of them will receive a hand-made engraved plaque, crafted by Randy Paul, incorporating a baptismal medallion provided by Thrivent Financial, as a keepsake reminder of their baptism. Congratulations!

Monday, January 8

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
9-11am	“Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
6:30pm	Book Discussion Group on Zoom (Please pick up your snack in the kitchen on the Sunday before to share while online the following evening. If you have any questions, please contact Ann (rahbruner@gmail.com). Please join in anytime – the fellowship is wonderful, the snacks are yummy, and all are welcome!)

Tuesday, January 9

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

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

Wednesday, January 10

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
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Thursday, January 11

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
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Friday, January 12

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
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Saturday, January 13

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, January 14

Second Sunday after Epiphany

- 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 Installation of New Congregational Council Members and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
11:15am Our **Equal Exchange/Fair Trade Products** crew – Courtney Foreman, Grayson Foreman, and Ann Bruner – will host another fellowship time immediately following worship on January 14, downstairs in the “Sunday School” Room, to sample and purchase those products, the sale of which brings a fairer return to small growers around the world, including here in the US, while encouraging sustainable agriculture.
11:15am Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting
6pm Congregational Council Meeting

Looking Ahead

Monday, January 15, will be the deadline to submit items for inclusion in the February **St. John’s Epistle**.

Worship & Music Committee will gather on Tuesday, January 16, at 6:15 P.M. at the church.

Part Two of our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, January 21. We will review reports of our ministry during 2023 and conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting. Voting members of the congregation – those confirmed members who have communed and contributed during 2023 or 2022 – are especially needed to attend this brief, but important, meeting.)

For everyone from whom Annual Reports are due, please remember to turn them in to Rachel, as a Word document only – no hard copies please, as these require re-typing by Rachel – AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

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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 each of the four Sundays (\$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.

2024 offering envelopes are available in the foyer. Please stop by the table and take along those of family members and neighbors!

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!

"The fourth quarter and year end audit will be held on Monday, January 15th at church at 10:00 a.m. Please have all records at the church for this very important audit. Also, don't forget to include a completed year-end report which needs to be copied in the bulletin of reports. Thank you. 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.