

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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.
Laurie Little
Courtney Foreman
Carol and Mike Hubler
Judy Ferree
Brady Dresel and Kyan Peters
Reyann Cheatham

Pastor
Young Christians Minister
Holy Communion Assistant
Altar Guild Preparation
Organist
Acolytes
Lector

The **Altar Flowers** are presented to the Glory of God and in celebration of the New Year, by Sheila and Brian Barder.

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. 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: Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm: 29

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

*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: Matthew 3:13-17

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

Installation of New Congregational Council Members

*Nicene Creed

Pg. 104

*Prayers of the Church

Offering of Our Gifts and Musical Anthem

*Offertory Hymn (#182) (sung):

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" on 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 #304 "Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, Sunday, January 8

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 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

This morning, we install four recently-elected persons in their offices as Congregational Council Members: **Christine Kahler, Sandra Lamenza, Jeffrey Lehman, and Ty Troutman**. As we do so, we also give thanks for the outgoing members they replace: Carl Baumgardner, Roy Henry, Heidi Lehman, and Lori Motter.

Monday, January 9

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

9am "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief

6:30pm Book Discussion Group Monthly Gathering on Zoom (Please call or email Ann 717.362.7895 rahbruner@gmail.com if you need a book or have any questions.)

Tuesday, January 10

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

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 11

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

6:30-8pm Midweek Bible Study

Thursday, January 12

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, January 13

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

Saturday, January 14

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, January 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Deadline to Submit Items for Inclusion in February "St. John's Epistle"

- 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 Blessing of Lectors and Sunny Sermon & Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)
11:15am Part Two of our Annual Congregational Meeting (In-Person and On Zoom) (Because family travel plans have made it impossible for our secretary, Rachel Henry, to have the 2022 Annual Report prepared in time for Part 2 of our Annual Congregational Meeting, we will still hold the required meeting right after worship, 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 – 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!)

Looking Ahead

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

Worship & Music Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 17, at 6:15 P.M. at the church.

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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!

Please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you turn in **at least one communion record card** this year. 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!

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.***

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.)***

If you are an Amazon.com shopper, our congregation is registered with the "Amazon Smiles" program, whereby Amazon donates one half of one percent of your purchase amount to a charitable organization that you select. Please note that, to qualify, your purchase has to be made through the "smile" side of things, to which you will find a very easily identifiable link from the main part of the Amazon.com website. (Once there, it can be a bit tricky to pick out our congregational name from all of the "St. John's" – look for **St John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Berrysburg, PA**. Once you have selected us the first time, we will automatically be designated each time you shop and you won't need to re-do the search.) All monies received in this way will be automatically deposited for use in the Current Fund.

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)
- **Tim Motter** – at home