
Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:

PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270

717-362-9519

pt@stjohnhillchurch.org | 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
Carol Hubler	Keyboardist
Ty Troutman	Senior Choir Director
Josh & Sarah Paul	Greeter
Carl Baumgardner	Lector
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of July:

Celebrate Insert is presented by Carl and Louise Baumgardner in honor of our many blessings including Dad's 91st birthday and Mom and Dad's upcoming 70th wedding anniversary.

Tree 4 Hope is sponsored by Ty and Kim Troutman in honor of Ty's mother Lucy who celebrates her 100th birthday this month.

Our support of one pastor for one month in the ***Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania*** is sponsored by Delmar and Ginny Enders to the glory of God and in honor of Kyrah's 2nd birthday.

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!

Outdoor Worship Liturgy

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Keyboard Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, abounding in steadfast love toward us, healing the sick and raising the dead, showering us with every good gift.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(brief silence follows)

P: Just and gracious God,

C: **WE COME TO YOU FOR HEALING AND LIFE. OUR SINS HURT OTHERS AND DIMINISH US; WE CONFESS THEM TO YOU. OUR LIVES BEAR THE SCARS OF SIN; WE BRING THESE ALSO TO YOU. SHOW US YOUR MERCY, O GOD. BIND UP OUR WOUNDS, FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND FREE US TO LOVE, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR. AMEN.**

P: The Apostle Paul assures us: "When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross." Jesus says to us, "Your sins are forgiven." Be at peace and tell everyone how much God has done for us.

C: **AMEN.**

*Opening Hymn ***LBW*** #250 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

*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 55:10-13

Psalm: 65:1-13

Second Reading: Romans 8:1-11

*Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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

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

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

*We Proclaim Our Faith:

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS CREATED ME TOGETHER WITH ALL THAT EXISTS. GOD HAS GIVEN ME AND STILL PRESERVES MY BODY AND SOUL; EYES, EARS, AND ALL LIMBS AND SENSES; REASON AND ALL MENTAL FACULTIES. IN ADDITION, GOD DAILY AND ABUNDANTLY PROVIDES SHOES AND CLOTHING, FOOD AND DRINK, HOUSE AND FARM, SPOUSE AND CHILDREN, FIELDS, LIVESTOCK, AND ALL PROPERTY – ALONG WITH ALL THE NECESSITIES AND NOURISHMENT FOR THIS BODY AND LIFE. GOD PROTECTS ME AGAINST ALL DANGER AND SHIELDS AND PRESERVES ME FROM ALL EVIL. ALL THIS IS DONE OUT OF PURE, FATHERLY, AND DIVINE GOODNESS AND MERCY, WITHOUT ANY MERIT OR WORTHINESS OF MINE AT ALL! FOR ALL OF THIS I OWE IT TO GOD TO THANK AND PRAISE, SERVE AND OBEY HIM. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.

-Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*

*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: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine upon us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

C: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Proclaim the good news

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

*Closing Hymn **LBW** #362 "We Plow the Fields and Scatter"

*Keyboard Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Our Faith Active in Worship – July 9, 2023

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,416
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$122
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$308
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$435
Total Attendance	Zoom –21, In Person – 67

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
- **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** – Healing at Home and Preparing for Follow-up Surgery at Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- **Jean & Fred Weaver** – In Need of Prayer

Today, Sunday, July 16

8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9:30am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
9:30am **Outdoor Worship** in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom)
10:30am Brief Property Committee Special Meeting (immediately following worship)

Monday, July 17

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
9am Hey everyone! We're going to have a "Decorating Party" to get the pavilion ready for VBS! Meet us at the church if you are able to join us! The more hands the better, so please join us if you can!! Please let me know if you can help - the more people we have the quicker we can get things put together and ready for the first night of VBS (later that day)! Thanks, in advance, for your help!! -Miss Laurie
6:30 - 8:45pm Vacation Bible School – ***Hero Hotline – Called Together to Serve God***

Tuesday, July 18

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
6:30 - 8:45pm Vacation Bible School – ***Hero Hotline – Called Together to Serve God***

Wednesday, July 19

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
6:30 - 8:45pm Vacation Bible School – ***Hero Hotline – Called Together to Serve God***

Thursday, July 20

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
6:30 - 8:45pm Vacation Bible School – ***Hero Hotline – Called Together to Serve God***

Friday, July 21

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
6:30 - 8:45pm Vacation Bible School – ***Hero Hotline – Called Together to Serve God***
Youth Group Campout Begins Following VBS Closing Movie

Saturday, July 22

Mary Magdalene, Apostle
Youth Group Campout Concludes
Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, July 23

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
10am OUTDOOR WORSHIP, FEATURING ANNUAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CLOSING PROGRAM (In-Person and On Zoom – ***Everyone is encouraged to dress warmly and bring along a jacket for our outdoor gathering on this breezy hill!***)
11:15am "Voices & Vittles" Annual Covered Dish Picnic (will get underway immediately following the ending of worship and a bit of transition time)

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Looking Ahead

A Free Community Dinner will be held at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville, on Thursday, July 27. This meal in a series of Free Community Dinners is intended to especially benefit persons who are in need of food and/or fellowship support, but there are no income guidelines or restrictions of any kind. This ministry is being supported by a number of area christian congregations, including St. John, as well as local businesses and other organizations. Please call the church office by July 21 to sign up.

The Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band will once again be our special musical guests during 9:30 A.M. worship in the pavilion on Sunday, July 30.

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Yard Sale News!

We know everyone's been busy putting aside their gently used items for the upcoming Congregational Yard Sale to benefit ***the Lutheran Disaster Response of our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.***

- Donations will be accepted Monday, July 31 through Wednesday, August 2. Please place donations in the front part of the pavilion, near the kitchen. ***Please do not bring donations to the church before Monday, July 31 and please do not place them anywhere but directly in the pavilion.***
- ***Yard Sale Set Up*** - The greatest need for help is Monday, Tuesday and/or Wednesday morning between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and Noon. This will be when we unpack, sort, hang and organize donations.
- The sale will take place in the pavilion:
 - Thursday, August 3 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Friday, August 4 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, August 5 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- To help during the yard sale, please come to the pavilion at any time during the hours of the sale, listed above.

T-shirt Orders

The Youth Group has opened up sales for the "We put the 'Berry' in Berrysburg" t-shirts that you may have seen being worn at the Strawberry Festival. ****Make checks payable to "St. John's Youth Group."***

- ***The prices are as follows: Short Sleeve (size S to 3XL) = \$20.00 each, Long Sleeve (size S to 3XL) = \$25.00 each***

You may order directly from and pay Matt Williard (or Amy, Olivia, or Clint) on Sundays.

NOTES: *Please drop payment off at the church (c/o Youth Group) or make arrangements with any of the Youth Group advisors.

Synodical Women's Convention Ingathering

From July 15th until August 13th, the Women of the ELCA of St. John are doing a collection of gift cards and tangible, nonperishable food items and toiletries to donate to the food pantry at the United Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. Gift cards from Weis, Giant, Aldi and Walmart are especially welcome, as are the following food items: ***hot and cold cereals; canned vegetables; macaroni; granola bars; sugar; flour; peanut butter; spaghetti sauce; and baking mixes. Toiletry Items especially needed are: soap; shampoo/conditioner; and toothpaste.*** We will be collecting these items in the Conference Room on the windowsill and the cabinet in front of the window. There will also be a basket in which to place the gift cards. Please speak with Fay Nichols, who is coordinating the collection, with any questions, and thank you for all your help!

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