

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
Judy Ferree	Organist
Ty Troutman	Senior Choir Director
Harold Herb	Greeters
Carl Baumgardner	Lector
Gail Billow	Lead Usher
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of July, the **Celebrate Inserts** are presented by Carl and Louise Baumgardner in honor of Hoyt's graduation and July birthdays: Bob, Lois and Louise, the **Tree 4 Hope** is sponsored by Ty and Kim Troutman in honor of Ty's mother Lucy, who celebrates her 101st birthday in July, and our support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** is sponsored by Lynn & Helen Henninger for prayers for world peace, especially in Ukraine and the Middle East.

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, the creator of wind and rain, field and ocean, the bread of life coming down from above, the power at work within us and this world.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.
(brief silence follows)

P: God and Father of all,

C: **WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED. WE HAVE THOUGHT BETTER OF OURSELVES THAN OTHERS. WE HAVE TOLD LIES, SAID HURTFUL THINGS, ACTED IN WAYS WE WISH WE COULD TAKE BACK, AND LOOKED THE OTHER WAY WHEN ACTION WAS NEEDED. IN YOUR MERCY, O GOD, FORGIVE US, CLEANSE US, AND HEAL US, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR. AMEN.**

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, we are a new creation: our sins are taken away and we are made new. Let us be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven us.

C: **AMEN.**

*Opening Hymn **LBW** #433 "The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

*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: II Kings 4:42-44

Psalm: 145:10-18

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

*Gospel: John 6:1-21

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** #409 "Praise and Thanksgiving"

*Keyboard Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
PO Box 270
Berrysburg, PA 17005-0270

July 14, 2024

My Sisters and Brothers in Jesus,

I am writing this letter to officially let you know of my plans to retire from pastoral ministry and end my years of service as your pastor effective February 28, 2025.

Being a part of and serving the St. John Congregational Family has been a tremendous joy and honor, not to mention the largest single piece of my and my family's life. Dan and Tim were starting 3rd Grade and Kindergarten, respectively, and I had more hair and no glasses when we came into your midst more than 24 years ago now. (As for Ann, she has only gotten better with age!)

The decision to retire next February, after almost 37 years of pastoral service including almost 25 years as your pastor, has not been made lightly. It comes with profoundly mixed feelings for both Ann and me, but I am convinced that it is the right time for us as I will be a few months shy of age 64, Ann will be age 65, and we are both ready for the new opportunities and challenges of retirement. I am also convinced that it is the right time for St. John to experience the new opportunities and challenges which come with new pastoral leadership, building on the work which we have done together for so many years.

I am looking forward to working together over the next 7+ months to help my beloved congregational family to be in the strongest possible position to carry right on with God's Work into and through the time of pastoral transition. We still have lots of work to do together as God continues to lead us all forward, always forward, doing our best to follow our Risen Lord Jesus!

Yours in Him,

Pastor Tom

The Rev. Thomas Bruner Jr.

Today, July 28

8:45am Sunday Morning Bible Study (In-Person)
9:30am SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person)
9:30am **Outdoor Worship** in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom)

Monday, July 29

Donations for the Annual Yard Sale to Benefit Domestic Disaster Victims will be accepted from this morning through Wednesday. Please place all donations in the front part of the pavilion, near the kitchen. Please do not bring donations to the church before Monday and please do not place them anywhere but directly in the pavilion.

Other Tips for the Success of Our Yard Sale:

- Be sure your donations are in good/clean condition
- Drop off donations at any time between **Monday and Wednesday**.
 - Although we do not turn away donations, we have a better chance of selling them if they are out and ready for the first day of our sale... bright and early Thursday morning.
- Donate your time to help set up, tear down or help out during the sale.
- Pick up any unsold items you do not wish to donate in a timely manner.

Sheila Barder and Tam Spicher

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

9am-12pm Set Up for Yard Sale – Help will be needed; please just come to the pavilion any time during the hours of set up.

Tuesday, July 30

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

9am-12pm Set Up for Yard Sale – Help will be needed; please just come to the pavilion any time during the hours of set up.

Wednesday, July 31

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

9am-12pm Set Up for Yard Sale – Help will be needed; please just come to the pavilion any time during the hours of set up.

Thursday, August 1

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

8am-5pm **Yard Sale Open** – Help will be needed; please just come to the pavilion any time during the hours the sale is open.

Friday, August 2

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

8am-5pm **Yard Sale Open** – Help will be needed; please just come to the pavilion any time during the hours the sale is open.

Saturday, August 3

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

8-11am **Yard Sale Open** – Help will be needed; please just come to the pavilion any time during the hours the sale is open.

Next Sunday, August 4

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 8:45am Sunday Morning Bible Study **in the first floor Conference Room** (In-Person)
- 9:30am SONDay Celebration with Miss Laurie (In-Person)
- 9:30am **Indoor Worship**, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 10:30am Items not sold during the Yard Sale will be available to congregational family members from the end of worship through 9:00 A.M. Monday. Items not claimed by this time will be donated or disposed of appropriately.

Looking Ahead

If you are able to help with the tear-down and clean-up from the Yard Sale, please come directly to the pavilion at 9:00 A.M. tomorrow, Monday, August 5.

Watch for further details from Miss Laurie about the ***Annual Water Fun Night*** coming up on Friday, August 9, again this year including the “dunking booth”!

On Sunday, August 11, we will again welcome the members of the ***Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band*** to our pavilion worship as they provide the music of the morning!

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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.

And speaking of Amy Gehring... Effective with the end of the Annual Youth Group Campout on July 20, Amy and Clint Gehring have ended their many years of faithful service as Youth Group Advisors. Rachel & Roy Henry will now be joining Olivia & Matt Williard on the advising team for the coming year, beginning with August planning for the resumption of Youth Group activities in September. THANK YOU to Clint & Amy for a big job extremely well done and to Roy & Rachel for accepting God’s call to this important ministry!

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. #54B, Complete Care at Annapolis, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **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
- **Robert Schaffer** – Rm. #125, Polk Personal Care Center, 301 North St., Millersburg
- **Steven Schlegel** – Now on an Every-Four-Weeks Outpatient Chemotherapy Plan

Our Faith Active in Worship – July 21, 2024

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$3,112
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,915
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$75
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$10
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$110
Total Attendance	Zoom – 16, In Person – 98