

## 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](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  
Jeff Buffington  
Jim Watson  
Joshua Paul

Pastor  
Young Christians Minister  
Greeter  
Lector  
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 Kyras'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

Music by **Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band**

\*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.**

\*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

Music by **Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band**

#### We Hear God's Word

First Reading: I Kings 3:5-12

Psalm: 119:129-136

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-39

\*Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

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

Sermon

Music by **Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band**

#### 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.**

Music by **Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band**

#### 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!**

Music by **Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band**

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Please stand, if able to do so.

**Our Faith Active in Worship – July 23, 2023**

<b><i>Current – Budget Goal</i></b>	<b>\$2,796</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,123
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$80
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$10
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$95
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom –13, In Person – 126</b>

**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** – Headed to Penn State Hershey Medical Center on 8/1 for Week of In-Patient Intensive Chemotherapy
- **Jean & Fred Weaver** – In Need of Prayer

### Today, Sunday, July 30

8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)  
9:30am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)  
9:30am **Outdoor Worship** in the Pavilion **with Special Musical Guests, the Lykens Valley Bluegrass Band** (In-Person and On Zoom)

### Monday, July 31

***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.***

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, August 1

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours  
9:30am Pastor Tom at Monthly Gathering of Upper Dauphin Conference Pastors  
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, August 2

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 3

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 4

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 5

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off  
8am-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 6

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost  
8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)  
9:30am SONDay Celebration (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 now through 9:00am Monday. Items not claimed will be donated or disposed of appropriately.

***From the end of worship next Sunday morning until the morning of Thursday, August 17, Pastor Tom is planning time away. In his absence, Pastor Godfred Effisah will be on call one final time for any emergency needs for pastoral care. Should you need to get in touch with him, please call Fay Nichols, our Telephone Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 717-329-7447, who will both place the concern on the prayer chain and contact Pastor Godfred. Or, Pastor Godfred can be reached directly by calling 571-572-0119. For all non-emergency matters, Pastor Tom will return to the office on the morning of August 17.***

### 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 7.

Watch for further details from Miss Laurie about the ***Annual Water Fun Night*** coming up on Friday, August 11, this year including the "dunking booth" which made its debut at our "Voices and Vittles" picnic!

\* \* \* \* \*

The 2nd quarter audit will be held at the church on Monday, August 14th at 9:30 a.m. Treasurers, please have all your records at the church. Thank you. Pat Herb

### 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.

### Book Group - Summer 2023

Join us for some light summer reading! We'll read the first 3 titles in each of these 2 series, and then we'll discuss them at an Evening Picnic on Monday, August 21, 6:30 pm in the Pavilion:

- **The Mitford Years Series** by Jan Karon (**At Home in Mitford; A Light in the Window; These High, Green Hills**)
- **The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series** by Alexander McCall Smith (**The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency; Tears of the Giraffe; Morality for Beautiful Girls**)

Choose to read one of the series ... or all 6 books. A few copies are available for sharing in the church library -- and more at your local public library, both physical copy and ebook. If you have questions or need to locate a book, please contact Ann ([rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com)). Everyone is welcome!

### Synodical Women's Convention Ingathering

From July 15<sup>th</sup> until August 13<sup>th</sup>, 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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