

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
Carol Hubler
Ty Troutman
Matt and Olivia Williard
Jim Watson
Joshua Paul

Pastor
Young Christians Minister
Keyboardist
Senior Choir Director
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 Kyrrah'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** #469 "Lord of All Hopefulness"

*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: Zechariah 9:9-12

Psalm: 145:8-14

Second Reading: Romans 7:15-25a

*Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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** #262 "Savior Again to Your Dear Name"

*Keyboard Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, Sunday, July 9

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

- 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 Mutual Ministry Committee Quarterly Meeting in the Pavilion
- 6pm Congregational Council Midsummer Meeting

Monday, July 10

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

Tuesday, July 11

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

Wednesday, July 12

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Thursday, July 13

Pastor Tom on the Road for a Pastoral Visit – No Scheduled Office Hours

Friday, July 14

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

Saturday, July 15

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, July 16

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

- 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) ***(We will be back to approximately 100 metal chairs set up in advance, but anyone who would prefer to do so is also welcome to bring along their own camp chairs to create their own seating. Please keep in mind that this will be an outdoor service on a Hill known for its cool breezes – be sure to dress warmly and bring a sweater or jacket!)***
- 10:30am Property Committee will hold a brief Special Meeting in the pavilion, immediately following worship

Looking Ahead

Vacation Bible School – **Hero Hotline – Called Together to Serve God** – gets underway on Monday, July 17, at 6:30 P.M.

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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.

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). Everyone is welcome!

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-Noon. This will be when we unpack, sort, hang and organize donations.
- The sale will take place in the pavilion:
 - **Thursday, August 3, 8am-5pm**
 - **Friday, August 4, 8am-5pm**
 - **Saturday, August 5, 8-11am.**
- To help during the yard sale, please come to the pavilion at any time during the hours of the sale, listed above.

Prayer Shawls

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.)**

Bethesda Mission Collections

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.

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.

Our Faith Active in Worship – July 2, 2023

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,498
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$265
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$35
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$315
Total Attendance	Zoom –17, In Person – 57

"St John's Restoration 250" Financial Update – As of July 2, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$82,380
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$123,185
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$11,230

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