
Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:

PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270
717-362-9519

stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com | 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
Reyann Cheatham	Lector
Darrell & Janet Denlinger	Greeters
Brooklyn & Brayden Bender	Acolytes
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of March, our support of **Tree 4 Hope** is presented by Delmar and Ginny Enders to the Glory of God in loving memory of siblings; Bernita, Jim, Cindy and Troy. Our support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** is sponsored by LuAnn Ressler in memory of her husband Jeffery Ressler.

This week's **Altar Flowers** are presented in memory of Arlie & Jenny Koppenhaver & Josephine Bruner by her son.

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!

Sunday Morning Liturgy

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements
Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who brings us safely through the sea, who gives us water from the rock, who leads us into the land of milk and honey.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Let us come home to God, confessing our sin.

(brief silence follows)

P: Merciful Father,

C: **WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST HEAVEN AND BEFORE YOU. WE DO NOT FULLY LIVE AS YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS. WE USE YOUR GIFTS TO OUR OWN ENDS. FORGIVE US AND RESTORE US, THAT WE MAY RESIST ALL THAT DRAWS US AWAY FROM YOU, AND BE AT PEACE WITH ONE ANOTHER. AMEN.**

P: We are reconciled to God through Christ; for his sake, God does not count our trespasses against us. Once dead in sin, we are now alive to God. Once lost, we now are found. God clothes us in the finest robe of all, the righteousness of Jesus Christ, forgiving us all our sins and making of us a New Creation.

C: **AMEN.**

*Opening Hymn #793 "Be Thou My Vision"

*Greeting:

P: The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

*Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: I Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm: 23

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

*Gospel: John 9:1-41

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

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

Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie

Young Persons Go with Miss Laurie for Celebration Time

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

A New Creed:

WE ARE NOT ALONE,

WE LIVE IN GOD'S WORLD.

WE BELIEVE IN GOD:

WHO HAS CREATED AND IS CREATING,

WHO HAS COME IN JESUS,

THE WORD MADE FLESH,

TO RECONCILE AND MAKE NEW,

WHO WORKS IN US AND OTHERS

BY THE SPIRIT.

WE TRUST IN GOD.

**WE ARE CALLED TO BE THE CHURCH:
TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE,
TO LIVE WITH RESPECT IN CREATION,
TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS,
TO SEEK JUSTICE AND RESIST EVIL,
TO PROCLAIM JESUS, CRUCIFIED AND RISEN,
OUR JUDGE AND OUR HOPE.
IN LIFE, IN DEATH, IN LIFE BEYOND DEATH,
GOD IS WITH US.
WE ARE NOT ALONE.
THANKS BE TO GOD.**

-The United Church of Canada, 1968

Anthem by Senior Choir

*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*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: God our Father bless us and shield us. Christ our Brother shelter us and carry us. God the Holy Spirit guide our journey, both now and forever.

C: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

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

*Closing Hymn #714 "O God of Mercy, God of Light"

*Choral Dismissal Song #622 "Neither Death nor Life"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Our Faith Active in Worship – March 12, 2023

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,943
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$185
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$45
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$255
Total Attendance	Zoom – 21, In Person – 100

“St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of March 12, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$83,280
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$121,505
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$12,010

Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **Cindy Carr** – At Home, With Important Medical Appointments Coming Up Week of 3/20
- **Judy Cheatham** – Rm. #47B, Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **Timothy Enders** – Rm. #120, 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, Viva Senior Living at Harrisburg, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111 (717.909.0417)
- **Dianne Schell** – Headed to UPMC West Shore on 3/21 for Surgery to Implant a Pacemaker

Today, Sunday, March 19

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 Sunny Sermon and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)

Monday, March 20

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
9am	“Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
6:30pm	Book Group Gathering on Zoom
	Both Monday Evening and Monday, April 17, we'll be discussing the book <u>Walking the Bible</u> by Bruce Feiler, followed by a viewing the movie in April: Initial Discussion on Zoom - March 20 6:30 pm Please don't worry if you are still reading the book. It will be good to talk about what we're learning part way through. Thanks to Pat and Lori who plan to provide snacks that you can pick up Sunday or Monday morning at church!
	Walking the Bible movie - April 17 6:30 pm at church Anyone is welcome to bring food or drink to share.
7pm	Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting at St. Peter Lutheran, Rt. 225, Halifax

Tuesday, March 21

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:15pm	Worship & Music Committee Gathering
7:30pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 22

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:15pm	Community Lenten Supper and Worship (7:00) at Salem Lutheran Church, Elizabethtown – Pastor Tom Speaking

Thursday, March 23

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
5:30pm	For the first time since the COVID years, an eat-in Free Community Dinner will be held at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown. This meal, as in a past 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 (and our representative, Fay Nichols), as well as local businesses and other organizations.

From early Thursday afternoon until late Saturday evening, Pastor Tom is planning to take time away. In his absence, Pastor Godfred Effisah (pronounced eh-FEE-suh), who serves the Rife/Killinger Parish, will be on call 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 plan to be back in the office as usual on Sunday morning.

Friday, March 24

Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours

Saturday, March 25

Annunciation of Our Lord

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, March 26

Fifth Sunday in Lent

- 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 Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)

Looking Ahead

Property Committee will gather at the church at 6:15 P.M. on Tuesday, March 28.

Kayla Henry and Daniel Eyler have announced their intention to wed on Saturday, April 1 (at an off-site venue) and ask our prayers!

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Our spring session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on Wednesday, April 19 and run for six weeks, meeting each week from 6:30 to 8:00pm and wrapping up prior to Memorial Day weekend. Prior to April 19, the folks who have signed up will make the decision whether we will meet in a hybrid fashion (in-person with a Zoom option) or via Zoom only – Pastor Tom will be open to doing whatever the group decides. For our spring study, we will be “following the lead” of Book Discussion Group, reading and discussing the acclaimed book ***Walking the Bible*** by Bruce Feiler, in which he engages us in his experiences of traveling over and through those lands we commonly refer to as the “Holy Lands”, helping us see familiar biblical passages with new perspectives. Depending on how our gatherings run, we may finish with a May 24 Movie Night to take in the film based on the book together, maybe even with popcorn! ***To take part in this spring study, you do not have to have taken part in Book Discussion Group in March or April – nor will you be “bored” if you did!*** And, as always with these studies, no previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and (if and when you are comfortable doing so) discuss God’s Word together! So that the correct number of study books can be ordered for our study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) and let him know if you will need a copy of the book **by the end of the day on Maundy Thursday, April 6.**

We have a new location for food donations for the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center in Lykens. Please place those non-perishable food items on any shelf inside the north (right side, coming in the front doors) closet, where the door is labelled accordingly. As the contributions add up, deliveries will be made to the pantry by **Larry Gessner**. Thank you!

Pastor Tom is seeking a male and a female voting member (confirmed congregational family members who have communed and contributed in this or the prior year and who do not have to be spouses) to join him in attending this year’s Annual Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly, with the theme ***Created for Community***. The business of the assembly will begin the evening of Friday, June 2 and conclude at the end of the day on Saturday, June 3. The Assembly will be ‘hybrid,’ with one of the Assembly Business days taking place via Zoom and one taking place in person. All costs for voting members are borne by our congregational family budget, so all that interested folks need to be able to contribute is their time. ***Please speak with Pastor Tom ASAP to learn more; early discounted registration ends on March 31.***

For the month of April, sponsors are still needed (signup sheet temporarily on the table outside of Pastor Tom’s office) for our monthly ministry support for our ***Celebrate*** bulletin inserts (\$22/month), for providing one month of a ***Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary*** (\$50/month), for our monthly ministry of ***Tree 4 Hope*** (\$50/month), as well as for the altar flowers for Sunday, April 9 (Easter Day) and April 30 (\$35/week, signup sheet temporarily posted on the south closet door in the foyer). To sponsor any of these ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please either sign up in person or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can take care of signing you up. ***Important (New) Update About Altar Flowers: With a good tip from Kim Williard, Sheila Barder and Dana Klouser, our flower committee chairpersons, have arranged for Elizabeth’s Flowers in Tower City to take over when our current providers, Bittersweet, go out of business at the end of May. Even though we are currently beyond their usual delivery radius, Elizabeth’s are willing to take us on at the same \$35 per week, at least for now.***

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!!

Join the Youth Group for a **FREE** showing of the PG rated movie...

FAMILY CAMP

Monday, April 10th

at the

Colonnade in Millersburg

Doors Open at 6:15 p.m. ~ Movie Starts at 6:30 p.m.

"When their pastor encourages the congregation to sign-up for a week away at family camp, Grace believes she's found the perfect cure for her imperfect clan - even if they'd all rather be anywhere but at rustic Camp Katokwah. FAMILY CAMP is a laugh-out-loud comedy that will touch the hearts and tickle the funny bones of every family member from eight to eighty."

**** Concession stand will be open!!! ****
**** Bring your friends and family! ****
***** NO NEED TO SIGN-UP! *****

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Easter Flower Order Form April 9, 2023 Stauffer's Greenhouse

Tulips and Geraniums will come in assorted colors

		Quantity	Total Cost
White Lilies	4/5 blooms: \$11.00	_____	_____
Daffodils	6" pot: \$9.00	_____	_____
Tulips	6" pot: \$9.00	_____	_____
Regal Geraniums	6" pot: \$9.00	_____	_____
Order Total		#	\$

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Please **PRINT** desired memorial as you want it printed in the bulletin:

Presented by:

In honor of:

In Memory of:

For the Many Blessings of:

Order forms, along with payment, can be given to any Flower Fund Committee
Member: Dana Klouser, Gail Billow, Fay Nichols or Sheila Barder

Make checks payable to: **St. John Lutheran Church**

Absolute last day to order March 19, 2023

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

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