

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.	Pastor
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Judy Ferree	Organist
Ty Troutman	Senior Choir Director
Reyann Cheatham	Lector
Jeff Buffington	Greeters
Tanner and Abby Bixler	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 to the Glory of God and in celebration of Grant and Ashten's birthdays by the Barder Family.

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 – ELW Setting 10

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Confession and Forgiveness

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*Opening Hymn #759 "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

*Apostolic Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm: 130

Second Reading: Romans 8:6-11

*Gospel Acclamation (sung in unison):

WE ARE TURNING, LORD, TO HEAR YOU; YOU ARE MERCIFUL AND KIND – SLOW TO ANGER, RICH IN BLESSING, AND WITH LOVE TO US INCLINED. (Pg. 205)

*Gospel: John 11:1-45

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

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

Young Persons Go with Miss Laurie for Celebration Time

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*

Musical Anthem by Senior Choir

*Offertory Hymn (#182) (sung as gifts are brought forward):

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. CAST ME NOT AWAY FROM YOUR PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME. RESTORE TO ME THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION, AND UPHOLD ME WITH YOUR FREE SPIRIT.

*Prayers of the Church

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right side of page

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God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Blessing:

P: God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore.

C: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

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

*Closing Hymn #452 "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

*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 19, 2023

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$3,143
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$154
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$80
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$152
Total Attendance	Zoom – 23, In Person – 72

“St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of March 19, 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	\$121,605
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$11,910

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, 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** – Discharged from UPMC West Shore on 3/22

Attention

All Women of St. John’s Congregational Family!

**A very important meeting is scheduled for
April 16th at 2:00 p.m.**

**The future of our ministry together as the
Women of St. John will need to be
discussed and addressed and new
ideas are most welcome.**

Please make every effort to attend this meeting.

Thank you.

Today, Sunday, March 26

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 for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom)

Monday, March 27

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
9am	“Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief

Tuesday, March 28

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

Wednesday, March 29

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off (instead of 4/1) – No Planned Office Hours

6:15pm	Community Lenten Supper and Worship (7:00) at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown
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Thursday, March 30

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
5pm	Henry/Eyler Wedding Rehearsal (off site)

Friday, March 31

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
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Saturday, April 1

4pm	Marriage of Kayla Henry and Daniel Eyler (off site)
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Next Sunday, April 2

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday	
9am	Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9am	Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)
9am	SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am	Worship, Including Liturgy of Palms, Dramatic Reading by Vincent Lamenza of <i>The Passion According to St. Matthew</i> , Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom)
11:30am	Youth Group Gathering at the Church Starting with Pizza Lunch
4pm	Congregational Council March/April Meeting

Looking Ahead

Please see Pastor Tom's letter in your April *St. John's Epistle* for our full schedule of special worship and other activities during the final week before Easter Sunday.

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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.**

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.***

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.

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.***

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!

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! *****