

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Berrysburg, PA

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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.

Judy Ferree

Reyann Cheatham

Roy Henry

Pastor

Organist

Lector

Council President

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book in the foyer. As we celebrate our Lord's Supper, we welcome to our table all baptized Christians who have received the sacrament in their home congregations. All persons who do not yet commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please worship with us again and join in other congregational family activities!

Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

7:00pm

Ash Wednesday Liturgy – ELW Setting 10

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Gathering in Silence

Psalm: 51:1-17

Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Second Reading: II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Gospel Acclamation (spoken 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: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

Invitation to Lent:

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession of Sin:

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

P: Most holy and merciful God,

C: WE CONFESS TO YOU AND TO ONE ANOTHER, AND BEFORE THE WHOLE COMPANY OF HEAVEN, THAT WE HAVE SINNED BY OUR FAULT, BY OUR OWN FAULT, BY OUR OWN MOST GREIVIOUS FAULT, IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED, BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND BY WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE.

P: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD.

P: We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our false judgements, our uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors, and our prejudice and content toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

C: HAVE MERCY ON US, O GOD

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: HEAR US, O GOD, FOR YOUR MERCY IS GREAT.

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: THAT WE MAY SHOW FORTH YOUR GLORY IN THE WORLD.

P: By the Cross and Passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: BRING US WITH ALL YOUR SAINTS TO THE JOY OF HIS RESSURECTION.

P: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C: AMEN

Prayers

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings (in silence)

Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray... our savior and Lord.

C: AMEN.

We Receive the Ashes, Share in God’s Supper and God Sends Us to Share the Good News

Words of Institution

Our Lord’s Prayer – traditional version on right

pg. 208

Prayer Over the Ashes:

P: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **AMEN.**

Blessing:

P: The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord’s face shine on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

C: **AMEN.**

Closing Hymn #629 “Abide with Me”

Dismissal:

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

In Silence, We Receive the Ashes and Jesus’ Body and Blood, and We Depart to Serve.

On the upcoming Wednesday evenings of Lent, we Lutheran, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist congregations of the Berrysburg and Elizabethtown area will be returning to something at least much closer to normal after two “off” years. While we aren’t yet at the place where any of the host pastors felt it was prudent to re-start the beloved 6:15pm meals, we will have the opportunity to join in worship with our Brothers and Sisters in Jesus, at the familiar 7:00pm, ending by 8:00pm. As before, the host pastor of each congregation will lead the worship, while the pastors will each take turns preaching in a congregation other than their own. For this year’s series theme, we are returning to the planned-but-mostly-cancelled 2020 theme ***Preachers of the Gospel*** in which the preacher of the evening will share his story of a Person of the Faith, from recent times or from ancient times or from some time in between, whose words have been especially influential in his faith journey and ministry as a pastor. The details for these Wednesday evenings are as follows:

Date	Host Congregation	Preacher/Subject
March 9	St. John	Rev. Ray Holland C.S. Lewis
March 16	St. Peters (Hoffmans) United Church of Christ, Crossroads	Pastor Tom Jan Huss
March 23	Trinity United Methodist Church, Elizabethtown	Rev. Nathan Minnich Dietrich Bonhoeffer
March 30	Salem Lutheran Church, Elizabethtown	Rev. Bill Romberger John Wesley
April 6	Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown	Rev. Mark Rothermel Zacharias Ursinus

For our March 9 worship, we will follow our current COVID guidelines of safe distancing and required masks for everyone who is not yet fully vaccinated. We will also have worship available both in-person here at the church and on Zoom (links to come via Pastor Tom’s email) as per usual.