

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location: 215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

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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
Barry Williard	Holy Communion Assistant
Delmar & Ginny Enders	Altar Guild Preparation
Matt and Olivia Williard	Greeters
Brady Dresel and Kyan Peters	Acolytes
Joshua Paul	Lead Usher/Council President

For the month of March, the **Celebrate Inserts**, the support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** and the **Tree 4 Hope** are sponsored by Brian and Sheila Barder.

This week's **Altar Flowers** are presented to the Glory of God and in honor of the March birthdays in the Hassinger family: Mary, Judy, Eli, Beth, Brian, Katie and Dale.

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!

Sunday Morning Liturgy – ELW Setting 10

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Confession and Forgiveness

Pg. 94-96

*Opening Hymn #324 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

*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: Exodus 20:1-17

Psalm: 19

Second Reading: I Corinthians 1:18-25

*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 2:13-22

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

*Nicene Creed

Pg. 104

*Prayers of the Church

Offering of Our Gifts and Choir Anthem

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

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL LORD, AND FILL TO THE BRIM OUR CUP OF BLESSING. GATHER A HARVEST FROM THE SEEDS THAT WERE SOWN, THAT WE MAY BE FED WITH THE BREAD OF LIFE. GATHER THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF ALL; UNITE THEM WITH THE PRAYERS WE OFFER NOW. GRACE OUR TABLE WITH YOUR PRESENCE AND GIVE US A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME.

*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray... our Savior and Lord. All: **AMEN.**

We Share in God's Supper

*Words of Institution of Holy Communion

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right

Pg. 208

We Partake of Our Lord's Supper (As we share in the sacrament, please join in singing the praise song "O Lamb of God"):

O LAMB OF GOD, YOU BEAR THE SIN OF ALL THE WORLD AWAY; YOU SUFFERED DEATH OUR LIVES TO SAVE: HAVE MERCY NOW, WE PRAY. O LAMB OF GOD, YOU BEAR THE SIN OF ALL THE WORLD AWAY; YOU SET US FREE FROM GUILT AND GRAVE: HAVE MERCY NOW, WE PRAY. O LAMB OF GOD, YOU BEAR THE SIN OF ALL THE WORLD AWAY; ETERNAL PEACE WITH GOD YOU MADE: GIVE US YOUR PEACE, WE PRAY. (Pg. 208)

*Post Communion Blessing:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

All: **AMEN**

God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Post Communion Prayer:

P: Let us pray... Christ our Lord.

All: **AMEN**

*Blessing and Dismissal:

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

All: **AMEN**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

*Closing Hymn #485 "I Am the Bread of Life"

*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.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Easter Flower Order Form

Stauffer's Greenhouse

Pick Up - March 31, 2024**

Tulips come in assorted colors – No color choice **

			<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Total Cost</u>
White Lily	4/5 blooms	\$11	_____	@ 11.00	_____
Daffodils	6" pot	\$9	_____	@ 9.00	_____
Tulips*	6" pot	\$9	_____	@ 9.00	_____
Regal Geranium	6" pot	\$9	_____	@ 9.00	_____
Order Total:					\$ _____

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

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

Absolute last day to order is March 03, 2024

Our Faith Active in Worship – February 14 and 18, 2024

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$3,112
Current – Offerings Received	\$3,455
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$450
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$120
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$340
Total Attendance 2/14:	Zoom – 11, In Person – 51
Total Attendance 2/18:	Zoom – 32, In Person – 63

Our Faith Active in Worship – February 25, 2024

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$3,112
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,757
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$55
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$35
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$405
Total Attendance:	Zoom – 18, In Person – 131

“St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of February 29, 2024

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$ 80,055
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$136,290
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$450

Today, March 3

9am	Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9am	Youth Group Faith Formation with Matt & Olivia (In-Person)
9am	Confirmation Class (In-Person)
9am	SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am	Worship, Including Celebration of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)

Monday, March 4

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
9-11am	“Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
6:30pm	(on Zoom) Monthly Book Discussion Group Gathering (Our March book is The Sign of the Cross by Bert Ghezzi . Don't forget to pick up your snacks! Goodies will be in the kitchen on Sunday to share while online Monday evening! If you have questions or need to locate a book, contact Ann rahbruner@gmail.com .)
	Church Dartball League – St. John Bye Evening

Tuesday, March 5

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
7:30pm	Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 6

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:15pm	Community Lenten Supper and Worship (7:00) at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville – Pastor Tom Speaking
6:30-8pm	March “Jesus Brings New Life” Gathering of Celebration Club with Miss Laurie

Thursday, March 7

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:30-7:30pm	St. John Women of the ELCA Event: Around the World with Mary Ann Smeltz. Come enjoy an evening with Mary Ann presenting a PowerPoint presentation which will transport those attending to all 7 continents via photos and videos of some of her travels. She has been to 7 continents and has been to 60 countries and counting!

Friday, March 8

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6pm	Girl Scout Troop Meets to Prepare for Girl Scout Sunday

Saturday, March 9

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

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Please be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday – Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday.

Next Sunday, March 10

Fourth Sunday in Lent

- 9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9am Youth Group Faith Formation with Matt & Olivia (In-Person)
- 9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
- 9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
- 10:15am Worship, Including Annual Observance of Girl Scout Sunday and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 6pm Congregational Council Meeting

Looking Ahead

The first planning meeting for our Annual Strawberry Festival will be held on **Monday, March 11, beginning at 7:00 P.M.** Since there really isn't a fixed committee and the meeting is literally made up of those interested persons who show up each time, all interested persons are (really!) invited to attend. (Please don't forget that the Festival itself is planned for June 12.)

Members and Leaders of our Cub Scout Pack #86 will be present for worship on Sunday, March 17, as we observe **Scout Sunday**.

Immediately following worship on Sunday, March 17, the members of our Equal Exchange/Fair Trade Ministry Team – Ann Bruner, Courtney Foreman, and Grayson Foreman – will host a time of fellowship downstairs for sampling and purchasing.

Creation Care Team has met twice and decided on a few initial projects, including renewed/improved recycling at church and during the strawberry festival, and educational and worship projects. Everyone is invited to share ideas and resources at our next meeting **Sunday, March 17, at 4:00 pm** - in person and with a Zoom option. If you have questions - or can't make it but have ideas to share -- please talk with Christie Kahler or Ann Bruner.

Easter Sunrise Breakfast

Please join us for the First Annual Fred Weaver Memorial Easter Breakfast on March 31st at 7am. If there are any men of the congregation willing to help please contact Roy Henry at 717-215-9837.

For the month of April, sponsors are needed for our altar flowers for Sundays, April 14 and April 28 - \$35/week. To sponsor either date in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please either sign up in person on the foyer bulletin board or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can take care of signing you up.

Please place your non-perishable food donations for the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center in Lykens on any shelf inside the north (right side, coming in the front doors) closet in the foyer, 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 one male voting member and one female voting member (confirmed congregational family member who has communed and contributed in this or the prior year) who do not have to be married to join him in attending this year's Annual Lower Susquehanna Synod Assembly, with the theme ***The Healing of the Nations: Christ's Healing for a Broken World***. Again this year, the business of the assembly will be held in two parts – on the evening of Friday, May 31, on Zoom (and so in the comfort of your own home) and on Saturday, June 1, in-person at St. Matthew Lutheran, York. All costs for voting members are borne by our congregational family budget, so all that anyone willing to serve needs to be able to contribute is their time. Please speak with him as soon as possible to learn more.

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.)***

The Youth Group continues to collect aluminum – aluminum only, please – in the lower level of the barn, facing toward Elizabethville. ***Please be sure to place your aluminum inside the sliding door and not outside in the pull-in space, where the animals tend to create a mess with donations.*** Thank you for your help with this major fundraiser for our youth and help for our environment!

Please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you turn in one communion record card this year – ***only one is needed each year***. Also, if you are a contributing member of the congregation, please be sure that you **use your offering envelopes at least once** this year, so that you are on record as having made a contribution. Please help to make sure that our parish records are as accurate as possible!

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** – Home now Receiving Chemotherapy Every Third Tuesday