

## Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

### 911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

### For US Mail Deliveries:

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717-362-9519

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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
Joshua Paul	Holy Communion Assistant
Bonnie and Ron Erb	Altar Guild Preparation
Youth Group	Greeter
Cole Roadcap and Lilly Rabenold	Acolytes
Reyann Cheatham	Lector
Jeff Lehman	Lead Usher
Ty Troutman	Senior Choir Director
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 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 #779 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

\*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: Genesis 12:1-4a

Psalm: 121

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

\*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 3:1-17

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

Musical Anthem by Senior Choir

\*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

\*Great Thanksgiving (spoken):

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

P: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

\*We Respond in Praise (sung in unison):

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAV'N AND EARTH  
ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE  
WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST,  
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. (Pg. 207)**

\*Eucharistic Prayer:

P: ...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All Sing: **CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME  
AGAIN. (Pg. 207)**

P: ...be all honor and glory in your Holy Church, now and forever.

All Sing: **AMEN, AMEN, AMEN. (Pg. 207)**

\*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" on 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 #638 "Blessed Assurance"

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

\*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Please stand, if able to do so.

**Today, Sunday, March 5**

- 9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
- 9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
- 9am Senior High Youth Prepare for Congregational Spaghetti Supper
- 10:15am Worship, Including the Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 11:30am Annual Congregational Spaghetti Luncheon, Served by Youth Group (***The meal is back this year as a sit-down meal with entertainment. A free-will offering will be received for the Youth Group.***)

**Monday, March 6**

- 809:20am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
  - 9am "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
- Due to the delayed delivery of books, the Book Group Discussion scheduled for Monday evening on Zoom has been postponed; please watch for further details about rescheduling, with everyone invited!** Next up – **Walking the Bible** by Bruce Feiler. Please call or email Ann 717.362.7895 [rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com) if you need a book or have any questions.

**Tuesday, March 7**

- Pastor Tom at Morning Medical Appointment – No Scheduled Office Hours***
- 7pm First Planning Meeting for our Annual Strawberry Festival (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.)
  - 7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Wednesday, March 8**

- 8-9am** ***Pastor Tom's Office Hours***
- 9am** ***Pastor Tom on the Road for Day of Pastoral Visits***
- 6:15pm Community Lenten Supper and Worship (7:00) at Peace United Church of Christ, Berrysburg

**Thursday, March 9**

- Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East***
- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

**Friday, March 10**

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

**Saturday, March 11**

- 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 12**

- Third 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 the Observing of Girl Scout Sunday and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)

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## Looking Ahead

Pastor Tom is trying to determine if there is interest in bringing back our 7:00am Easter Day (April 9 this year) Breakfast, served by the men of our congregational family, for the first time since 2019. To do this, we first of all need someone willing and able to coordinate and plan the meal. To learn more, or to volunteer to serve in this way, please speak with Pastor Tom.

Please be sure that, if you are a communing member of St. John, you turn in **at least one communion record card** this 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!

As things have settled down in our foyer as we wrap up our **Restoration 250** project, 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, 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!

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 Update About Altar Flowers: We have recently received word that our current altar flower providers, Bittersweet, will be going out of business as of the end of May. Post-COVID, there are even fewer flower options than there were pre-COVID, and so Sheila Barder and Dana Klouser, our flower committee chairpersons, have only been able to identify Burrell's as a replacement at this time. Because Burrell's charges \$7 for delivery, the weekly cost will rise with them, starting with the month of June, from \$35 to \$42. If you have already sponsored flowers in June or after and would no longer wish to do so at the higher price, please speak with either Dana or Sheila to be removed from the sign-up sheet.**

Copies of the 2022 Annual Congregational Report (along with remaining 2023 offering envelopes) are available in the foyer, for those who either aren't able to access the pdf copy online or who would prefer to have a hard copy as well.

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.)**

Please see the bright blue container at the computer desk in the Sunday School Room to recycle your AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt and Button Cell batteries in Alkaline, NiMH, NiCAD, Zinc Air and Non-Lithium types, 9 volts and below. All batteries must be dry cell only, and they cannot be leaking or have broken cases. Through the efforts of Larry Gessner, batteries that are in especially good condition are being recharged and donated to Bethesda Mission, while all others are recycled.

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!

## Our Faith Active in Worship – February 22 & 26, 2023

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,796</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,953
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$380
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$255
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$490
Total Attendance	
Ash Wednesday, 2/22:	<b>Zoom – 18, In Person – 42</b>
Sunday, 2/26:	<b>Zoom – 15, In Person – 95</b>

## “St John's Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of February 26, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$83,330
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$121,375
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$12,090

## 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)