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## Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

### 911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

### For US Mail Deliveries:

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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
James & Lois Watson	Greeters
Amy Gehring	Lector
Isaac Schaffner and Makayla Crabb	Acolytes
Joshua Paul	Council President

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For the month of May, our support of the **Celebrate Insert** is sponsored by Lynn and Helen Henninger to celebrate and thank all the young people who serve as acolytes. **Tree 4 Hope** and our support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** is sponsored by Dale and Carol Hassinger for the Glory of God and the Founding Fathers that provided stability to enable us to continue our works of the church.

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The **Altar flowers** are sponsored by Chris & Dana Klouser to the Glory of God in honor of grandson, Cooper Alan Klouser's 1st Birthday (5.22).

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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!

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## 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, the life beyond all death, the joy beyond all sorrow, our everlasting home.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Rejoicing in Christ's victory over sin and death, let us come before God who calls us to repentance.

*(brief silence follows)*

P: God of life,

C: **BY THE RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON YOU MAKE EVERYTHING NEW. NEWNESS SCARES US, AND WE CONFESS TO SHUTTING OUR DOORS IN FEAR. WE HAVE NOT LISTENED TO VOICES THAT CHALLENGE US. WE HAVE RESISTED THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVING US IN NEW DIRECTIONS. OUR HEARTS ARE SLOW TO BELIEVE YOUR PROMISES. FORGIVE US, O GOD, AND RENEW US TO EMBRACE WITHOUT FEAR THE NEW LIFE YOU HAVE GIVEN US IN JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.**

P: People of God: Christ is alive, and death has lost its power. Through the waters of baptism we have been born anew by the living word of God. Know that our sins are forgiven in Jesus' name and that the Spirit of the risen Christ is alive in us both now and forever.

C: **AMEN.**

\*Opening Hymn #389 "Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing"

\*Greeting:

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: **CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

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: Acts 1:6-14

Psalm: 68:1-10, 32-35

Second Reading: I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11

\*Gospel: John 17:1-11

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 THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT BY MY OWN UNDERSTANDING OR STRENGTH I CANNOT BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST MY LORD OR COME TO HIM, BUT INSTEAD THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CALLED ME THROUGH THE GOSPEL, ENLIGHTENED ME WITH HIS GIFTS, MADE ME HOLY, AND KEPT ME IN THE TRUE FAITH, JUST AS HE CALLS, GATHERS, ENLIGHTENS, AND MAKES HOLY THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON EARTH AND KEEPS IT WITH JESUS CHRIST IN THE ONE COMMON, TRUE FAITH. DAILY IN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH THE HOLY SPIRIT ABUNDANTLY FORGIVES ALL SINS – MINE AND THOSE OF ALL BELIEVERS. ON THE LAST DAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL RAISE ME AND ALL THE DEAD AND WILL GIVE TO ME AND ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ETERNAL LIFE. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.**

-Martin Luther's "Small Catechism"

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: The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, restore, support, strengthen, and bless us by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C: **AMEN**

\*Dismissal:

P: Alleluia. Go in peace. Share the good news.

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

\*Closing Hymn #654 "The Church's One Foundation"

\*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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\* Please stand, if able to do so.

**Today, Sunday, May 21**

- 9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9am Youth Group Bible Time (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)
- 11:15am-1:30pm Youth Group Gathering with Lunch

**Monday, May 22**

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 9am "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
- 7pm Third and Final Planning Meeting for our June 7 Annual Strawberry Festival  
(Since this is a very open-ended committee, all interested folks are especially welcome and encouraged to attend.)

**Tuesday, May 23**

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 5:30pm Combined Outside Work Night** *(We will begin getting the pavilion cleaned up and ready for the Annual Strawberry Festival and generally spruce up our church outside property. As we have done successfully now for several years, we are again putting what had in past years been two annual work nights together into one slightly longer evening, but lots of help will be needed! Please come and help for as much or as little time as you have, and please bring along your favorite cleaning supplies and yard tools.)*

**Wednesday, May 24**

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

**Thursday, May 25**

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 5:30pm Free Community Dinner at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethville  
(This meal in a 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, as well as local businesses and other organizations.)
- 7pm Council President Joshua Paul and Pastor Tom Present St. John Congregational Scholarship at UDAHS Class Night

**Friday, May 26**

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

**Saturday, May 27**

- Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

**Next Sunday, May 28**

- Day of Pentecost
- 8:45am** Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9:30am** Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 9:30 am** SONDay Celebration (In-Person)

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Publicity posters for the Strawberry Festival are available for picking up on the shelf underneath the new cross in the foyer.

For Strawberry Festival donations again this year, we are simply requesting monetary donations for all items. This is because the different committees who are responsible for the preparation of various food items for June 7 can make much more cost-effective purchases by buying supplies in bulk, often at wholesale outlets, allowing us all to be the best possible stewards of everyone's time and hard-earned money. Therefore, please see the sign-up sheet posted on the foyer bulletin board, where the approximate prices of different items are listed, and consider taking the amount of money that you might have used in the past to go shopping for Festival items, placing it in a plain envelope showing your name and offering envelope number – checks payable to "St. John Bicentennial Fund" please – and dropping it in the offering plate or passing it along to Lynn Henninger or Jeff Lehman or Pastor Tom – by June 4 if possible.

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!

If you've ever thought you'd like to give a tug on the bell rope just to see what happens, here is your chance! Congregational Council and Pastor Tom are looking for three or four persons who would be willing to serve as a part of a bell ringing team. Our Lead Ushers, who have been designated as the persons to ring the bell each Sunday 15 minutes before the start of worship, have been finding that it is tough to both be upstairs doing their work and then also remember to get back downstairs at the appointed time. So, folks who would be willing to serve as part of a monthly rotation of bell ringers, to be coordinated by **Jeff Lehman**, are needed. "Training" will be provided and your help will be much appreciated! Please speak with Jeff or with Pastor Tom if interested.

For the month of June, sponsors are still needed (signup sheet temporarily on the table outside of Pastor Tom's office) for our monthly ministry support of **Tree 4 Hope** (\$50/month). To sponsor this ministry 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.

**Jammin' with the Ladies!**

This year as we prepare for the Strawberry Festival, the Women's group again are having an area for "Jammin' with the Ladies". We will have jams and jellies as well as home-made breads. If anyone wants to help with items needed: Sugar, Sure Jell, Jars and lids, or financial help please contact Fay Nichols.

Thank you to my congregational family, and especially to Pastor Tom, for the visits, cards, calls, and other expressions of love and concern for me and for her my family during these trying times of health challenges. -Dianne Schell

**Our Faith Active in Worship – May 7, 2023**

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,796</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$3,445
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$110
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$75
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$265
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom –11, In Person – 81</b>

**Our Faith Active in Worship – May 14, 2023**

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,796</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,241
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$46
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$31
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$288
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom –11, In Person – 65</b>

**“St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of May 14, 2023**

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$82,880
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$122,555
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$11,360

**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
- **Jordan Dresel** – UPMC Harrisburg, Rm. #1005
- **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)
- **Marie Parnell** – Continuing Healing at the Home of Her Niece, Jane Schader (200 West Broad St., PO Box 164, Elizabethtown, 17023)
- **Steven Schlegel** – Scheduled for 6/9 Surgery at Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- **Jean & Fred Weaver** – In Need of Prayer