

## Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

### 911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

### For US Mail Deliveries:

PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270

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
Ty Troutman	Senior Choir Director
Ron Erb	Holy Communion Assistant
Pat Herb	Altar Guild
Youth Bible Group	Greeters
Amy Gehring	Lector
Abby Adams and Briana Radel	Acolytes
Michael Henninger	Lead Usher
Joshua Paul	Council President

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.

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Rob and Courtney Foreman in honor of their family and many blessings.

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 #856 "How Great Thou Art"

\*Apostolic Greeting

Pg. 203

\*Kyrie (sung in unison)

Pg. 203

\*Hymn of Praise: "Come, let us join..." (sung in unison)

Pg. 204

Prayer of the Day

### We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Psalm: 31:1-5, 15-16

Second Reading: I Peter 2:2-10

\*Gospel Acclamation (sung in unison):

**ALLELUIA! LORD AND SAVIOR: OPEN NOW YOUR SAVING WORD. LET IT BURN LIKE FIRE WITHIN US; SPEAK UNTIL OUR HEARTS ARE STIRRED. ALLELUIA! LORD WE SING FOR THE GOOD NEWS THAT YOU BRING. (Pg 205)**

\*Gospel: John 14:1-14

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 Hymn (#204) (sung):

**THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE; TELL EVERYONE WHAT GOD HAS DONE. LET ALL WHO SEEK THE LORD REJOICE AND BEAR CHRIST'S HOLY NAME. SEND US WITH YOUR PROMISES AND LEAD YOUR PEOPLE FORTH IN JOY WITH SHOUTS OF THANKSGIVING. ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

\*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 #379 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

\*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Please stand, if able to do so.

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Berrysburg, Pa.**

**Red Geranium Order Form for Pentecost  
Sunday May 28, 2023**

How many Plants:	Price per plant:	Total Amount of order:
_____	<b>\$4.25</b> (4 1/2" pot)	_____

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:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please return this order form with payment to a Flower Committee Member: Sheila Barder, Dana Klouser, Gail Billow or Fay Nichols.

**Absolute last day to order May 14, 2023**

Thank you for your support!!!!

**Today, Sunday, May 7**

- 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 Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 2pm RJ Henry Receives Eagle Scout Award
- 4pm Congregational Council Meeting

**Monday, May 8**

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- 9am "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
- 6:30pm Join us for our May Book Group. We'll be discussing **The Book of Longings** by Sue Monk Kidd in the fellowship hall.  
A few copies are available in the church library -- and more at your local public library, both physical copy and ebook. If you have questions or need to locate a book, please contact Ann ([rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com)).  
Everyone is welcome!

**Tuesday, May 9**

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

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

**Wednesday, May 10**

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

**Thursday, May 11**

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
- From early Thursday afternoon until late Saturday evening, Pastor Tom is planning to take time away. In his absence, Pastor Godfred Effisah (pronounced eh-FEE-suh), who serves the Rife/Killinger Parish, will be on call for any emergency needs for pastoral care. Should you need to get in touch with him, please call Fay Nichols, our Telephone Prayer Chain Coordinator, at 717-329-7447, who will both place the concern on the prayer chain and contact Pastor Godfred. Or, Pastor Godfred can be reached directly by calling 571-572-0119. For all non-emergency matters, Pastor Tom will plan to be back in the office as usual on Sunday morning.***

**Friday, May 12**

- Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day – No Office Hours

**Saturday, May 13**

- Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

**Next Sunday, May 14**

- Sixth Sunday of Easter/Matthias, Apostle
- 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 Sunny Sermon and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom)

## Looking Ahead

Worship & Music Committee will gather on Tuesday, May 16, at the church beginning at 6:15 P.M.

On the festival of **Ascension of Our Lord – Thursday, May 18**, which marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Day of our Easter journey, we will have a different kind of worship experience for the first time this year, an ecumenical one more akin to our Community Wednesdays in Lent. We will be joining with our neighbors of the Northern Cluster of United Church of Christ congregations for worship, which will take place at **Salem United Church of Christ in Elizabethville at 7:00pm**, with Pastor Tom and the other pastors sharing the worship leadership. Pastor Jeff Wagner, recently retired from the Lykens Valley Charge, will be this year's preacher and light refreshments will then follow the worship for all. In future years, we at St. John will take our turn with hosting and Pastor Tom will take his turn as preacher.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Third and Final Planning Meeting for our June 7 Annual Strawberry Festival will be held at the church on Monday, May 22, beginning at 7:00 P.M. Since this is a very open-ended committee, all interested folks are especially welcome and encouraged to attend.

On Tuesday, May 23, beginning at 5:30 P.M., we will have a combined first work night to begin getting the pavilion cleaned up and ready for the Annual Strawberry Festival and church outside property work night. 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, and please bring along your favorite cleaning supplies and yard tools.

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 for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month) & for our monthly ministry support of **Tree 4 Hope** (\$50/month). To sponsor either 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.

### **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.

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!

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 – April 30, 2023

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,796</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,693
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$235
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$200
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$590
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom – 33, In Person – 67</b>

## “St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of April 30, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$82,980
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$122,405
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$11,410

## 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
- **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** – UPMC Harrisburg, Rm. #1021
- **Marie Parnell** – Receiving Physical Therapy for a Broken Hip at Monticello House in Media, PA (**Home Address Best for Cards: 737 Third Ave., Prospect Park, PA 19076**)
- **Steven Schlegel** – Scheduled for 6/9 Surgery at Penn State Hershey Medical Center
- **Jean & Fred Weaver** – In Need of Prayer