

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 | pt@stjohnhillchurch.org | www.stjohnhillchurch.org

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 and Kim Williard	Greeters
Briana Radel and Avery Brosius	Acolytes
Henry Family	Lector
Courtney Foreman	Lead Usher
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of November, Dennis and Mary Ann Smeltz sponsor the **Celebrate Insert** in celebration of all upcoming birthdays and one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** are in memory of loved ones. **Tree 4 Hope** to the Glory of God in Loving Memory of Chris's brother, Steven R. Klouser by Chris and Dana Klouser.

This week's **Altar flowers** are presented in loving memory of Carl and Mary Baumgardner Sr., in celebration of Bob and Faye Weaver's 70th wedding anniversary and Faye's 90th birthday by Carl and Louise.

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!

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 #436 "Wake, Wake, for Night Is Flying"	
*Apostolic Greeting	Pg. 203
*Kyrie (sung in unison)	Pg. 203
*Hymn of Praise: "Glory to God..." (sung in unison)	Pg. 204
*Prayer of the Day	

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Amos 5:18-24

Psalm: 70

Second Reading: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

*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: Matthew 25:1-13

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 GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS CREATED ME TOGETHER WITH ALL THAT EXISTS. GOD HAS GIVEN ME AND STILL PRESERVES MY BODY AND SOUL; EYES, EARS, AND ALL LIMBS AND SENSES; REASON AND ALL MENTAL FACULTIES. IN ADDITION, GOD DAILY AND ABUNDANTLY PROVIDES SHOES AND CLOTHING, FOOD AND DRINK, HOUSE AND FARM, SPOUSE AND CHILDREN, FIELDS, LIVESTOCK, AND ALL PROPERTY – ALONG WITH ALL THE NECESSITIES AND NOURISHMENT FOR THIS BODY AND LIFE. GOD PROTECTS ME AGAINST ALL DANGER AND SHIELDS AND PRESERVES ME FROM ALL EVIL. ALL THIS IS DONE OUT OF PURE, FATHERLY, AND DIVINE GOODNESS AND MERCY, WITHOUT ANY MERIT OR WORTHINESS OF MINE AT ALL! FOR ALL OF THIS I OWE IT TO GOD TO THANK AND PRAISE, SERVE AND OBEY HIM. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.

-Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*

Offering of Our Gifts and Choir Anthem

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

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. CAST ME NOT AWAY FROM YOUR PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME. RESTORE TO ME THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION, AND UPHOLD ME WITH YOUR FREE SPIRIT.

*Prayers of the Church

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right side of page

Pg. 208

God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Blessing:

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

C: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Proclaim the good news

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

*Closing Hymn #785 "When Peace like a River"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Berrysburg, PA

Poinsettia Sponsor Form 2023 Smucker Gardens

Please consider sponsoring a Poinsettia to create our Christmas Poinsettia Tree. Our lovely tree will be on display Sunday, December 17th through our Christmas Eve Service, after which you can take your beautiful plants home to enjoy!

Colors: Burgundy or White 6 ½” Pot Price per plant: \$8.25

PREFERRED Burgundy - #: _____ PREFERRED White - #: _____

Total Number Ordered: _____ @ \$8.25 = \$_____ **Total Due**

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 member of the Flower Committee: Fay Nichols, Gail Billow, Dana Klouser, or Sheila Barder

Absolute Last Day to Order – November 26, 2023

We Appreciate Your Support!

Today, Sunday, November 12

- 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 Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 11:15am Equal Exchange Coffee & Snacks Time *(As these occasional pre-pandemic gatherings get started again, please come on down to the “Sunday School” Room/Fellowship Hall to taste samples and chocolatey baked goods made with these Fair Trade foods – hosted by Ann Bruner and Courtney & Grayson Foreman.)*
- 6pm Congregational Council Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 13

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 9-11am “Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
- 7pm Church Dartball League Match – St. John at Valleys E.C. Church, Halifax

Tuesday, November 14

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

Wednesday, November 15

- Deadline to Submit Items for Inclusion in December/January Combined “St. John’s Epistle”***
- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 12pm Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting in the private room at Max’s Grille & Sports Bar in Millersburg

Thursday, November 16

Pastor Tom on the Road for a Pastoral Visit – No Office Hours

Friday, November 17

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Saturday, November 18

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, November 19

- Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
- 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 **Thankoffering Worship, Led by the Women of the ELCA of St. John,** Including Sunny Sermon and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)

6:30pm Care of Creation/Green Team Organizing Meeting in the Fellowship Hall ***(Would you like to join with others to share ideas and work on projects to care for God's world together? We want to revive the Green Team which was active for several years, and we'll learn about our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Creation Care resources. Everyone, of all ages, is invited to an initial meeting to share ideas and resources, and to consider a few initial projects. Two first projects will be to revive our recycling efforts at church and decide on a name for our team. If you have questions - or can't make it but have ideas to share -- please talk with Ann Bruner.)***

Looking Ahead

Worship & Music Committee will gather on Tuesday, November 21, at 6:15 P.M. at the church.

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Women of ELCA of St John would like to invite all the women of the congregation to join us on November 19th for a Gathering Song at the beginning of service. We will have a quick 15-minute practice from 9:45-10am upstairs on the 19th, please join us.

The 2024 schedule of Greeters will soon be prepared. If you would be interested in serving occasionally in this important ministry, please speak with Pastor Tom. Basically, this ministry involves arriving about 15-20 minutes prior to worship on a Sunday morning when scheduled and standing (or sitting if needed – no problem) just inside the main doors in the foyer to say a warm hello to those arriving for the morning. For those coming through the doors for the first time, a point in the right direction can also be a great help. No experience is required, and the Greeter(s) assigned on a given morning can be a single person, a couple, or an entire family as desired. And, if it turns out that you aren't able to serve on a scheduled date, you can simply switch with someone else on the schedule or, if it is at the last minute, simply let Pastor Tom know. Thank you for prayerfully considering this call to serve!

The Property Committee meeting listed on November 28 in the calendar in the current **St. John's Epistle** is an error on Pastor Tom's part (one of those times where it would be nice if the computer could read your mind and automatically do what you wanted it to do!). The next committee meeting will be as set at the last meeting – Tuesday, January 23, at 6:15 P.M. at the church.

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.)***

Women of ELCA of St John will be hosting an angel ornament craft on **November 30th from 6-8pm**. There is no cost to attend. Snacks and drinks will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Please join us for this time of fellowship.

Change in Used Battery Collection: Please note that Larry Gessner can now accept only AA, AAA, and 9-Volt batteries for repurposing. As before, all batteries must be dry cell only, and they cannot be leaking or have broken cases. Through Larry's efforts, these batteries are being recharged and donated to Bethesda Mission. Please see him with any questions, please place your batteries by the desk outside Pastor Tom's office door, and, again, please do not drop off C's or D's.

Amy Gehring continues to collect donations to Bethesda Mobile Mission. Gently used, unstained, clean blankets and casual clothing for MEN & WOMEN are always a need since the homeless do not typically have the ability to launder items. Sleeping bags, tarps, mats, backpacks/large totes or bags are also useful. New underwear, socks, batteries (all sizes), toilet paper, candles, and matches are highly valued. Those served by the Bethesda Mobile Mission also need TRAVEL SIZE toiletries—don't leave those small bottles behind when you are traveling. Pass them along to Amy. Please contact Amy at church with any questions or call her at 1-717-503-7623. Donations can be placed in the designated hampers in the foyer.

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)
- **Dianne Schell** – Penn State Holy Spirit, Rm. #216 (CVICU)
- **Steven Schlegel** – Continuing to Follow Up On His 10/18 Surgery
- **Fred Weaver** – Rm. #103, Spring Creek Rehab. and Healthcare Center, 1205 S. 28th St., Harrisburg, 17111

Our Faith Active in Worship – November 5, 2023

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$3,557
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$275
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$110
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$525
Total Attendance	Zoom – 11, In Person – 105