

## 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](mailto:pt@stjohnhillchurch.org) | [www.stjohnhillchurch.org](http://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
Ron Erb	Holy Communion Assistant
Ginny and Delmar Enders	Altar Guild Preparation
Courtney Foreman	Lead Usher
Josh and Sara Paul	Greeters
Elsie and Emily Rabenold	Acolytes
RJ Henry	Lectors
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of November, the ***Celebrate Insert*** and the support of one pastor for one month in the ***Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania*** are presented by Dennis and Mary Ann Smeltz. ***Tree 4 Hope*** is presented by Dana Klouser.

This week's ***Altar Flowers*** are sponsored by Darrell and Janet Denlinger, thankful for God's blessings of family and friends.

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

\*Opening Hymn #855 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Pg. 94-96

\*Apostolic Greeting

\*Kyrie (sung in unison)

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

Prayer of the Day

Pg. 203

Pg. 203

Pg. 204

### We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm: 95:1-7a

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

\*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 25:31-46

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

\*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"):

**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 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 #671 "Shine, Jesus, Shine"

\*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Please stand, if able to do so.

### **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, Recovering from Latest Round of Inpatient Chemotherapy
- **Fred Weaver** – Rm. #103, Spring Creek Rehab. and Healthcare Center, 1205 S. 28<sup>th</sup> St., Harrisburg, 17111

### **Our Faith Active in Worship – November 19, 2023**

<b>Current – Approx. Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,796</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$4,385
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$935
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$300
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$505
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom – 8, In Person – 77</b>

**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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 26**

- 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 Sacrament of Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 11:30am Decorating for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Season ***(Led by Decorating Committee, decorating will get underway immediately following worship with a light lunch for all participants. Extra decorating “hands” are welcome and needed!)***
- Evening – Miss Laurie and the “Jingle Elves” Sing at the Berrysburg Holiday Lighting Ceremony

**Monday, November 27**

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 10am Visitation Time with Dianne Schell Family
- 11am Funeral Worship for Dianne Schell – Concluding with a Funeral Luncheon after Return from Cemetery in Halifax

**Tuesday, November 28**

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

**Wednesday, November 29**

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

**Thursday, November 30**

***Andrew, Apostle***

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 6-8pm Angel Ornament Craft, Hosted by the Women of the ELCA of St. John (There is no cost to attend. Snacks/drinks will be provided. A sign-up sheet is posted on the foyer bulletin board. Please join us for this time of holiday fellowship!) **If you plan to attend please bring a pair of scissors.**

**Friday, December 1**

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

**Saturday, December 2**

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

**Next Sunday, December 3**

- First Sunday of Advent
- 9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9am Youth Group Faith Formation with Matt & Olivia (In-Person)
- 9am SONday Celebration (In-Person)
- 10:15am Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion, Lighting of the Advent Wreath, and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)

***Our steeple stars will be lighted for the season, beginning next Sunday evening.***

## Looking Ahead

**Book Discussion Group** continues meeting on Zoom for the winter months, with snacks still a part of the experience! Pick them up in the kitchen on the Sunday which is the day before each book discussion gathering to share while online the following evening. (Thank you to Rita Glace who is providing the December goodies – for the next gathering on Zoom at **6:30 P.M. on Monday, December 4**, for a discussion of **Blessings** by Anna Quindlen. Copies are available in the church library and are circulating among the participants. If you have any questions or need to locate a book, please contact Ann ([rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com)) and she'll quickly locate a book for you. Please join in anytime – the fellowship is wonderful, the snacks are yummy, and all are welcome!

The December **Happy Birthday, Jesus** gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** will be held in-person at the church on Wednesday, December 6, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

A Free Community Holiday Meal will be held at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown, on Thursday, December 7. 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. Please call the Salem church office by December 1 to sign up.

**Part One of our Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held following worship on Sunday, December 10, both in-person and on Zoom. We will take action on the election of four members to our Congregational Council and proposed budgets for 2024. A copy of the main 2024 budgets is included in the December/January St. John's Epistle, along with the names of the four nominees for Congregational Council. All voting members – those confirmed members who have communed and contributed during 2022 or 2023 – are especially encouraged to attend this brief, but very important, meeting!

From 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 10, everyone is invited to this year's different sort of Advent/Christmas Program a Christmas Pajama Party!! Put on your favorite holiday pj's and come on out for a movie and other fun surprises! Please contact Miss Laurie to learn more.

\* \* \* \* \*

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!

## Church Ornaments

**TODAY** is the deadline to order the second ornament in the St. John's ornament collection, sponsored by Youth Group..

Again this year the ornament is \$15 and comes in its own gift box. They will be here before Christmas, so consider getting more than one to gift to children and grandchildren. This year's design depicts the beautiful prayer garden installed by Eagle Scout, Roy Henry, Junior.

Please see any Youth Group Advisor to order and pay. Checks can be made to St. John's Youth Group. Please reach out to Amy at 717-503-7623 if you have any questions. A portion of the cost supports St. John's Youth Group, so thank you to all who already placed an order!

There is a small number of last year's ornament available. Please see Amy Gehring if you are interested.

**"The Blanket Bunch"** will not be meeting from November 27th until January 8th 2024

Four new 2024 sponsor sheets are now posted on the bulletin board in the foyer area – three of them 1. for continuing ministry support for our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month); 2. for **Tree 4 Hope**, an innovative anti-poverty ministry begun by our neighbors at Tree of Life Evangelical Lutheran Church, Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, and serving those in need in Guatemala, involving an orphanage, mission trips from our area, and, now, a new girls' school called "Hope Academy" - a world mission with a local connection (\$50/month) – and 3. for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month). The fourth is the separate sign-up sheet for sponsoring weekly altar flowers in 2024, (\$35 per week). To sponsor any of these four ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please simply stop by to sign up or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can place your name on the desired month(s).

**End of Used Battery Collection:** After many years of recycling and re-charging our old batteries, Larry Gessner has had to bring that ministry to a close. We thank him for all those years of faithful, behind-the-scenes service and ask that no more batteries be brought to the church.

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.