

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

stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com | 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
Landon and Bennett Troutman	Acolytes
Rachel Henry	Lector
Jeff Buffington	Greeter
Roy Henry	Council President

For the month of November:

Tree 4 Hope is sponsored by Paul and Rita Glace to the Glory of God and all His blessings and in honor of our son and daughter who celebrate November birthdays.

Celebrate lectionary bulletin is sponsored by Bob & Faye Weaver for the many blessings bestowed on our family.

Support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** is sponsored by Dennis and Mary Ann Smeltz in Celebration of Dennis' birthday and our love of Africa.

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!

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, our life, our mercy, our might.

P: As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

(brief silence follows)

P: Great and Holy One,

C: **IN THIS TIME OF WANING DAYLIGHT, WE CONFESS THE SHADOWS OF SIN IN OUR LIVES. WE BUILD OURSELVES UP AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHERS. WE RELY ON OUR OWN EFFORTS TO MAKE OUR LIVES SECURE. YET YOU, O LORD, ARE THE POTTER, AND WE ARE THE CLAY. COME TO RESTORE US IN YOUR IMAGE, REMAKE US INTO YOUR PEOPLE, AND REBULD WHAT SIN HAS BROKEN, THAT WE AND THE WHOLE CREATION MAY REJOICE. AMEN.**

P: Fear not, people of God: the Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In Jesus Christ, God comes to set us free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God.

C: **AMEN.**

*Opening Hymn #436 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

*Apostolic Greeting

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*Kyrie (sung in unison)

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*Hymn of Praise: "Glory to God..." (sung in unison)

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*Prayer of the Day

Advent Wreath Litany

See Insert

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm: 122

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

*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 24:36-44

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

A New Creed:

**WE ARE NOT ALONE,
WE LIVE IN GOD'S WORLD.**

**WE BELIEVE IN GOD:
WHO HAS CREATED AND IS CREATING,
WHO HAS COME IN JESUS,
THE WORD MADE FLESH,
TO RECONCILE AND MAKE NEW,
WHO WORKS IN US AND OTHERS
BY THE SPIRIT.**

WE TRUST IN GOD.

**WE ARE CALLED TO BE THE CHURCH:
TO CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE,
TO LIVE WITH RESPECT IN CREATION,
TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS,
TO SEEK JUSTICE AND RESIST EVIL,
TO PROCLAIM JESUS, CRUCIFIED AND RISEN,
OUR JUDGE AND OUR HOPE.**

**IN LIFE, IN DEATH, IN LIFE BEYOND DEATH,
GOD IS WITH US.**

**WE ARE NOT ALONE.
THANKS BE TO GOD.**

-The United Church of Canada, 1968

Offering of Our Gifts and Musical Anthem by Senior Choir

*Offertory Hymn (#186) (sung):

**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

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God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Blessing:

P: The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, bless
you now and forever.

C: **AMEN**

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Bring Good News to the poor.

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

*Closing Hymn #490 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Our Faith Active in Worship – November 20, 2022

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,606
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,809
Benevolence – Offerings Received \$167	
(does not include Thankoffering gifts received)	
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$70
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$484
Total Attendance	Zoom – 21, In Person – 78

“St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of November 20, 2022

Total Estimated Project Cost	\$220,000
Memorials Interest Money Designated for Project (Letting \$100,000 Reserve of Interest)	\$88,000
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$76,775
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$55,390
Total Pledges & Gifts Received <u>in Excess of Goal</u> – (Memorials Interest Saved for the Future	+ \$165

Pledge/Gift Forms Are Available in Hard Copy by the Guestbook 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, with Important Appt. with Kidney Specialist on 11/29
- **Judy Cheatham** – Rm. #47B, Cadia Healthcare, 900 Van Buren Street, Annapolis, MD 21403
- **Timothy Enders** – Rm. #122, 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
- **Roni Mace** – Undergoing Intensive Antibiotic Therapy at Home
- **Joyce Matter** – Rm. #128, Commonwealth Senior Living at Harrisburg, 150 Kempton Avenue, Harrisburg, 17111 (717.909.0417)
- **Ken Nace** – At Home, Continuing to Recover from Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- **Jean Weaver** – Discharged from PPI - Polyclinic Campus on 11/21

Today, Sunday, November 27

As we in Dauphin County continue to dwell close to the line between the Low/Green level and Medium/Yellow level of COVID-19 Community Transmission as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it continues to be the case that the very best things we can do in this transition time are

- *getting fully vaccinated*
- *wearing a mask if you have 1. COVID symptoms or 2. a positive test for COVID or 3. exposure to someone with COVID. (Better yet, our congregational family policy has been to ask that folks in any of these three categories please avoid in-person activities entirely and join in worship via Zoom.)*

In addition, those at high risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged to mask when indoors and masks are a good additional protective measure for everyone.

9:00am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9:00am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)
9:00am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
9:00am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
10:15am Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie (In-Person and On Zoom)

6:30pm Jingle Elves Sing at Berrysburg Christmas Lighting

Our steeple stars will be lighted for the season, beginning this evening.

Monday, November 28

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

Tuesday, November 29

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

7:30pm Senior Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 30

Andrew, Apostle

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Thursday, December 1

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, December 2

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

Saturday, December 3

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, December 4

Second Sunday of Advent

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 (In-Person and On Zoom)

2pm Monthly Meeting of Women of the ELCA of St. John (*note one week earlier than usual*)

Looking Ahead

Please join us for upcoming Book Group gatherings! We will meet on Zoom at 6:30 pm.

- **December 5 -- The Parables of Peanuts** by Robert L Short

Call or email Ann 717.362.7895 rahbruner@gmail.com if you need a book or have any questions, Hope to see you there!

The December gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** will be held at the church on Wednesday, December 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Part One of our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, December 11, both in-person and on Zoom. We will take action on the election of four members to our Congregational Council and proposed budgets for 2023. A copy of the main 2023 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 2021 or 2022 – are especially encouraged to attend this brief, but very important, meeting!

Congregational Council will hold its December meeting immediately following the conclusion of the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 11.

On December 11, our congregational family Advent/Christmas gathering will once again have a much more interactive and intergenerational feel as all ages come together for **One Starry Night**. After numerous activities inside from 4:00 to 6:00 P.M., including a light supper, during which folks may come and stay when and for as much time as they are able, we will head outside to our pavilion for a Live Nativity presentation of the story of Jesus' Birth, following which we will finish up inside with warm refreshments. Please contact Miss Laurie with any questions!

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Our winter session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on Wednesday, January 11 and run for six weeks, meeting each week from 6:30 to 8:00pm and wrapping up in time for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Pending COVID and other illness developments, we will plan to meet in-person at the church, with the option for participants who would prefer to do so to "Zoom in" (and the possibility of going to Zoom-only if necessary). The title of our study this winter will be **Dialogues On: Race**, during which we will take time, as Brothers and Sisters in Jesus, to honestly and respectfully reflect on and talk about what our Bible, our Church traditions, and our history tell us about this potentially difficult and divisive topic. Using a study book and a documentary-style DVD, we will delve into the scholarship, the stories, and the experiences of people of many different racial backgrounds as we engage in this six-week process. As always with these studies, no previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and (if and when you are comfortable doing so) discuss God's Word together! So that the correct number of study books can be ordered for our study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) **by the end of the day on Tuesday, December 20.**

Attention Musicians!! Pastor Tom would like to again schedule special extended musical preludes prior to our 4:00 and 8:00 P.M. Christmas Eve worship, featuring the musical gifts of our whole congregational family. Persons of any age or level of experience, who might be interested in playing any kind of instrument or singing, alone or in a group, are asked to please speak with Pastor Tom as soon as possible.

Three new 2023 sponsor sheets are now available (currently on the table outside Pastor Tom's office, but soon being posted on a bulletin board in the foyer area) – for continuing ministry support for our **Celebrate** bulletin inserts (\$22/month); 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, a girls' school called "Hope Academy" - a world mission with a local connection (\$50/month) – and for providing one month of a **Konde Diocese (in Tanzania, Africa) Pastors Salary** (\$50/month) . To sponsor any of these three ministries in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please stop by the table 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). **Please note that a separate sign-up calendar will soon be posted for 2023 altar flowers.**

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

Berrysburg, PA.

Poinsettia Order Form for 2022

Poinsettias will be on display for worship Sunday, December 18th, Christmas Eve Services and Christmas Day. Thank you for your support!!!

Color: 15 Red & 15 White Price per plant: \$8.25

Total Quantity Wanted: _____

Color PREFERRED: _____

Total Amount of Order: _____

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 the Co-Chairs of the Flower Fund Committee: Sheila Barder & Dana Klouser

Please order by December 11, 2022