

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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
Rita Glace	Holy Communion Assistant
Sheila Barder & Dana Klouser	Altar Guild Preparation
Grayson Foreman & Barry Williard	Holy Communion Servers
John and Judy Ferree	Greeters
Jamie Doyle	Lector
Ty Troutman	Lead Usher
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of October, the ***Celebrate Insert, Tree 4*** Hope and the support of one pastor for one month in the ***Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania*** are in honor of the October wedding anniversaries of Barry & Kim Williard (45 years), Matt & Olivia Williard (20 years) and Rob & Courtney Foreman (10 years).

This week's ***Altar Flowers*** are presented by Christie Kahler in the loving memory of her parents, Paul and Lorraine Wolfgang.

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 #526 "God Is Here!"

*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: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalm: 25:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

*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 21:23-32

Response after the reading is announced: **GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

Response after the reading is concluded: **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Pg. 227-231

*Prayers of the Church

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 #574 "Here I Am, Lord"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, Sunday, October 1

- 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 Sacraments of Holy Baptism & Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
- This morning** we have the honor of welcoming **Aaron** and **Malorie Troutman** into the Kingdom of God and the St. John Congregational Family in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We pray that God will grant them, their sponsors, their other family members and all of us their congregational family members the strength and grace to be faithful to the promises they and we all make here this morning!
- 11:30am Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting
6pm Congregational Council Meeting

Monday, October 2

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
9-11am "Blanket Bunch" Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief
6:30pm Book Group Gathering at the Church (possibly in the pavilion, if it's a nice evening). We'll be discussing **Still Life** by **Louise Penny**. Some copies are available in the church library and more at your local public library, both physical copy, large print, and ebook. If you have questions or need to locate a book, please contact Ann (rahbruner@gmail.com).

Tuesday, October 3

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
9:30am Pastor Tom at Conference Pastors Gathering
7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 4

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
6:30-8pm October Gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie**

Thursday, October 5

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

Friday, October 6

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

Saturday, October 7

- Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, October 8

Nineteenth 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 **Outdoor Worship** including a Blessing of the Animals in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom) (***Please keep in mind that this will be an outdoor service on a Hill known for its cool breezes even in the summer – we will be prepared to lower one or more sides as may be needed, be sure to dress warmly and bring a sweater or jacket! AND be sure to bring along those animal family members of all sizes and kinds, including large animals – we will have room to spread out so that everyone, human and otherwise, will be comfortable!***)

Looking Ahead

From next Sunday afternoon until the morning of Thursday, October 26, Pastor Tom is planning time away. With recent changes and “short staffing” in our Upper Dauphin Conference, coverage for emergency needs for pastoral care has not yet been worked out, but will be shared prior to next Sunday. For all non-emergency matters, Pastor Tom will return to the office on the morning of October 26.

We will be re-starting our acolyte ministry on Sunday, October 15. If anyone is interested in becoming an acolyte, please contact me at 717-503-6177, or Pastor Tom. I will be having training/orientation on Sunday September 24, October 1, and October 8th after the worship service. I would like to start to assemble the schedule, so for my current acolytes if you know of any dates you would not be available to serve, please let me know; my email is rbpaul@epix.net. Thank you for your service! **-Sandra Paul**

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Pastor Tom will soon be putting together a new schedule of Holy Communion Assistants for 2024. If you haven't served in this ministry before but would like to, please speak with him as soon as possible to find out more!

Please place your non-perishable food donations for the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center in Lykens on any shelf inside the north (right side, coming in the front doors) closet in the foyer, 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 – September 24, 2023

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,872
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$55
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$5
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$210
Total Attendance	Zoom – 22, In Person – 42

“St John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of September 24, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for	\$82,380
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$123,405
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$11,010

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
- **Ron Erb** – Discharged from UPMC Community Osteopathic on 9/27
- **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** – Scheduled for Surgery at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center on 10/18
- **Jean Weaver** – UPMC West Shore, Rm. #417