

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:
215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 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.
Laurie Little
Judy Ferree
Carl & Louise Baumgardner
Jamie Doyle
Joshua Paul

Pastor
Young Christians Minister
Pianist
Greeters
Lector
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 in celebration of Bob and Faye Weaver's 70th wedding anniversary. They are thanking God for all the many blessings they have received during this time.

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!

Outdoor Worship Liturgy

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Keyboard Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the creator of wind and rain, field and ocean, the bread of life coming down from above, the power at work within us and this world.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Before God and in the company of our sisters and brothers, let us confess our sin.

(brief silence follows)

P: God and Father of all,

C: **WE CONFESS THAT WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED. WE HAVE THOUGHT BETTER OF OURSELVES THAN OTHERS. WE HAVE TOLD LIES, SAID HURTFUL THINGS, ACTED IN WAYS WE WISH WE COULD TAKE BACK, AND LOOKED THE OTHER WAY WHEN ACTION WAS NEEDED. IN YOUR MERCY, O GOD, FORGIVE US, CLEANSE US, AND HEAL US, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR. AMEN.**

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; everything has become new! In Christ, we are a new creation: our sins are taken away and we are made new. Let us be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven us.

C: **AMEN.**

*Opening Hymn **LBW** #242 "Let the Whole Creation Cry"

*Greeting:

P: From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

*Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm: 80:7-15

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

*Gospel: ***Matthew 6:25-33*** (not in "***Celebrate***" insert)

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

*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.

*Prayers of the Church (*not in "Celebrate" insert*):

Responses after each petition: P: Lord, in your mercy, C: **HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

*Our Lord's Prayer:

OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE THY NAME, THY KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD; AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US; AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL.

FOR THINE IS THE KINGDOM, AND THE POWER, AND THE GLORY, FOREVER AND EVER. AMEN.

God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Corporate Blessing:

P: The Lord Almighty protect us and all creatures and guard us all from all evil, now and forever.

C: **AMEN.**

*Closing Hymn ***LBW*** #557 "Let All Things Now Living"

*Individual Blessing of the Animals and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, Sunday, October 8

- 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)

From this afternoon until Thursday morning, October 26, Pastor Tom is planning to take time away. In his absence, Pastor Patrick Wirick, who serves the Klingerstown Parish, will be on call for any emergency needs for pastoral care, particularly in the event of a death or a critical illness. Should you need to get in touch with Pastor Pat, 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 Pat. Because the pastors in our conference are now “stretched thin” with Pastor Godfred’s recent departure and the inability so far of the Rife/Killinger Parish to locate an interim pastor, if an emergency is other than a death or critical illness, please clarify when you contact Fay whether you would like Pastor Pat to be notified or if you are calling “only” to place your need on the telephone prayer chain. Or, Pastor Pat can be reached directly by calling 717.439.9037.

Monday, October 9

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

- 9-11am “Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief

Tuesday, October 10

- 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Next Sunday, October 15

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Deadline to Submit Items for Inclusion in November “St. John’s Epistle”

- 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 Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom) – Guest Worship Leader James Watson
- 11:15am Youth Group Outing to Corn Maze and Hayride Begins with Lunch Downstairs in the Kitchen

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Today after worship is the final scheduled training/orientation session for the re-starting of our acolyte ministry next Sunday, October 15. If anyone is interested in becoming an acolyte and has not already done so, please contact Sandy Paul as soon as possible at 717-503-6177 or rbpaul@epix.net.

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!

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.

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.)***

The 3rd quarter audit will be held at the church on Monday evening, October 23rd at 6:30 p.m. Treasurers are reminded to have their books at the church . Thank you. Pat Herb

Our Faith Active in Worship – October 1, 2023

<i>Current – Approx. Budget Goal</i>	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,832
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$678
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$81
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$201
Total Attendance	Zoom – 23, In Person – 61

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** – Recovering at Home from 10/2 Outpatient Foot Surgery at Geisinger, Danville
- **Steven Schlegel** – Scheduled for Surgery at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center on 10/18
- **Jean Weaver** – Rm. #114, Premier at Perry Village, 213 E. Main St., New Bloomfield, 17068

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