

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
Mike & Carol Hubler	Greeters
Vincent Lamenza	Lector
Joshua Paul	Council President

For the month of September, the **Celebrate Insert** is sponsored by Ira and Marilyn Antes. The **Tree 4** Hope is sponsored by Tim and Lori Motter in honor of the marriage of their son, Matthew, to Nichole Holman on Saturday, September 23 which will be celebrated at St. John's church. The support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** is sponsored by Ty and Kim Troutman in praise to our great God.

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 Celebration 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** #370 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

*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

Special Music by Caroline DeSoto

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalm: 119:33-40

Second Reading: Romans 13:8-14

*Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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

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

Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

Blessing of the Backpacks and Devices

*Prayers of the Church

*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

*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 **LBW** #549 "Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

*Keyboard Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, Sunday, September 10

8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9:30am **Outdoor Celebration Worship** in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom)
10:30am Celebration "Sundae" SONday (**Stay after the service and join in a make-your-own ice cream sundae treat! Yummy!!**)
6pm Monthly Meeting of Congregational Council

Monday, September 11

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
9-11am **BLANKET BUNCH IS BACK** (All ladies are welcome to join us. Any questions, contact Pat Herb at 362-9668.)

Tuesday, September 12

Pastor Tom Will Not Have His Regularly-Scheduled Office Hours Due to a Medical Appointment

Wednesday, September 13

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Thursday, September 14

Holy Cross Day

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, September 15

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

Saturday, September 16

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, September 17

Sixteenth 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 Worship, Including Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for Young Persons In-Person (In-Person and On Zoom)
3-6pm St. John Hosts Upper Dauphin Conference Lutheran Youth Organization Annual School Kit Project in Pavilion

Looking Ahead

The Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet will meet on Monday, September 18, at 7:00 P.M. at St. Christopher, Lykens.

Worship & Music Committee will gather at the church on Tuesday, September 19, at 6:15 P.M.

Matthew Motter and Nichole Holman have announced their intention to marry on Saturday, September 23, and ask our prayers!

AI/ve 2023 Junior High Retreat is coming up at Nawakwa September 22-24.

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The time for Choir to begin again will be here before we know it. The first practice will be held on **Tuesday, September 26, at 7:30 P.M.** Looking forward to singing again with all those who are returning – and if there are others out there who would like to join with us in singing on Sunday mornings, we would love to have you! -Ty Troutman, Choir Director

Book Group - October 2023:

Book Group will start up again in October. Please join us even if you haven't before. All are welcome! Let's gather at **6:30 pm, October 2**, 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).

For the month of October, a sponsor is still needed for the altar flowers for **Sunday, October 1** (\$35/week). To sponsor this ministry in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please either sign up in person on the bulletin board in the foyer on the south side of the entrance or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can take care of signing you up.

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.)**

Our Faith Active in Worship – September 3, 2023

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,541
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$290
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$10
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$195
Total Attendance	Zoom – 17, In Person – 54

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)
- **Mary Peters** – Penn State Holy Spirit, Rm. #838
- **Steven Schlegel** – At Home, Recovering from Inpatient Chemotherapy and Awaiting Further Testing