

## Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:

PO Box 244, Berrysburg, 17005-0270

717-362-9519

[stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com](mailto:stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com) | [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

Pianist

Vincent Lamenza

Lector

Roy Henry

Council President

### For the month of September:

**Tree 4 Hope** is sponsored by Lori and Tim Motter in honor of the ongoing work in educating young girls from rural villages in Guatemala who would otherwise receive no education. This important ministry seeks to break the cycle of poverty because when you educate a young girl, she, in turn, will educate her brothers, sisters, mother, father, aunts and uncles. This changes the entire economic outlook of their village.

Our **Celebrate** lectionary bulletin is sponsored by Dennis and Mary Ann Smeltz in celebration of their grandsons' birthday.

Our support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania** is sponsored by Jeff and Heidi Lehman in honor of all their children and grandchildren.

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. If you are a visitor, 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, abounding in steadfast love toward us, healing the sick and raising the dead, showering us with every good gift.

C: **AMEN.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(brief silence follows)*

P: Just and gracious God,

C: **WE COME TO YOU FOR HEALING AND LIFE. OUR SINS HURT OTHERS AND DIMINISH US; WE CONFESS THEM TO YOU. OUR LIVES BEAR THE SCARS OF SIN; WE BRING THESE ALSO TO YOU. SHOW US YOUR MERCY, O GOD. BIND UP OUR WOUNDS, FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND FREE US TO LOVE, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR SAVIOR. AMEN.**

P: The Apostle Paul assures us: "When we were dead in our trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ, nailing the record of our sins to the cross." Jesus says to us, "Your sins are forgiven." Be at peace, and tell everyone how much God has done for us.

C: **AMEN.**

Opening Hymn **LBW** #448 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

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

*Food Truck Party: We've "On a Roll" with God VBS Slideshow*

### We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm: 51:1-10

Second Reading: I Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel: Luke 15:1-10

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

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

Songs by the Celebration Choir

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**

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

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Proclaim the good news

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

Keyboard Postlude and Silent Prayer



### Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **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
- **Marlin (Turtle) Grosser** – Discharged from UPMC Harrisburg on 9/2
- **Cora Mace** – Rm. #3647, Roosevelt 3, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022
- **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 Surgery
- **Donna Rabenold** – At Home, Continuing Lower-Level Maintenance Chemotherapy Through Fall
- **Mary Yeager** – Rm. #210, UPMC Community Osteopathic

### Our Faith Active in Worship: September 4, 2022

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,606</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,947
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$300
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$70
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$340
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom – 7, In Person – 67</b>

### “St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of September 4, 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	\$ 72,045
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$ 36,160
<b>Total Pledges &amp; Gifts Still Needed to Reach Goal</b>	<b><u>\$ 23,755</u></b>

Pledge/Gift Forms Are Available Digitally in the July/August **St. John’s Epistle** and in Hard Copy at the Bulletin Stand at Worship on Sundays and on the Table Outside Pastor Tom’s Office Any Time.

### Today, Sunday, September 11

**As Dauphin County has returned to a “Low”/Green COVID level, in keeping with current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, masks are not required for anyone without symptoms or COVID exposure gathering indoors in person on Sunday morning, but they remain an option for everyone. Of course, please do not attend any kind of in-person activity if you aren’t feeling well for any reason or have reason to think that you may have been directly exposed to the virus.**

- 8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9:30am **Outdoor Worship**, in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom)
- 10:30am Congregational Outing to Knoebel’s (Everyone attending will gather with their covered dish and container of drink for sharing to join in lunch together, followed by plenty of time for riding. Our younger members will have some ride tickets provided.)

### Monday, September 12

**Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off (instead of 9/10) – No Office Hours**

- 9:00am **THE BLANKET BUNCH IS STARTING BACK** (New members are always welcome. If you can tie a knot, you have passed the entrance exam. We look forward to adding more helpers to our group. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to contact me. Thank you. Pat Herb.)
- 6:30pm **You are Invited to Book Discussion and Fellowship!** (Next up: **The Island of Sea Women** by **Lisa See** – Everyone is welcome, so if you would like to participate and haven’t joined in before, or with questions, please call or email Ann at 717-362-7895 or [rahbruner@gmail.com](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com))

### Tuesday, September 13

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 6:15pm Property Committee Meeting at the Church

### Wednesday, September 14

- Holy Cross Day
- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

### Thursday, September 15

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

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

**From Thursday afternoon until the morning of Wednesday, September 21, Pastor Tom is planning to take time away. In his absence, Pastor Godfred Effisah (pronounced eh-FEE-suh), who serves the Rife/Killinger Parish, will be on call for any emergency needs for pastoral care. Should you need to get in touch with him, 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 Godfred. Or, Pastor Godfred can be reached directly by calling 571-572-0119. For all non-emergency matters, Pastor Tom will return to the office on the morning of September 21.**

## Next Sunday, September 18

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

**As Dauphin County has returned to a “Low”/Green COVID level, in keeping with current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, masks are not required for anyone without symptoms or COVID exposure gathering indoors in person on Sunday morning, but they remain an option for everyone. Of course, please do not attend any kind of in-person activity if you aren’t feeling well for any reason or have reason to think that you may have been directly exposed to the virus.**

**9am** Adult Bible Study (In-Person)

**9am** Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)

**9am** SONDay Celebration (In-Person)

**10:15am** **Outdoor Worship Featuring “Boundless Retreat Recap and Youth Group Year in Review”**, in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom) ***(In Pastor Tom’s absence, Matt Williard will be our guest worship leader, with lots of involvement from Youth Group. As usual we will have approximately 80 well-spaced metal chairs set up in advance, but anyone who would prefer to do so is also welcome to bring along their own camp chairs to create their own well-spaced seating. Please keep in mind that this will be an outdoor service on a Hill known for its cool breezes – be sure to dress warmly and bring a sweater or jacket!)***

3pm St. John Hosts Upper Dauphin Conference Lutheran Youth Organization Annual School Kit Project in Pavilion

6pm Monthly Meeting of the Women of the ELCA of St. John (please note change of day and time)

## Looking Ahead

Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet will meet at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, September 19, at Immanuel Lutheran, Williamstown.

Sandy Paul is planning to hold an Acolyte Orientation Session on Sunday, September 25, immediately following worship. If you are a new “recruit” to Acolyte Ministry and have not already spoken with her about this session, please contact Sandy via her cell phone (717-503-6177) or simply catch her in person following worship, to let her know you will be attending.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you are an Amazon.com shopper, our congregation is registered with the “Amazon Smiles” program, whereby Amazon donates one half of one percent of your purchase amount to a charitable organization that you select. Please note that, to qualify, your purchase has to be made through the “smile” side of things, to which you will find a very easily identifiable link from the main part of the Amazon.com website. (Once there, it can be a bit tricky to pick out our congregational name from all of the “St. John’s” – look for **St John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Berrysburg, PA**. Once you have selected us the first time, we will automatically be designated each time you shop and you won’t need to re-do the search.) All monies received in this way will be automatically deposited for use in the Current Fund.

On Monday, September 19, an orientation/training session devoted to our new Zoom equipment will be held at the church at 7:00pm. All interested persons, whether or not they have previously been a part of the Zoom Hosting Committee are invited and encouraged to attend! For more information, please contact Rachel Henry (717.439.3897).

## SENIOR CHOIR UPDATE

After two years of COVID inactivity, we are attempting to restart our Senior Choir. The first choir rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. There are sure to be lots of questions, and probably some issues that we will deal with as they occur.

First of all, we hope that all choir members are fully vaccinated and boosted. Regarding masks, that will be each person’s preference. Our congregational family will be purchasing masks which are expressly designed for singers and will have these available for each choir member if and when they would desire to wear them. These masks work better than regular masks because they are created with a chamber that allows for freedom of movement in the jaw with more distance between the mask and your mouth, thus making it easier to sing and breath with a mask in place.

I am confident with a lot of common sense and some creative thinking, we should be able to return to providing a musical addition to our worship experience. If you have any questions/concerns please contact Pastor Tom, Judy Ferree, or me. Hope to see lots of enthusiastic singers in October!

-Carol Hubler

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.)***

***Due to a scheduling conflict, the date of next year’s Annual Strawberry Festival has just been moved from June 14 (as set at the Festival Wrap-Up Meeting a couple of months ago and since publicized) to Wednesday, June 7, 2023.*** This will apparently be the first time we have ever planned the Festival for the first Wednesday in June, so it may take some extra work on all of our parts to help folks realize it won’t be the very familiar “second Wednesday in June” next year. It has been checked and confirmed that going with this earlier date won’t conflict in any way with local school schedules and shouldn’t cause any problems with regard to having strawberries. (The first planning meeting remains unchanged, on Tuesday, March 7, at 7:00pm here at the church.)

Work sessions to wipe down surfaces and put worship furnishings back in place upstairs in advance of our planned return to indoor worship on September 25 will be held on Monday, September 19, Tuesday, September 20, and Wednesday, September 21, starting around 8:00am and running no longer than 12:00pm each day. For each of those times, a team of about six persons would be able to get the job done, and even the presence of a worker for part of the four hours on a given day would be a great help. Please contact Sandra Lamenza (717.307.8396) for further information or, if possible, to let her know of your availability to help with any of these times.