

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.	Pastor
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Judy Ferree	Organist
Delmar and Ginny Enders	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.

The ***Altar Flowers*** are presented to the Glory of God in honor, thanks, and appreciation of St. John's organists and pianists that provide us with beautiful music and accompaniment each and every week. You are amazing!

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!

Sunday Morning Liturgy

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ 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 #731 "Earth and All Stars!"

*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: Genesis 50:15-21

Psalm: 103:1-13

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12

*Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

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

Young Persons Go with Miss Laurie for Celebration Time

Sermon

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

*We Proclaim Our Faith:

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH, THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY, AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT BY MY OWN UNDERSTANDING OR STRENGTH I CANNOT BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST MY LORD OR COME TO HIM, BUT INSTEAD THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS CALLED ME THROUGH THE GOSPEL, ENLIGHTENED ME WITH HIS GIFTS, MADE ME HOLY, AND KEPT ME IN THE TRUE FAITH, JUST AS HE CALLS, GATHERS, ENLIGHTENS, AND MAKES HOLY THE WHOLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH ON EARTH AND KEEPS IT WITH JESUS CHRIST IN THE ONE COMMON, TRUE FAITH. DAILY IN THIS CHRISTIAN CHURCH THE HOLY SPIRIT ABUNDANTLY FORGIVES ALL SINS – MINE AND THOSE OF ALL BELIEVERS. ON THE LAST DAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL RAISE ME AND ALL THE DEAD AND WILL GIVE TO ME AND ALL BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ETERNAL LIFE. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.

-Martin Luther's "Small Catechism"

*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

*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 #452 "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, Sunday, September 17

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 Sunny Sermon & Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
11:15am Postponed Celebration "Sundae" SONday (**Stay after the service and join in a make-your-own ice cream sundae treat! Yummy!!**)
3-6pm St. John Hosts Upper Dauphin Conference Lutheran Youth Organization Annual School Kit Project in Pavilion

Monday, September 18

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.)
7pm Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens

Tuesday, September 19

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
Worship & Music Committee will not meet on Tuesday evening as originally scheduled.

Wednesday, September 20

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Thursday, September 21

Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
Pastor Tom on the Road for Pastoral Visit – No Planned Office Hours

Friday, September 22

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
5:15pm Rehearsal for Motter/Holman Wedding
Allive 2023 Junior High Retreat at Nawakwa, Friday – Sunday

Saturday, September 23

2:30pm Marriage of Matthew Motter & Nichole Holman

Next Sunday, September 24

Seventeenth 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 In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)

Looking Ahead

Property Committee will meet at the church on Tuesday, Sept. 26, beginning at 6:15pm.

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

A Free Community Dinner will be held at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown, on Thursday, September 28. This meal in a series of Free Community Dinners is intended to especially benefit persons who are in need of food and/or fellowship support, but there are no income guidelines or restrictions of any kind. This ministry is being supported by a number of area christian congregations, including St. John, as well as local businesses and other organizations. Please call the church office by September 22 to sign up.

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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).

Acolyte Ministry

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**

Our worship on Sunday, October 8, will be held outside in the pavilion at 10:15 A.M. This is so that we can incorporate a time of Blessing of the Animals into our worship and encourage everyone to bring along their animal family members with them to worship that morning. We will lower one or more of the pavilion sides as may be needed that morning, so please plan to dress warmly and bring along those pets or other animals friends!

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!

Our Faith Active in Worship – September 10, 2023

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$5,901
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$1,050
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$743
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$858
Total Attendance	Zoom – 15, In Person – 80

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** – Discharged from Penn State Holy Spirit on 9/6
- **Steven Schlegel** – At Home, Continuing to Deal with Cancer

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