

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:

PO Box 244, Berksburg, 17005-0270

717-362-9519

stjohnhillchurch@frontier.com | 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

Matthew Williard	Leader
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Judy Ferree	Pianist
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 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 "Gather Us In" *(please see the words in the bulletin)*

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: Amos 8:4-7

Psalms: 113

Second Reading: I Timothy 2:1-7

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

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

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

Boundless Retreat Recap and Youth Group Year in Review

We Respond to All That God Gives Us

We Proclaim Our Faith:

I BELIEVE IN BEAUTY—

**BEAUTY PULLED INTO BEING BY OUR CREATOR,
BEAUTY THAT CATCHES OUR BREATH,
BEAUTY THAT TURNS US TOWARD AWE.**

I BELIEVE IN COURAGE—

**COURAGE TO BELIEVE,
COURAGE TO STAND UP FOR THE PEOPLE WE LOVE,
COURAGE TO LOVE WITHOUT HESITATION.**

I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

**WHO PRAYS FOR US WHEN WE CANNOT,
WHO IS BRAVE FOR US WHEN WE ARE NOT.**

I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

**WHO STOOD UP FOR MARY,
WHO QUIETED THE VOICE OF CRITIQUE,
WHO WELCOMED EVERY BID FOR RELATIONSHIP.**

I BELIEVE IN GOD.

I BELIEVE IN GOD WHO BELIEVES IN US.

AMEN.

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 "Shine, Jesus, Shine" (*please see the words in the bulletin*)

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
- **Ron Erb** – Entering UPMC Harrisburg on 9/20 for Knee Replacement Surgery
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Helen Henninger** – Entering UPMC Harrisburg on 9/19 for Shoulder Replacement Surgery
- **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
- **Dianne Schell** – Entering UPMC Harrisburg on 9/19 for Planned O/P Heart Rhythm Procedure
- **Mary Yeager** – Rm. #210, UPMC Community Osteopathic

Our Faith Active in Worship: September 11, 2022

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,606
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,200
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$112
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$144
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$185
Total Attendance	Zoom – 15, In Person – 76

“St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of September 11, 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	\$ 36,200
Total Pledges & Gifts Still Needed to Reach Goal	\$ 23,755

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 18

Dauphin County has once again climbed to a COVID-19 Community Level of “Medium”, with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continuing to call for everyone to get fully vaccinated and for wearing a mask 1. if you have COVID symptoms or 2. a positive test for COVID or 3. exposure to someone with COVID. (Better yet, our congregational family policy has been to ask that folks in any of these three categories please simply avoid in-person activities entirely and join in worship via Zoom.) In addition, those at high risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged to mask when indoors and masks are lifted up as a good additional protective measure for everyone at this time.

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)

Thank you to Matt Williard and our Youth Group for worship leadership this morning in Pastor Tom’s absence! While Pastor Tom is away, Pastor Godfred Effisah (pronounced eh-FEE-suh), who serves the Rife/Killinger Parish, is 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 Wednesday morning.

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)

Monday, September 19

8am-12pm 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, Tuesday, and Wednesday (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.)

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

7pm Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting at Immanuel Lutheran, Williamstown

7pm Orientation/Training Session for New Sound Equipment and New Zoom Equipment (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).)

Tuesday, September

8am-12pm 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, Tuesday, and Wednesday (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.)

Wednesday, September 21

Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Am-12pm Tom's Office Hours

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Thursday, September 22

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, September 23

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

Saturday, September 24

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, September 25

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Dauphin County has once again climbed to a COVID-19 Community Level of "Medium", with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continuing to call for everyone to get fully vaccinated and for wearing a mask 1. if you have COVID symptoms or 2. a positive test for COVID or 3. exposure to someone with COVID. (Better yet, our congregational family policy has been to ask that folks in any of these three categories please simply avoid in-person activities entirely and join in worship via Zoom.) In addition, those at high risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged to mask when indoors and masks are lifted up as a good additional protective measure for everyone at this time.

9am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)

9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)

9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)

9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person)

10:15am Worship (In-Person and On Zoom)

11:15am Acolyte Orientation Session with Sandy Paul (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.)

Looking Ahead

Worship & Music Committee will meet Tuesday, September 27, at 6:15pm at the church.

Congregational Council will meet on Sunday, October 2, at the church beginning at 6pm.

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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 4th 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

Book Group

Please join us for upcoming Book Group gatherings! We will meet at the church, in the pavilion or fellowship hall, at 6:30 pm. All are welcome to bring a snack to share.

- **October 3 & November 7 -- Martin Luther: The Man Who Rediscovered God and Changed the World** by Eric Metaxas
- **December 5 -- The Parables of Peanuts** by Robert L Short

Call or email Ann 717.362.7895 rahbruner@gmail.com if you need a book or have any questions. Hope to see you there!

Bible Study

Our autumn session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on **Wednesday, October 12** and run for six weeks, meeting each week from 6:30 to 8:00pm and wrapping up in time for Thanksgiving Eve, Advent, and Christmas. Pending COVID developments, we will plan to meet in-person at the church, with the option for participants who would prefer to do so to "Zoom in". Our topic this fall will be ***Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*** by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, in which she explores selected miracles of Jesus (such as the Raising of Lazarus) in their historical and theological context, looking at how past witnesses would have understood the events as well as how we today can draw meaning from Jesus's words and actions. Celebrated New Testament professor and scholar Dr Amy-Jill "AJ" Levine was the first Jewish person to teach New Testament at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and describes herself as "an unorthodox member of an Orthodox synagogue and a Yankee Jewish feminist who until 2021 taught New Testament in a Christian divinity school (Vanderbilt) in the buckle of the Bible Belt". As always with these studies, no previous Bible study experience is required – only an interest and enthusiasm to study, reflect on, and (if and when you are comfortable doing so) discuss God's Word together! So that the correct number of study books can be ordered for our study, please register in advance (by speaking with Pastor Tom) **by the end of the morning on Sunday, October 2.**

Strawberry Festival

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.)

Shine Jesus Shine

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the Fa - ther's glo - ry;

blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the na - tions with grace and mer - cy;

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright-ness, so our fac - es dis -

dark-ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,

set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine on me, shine on me:
Shine on me, shine on me:

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950
Music: Graham Kendrick
Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, admin. Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE
9 9 10 10 3 3 and refrain

Gather Us In

1 Here in this place the new light is stream - ing, now is the dark - ness
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
4 Not in the dark of build - ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,

van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream - ings
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh - ters,
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,

brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.

Gath - er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath - er us in, the
Gath - er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty, gath - er us in, the
Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
Gath - er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath - er us in and

blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,

we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
fire . . of love in our flesh and our bone.