

Sunday Morning 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** #474 "Children of the Heavenly Father" (**softly singing entire song**)

Greeting:

P: The grace that is Christ's gift to us, the love of God, and the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace be with you all.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 11:18-20

Psalms: 54

Second Reading: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

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

We Proclaim Our Faith:

I BELIEVE IN GOD, THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS CREATED ME TOGETHER WITH ALL THAT EXISTS. GOD HAS GIVEN ME AND STILL PRESERVES MY BODY AND SOUL; EYES, EARS, AND ALL LIMBS AND SENSES; REASON AND ALL MENTAL FACULTIES. IN ADDITION, GOD DAILY AND ABUNDANTLY PROVIDES SHOES AND CLOTHING, FOOD AND DRINK, HOUSE AND FARM, SPOUSE AND CHILDREN, FIELDS, LIVESTOCK, AND ALL PROPERTY – ALONG WITH ALL THE NECESSITIES AND NOURISHMENT FOR THIS BODY AND LIFE. GOD PROTECTS ME AGAINST ALL DANGER AND SHIELDS AND PRESERVES ME FROM ALL EVIL. ALL THIS IS DONE OUT OF PURE, FATHERLY, AND DIVINE GOODNESS AND MERCY, WITHOUT ANY MERIT OR WORTHINESS OF MINE AT ALL! FOR ALL OF THIS I OWE IT TO GOD TO THANK AND PRAISE, SERVE AND OBEY HIM. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.

-Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*

Prayers

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: Almighty and merciful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep us this day and forevermore.

C: **AMEN**

Closing Hymn **LBW** #193 "Cradling Children in His Arm" (**softly singing entire song**)

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

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

Keyboard Postlude and Silent Prayer

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Berrysburg, PA
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

The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr.	Pastor
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Judy Ferree	Organist
Vincent Lamenza	Lector
Roy Henry	Council President

For the month of September, our **Celebrate** lectionary bulletin is sponsored by Fred and Jean Weaver for good health and God's many blessings. **Tree 4 Hope** is sponsored by Joe and Arlene Doyle for God's many blessings and Support of one pastor for one month in the **Konde Diocese** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania is sponsored by Chris and Dana Klouser in honor of a new school year – may all children feel safe, loved, and secure in God's embrace.

Today, Sunday, September 19

9:00am Adult Bible Study (On Zoom)
9:00am SONDay Celebration (In-Person) – **Masking and safe distancing are required for everyone present – both adults and young persons – to do our best to protect our (unvaccinated per current guidelines) younger congregational family members!**
9:00am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
9:00am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)
10:15am **OUTDOOR WORSHIP** (In-Person and On Zoom)
11:15am Welcome Back Picnic in the Pavilion, Hosted by Youth Group (Everything will be provided by Youth Group – all you need to bring is your appetite, for both great picnic food and great fellowship!)
3:00pm St. John Hosts Upper Dauphin Conference Lutheran Youth Organization Annual School Kit Project in Pavilion

Monday, September 20

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
7:00pm Upper Dauphin Conference Cabinet Meeting – tentatively in-person at St. Christopher Lutheran, Lykens.

Tuesday, September 21

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
12:30pm Pastor Tom at Lower Susquehanna Synod Compensation & Benefits Committee Meeting
6:15pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting (planned in-person at the church, likely in the pavilion)

Wednesday, September 22

9am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
7pm Weekly Congregational Family Time of Prayer 1. for All Educators/Students/Families and 2. for Our Health Professionals (**Please make use of the list of health care professionals at the end of this bulletin information, taking a few minutes to lift each person up to God by name. To add names to the list, please contact Pastor Tom with their information.**)

Thursday, September 23

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Friday, September 24

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

Saturday, September 25

Our church building and pavilion will both be very busy places, as we have the honor of hosting the Annual Convention of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Women's Organization.

Next Sunday, September 26

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9am Adult Bible Study (On Zoom)
9am SONDay Celebration (In-Person) – **Masking and safe distancing are required for everyone present – both adults and young persons – to do our best to protect our (unvaccinated per current guidelines) younger congregational family members!**
9am Confirmation Class (In-Person)
9am Youth Group Bible Time (In-Person)
10:15am **OUTDOOR WORSHIP** (In-Person and On Zoom – **Everyone is encouraged to dress warmly and bring along a jacket for our outdoor gathering on this breezy hill!**)

Looking Ahead

Property Committee will meet (planned in-person at the church, likely in the pavilion) at 6:15 P.M. on Tuesday, September 28.

The first session of First Holy Communion Instruction for our young baptized persons in Grades 4 (& 5 this year) will be held at the church on Wednesday, September 29, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Mutual Ministry Committee will meet immediately following worship on Sunday, October 3.

Congregational Council will meet (a week earlier than typical) at 7:00 P.M. on Sunday, October 3.

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Our autumn session of Midweek Bible Study will get underway on **Wednesday, October 27** – much like last year, after Pastor Tom returns from his planned time away – and, again much like last year, will then continue each Wednesday through December 15, except for Thanksgiving Eve, when we will take the evening off. We will meet each week from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Please stay tuned for more information as to our format this fall – in person/Zoom/hybrid, which will be guided in good measure by what is happening COVID-wise closer to that time. The topic of our autumn study will be something a bit different – **Reading the Old Testament Through Jewish Eyes: A Study of the Scriptures Jesus Read**. As summarized so well in the study description, “(Our writer) Rabbi Evan Moffic has a passion for sharing Jewish faith and traditions with Christian audiences. In this new study, Rabbi Moffic explores the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (Genesis through Deuteronomy) and highlights the key points of interest to Christians. He presents the biblical text and interpretations of it in the way Jewish leaders during the time of Jesus would have studied it while examining different commentaries from thousands of years of Jewish sources.” 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 day Wednesday, October 6.

Containers are located in the foyer for food donations for the food pantry at the Upper Dauphin Human Services Center in Lykens. Please drop off non-perishable food items at any time and, as the contributions add up, deliveries will be made to the pantry by Larry Gessner, our faithful delivery person. Thank you!

If you are not currently comfortable taking part in in-person worship, there are **three** very simple options for giving your tithes and offerings. You are welcome to 1. mail your offering to the church (PO Box 270, Berrysburg, 17005-0270) or 2. drop it by the church and place it in the red plastic tub that is prominently visible in the Sunday School Room, on the table just outside Pastor Tom’s office door. In addition, 3. if neither of those is easily done, you may wish to contact your bank about setting up an automatic payment, as some of our congregational family members also have done, whereby the offering you direct is sent by your bank as a check mailed directly to the church. In all cases, Pastor Tom will then see that all offerings received get securely passed along to our counters.

Pastor Tom will be leading an Inquirer’s Class on Monday, September 27, from 6:30 to 8:15 P.M., probably outdoors in the pavilion, but exact location TBD based on weather. This class is designed for folks who are interested in joining our congregational family, folks who are trying to figure out if this is where God might be guiding them to a faith home, and folks who are already a part of the congregational family but would like to have a bit of a refresher in the basics of Lutheran Christian history and belief. Simply speak with Pastor Tom any time before September 27 to sign up. New members will be received during morning worship on Sunday, October 10.

Our Faith Active in Worship – September 12, 2021

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,545
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,319
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$205
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$25
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$35
Total Attendance	Zoom – 29, In Person – 61

Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness

- **Louise Baumgardner** – Continuing Her Recovery at Home
- **Judy Cheatham** – UPMC Harrisburg, Rm. #591
- **Ron Erb** – UPMC Harrisburg, Rm. #760
- **Paul Glace** – Recovering at Home Following the Installation of a Pacemaker/Defibrillator at Johns Hopkins on 9/10 and Preparing for Heart Valve Replacement Surgery Perhaps in Mid October
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Warren Hassinger** – Rm. #103 – Connections Unit, Providence Place of Pottsville, 2200 First Avenue, Pottsville, 17901
- **Lorraine Henninger** – Rm. #133, Frey Village, 1020 North Union Street, Middletown, 17057
- **Marzette Hoffman** – Rm. #805, Northern Dauphin Nursing & Rehab. Center
- **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)
- **Lois Watson** – Continuing Her Recovery at Home

33rd Convention of the Lower Susquehanna Synod Women of the ELCA

On September 25, 2021, St. John’s Women’s Group will be hosting the **Annual Convention for the Lower Susquehanna Synod Women of the ELCA**.

If you are not planning to attend that doesn’t mean you can’t help! We would like to ask our congregation for help in attaining food items for our seminarians. We are collecting the following items:

- Cans of Chunky Soups (any kind)
- Cans of Tuna
- Cans of Chicken
- Gift Cards to be used for gas and prescriptions. Gift cards should come from Weis Market, Giant Stores, or Walmart.
- SPAM
- Cans of Salmon
- Cans of Mackerel
- Or any other meat items in a can

We will be collecting these items in the Conference Room near the window until September 22, 2021. Thank you for your help!

Medical Professionals in Our Praters in this Time of COVID-19:

- **Paulette Warner, Non-Emergency Medical Transportation**
- **Jenna Troutman, RN**
- **Jodi Thompson, CCMA**
- **Gwen Switzer, RTR**
- **Payton Stutzman, Hospital Clinical Assistant**
- **Kristen Spicher, RN**
- **Sara Shaffer, RN**
- **Steven Schlegel, Paramedic**
- **Michelle Scheff*, MS, CCC/SLP** (Speech Therapist in Seattle, WA)
- **Joanne Rheem*, Healthcare Administrator**
- **David Rheem*, Healthcare Administrator**
- **Dr. Todd Peters*** (Chief Medical Officer in Baltimore, MD)
- **Joshua Peters, PA-C** (Serving in Colorado)
- **Dr. Alayna Peters** (Doctor of Pharmacy in Hagerstown, MD)
- **Courtney Peifer*, Psych Technician**
- **Sara Paul, Family Practice Center Medical Receptionist**
- **Bobby Paul, BS**
- **Angela Paul, PTA**
- **Cindy Nicholson*, RN**
- **Whitni Ney, RN**
- **Haley Nestor*, BSN, RN**
- **Shannon Motter, RN**
- **Courtney Miller, B.S. R.T(R)(CT)**
- **Roni Mace, RN**
- **Heidi Lehman, RT (R)**
- **Shawnita Latsha, RT (RDMS, RVT)**
- **Rose Kell, MS** (Occupational Therapist in California)
- **Nichole Holman*, RN**
- **Dr. Tonya Henninger & Dr. Sarah Bork*** (Hospitalists in Seattle, WA)
- **Abigail Francisco*, RN**
- **Robert Foreman, Paramedic**
- **Courtney Foreman, RN**
- **Glenn Fontaine*, RN** (Serving in Michigan)
- **Ann Fontaine*, PA-C** (Serving in Michigan)
- **Olivia Enders, CNA**
- **Dr. Seth Eisenberg*** (Anesthesiologist in Atlanta, GA)
- **Rachel Denlinger*, RN** (Serving in Charleston, SC)
- **Gary Daniels, EMT**
- **Dr. Timothy Bruner & Dr. Gabrielle Fregeau*** (Doctors of Physical Therapy in Ocean County, NJ)
- **Dr. Daniel Bruner & Dr. Richelle Demers*** (Doctors of Chiropractic)
- **Dr. Jerrel Boyer*** (Neurosurgeon in Chicago, IL)
- **Dr. Brett Bellis*** (Doctor of Chiropractic)
- **Chelsea Beard, EFDA**

*denotes someone who is a part of our extended congregational family

Updated 8-23-21