

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.
Laurie Little
Judy Ferree
Larry and Karen Gehring
Vincent Lamenza
Joshua Paul

Pastor
Young Christians Minister
Organist
Greeters
Lector
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 in celebration of the marriage of Matthew Motter to Nichole Holman held at St. John's Church on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

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 – ELW Setting 10

God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Organ Prelude and Silent Prayer

*Confession and Forgiveness

Pg. 94-96

*Opening Hymn #765 "Lord of All Hopefulness"

*Apostolic Greeting

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*Kyrie (sung in unison)

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*Hymn of Praise: "Glory to God..." (sung in unison)

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*Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalm: 145:1-8

Second Reading: Philippians 1:21-30

*Gospel Acclamation (sung in unison):

ALLELUIA! LORD AND SAVIOR: OPEN NOW YOUR SAVING WORD. LET IT BURN LIKE FIRE WITHIN US; SPEAK UNTIL OUR HEARTS ARE STIRRED. ALLELUIA! LORD WE SING FOR THE GOOD NEWS THAT YOU BRING. (Pg. 205)

*Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

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

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

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"

*Offertory Hymn (#182) (sung as gifts are brought forward):

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD, AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME. CAST ME NOT AWAY FROM YOUR PRESENCE, AND TAKE NOT YOUR HOLY SPIRIT FROM ME. RESTORE TO ME THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION, AND UPHOLD ME WITH YOUR FREE SPIRIT.

*Prayers of the Church

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right side of page

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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 #779 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Today, Sunday, September 24

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)
 1-5pm Girl Scout Troop Activity in Pavilion and "Sunday School" Room

Monday, September 25

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 26

8-9:30am Pastor Tom's Office Hours
 6:15pm Property Committee Meeting
 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal (**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**)

Wednesday, September 27

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours

Thursday, September 28

8am-12pm Pastor Tom's Office Hours
 5:30pm Free Community Dinner at Salem United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown (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.)

Friday, September 29

Michael and All Angels

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

Saturday, September 30

Pastor Tom's Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, October 1

Eighteenth 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 Sacraments of Holy Baptism & Holy Communion and Celebration Time with Miss Laurie for In-Person Young Worshipers (In-Person and On Zoom)
 11:30am Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting
 6pm Congregational Council Meeting

Looking Ahead

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).

The October gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** will be held in-person at the church on Wednesday, October 4, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

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 animal friends!

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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**

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.

Our Faith Active in Worship – September 17, 2023

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,427
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$202
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$35
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$125
Total Attendance	Zoom – 16, In Person – 63

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)
- **Steven Schlegel** – Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Rm. #7215
- **Jean Weaver** – UPMC West Shore, Rm. #417