

## Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

### 911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 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
Matt & Olivia Williard	Greeters
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!

### God Gathers Us in Prayer and Praise

Announcements

Piano 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 #712 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

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 6:1a, 4-7

Psalm: 146

Second Reading: I Timothy 6:6-19

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

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 JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S ONLY SON, OUR LORD, WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED, AND WAS BURIED; HE DESCENDED TO THE DEAD. ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN; HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, HE IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER, AND HE WILL COME TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD. (THIS MEANS THAT) I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST, TRUE GOD, BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER IN**

ETERNITY, AND ALSO A TRUE HUMAN BEING, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, IS MY LORD. HE HAS REDEEMED ME, A LOST AND CONDEMNED HUMAN BEING. HE HAS PURCHASED AND FREED ME FROM ALL SINS, FROM DEATH, AND FROM THE POWER OF THE DEVIL, NOT WITH GOLD OR SILVER BUT WITH HIS HOLY, PRECIOUS BLOOD AND WITH HIS INNOCENT SUFFERING AND DEATH. HE HAS DONE ALL THIS IN ORDER THAT I MAY BELONG TO HIM, LIVE UNDER HIM IN HIS KINGDOM, AND SERVE HIM IN ETERNAL RIGHTEOUSNESS, INNOCENCE, AND BLESSEDNESS, JUST AS HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD AND LIVES AND RULES ETERNALLY. THIS IS MOST CERTAINLY TRUE.

-Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*

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 on us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

C: **AMEN**

Closing Hymn #679 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Proclaim the good news

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

Piano 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** – Discharged from UPMC Harrisburg on 9/21
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Helen Henninger** – Planned 9/19 Shoulder Replacement Surgery Postponed to 10/17 Due to Illness
- **Cora Mace** – Rm. #3647, Roosevelt 3, Masonic Health Care Center, 600 Freemason Drive, Elizabethtown, 17022
- **Lynn Mace** – Recovering from 9/23 Outpatient Surgery at Geisinger Medical Center
- **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** – Recovering from 9/19 Outpatient Procedure at UPMC Harrisburg
- **Mary Yeager** – Rm. #233, Polk Personal Care Center – On Hospice Care

### Our Faith Active in Worship: September 18, 2022

<b>Current – Budget Goal</b>	<b>\$2,606</b>
Current – Offerings Received	\$2,601
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$265
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$75
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$115
Total Attendance	<b>Zoom – 28, In Person – 53</b>

### “St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of September 18, 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	\$ 35,850
<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 25

As we in Dauphin County continue to dwell right on the line between the Medium/Yellow and Low/Green levels of COVID-19 Community Transmission as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it continues to be the case that the very best things we can do in this transition time are

- get fully vaccinated
- wear a mask if you have; 1. 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 a good additional protective measure for everyone.

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)

### Monday, September 26

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
9am	“Blanket Bunch” Blanket Making for Lutheran World Relief

### Tuesday, September 27

8-9:30am	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
6:15pm	Worship & Music Committee Meeting

### Wednesday, September 28

8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
----------	---------------------------

### Thursday, September 29

Michael & All Angels	
8am-12pm	Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

### Friday, September 30

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

### Saturday, October 1

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

### Next Sunday, October 2

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

As we in Dauphin County continue to dwell right on the line between the Medium/Yellow and Low/Green levels of COVID-19 Community Transmission as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it continues to be the case that the very best things we can do in this transition time are

- get fully vaccinated
- wear a mask if you have; 1. 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 a good additional protective measure for everyone.**

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, Including Holy Communion (In-Person and On Zoom)  
6pm Congregational Council Meeting

## Looking Ahead

### 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](mailto:rahbruner@gmail.com) if you need a book or have any questions. Hope to see you there!

### Senior Choir

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

**The first session of First Holy Communion Instruction with Pastor Tom, open to baptized young persons in Grade 4 or older, will be held at the church on Tuesday, October 4, from 6:30 to 8:00pm.**

The October gathering of **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** will be held in-person at the church on Wednesday, October 5, from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M.

Mutual Ministry Committee will gather immediately following worship on Sunday, October 9, for their regular quarterly meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Property Committee meeting originally scheduled for September 13 will instead be held on Tuesday, October 11, at the church beginning at 6:15pm. (This will also serve as the committee meeting for both months.)

To help keep our elevator functioning properly, please don't hold the doors open with your hand or by putting something else in the way of their closing. Please be sure to instead use the "door open" button on the control panel, but do so as sparingly as possible. (The technicians who maintain our elevator report that 90%+ of the service calls they receive – whether with a high traffic elevator as at a hospital or with a limited-use elevator like ours – have to do with door alignment issues, caused by people forcing and/or holding them open.)

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.**

***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.)