

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethtown, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:

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717-362-9519

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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.	Pastor
Laurie Little	Young Christians Minister
Joshua Paul	Holy Communion Assistant
Delmar & Ginny Enders	Altar Guild Preparation
Abby & AJ Adams	Holy Communion Servers
Judy Ferree	Organist
Youth Bible Group	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 by Chris & Dana Klouser and LuAnn Ressler in loving memory of nephew, Mason Miller, who passed tragically 33 years ago in August 1990. Forever Young.

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us this morning. If you are a visitor, please sign our guest book in the foyer. As we celebrate our Lord's Supper, we welcome to our table all baptized Christians who have received the sacrament in their home congregations. All persons who do not yet commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. 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 #879 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

*Apostolic Greeting

Pg. 203

*Kyrie (sung in unison)

Pg. 203

*Hymn of Praise: "Come, let us join..." (sung in unison)

Pg. 204

Prayer of the Day

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Psalm: 26:1-8

Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21

*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 16:21-28

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

*Apostles' Creed

Pg. 105

*Prayers of the Church

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

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL LORD, AND FILL TO THE BRIM OUR CUP OF BLESSING. GATHER A HARVEST FROM THE SEEDS THAT WERE SOWN, THAT WE MAY BE FED WITH THE BREAD OF LIFE. GATHER THE HOPES AND DREAMS OF ALL; UNITE THEM WITH THE PRAYERS WE OFFER NOW. GRACE OUR TABLE WITH YOUR PRESENCE AND GIVE US A FORETASTE OF THE FEAST TO COME.

*Offertory Prayer:

P: Let us pray... our Savior and Lord. All: **AMEN.**

We Share in God's Supper

*Great Thanksgiving (spoken):

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

P: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*We Respond in Praise (sung in unison):

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, GOD OF POWER AND MIGHT, HEAV'N AND EARTH ARE FULL OF YOUR GLORY. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD. HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST. (Pg. 207)

*Eucharistic Prayer:

P: ...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

All Sing: **CHRIST HAS DIED. CHRIST IS RISEN. CHRIST WILL COME AGAIN. (Pg. 207)**

P: ...be all honor and glory in your Holy Church, now and forever.

All Sing: **AMEN, AMEN, AMEN. (Pg. 207)**

*Our Lord's Prayer – traditional version on right Pg. 208

We Partake of Our Lord's Supper (As we share in the sacrament, please join in singing the praise song "O Lamb of God"):

O LAMB OF GOD, YOU BEAR THE SIN OF ALL THE WORLD AWAY; YOU SUFFERED DEATH OUR LIVES TO SAVE: HAVE MERCY NOW, WE PRAY. O LAMB OF GOD, YOU BEAR THE SIN OF ALL THE WORLD AWAY; YOU SET US FREE FROM GUILT AND GRAVE: HAVE MERCY NOW, WE PRAY. O LAMB OF GOD, YOU BEAR THE SIN OF ALL THE WORLD AWAY; ETERNAL PEACE WITH GOD YOU MADE: GIVE US YOUR PEACE, WE PRAY. (Pg. 208)

*Post Communion Blessing:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

All: **AMEN**

God Sends Us to Share the Good News

*Post Communion Hymn (#204) (sung):

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE; TELL EVERYONE WHAT GOD HAS DONE. LET ALL WHO SEEK THE LORD REJOICE AND BEAR CHRIST'S HOLY NAME. SEND US WITH YOUR PROMISES AND LEAD YOUR PEOPLE FORTH IN JOY WITH SHOUTS OF THANKSGIVING. ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

*Post Communion Prayer:

P: Let us pray... Christ our Lord.

All: **AMEN**

*Blessing and Dismissal:

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.

All: **AMEN**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

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

*Closing Hymn #660 "Lift High the Cross"

*Organ Postlude and We Depart to Serve

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* Please stand, if able to do so.

Our Faith Active in Worship – August 27, 2023

Current – Approx. Budget Goal	\$2,796
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,091
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$295
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$20
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$245
Total Attendance	Zoom – 5, In Person – 83

“St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of August 27, 2023

Final Total Project Cost (under \$220,000 Budgeted)	\$216,795
Memorials Interest Money Expended for Project	\$82,380
	(under \$88,000 Budgeted)
Total Financial Gifts Received	\$123,405
Total Financial Gifts Pledged, Not Yet Received	\$11,010

Hospitalized/Residing in Senior Living/Dealing with Acute Illness:

- **Cindy Carr** – At Home, Undergoing Treatment for Autoimmune Disorder and Resulting Organ Damage
- **Judy Cheatham** – Discharged from Hospital 8/28, Back to: 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** – Discharged from Penn State Hershey Medical Center on 8/27
- **Jean & Fred Weaver** – In Need of Prayer

Today, Sunday, September 3

8:45am	Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
9:30am	SONDay Celebration (In-Person)
9:30am	<u>Indoor</u> Worship, Including Sacrament of Holy Communion (In-Person and On Zoom)

Monday, September 4

Labor Day

Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Scheduled Office Hours

Tuesday, September 5

8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Wednesday, September 6

8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

6:30-7:30pm Women of the ELCA of St. John Ice Cream Social in the Pavilion

6:30-8pm **Celebration Club with Miss Laurie** “Blast Off for a New Season” (We have music, Bible stories, active games, crafts, and LOTS of treats!! Each session is like a mini VBS! Mark your calendars and join us for the fun!! - Miss Laurie)

Thursday, September 7

8-11am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

From late Thursday morning until late Saturday evening, Pastor Tom is planning to take time away. In his absence, Pastor Patrick Wirick, who serves the Klingerstown Parish, will be on call for any emergency needs for pastoral care, particularly in the event of a death or a critical illness. Because, the pastors in our conference are now “stretched thin” with Pastor Godfred’s recent departure, if an emergency is other than a death or critical illness, please consider waiting and contacting Pastor Tom on his return. But, should you need to get in touch with Pastor Pat, 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 Pat. Or, Pastor Pat can be reached directly by calling 717.439.9037. Pastor Tom will plan to be back in the office as usual on Sunday morning.

Friday, September 8

Pastor Tom Taking Vacation Day

Saturday, September 9

Day of Prayer for Peace with Justice, Beginning in the Middle East

Pastor Tom’s Weekly Day Off

Next Sunday, September 10

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)

9:30am **Outdoor CELEBRATION WORSHIP** in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom) Including:

- Sunny Sermon with Miss Laurie
- Special Music
- Annual Blessing of the Backpacks & Devices (for which all students – Preschool through Grade 12 – are asked to bring along their school backpacks (or devices) for a time of recognition, blessing, and prayer, as a new school year gets underway).

(Please keep in mind that this will be an outdoor service on a Hill known for its cool breezes – be sure to dress warmly and bring a sweater or jacket!)

10:30am *Immediately after the “Celebration Worship”, we’re trying something new and we’re calling it - a Celebration “Sundae” SONday! Stay after the service and join us for a make-your-own ice cream sundae treat! Yummy!!*

6pm Monthly Meeting of Congregational Council

Looking Ahead

BLANKET BUNCH IS BACK: Starting Monday, September 11th, the Blanket Bunch will be meeting Monday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00. All ladies are welcome to join us. Any questions, contact Pat Herb at 362-9668.

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For the month of October, a sponsor is still needed for the altar flowers for **Sunday, October 1** (\$35/week). To sponsor this ministry in honor or in memory of loved ones or events, please either sign up in person on the bulletin board in the foyer on the south side of the entrance or, if easier, please feel free to call or email Pastor Tom, who can take care of signing you up.

Please place non-perishable food items 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, where the door is labelled accordingly. As the contributions add up, deliveries will be made to the pantry by **Larry Gessner**. Thank you!

To make sure that our blessed prayer shawls get to as many folks in need of God's healing touch as possible, it is now possible for anyone from the St. John congregational family to deliver a prayer shawl to a person who is known to them to be hurting in body, mind, and/or spirit, and who would be blessed by receiving one of our shawls. To obtain a shawl, please first contact Pastor Tom, who will help you with the process. ***(Please bear in mind that it is the intention of the prayer shawl ministry that each person receive just one shawl “for life”, to be used in whatever time(s) of brokenness they may face.)***

Please see the bright blue container at the computer desk in the Sunday School Room to recycle your AA, AAA, C, D, 9-Volt and Button Cell batteries in Alkaline, NiMH, NiCAD, Zinc Air and Non-Lithium types, 9 volts and below. All batteries must be dry cell only, and they cannot be leaking or have broken cases. Through the efforts of Larry Gessner, batteries that are in especially good condition are being recharged and donated to Bethesda Mission, while all others are recycled.

The Youth Group continues to collect aluminum – aluminum only, please – in the lower level of the barn, facing toward Elizabethville. ***Please be sure to place your aluminum inside the sliding door and not outside in the pull-in space, where the animals tend to create a mess with donations.*** Thank you for your help with this major fundraiser for our youth and help for our environment!

Women of the ELCA

Our first event will be on September 6th at the church for all women of the congregation from 6:30-7:30pm (only an hour of your time!). We will be having an ice cream social and Bonnie Kent of Northern Dauphin Human Services will be our speaker for the evening. There will be a free will offering at this event. Please sign up at the church or by emailing Rachel at henryfamily2004@gmail.com so we can have a general count for ice cream 😊



Stay tuned for an event in December, March and May!