

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

911 Emergency/GPS Location:

215 St. John Road, Elizabethville, 17023

For US Mail Deliveries:

PO Box 244, Berrysburg, 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

The Rev. Thomas G. Bruner, Jr. Pastor

Laurie Little Young Christians Minister

James Watson Holy Communion Assistant

Judy Ferree Pianist

Vincent Lamenza Lector

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. 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. 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 **LBW** #377 "Lift High the Cross"

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: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalm: 1

Second Reading: Philemon 1-21

Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

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

We Share in God's Supper and God Sends Us to Share the Good News

Words of Institution of Holy Communion

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.

We Receive Jesus' Body and Blood in the Bread and Wine

Post Communion Prayer:

P: Let us pray...

C: **POUR OUT UPON US THE SPIRIT OF YOUR LOVE, O LORD, AND UNITE THE WILLS OF THOSE WHOM YOU HAVE FED WITH ONE HEAVENLY FOOD; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.**

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 **LBW** #406 "Take My Life, that I May Be"

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
- **Jane Grosser** – Rm. #705, Northern Dauphin Nursing and Rehab. Center, Millersburg, 17061
- **Marlin (Turtle) Grosser** – E/R “Holding Area”, UPMC Harrisburg
- **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
- **Mary Yeager** – Rm. #289, UPMC Community Osteopathic (Helen M Simpson Rehab)

Our Faith Active in Worship: August 28, 2022

Current – Budget Goal	\$2,606
Current – Offerings Received	\$1,396
Benevolence – Offerings Received	\$243
Improvement – Offerings Received	\$66
Children & Youth Ministry – Offerings Received	\$216
Total Attendance	Zoom – 5, In Person – 77

“St. John’s Restoration 250” Financial Update – As of August 28, 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	<u>\$ 23,755</u>

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 4

As Dauphin County has returned to a “Low”/Green COVID level, in keeping with current guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, masks are not required for anyone without symptoms or COVID exposure gathering indoors in person on Sunday morning, but they remain an option for everyone. Of course, please do not attend any kind of in-person activity if you aren’t feeling well for any reason or have reason to think that you may have been directly exposed to the virus.

- 8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9:30am SONday Celebration (In-Person)
- 9:30am **Outdoor Worship**, in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom)

Monday, September 5

Labor Day

Pastor Tom Taking Monthly Extra Day Off – No Office Hours

Tuesday, September 6

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 9:30am Pastor Tom at Monthly Conference Pastors Meeting

Wednesday, September 7

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 6:30pm **Join us as we “kick-off” a new season of Celebration Club! Club meets the first Wednesday of each month and is open to children preschool through 4th grade. We finish up around 8:00. If you’ve never experienced Celebration Club, I hope you’ll give it a try – it’s a monthly, mini-VBS experience...and we have a blast!! -Miss Laurie**

Thursday, September 8

- 8am-12pm Pastor Tom’s Office Hours

Friday, September 9

- 8-9:30am Pastor Tom’s Office Hours
- 6pm Pastor Tom Leading Rehearsal for Shoop/Snyder Wedding – at Himmel’s Church

Saturday, September 10

- 12:30pm Pastor Tom Presiding at Marriage of Kellie Shoop and Guy Snyder – at Himmel’s Church

Next Sunday, September 11

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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- 8:45am Adult Bible Study (In-Person)
- 9:30am **Outdoor Worship**, in the Pavilion (In-Person and On Zoom) Our **Annual Celebration Worship** will include a song by the young persons' **Celebration Choir**, a Sunny Sermon by Miss Laurie, a **Food Truck Party: We've "On a Roll" with God** VBS slideshow, and our **Annual Blessing of the Backpacks & Devices** led by Pastor Tom – 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. **As usual we will have approximately 80 well-spaced metal chairs set up in advance, but anyone who would prefer to do so is also welcome to bring along their own camp chairs to create their own well-spaced seating. 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 Congregational Outing to Knoebel's (Everyone attending will gather with their covered dish and container of drink for sharing to join in lunch together, followed by plenty of time for riding. Our younger members will have some ride tickets provided.)
- 2pm Women of the ELCA Meeting – All Women welcome!!!!

Looking Ahead

"THE BLANKET BUNCH IS STARTING BACK" On Monday, September 12th at 9:00 a.m. the blanket bunch plans to get back into action. New members are always welcome. If you can tie a knot, you have passed the entrance exam. We look forward to adding more helpers to our group. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me. Thank you. Pat Herb.

You are Invited to Book Discussion and Fellowship!

Monthly times of reading and sharing continue in the beauty of our pavilion. Next up:
Monday, September 12, 6:30 P.M – The Island of Sea Women by **Lisa See**
 Everyone is welcome, so if you would like to participate and haven't joined in before, you can borrow a physical or e-copy of the current book at your local library or pick up a copy at church. Questions? Call or email Ann at 717-362-7895 or rahbruner@gmail.com

Property Committee will meet at the church on Tuesday, September 13, beginning at 6:15 P.M. at the church.

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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.)**

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

In order to help those who faithfully carry out the important ministry of offering counting and record keeping do so efficiently, please help with the following:

1. Counter-signed checks are no longer accepted by **Mid Penn Bank**, and so all checks must be made payable to "St. John Church", no endorsing a check over to the church.
2. **Please** feel free to write a single check even if it's for multiple envelopes or purposes.
3. **Please** no staples or tape on your checks or envelopes.
4. Please write clearly on your envelopes. (If no designations are made, enclosed offering will go to Current Fund.)
5. For **Restoration 250** contributions, if no Memorial is designated, the amount will appear on your year-end Giving Statement.
 If a Memorial is included, the amount will not appear on your year-end Giving Statement and your "Thank You" note will instead serve as your receipt for tax purposes.

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 for recycling are delivered to Dauphin County Recycling in Harrisburg.

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!