

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 2018
JANUARY 2019



Our Mission Statement

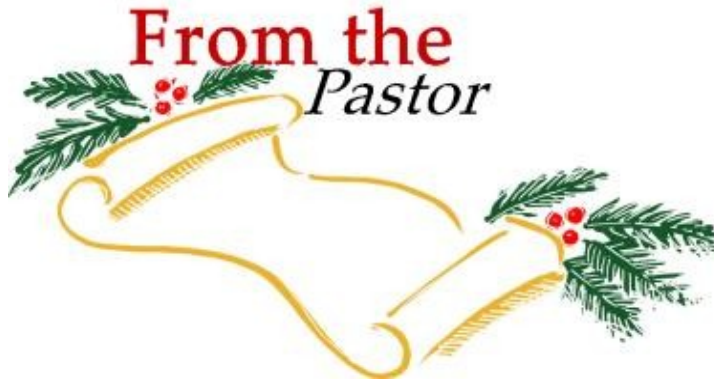
*We, the members of St. John's congregation,
promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ
and to love one another through worship and service
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

St. John's Lutheran Church
3597 West Main Street
P.O. Box 5716
Belleville, PA 17004

9:30am Worship
10:45am Sunday School
September through May

Church Office ~ 935-2032
St. John's Christian Day Care and Preschool ~ 935-2959
E-mail us at stjohnco@embarqmail.com
Website ~ stjohnsbelleville.org





Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Since we are at the beginning of Advent, it is a little early to wish you a Merry Christmas. Come to our service of worship on Christmas Eve and I will wish you a Merry Christmas and bid you farewell.

Christmas eve will be the last time I lead worship for St. John's as your interim pastor. I made the decision to retire again effective January 1, 2019, not knowing whether St. John's would have a newly called pastor by then. I still do not know, but after three years it is time for me to move on.

I have enjoyed these three years of getting to know the folks at St. John's and doing ministry with you. You have a vibrant community of faith that is active in the larger community. Your ministry through the comforters, day care and preschool, meals-on-wheels, and with the people of Liberia are to be commended. You have a genuine concern for each others well being. St. John's has a long history of making disciples in Big Valley; a tradition that I am sure will continue for a long time in to the future. It has been a pleasure to share the Gospel with you and minister by your side.

Change is difficult. Getting accustomed to new leadership, helping strangers feel welcome, being open to new ideas and ways of doing things all create anxiety. And that goes both ways. You have been gracious in overlooking the mistakes I made in leading worship as I was unfamiliar with the order of worship here. You kept me well informed about the people of St. John's and how we could minister to them. We shared joy and sorrow and God's love. I trust you will do the same with your next pastor whether another interim or a regularly called pastor.

In Advent our lives are filled with expectation of the coming again of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We prepare to celebrate His birth with hymns of praise, candlelight, and Holy Communion. We give gifts to each other as reminders of God's generosity in giving us Jesus. In our Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations we are reminded that all we do as God's people is based on God's love for us in Jesus Christ. What we do here and in our lives is to reflect that love.

I hope that you have seen and experienced God's love in my ministry with you. I know I have felt an outpouring of God's love from the people of St. John's and I trust your next pastor will as well.

We still have a month of ministry together. I will continue to pray for you and this ministry. May God bless your life together, strengthen you with the Holy Spirit, and guide your serving in Jesus' name.

In Christian fellowship,
Pastor Ken=

St. John's Lutheran Church

Pastor – Reverend Ken Longfield
Home 667-3740
Organist – Bill Frank
Sextons – Calvin and Kelly Byler
Church Secretary – Kelly Byler
Office Phone 935-2032
Email us at stjohnco@embarqmail.com

St. John's Christian Daycare and Preschool

Kristen Sharp, Director
Phone 717-935-2959

St. John's Congregational Council

	<u>Term Expires</u>
John Boring ~ President	end of 2017
Joy Byler ~ Treasurer	end of 2016
Paul Byler	end of 2018
Denise Chester	end of 2018
Carolyn Conner	end of 2016
Sharon Dancy	end of 2016
Michele Harshbarger	end of 2017
Joe Kanagy ~ Vice President	end of 2016
Esther Murphy	end of 2017
Jami Zook ~ Secretary	end of 2018

St. John's Financial Report January 1 thru November 28

Checking account balance 11/1/18
\$ 6,144.96

Income \$ 159,394.64
Expense \$ 163,846.77

*Does not include deposit for week ending 11/30

Fuel Oil Donations thru 11/28 ~ \$12,661.50
Fuel Oil Expense thru 11/28 ~ \$11,132.23

Daycare Financial Report January 1 thru November 28

Checking account balance 11/1/18
\$ 5,265.55

Income \$ 228,062.08
Expense \$ 229,327.43

*Does not include the deposit and expenses for week ending 11/30

We thank the outgoing council representatives Paul Byler, Denise Chester and Jami Zook for their service to this church and our Lord.

Denise and Jami have both agreed to serve for another term, with congregational approval. Church leaders inspire members to keep coming back and help grow the church. Without the right leaders, it's difficult for a church to continue to thrive. **We need your help.** PLEASE prayerfully consider serving our church in this way.

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm and normally run no longer than 1-1½ hours. (No meetings are scheduled in July and August).



On December 9, pastoral candidate Ela Robertson will be presiding and preaching at our worship. A meeting will be held following the service to vote on extending a call, along with council election and any other business deemed necessary.

West Kish is hosting a meet and greet on Saturday, December 8. More information was mailed out to each active member on Tuesday, November 27.

If you did not receive anything, **please contact the church office.** Extras are located in the narthex.

We hope you are planning to attend this very important worship service and meeting, and ask for your continued prayers as we look to the future.



Committees

Day Care

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Basket Bingo. After all expenses were paid, we raised \$3,380.00.

The Daycare Christmas program is being held on Monday, December 17 at 6:30pm. The children have been working hard and it should be quite an entertaining evening. There will be homemade cookies and other goodies served afterward. You are invited to come!



Property

An electric wall unit heater was recently installed in the nursery. Instead of heating the main floor, each of the rooms used throughout the week now have electric heat. The basement classrooms remain warmer since they are mostly underground.

The thermostat which had been in the nursery has been placed on the wall across from the church office. It is set at 57 degrees aside from Sunday morning. It will only call for heat on the main floor when the temperature drops below.

This should go a long way in helping to keep our fuel oil usage and winter heating cost down.

Christian Ed

The Children's Sunday school class will meet on December 2nd and again on the 16th. Any child in preschool through grade 6 is welcome to attend. Each child will receive an Advent calendar on the 2nd.

They will also meet again on January 6th and 20th.

The class is held in the large room beside the basement kitchen.



Comfort Knotting

Comfort Knotting will be held on Thursday, December 6th at 9:30am and again in January on the 3rd and 17th in the library, **weather permitting**.

If you are looking for something to do during the winter months, please consider coming to a knotting. If you can tie a knot, then you can help to knot the comforts. The ladies would love to have you. The sessions normally last about 2– 2½ hours.

Social Ministry

The committee would like to thank everyone who came to the Thanksgiving Tureen. There was good food and fellowship enjoyed by those who attended.

The Mitten Tree is filling up quickly. Thank you to everyone who has donated items, please keep them coming! We will continue to collect through the winter.

If you have any coats in good, clean condition you no longer wear, please bring them to the church. There is a section of the coat room area outside the church office for your donation(s). **The last to donate coats is Sunday, December 16.**

IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone interested in playing table games starting in January. We need to know how much interest there is and what evenings most people are available to attend.

We will be opening this up to anyone in the community that would like to join us.



The Long Range Planning Committee continues to explore a Ride Assistance Program to attend worship on Sundays. As we work through the details we want to determine who would take advantage of this service.

If you or anyone you know of may be interested in having a ride to worship, please contact Sharon Dancy at (717) 483-6985 or the church office.



The 2019 Service Schedules can be found in the member mailboxes. Please remember, if you are unable to be present on your scheduled day, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.

Thank you for your willingness to serve our church.

There is a "Prayers, Joys and Concerns" table in the narthex next to the hallway doors. If you have something you wish to have included in the "Prayers" portion of the service, fill out a submission paper and place it in the basket on the table. Submissions will be gathered about 5 minutes before the service and will be included in our prayers.

Our monthly Social hour will be held on Sunday, December 2 beginning at 8:30am in the library.

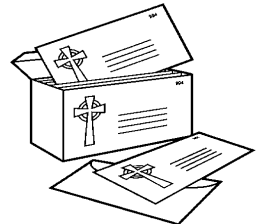
Stop in for refreshments and conversation with church family before the worship service.

Persons are needed to host the Social Hour for next year. If you are interested, a sign-up sheet can be found in the library on the 2nd or the narthex afterward.



The 2019 offering envelopes are now available in each member's mailbox. Please contact the church office if you did not receive or would like to have one.

Feel free to deliver to a neighbor, relative, friend or shut-in who may not be able to pick theirs up.



The 2019 church calendars are available in the narthex. **There is no cost, feel free to take one or more.**

Reminder ~ only the names of active members are listed, with the exception of those persons who requested their extended families be included.

Committee sign-up sheets will soon be placed in the narthex. Please consider giving a little of your time throughout the year to help with the ongoing ministry of our church.



New luminary lanterns for Christmas Eve were purchased with Memorial fund monies. They are waterproof and the candles are on a timer. Needed is a volunteer(s) to place them outside the church either Sunday or on Christmas Eve, as well as seeing that they are brought in and put away.

If you would like to take on this project, please call or stop by the church office.



Have you ever wondered what it was like in Bethlehem on the night of our Savior's birth? This Advent, through interactive involvement, you and others will have the opportunity to experience the atmosphere that very likely existed in Bethlehem on this historical and revered night.



Where: McVeytown Presbyterian Church
5 North Queen Street in McVeytown
When: Saturday, December 15 4:00 - 8:00pm
Sunday, December 16 2:00 - 6:00pm

Advent begins on Sunday, December 2nd. The church has purchased devotional booklets *God with Us* and *Hope-Full Living*, with the 2nd devotional being larger print.

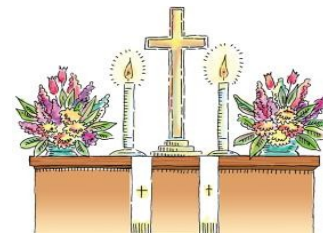
They are available in the narthex and by the elevators.



There are still dates available to place flowers for next year. Sign-ups are in the narthex, and please note whether you would like to keep or have the flowers delivered.

Reminder ~ We will not use altar flowers during Lent beginning March 10 thru Palm Sunday, April 14.

If you would like to place an arrangement beside the lectern in memory or honor of a loved one during that time, please contact the church office.



DC4Teens, a student support group for kids ages 13-19 years old, whose families are experiencing separation/divorce, is set to kick-off at the Lumina Center on Thursday, January 24, 2019. DC4Teens helps teens to clear up mistaken beliefs about divorce and separation, engage in meaningful activities and discuss topics they may not have been allowed to explore.

DC4Teens is a ten-week program that will run each Thursday from 5:30-7:00pm at the Lumina Center in downtown Lewistown. The program is led by Central Pa Youth Ministries and sponsored by Lewistown Kiwanis Club and Locust Grove Mennonite Church. There is no cost for registration. Groups are limited to 10.

For more information or to complete a registration form, call or text Chris at 317-403-0905 or click on youthcybercenter.com.

Shining Light Through the Darkness annual Christmas light display begins on December 1. Kish Park is lit up with thousands of lights and displays for young and old to enjoy.

There will be free entertainment, food and other various activities occurring throughout the month. There is no cost and everyone is welcome. The is open park daily from 5:00pm to 10:00pm and runs through January 4.

Winter is almost here, and if you think there may be a possibility of our service being cancelled due to snow or ice, please tune into the local radio stations. If you have access to the internet, the information will also be posted on their websites as well as on the church's facebook page. Or, you can contact Kelly or any council member (listed on 2nd page of this on newsletter).

In the past there was an understanding that church would not be cancelled, and whoever was able to attend, could, but, we would rather be cautious than to have someone fall and injure themselves.

While services will not be cancelled for a few inches of snow, **ANYTIME**, there is substantial snowfall, ice, etc. over the weekend, **PLEASE** check to see if worship is being held.



Matthew 25: Ministries accepts donations of empty plastic pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies and for shredding and recycling. Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment.

Acceptable collection items include:

Prescription and over-the-counter pill bottles
Large and small pill bottles
Pill Bottles with and without secure caps (child resistant)

All bottles must have :

Labels removed leaving no glue or residue.
Wash bottles in very hot water and dish soap.
Rinse and dry thoroughly.
Replace lids on clean, dried bottles.

Pill bottles that are not appropriate to include with shipments of medical supplies are recycled for cash that goes towards **Matthew 25: Ministries'** programs.

This ministry is supported by West Kish Presbyterian. A box for your pill bottle donations can be found in the coat room area beside the narthex.

We have learned that Bob Himes is currently residing at the Richfield Healthcare & Rehab Center. He enjoys visitors and especially receiving cards and letters.

Anyone interested in sending a Christmas card or other kind wishes can mail it to:

Robert Himes
Richfield Healthcare & Rehab Center
631 Main Street, Room 17
Richfield, PA 17086



Thank you to everyone who submitted a bid on the comforts. A total of \$875.00 was raised with \$175.00 going to the knotters to help purchase supplies, and the remaining \$700.00 was directed to our oil fund. The highest bidders for each of the four quilts were ~ Jay and Joy Byler, Reba Harmon, Ginger Wagner, and Ken and Nancy Wyland.

Thanks
Many Thanks
Thanks
Thanks
Thanks

In our continuing support of Liberia, Joe Kanagy is looking for 1-2 volunteers to help serve on "Outreach Liberia" with him. We will be partnering with Faith Lutheran Church in Philadelphia to provide needed items for people residing in some of the poorest areas, especially children and widows. Each month we plan to collect a specific needed item(s). The donations we collected the last 2 years have been sent to Liberia through the efforts of Faith Lutheran Church.

Beginning in January, a box will be placed in the coat room area beside the narthex for your donations of **toothbrushes and toothpaste.**

If you are interested in serving or would like more information, please talk with Joe Kanagy or contact the church office.





Sunday, December 2 ~ First Advent
Holy Communion ~ Pastor Longfield

Sunday, December 8 ~ Second Advent
Pastoral candidate Ela Robertson presiding and preaching
Congregational meeting with vote to call following the service

Sunday, December 16 ~ Third Advent
Holy Communion ~ Pastor Longfield's last Sunday worship service

Sunday, December 23 ~ Fourth Advent
Josh Randolph presiding and preaching

Monday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve
Candlelight worship ~ Pastor Longfield's last service at St. John's

Sunday, December 30 ~ First Sunday of Christmas
Lessons and Carols ~ Pastor Bill Esborn preaching



Sadly, Mifflin County has families who are homeless. We may not see them, but they are here. Families do not choose to be homeless, many are similar to other families that are also poor, but who have a home to live in. They may be struggling with incomes that are far less than they need to pay for housing, or their situation may be due to a lost job or work hours, conflict with family members they are staying with, or even violence within the home. Unfortunately, many of the homeless are children, and students in our schools.

Mifflin County School District has a 'Supply Pantry' which helps provide personal care, school supplies, and undergarments to students in need. The daycare is collecting items as a Christmas outreach project. If you would like to help, a box has been placed in the coatroom area outside the office. **The last day to donate items is Monday, December 17. Needed are ~**

Personal care items

Deodorant and body spray, lotion, soap, shampoo and conditioner,
toothbrushes and toothpaste, towels and washcloths

School supplies

Backpack, markers and crayons, pencils, notebooks and paper

New packages of underwear, socks, t-shirts and sweatpants (ALL SIZES)

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 3

Communion: Gwen Hornberger

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeter: Edna Chester

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

December 9

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Jed and Alice Smith

Money Counters: Dick and Marge Shilling

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

December 16

Communion: Gwen Hornberger

Elevator: Carolyn Conner

Greeters: Jed and Alice Smith

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

December 23

Elevator: Paul Byler

Greeters: Don and Rosalie Smith

Lay Reader: Carolyn Malone

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Communion: Joy Byler and Susan Keller ~ Intinction

Elevator: Calvin Byler

Greeters: Bob and Susan Keller

Sound System: Calvin Byler

December 30

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeters: Don and Rosalie Smith

Lay Reader: Carolyn Malone

Money Counters: Paul and Linda Byler

Sound System: Volunteer Needed

Altar Care ~ Sandra Metz and Alice Smith

Bulletin Delivery ~ John and Brenda Boring

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Lucy Magda

Social Hour ~ Jay and Joy Byler

Please remember:

If you are unable to be present
on your scheduled day,
it is your responsibility,
to find a replacement.

JANUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 6 ~ Epiphany

Communion: Michele Harshbarger
Elevator: Paul Byler
Greeters: Bob and Susan Keller
Lay Reader: Gwen Hornberger
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Ed Bilich
Ushers: Paul and Linda Byler

January 13 ~ Baptism of Our Lord

Communion: Gwen Hornberger
Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeters: Lucy Magda and Nancy Aumiller
Lay Reader: John Chester
Money Counters: Dick and Marge Shilling
Sound System: Joe Kanagy
Ushers: Jay and Joy Byler

January 20

Communion: Ed Bilich
Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeter: Ed Bilich
Lay Reader: Gwen Hornberger
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Jay Byler
Ushers: Deb French and Sandra Metz

January 27

Elevator: Paul Byler
Greeter: Gwen Hornberger
Lay Reader: John Chester
Money Counters: Joe Kanagy and Sharon Dancy
Sound System: Jay Byler
Ushers: John Boring and Randy Harshbarger

Altar Care ~ Joy Byler and Susan Keller

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Deb French

Bulletin Delivery ~ Randy Harshbarger

Social Hour ~ Volunteer Needed







Please remember:

If you are unable to be present
on your scheduled day,
it is your responsibility,
to find a replacement.

St. John's Lutheran Church

December

2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Holy Communion 8:30am Social Hour Children's SS	3 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish	4 	5	6 9:30am Knotting	7	1 8 3:00-5:00pm meet and greet at West Kish
9 Pastoral Candidate preaching Cong. Mtg with vote to call	10	11	12	13 7:00pm Council	14  POINSETTIA ORDERS Due December 16	15
16 Holy Communion Council Installation	17 11:30am WKPC Meal 6:30pm Daycare Christmas Pr. 7:00pm Property Mtg	18	19	20	21  WINTER BEGINS	22
23 Josh Randolph presiding and preaching Children's SS	24 Daycare and Office Closed 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 The Nativity of Our Lord	26 Office Closed	27 	28	29
30 	31 					9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday school

St. John's Lutheran Church

January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday school		1  <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	4	5
6 Epiphany Holy Communion 8:30am Social Hour Children's SS	7 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish	8	9	10 7:00pm Council	11 	12
13 The Baptism of our Lord Holy Communion	14	15 	16	17 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	18	19
20 Holy Communion Children's SS	21 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish 7:00pm Property Committee	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 	31		



St. John's Poinsettia Order Form

*There is no set price for the Poinsettias.
Anyone wishing to place a flower,
is asked to make a donation and
a variety of poinsettias will be
purchased to decorate the church.*

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

**Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Sunday, December 16th.**