

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

**FEBRUARY 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](mailto:stjohnco@embarqmail.com)  
Website ~ [stjohnsbelleville.org](http://stjohnsbelleville.org)



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday school</b>	<b>Looking Ahead</b> Wednesday, March 6 ~ 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service Sunday, March 10 ~ Daylight Saving Time begins Tuesday ~ March 12, 19, 26 ~ Soup and the Word 				1	2 
3 Holy Communion NO Social Hour Children's SS	4 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish 7:00pm Long Range Planning	5	6	7 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	8	9
10 	11	12 9:00am Social Ministry meets to pack Care Packages	13	14 7:00pm Council 	15	16
17 Holy Communion Children's SS	18 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish 7:00pm Property Committee	19	20	21 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	22 4:00-7:00pm Daycare Spaghetti Dinner	23
24 Congregational Meeting	25	26	27	28 		

Greetings to you in the name of our Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit,

What a whirlwind these first three weeks have been! Full of meetings with all levels of Presbyterian and Lutheran committees as we forge what it will be to walk parallel yet separate paths with one pastor in one God. All kinds of people have extended warm welcome and good advice as I get settled. And what a blessing, thanks to Tom and Deb Stroup, to have a home base on 'Gospel Hill to launch this ministry.

I think God has been toughening me up to what 'weather' in Big Valley can mean. Sunday the 20th, the scheduled ordination and installation at West Kish Pres was postponed and I am sure it was one of the few times that worship at St. John's had to be cancelled. The council made this decision with great care and concern for everyone's health and safety. It was great to see everyone working together to come up with a system that will facilitate these kinds of decisions and communications in the future.

Many people I have talked to have mentioned services or activities they would like to see again, the Soup and the Word Luncheons being one. If you are interested in working on this again this year please let me know. With two churches now served by one pastor we also have the opportunity to think about how we might want to collaborate with West Kish or rotate activities during the year.

People have also made suggestions about changing or revitalizing the Worship services. I encourage any input on what you treasure in your tradition and what you think might invite others to want to participate. The worship and Christian education committees will be getting together to gather this input and shape a vision that reflects your ideas and new possibilities.

Our OT reading from the lectionary this week from Nehemiah 8, illustrates the roots for some of our worship practices stemming from traditions hundreds of years before Christ. It reflects the devotional passion, respect, contrition and joy that inspires something as simple as why and when we sit, stand or kneel. The Gospel story from annunciation and birth, to the wedding of Cana and the Resurrection reminds us to celebrate in new ways and new places.

Our binding love is in the risen Christ and our fellowship as the Church in the family of God. Let us keep this in our hearts as we both honor tradition and embrace change.

Pastor Ela J. Robertson

### *From the Pastor ~*

#### **February Singing Valentines:**

During the month of February Pastor would like to invite people who like to sing or play instruments to learn a set of simple and beautiful songs of God's love and other Valentine favorites. How's Tuesday evening 6-7? What time works for people? Please see me if you are interested.

#### **Visiting our friends who cannot attend church:**

Thank you to John Boring and Randy Harshbarger who accompanied me on the first round of introductions and visits with members who can no longer come to church and to those who have signed up to help out in the coming weeks. If you know someone who needs immediate attention please leave a message at the office and Kelly will reach me or text my cell phone 740 338-7123. While we can certainly pray for people in need during the Joys and Concerns prayers on Sunday, it is better to have a message with more detail for me to respond to as well. Due to reception here I often cannot get cell phone calls.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

Pastor – Reverend Ela J. Robertson  
 Phone 740-338-7123  
 Organist – Bill Frank  
 Sextons – Calvin and Kelly Byler  
 Church Secretary – Kelly Byler  
 Office Phone 935-2032  
 Email us at [stjohnco@embarqmail.com](mailto: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>
Ed Bilich	end of 2021
John Boring	end of 2020
Joy Byler ~ Treasurer	end of 2019
Denise Chester ~ Vice President	end of 2021
Sharon Dancy	end of 2019
Carol Fultz ~ Secretary	end of 2020
Michele Harshbarger	end of 2020
Joe Kanagy	end of 2019
Susan Lynch	end of 2019
Lucy Magda	end of 2021
Jami Zook	end of 2021

**St. John's Financial Report  
 January 1 thru 23**

Checking account balance 1/1/19 ~ \$ 9,490.05

Income \$ 5,866.00  
 Expense \$ 7,093.20

\*No offering on January 20. Does not include deposit for Sunday, January 27 and end of month.

Fuel Oil Balance 1/1/19	\$ 4,893.20
Income/Donations YTD	350.00
Fuel Oil purchased 1/10/19	- 2970.53
<b>Balance</b>	<b>2,272.67</b>

**Daycare Financial Report  
 January 1 thru 23**

Checking account balance 1/1/19  
 \$ 37.13

Income \$ 14,664.10  
 Expense \$ 14,464.84

\*Does not include the expenses and deposits for week ending 1/25 and end of month.

Due to the weather conditions on the 20th, Pastor Ela's Ordination has been rescheduled for 3:00pm on Sunday, February 3 at West Kish Presbyterian Church. There will be a time of fellowship and light refreshments afterward. If you cannot attend, we ask for your prayers as we begin this new chapter in our ministry together.



Our congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 24 following an abbreviated worship service.

The meeting will consist of the 2018 Financial and Committee reports, Audit Committee report, Property Committee update and any other pertinent business.

Reports and meeting information will available in member mailboxes on Sunday, February 10.

**Congregational Meeting**



## Committees

### Day Care

The all-you-can-eat Spaghetti Supper is planned for **Friday, February 22 from 4-7pm**. There is no set price for the meal; donations will be accepted at the door. As always, take-outs are available.

The dinner includes: spaghetti, salad, homemade Italian parmesan bread, dessert and beverage.



Giant A+ Rewards Program total earned from October thru December is \$425.65. The program runs through the end of March. Thank you for your continued support and keep shopping!

Right now, July and summer seem to be a long way off...but it will be here before we know it, and so will the annual yard sale. So, if you are doing some cleaning out during these winter months, we will gladly take your unwanted items. Please feel free to place them on the stage.

**NO CLOTHING OR TELEVISIONS PLEASE.** Most landfills are not accepting TV's and if they do, there is often a charge and we cannot afford to dispose of them for you.

Thank you!

### Christian Ed

The Children's Sunday school class will meet on February 3rd and 17th. The class is held in the large room beside the basement kitchen.

They will be working on valentines for some of our special members on the 3rd. Any child in preschool through grade 6 is welcome to attend.



The Adult SS class which meets in the library, is beginning the Bible study "In Those Days". The sessions will be led by Pastor Rosalie Smith. You are invited to attend.

### Comfort Knotting

Comfort Knotting will be held at 9:30am on Thursday, February 7 and 21, **weather permitting**.

The ladies are looking for **sheets in good usable condition to be used as comfort backs, full size or larger**. Also, needed are **fabric remnants large enough to accommodate 8 inch patches**. If you can provide any of these items, please place them on the counter in the library.



### Social Ministry

The Social Ministry Committee is sending care packages to our college students and will also be delivering to our members residing at Valley View and our shut-ins.

There is a sign-up sheet for donations of *homemade* cookies, candy and other treats. **No store bought items please. Donations should placed in the library by 9:00am on Tuesday February 12.** The committee will also meet afterward to discuss upcoming events.

If you have children attending college, please contact the church office with their mailing address.



## IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



Lent begins on March 6. The church is providing devotionals to help guide you on your daily Lenten journey. They will be available in the narthex on Sunday, February 24.

Please feel free to take extra, if you know of someone else who may enjoy using one.

As part of our going support of Liberia, we will be collecting specific needed items each month. For January/February, we are looking for **toothbrushes and toothpaste**. A donation box can be found in the coatroom area.



The concrete steps at the back of the church leading up to the F.H. were crumbling and in need of repair. Thanks to an anonymous donation, Zook's Masonry has recently replaced them. Once the weather is a little nicer, the hand rails will be put back on. We thank God for the people and gifts we have been, and continue to be blessed with.

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.

Committee sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex. If you have not already, please consider giving a little of your time throughout the year to help with the ongoing ministry of our church.



We will not have a Social Hour on February 3 since there is one on Sunday, January 27 in honor of Pastor Ela's installation. The next one will be held on March 3rd.

Stop in for refreshments and conversation before the worship service.

**Persons are needed to host the Social Hour for this year.** If you are interested, a sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex.



The Lewistown Wal-Mart recently donated a new 9' Christmas Tree to St. John's, so our old one needs a new home. It can be found on the stage, is also 9 foot, pre-lit and best of all, FREE to whoever would like to adopt it.

Please stop by or contact the church office if you OR someone you know of is interested.

Pastor Ela would like to have Soup and the Word during Lent, with the sessions being held on Tuesdays, over the lunch hour. The Presbyterians have also been invited to participate.

We will work out all the details once we have an idea of how many persons will be attending from both churches.

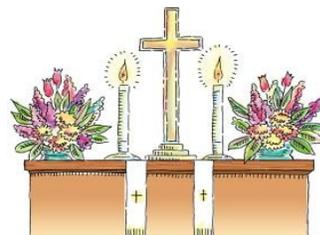
**Please sign-up in the narthex if you would like to attend.**



**September 8 is still available to place altar flowers.** If you are interested, please call the church office.

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.



Janice Smith died on January 6 and a graveside Memorial service will be held for her on Saturday, April 13 at 11:00am.

She served as this church's secretary, on various committees and was a faithful knoter for many years. Although Janice was no longer able to worship with us these last five years, her presence and work in this church will not be forgotten.



Pastor Ela is in the process of trying to determine what office hours would work best for her and our two congregations. For now, she will be at St. John's on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-4:00pm and again on Fridays from 10:00am-noon. Please feel free to stop in.



After our church service cancellation on January 20th due to the snow/ice, we are trying to find the best way to communicate to our members any cancellations or information concerning our worship/other events. One of the easiest is by email. The church currently has email addresses for approx 15 members. IF, we do not have yours, please consider sharing it with us by ~

- ◇ Contacting the church office
- ◇ Placing your name and email address in the offering plate
- ◇ Email it to us at [stjohnco@embarqmail.com](mailto:stjohnco@embarqmail.com).

We will include it in our church member contact group so you can be notified when needed.

**For those of you who do not have email, please do one of the following ~**

- ◇ Call the church office (935-2032), any closings will be added to the answering machine message.
- ◇ If you have access to the internet, the information will also be posted on the church's facebook page.
- ◇ Contact Kelly or any council member (council members are listed in this newsletter)

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



# ***FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **February 3**

**Communion:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Greeter:** Randy Harshbarger  
**Lay Reader:** Deb French  
**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester  
**Sound System:** Ed Bilich  
**Ushers:** Ed Buchanan and Ralph Murphy

## **February 10**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** Jay and Joy Byler  
**Lay Reader:** Deb French  
**Money Counters:** Dick and Marge Shilling  
**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy  
**Ushers:** John Chester and Jim Buchanan

## **February 17**

**Communion:** Joy Byler  
**Elevator:** Paul Byler  
**Greeters:** Jim and Georgianna Buchanan  
**Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich  
**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler  
**Sound System:** Jay Byler  
**Ushers:** Ed Buchanan and Ralph Murphy

## **February 24 ~ Congregational Meeting**

**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger  
**Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich  
**Money Counters:** Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy  
**Sound System:** Jay Byler  
**Ushers:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger

**Altar Care** ~ Gwen Hornberger

**Altar Flower Delivery** ~ Joy Byler

**Bulletin Delivery** ~ Ed and Marjorie Buchanan

**Social Hour** ~ No Social Hour this month

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