

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

MARCH 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



St. John's Lutheran Church

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday school	Looking Ahead Tuesday ~ April 2 ~ Honoring DC/Celtic Music in F.H. Saturday, April 13 ~ 11:00am Janice Smith Graveside Ser. Thursday, April 18 ~ 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship Friday, April 19 ~ 7pm Good Friday Worship at West Kish Sunday, April 21 ~ Easter				1	2
3 Holy Communion Children's SS 8:30am Social Hour	4 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish 7:00pm Long Range Planning	5 10:00am Social Ministry Meeting	6 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service 7am-7pm Prayer Vigil at West Kish	7 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	8	9 Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday set clocks ahead 1 hour
10 Special Offering for Outreach Liberia	11	12 12:00pm Soup and the Word in library	13	14 DC Closed for Training at Juniata College 7:00pm Council	15	16 
17 Holy Communion Honoring our Knotters during worship Children's SS	18 11:30am WKPC Meal 6:30 Music & Worship 7:00 Property Committee Meeting	19 6:30pm Soup and the Word in library	20 	21 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	22	23
24 <hr/> 31 5th Sunday Special Worship	25	26 12:00pm Soup and the Word in library	27	28	29 	30

From the Pastor



Dear St. John's congregants,

I enclose a St. Paddy's greeting to you all (on the following page) for this month of March. Post this, pray this, enjoy this, share this. The hoped for Celtic music for church had to be scheduled for Tuesday, April 2 which as turns out is perfect as a time to renew and celebrate the work in mission to children through the staff and families of the Day Care and honor everything Kirsten and her teachers have contributed. It also coincided perfectly with our Soup and the Word series. This time I will be working more on the Soup and leave the Word to the magic of these wonderful Celtic/Gospel musicians.

I strongly encourage all to attend and would love to see each one of us sitting with a Day Care Family, getting to know them a bit, and forging stronger ties with the Center. Christ's work is on the ground here.

I also want to thank you all for the welcome extended to Eliza Minasyan. She was amazed how much she felt at home in our valley so much like Armenia. I hope we will continue to look out and beyond our mountains to ways to seek Peace and serve Christian communities around the world.

Your pastor
Rev. Ela J. Robertson

The following letter was compiled by Pastor Ela and Ed, and distributed to the families and staff of our daycare.

Dear St. John's Day Care families and staff,

St. John's Day Care has been serving the families of Big Valley and beyond since 2004. In the last four years under the direction of Kristen Sharp it has grown in scope and quality providing a caring and educationally sound pre-school and after school program that has earned a three star Keystone rating from the State of Pennsylvania.

Kristen was with us for almost eight years and, in that time, did a wonderful job of improving and building up the day care program to make it the quality program it is today. She has been absolutely amazing!

We credit Kristen's compassionate, organizational and in-the-trenches leadership to a program that ran smoothly even while the church was in the process of finding new pastoral leadership.

St. John's is sorry to see Kristen leave but we also wish her the best, as she pursues her new career opportunity.

We are in the process of looking for her replacement and our goal is to fill the position with a person who will continue to give your family the same level of care that you have come to expect. Kristen will be with us until March 22, allowing for a smooth transition to a new director.

Continued on next page

We are planning a farewell party in Kristen's honor for Center staff, families and the community. It will be in the fellowship hall on **Tuesday, April 2 at 6:30 pm** and you are all invited to come.

Soup will be served at 6:30 followed at 7:00 by a special concert by the "Sky Family" an internationally known touring group from New Brunswick. Consisting of a father, three sons, their spouses and pre-school age children they will be a great group to entertain us as we honor the accomplishments of the Day Care center Director, staff and families. We look forward to having fun, being uplifted and inspired as we enjoy their high spirited traditional and gospel music with a Celtic twist.

Child care will be available. We are looking forward to seeing you all there.

In Christ's leading,

St. John's Lutheran Church Council
Ed Bilich, Council Chair

Rev. Ela J. Robertson



St. Patrick's Breastplate

Prayer of Protection

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me.

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

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 February 1 thru 27

Checking account balance 2/1/19 ~ \$ 6,588.97

Income \$ 30,465.00

Expense \$ 27,976.63

Fuel Oil Balance 1/1/19	\$ 4,893.20
Income/Donations YTD	3,050.00
Fuel Oil purchased 1/10/19	<u>- 2,970.53</u>
Balance	4,972.67

Daycare Financial Report February 1 thru 27

Checking account balance 2/1/19
\$ 3,262.85

Income \$ 40,277.11

Expense \$ 39,104.89

*Does not include deposit for week ending 1/28



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
SUNDAY, MARCH 10

Committees

Long Range Planning

Game Night continues on Thursday, March 28 at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you know of someone who may enjoy attending, please invite them to join us. All are welcome.



Christian Ed

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

Each child will receive 2 take-home activities to help them count down the 40 days of Lent. Any child in preschool through grade 6 is welcome to attend.

Day Care

It is with deep regret that we have accepted Kristen Sharp's resignation as our Daycare Director. She was recently offered a position as Director of the Lewistown branch of SUM (Snyder, Union, Mifflin County Child Development Services). This is a wonderful opportunity for her and her family. We are so very grateful for everything she brought to the daycare to help make it what it has become and wish her all the best. We are in the process of searching for a new Director, and ask for your prayers during this process.

Thank you for supporting the Spaghetti Dinner on February 22. There was a nice turn-out and with the generous donations given, we made over \$1,800.00!

Giant A+ Rewards Program total earned from October thru January is \$522.71. The program runs through March 15. Thank you for your continued support!

If you are doing some cleaning out during these winter months, we will gladly take your unwanted items. For our yard sale. 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!

Music and Worship

There will be a meeting on Monday, March 18 at 6:30pm. All committee members are urged to attend, as there is much to discuss.

Lent begins this Wednesday, March 6, West Kish hosts a Prayer Vigil with meditations on the *Stations of the Cross* from 7:00am – 7:00pm. Drop in for a time of silent prayer and reflection. Our Ash Wednesday worship begins at 7:00pm. This service is meaningful to many as it reminds us of our own mortality. "*Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return*" we are told. Our time on this earth is short – are we living the life to which God has called us? Lent is a time when we reflect on those kinds of questions. Please join us as we begin our Lenten journey.

The choir will be singing on Palm Sunday and Easter. **Voices are needed.** If you would be willing to share yours for one or both services, please sign-up in the narthex. Rehearsal dates and times will be announced in the next few weeks.

During the month's there are 5 Sundays, Pastor Ela and the committee are looking into having different types of worship. Plans for the 31st is a service and music based on the Celtic Christianity worship. On a trip to Scotland, Pastor Ela preached and led the communion service at Iona Abbey, and much of this service will be based on that experience.

Social Ministry

Thank you to everyone who donated baked goods and other treats for our college students and residents at Valley View. A total of 5 boxes were mailed to college students and 17 plates delivered to our members and others at Valley View.

The committee will be meeting on Tuesday, March 5 at 10:00am to discuss upcoming activities. They will also be preparing and delivering meals to the widows in our congregation during March.

Plans are to enter another float in the Memorial Day parade, and your ideas are welcomed! Please contact any committee member or the church office if you have a suggestion.

In addition to our on going support of *Outreach Liberia*, the committee wanted to collect items for a need close to home during the Lenten season, and have chosen the Abuse Network.

The Abuse Network is a non-profit organization which provides emergency shelter to those in immediate need due to domestic violence. It is a temporary sanctuary for those seeking respite from violence and abuse. At this time, the organization is in need of the following ~

Wash cloths and Bath towels
Paper towels
Dawn Dish Detergent
Dish cloths and Tea towels
Soap and Body wash
(suitable for adults, children and infants)

Anyone interested in supporting this ministry, can place donations in the box located in the coatroom area beside the narthex.

St. John's 2019 Committees

Listed are our current committees along with committee member phone numbers and email addresses. Several meet on a monthly basis, while others meet several times a year, or only when needed. If you have a question, concern or would like to serve, please contact the committee chairperson or council representative.

Cemetery

Council Rep - John Boring	935-2052	jbboring@embarqmail.com
Ed Bilich	935-5395	edbilich@embarqmail.com
John Chester	935-5614	jfc0632@embarqmail.com
Mike Harshbarger	935-2453	mandmharsh@embarqmail.com
Joe Kanagy	994-3094	fre2bfre50@yahoo.com

Christian Education / Youth

Council Rep - Michelle Harshbarger	935-2453	mandmharsh@embarqmail.com
Denise Chester	935-5614	dechester@embarqmail.com
Reba Harmon	935-2624	rjharmon@embarqmail.com
Erica Hargenrader	348-8032	
Michele Harshbarger	935-2453	mandmharsh@embarqmail.com

Day Care

Council Rep - Michelle Harshbarger	935-2453	mandmharsh@embarqmail.com
Michele Harshbarger	935-2453	mandmharsh@embarqmail.com
Sharon Dancy	483-6985	sharondancy@hotmail.com

Committees continued...

Finance / Investment

Council Rep - Joy Byler	250-3545	jaynjoybyler@embarqmail.com
Joy Byler	250-3545	jaynjoybyler@embarqmail.com
Kelly Byler	935-2032	stjohnco@embarqmail.com

Long Range Planning

Council Rep - Sharon Dancy	483-6985	sharondancy@hotmail.com
Ed Bilich (Chairperson)	935-5395	edbilich@embarqmail.com
Sharon Dancy	483-6985	sharondancy@hotmail.com
Mike Harshbarger	935-2453	mandmharsh@embarqmail.com
Joe Kanagy	994-3094	fre2bfre50@yahoo.com

Property

Council Rep - Joe Kanagy	994-3094	fre2bfre50@yahoo.com
Ed Bilich	935-5395	edbilich@embarqmail.com
Jim Buchanan (Chairperson)	935-5328	jimbuck196@embarqmail.com
Paul Byler	935-2298	
John Chester	935-5614	jfc0632@embarqmail.com
Mike Harshbarger	935-2453	mandmharsh@embarqmail.com
Joe Kanagy	994-3094	fre2bfre50@yahoo.com
Bob Keller	935-5340	rsk290@embarqmail.com
Tom Sharer	814-571-1138	trs4@psu.edu
Don Smith	935-2877	rodosmith139@gmail.com
Jed Smith	935-2977	ajssmith@yahoo.com

Social Ministry

Council Rep - Sue Lynch 935-2013 sml403@yahoo.com & Lucy Magda 935-0001

Brenda Boring	935-2052	jbboring@embarqmail.com
Linda Byler	935-2298	
Thalia Durst (Chairperson)	935-5296	
Sue Lynch	935-2013	sml403@yahoo.com
Lucy Magda	935-0001	
Dorie Remensnyder	935-2508	
Alice Smith	935-2977	ajssmith@yahoo.com

Worship and Music

Council Rep -Denise Chester 994-2570 dechester@embarqmail.com

Denise Chester	935-5614	dechester@embarqmail.com
Reba Harmon	935-2624	rjharmon@embarqmail.com
Sandy Metz	935-2330	ssmetz@embarqmail.com
Dorie Remensnyder	935-2508	
Rosalie Smith (Chairperson)	935-2877	rodosmith139@gmail.com
Jami Zook	994-2570	jami@sa-re.com

IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY



Lent begins on March 6. The church is providing a selection of devotionals to help guide you on your Lenten journey. They are available in the narthex and by the elevator.

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

We continue to collect items for "Outreach Liberia". This ongoing mission provides much needed supplies to not only families and children, but specifically to the widows, who do not have the financial resources to purchase the everyday items we take for granted.

Thank you to everyone who recently purchased toothbrushes and toothpaste. For the month of March we are looking for **deodorant, powder and soap**. There is a box in the coatroom area beside the narthex for your donations.

On **Sunday March 10th** there will be a special "Outreach Liberia" offering to help pay for the cost to ship items our church is collecting. The goal is \$250.00.



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.

Pastoral Care Request forms can also be found in the narthex and by the elevator. If you have a concern or would like to speak/meet with the pastor, please fill one out and place it in the offering plate, and Pastor Ela will contact you.

Camp Mt. Luther summer program brochures are available in the narthex for any youth interested in attending. Forms must be completed and handed in before April 15 to receive the early registration discount. The church pays 1/2 of camper fees.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions or would like to attend.



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: (570) 922-1587 Fax: (570) 922-1118
E-Mail: cmli@campmountluther.org

Social hour will be held on Sunday, March 3rd beginning at 8:30am.

Stop in for refreshments and conversation before the worship service.



St. John's council approved the following process for cancelling Sunday worship/other events in case of inclement weather.

- ◇ The council president, council vice-president, and the pastor communicate and determine that conditions will require cancellation of the service/event.
- ◇ If other activities are planned, a determination is also made to either cancel or hold them.
- ◇ An email is sent to all council members announcing the cancellation/cancellations.
 - The church secretary is notified about the cancellation/cancellations.
 - The church secretary changes the church office phone greeting to announce the cancellation/cancellations.
 - The church secretary sends an email to all members having an email address on file with the church.
- ◇ The cancellation notice is posted on the church facebook page and the church website.

Soup and Word will be held in the library on Tuesday's beginning March 12. The weekly sessions will focus on the stations of the cross. Pastor Ela has a series of paintings depicting each station along with the accompanying scripture.

The dates and times are listed below. It is difficult to accommodate everyone, but hopefully you will be able to attend one or more of the sessions.

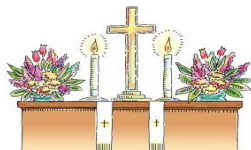
If you are interested in helping to provide soup, please sign-up in the narthex. Tuesday, March 12 is covered, all the other dates are still available. *We will need extra soup for April 2, please contact Pastor Ela/sign-up if you can help out.

Tuesday March 12th – Noon
Tuesday March 19th – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday March 26th – Noon
*Tuesday, April 2nd – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 9th - Noon



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.



Our Prayer Chain is in need of volunteers. Praying is something we all do, it is a way for us to reach out of ourselves, for the sake of another and is an important and meaningful way to serve our church...no special skills needed.

Dorie Remensnyder is our prayer chain contact person. If you have a request for prayer, please contact her at 935-2508, or if she is not available, the church office (2032). When a request is received it is quickly passed onto others who have expressed a desire to pray for the concerns brought to them.

Anyone who would like to join, is asked to please contact the church office.



Pastor's Office Hours

After trying to determine what hours/days would work best for both congregations and herself, Pastor Ela has come up with a weekly schedule. As always, if you need to speak or meet with her on a day she is not in, PLEASE call her at 740-338-7123 or contact one of the church offices, Kelly 935-2032/Joy at West Kish 935-2337.

SUNDAY: 9:30am Worship at St. John's
11:00am Worship at West Kish

MONDAY ~ 1st and 3rd at West Kish 9:30-1:30
(includes community luncheon)
Afternoons: appointments and home visits
2nd and 4th at St. John's 9:30-12:30
Afternoons: appointments and home visits

TUESDAY: West Kish: 9:30-11:30 and 1:30-3:30

WEDNESDAY: As needed, Prep and plan

THURSDAY: St. Johns 9:30-11:30 & 1:30-3:30

FRIDAY: As needed, Prep and plan

SATURDAY: As needed

Evenings as needed - special events, meetings, calls to people who work during the day



On Sunday, March 17 we will be honoring our knotters group. We thank God for the blessing of these women and their ministry.

The following describes the steps which go into making each comfort, from beginning to end. Sewing is completed by some of the women with that talent, but it takes the “combined efforts” of everyone involved. Our current group of Knotters are ~ Ruth Baker, Brenda Boring, Marge Buchanan, Edna Chester, Carolyn Conner, Susan Keller and Dorie Remensnyder.

Walk into our church library on a given Thursday morning, and there you will find a small group of women standing over one of the tables talking, laughing...and knotting. These women are St. John’s Knotters.

No one is certain when the knotters group began, but our earliest directory in 1985 includes a picture of several women in the “blue room” /library standing over a quilt frame. Today the women still meet there, on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from September thru May, weather permitting.

Each quilt takes five to six hours to make, with members contributing a certain skill. Ruth Baker cuts and irons the patches, then lays them out to create a pattern which consists of 11 rows with 8 patches per row. Numbered stickers are attached to each patch and they are placed in a box for sewing.

Edna Chester sews the patches together by rows, which are then then trimmed and assembled by row to complete the comfort top. An iron is run over them again, before being brought up to the church where they are matched with a back and placed in the cupboard to be knotted.

On knotting day, sets are selected. A pre-cut piece of batting is placed between the top and bottom piece and clamped to a table. At this point the ladies present gather around the tables, their fingers pushing the needle in and out, as each 8” square patch is knotted. The top and batting are then evenly trimmed, and the top is measured to give a 2” binding and trimmed accordingly. Marge Buchanan takes the knotted comforts home and sews the binding. Each of the finished comforts are functional and beautiful, with no two alike.

Much of the material used for the patches and backs is donated, or picked up at yard sales and thrift stores. During the year, large rolls of batting are purchased at Big Valley Dry Goods in Allensville at a cost of \$44 each. Twelve pieces of filler are measured and cut from each roll at an average of \$3.60 /piece. Nothing useable is ever thrown away.

Don Smith has been providing boxes available from Valley View which are perfect for packing and easy to handle. Volunteers throughout the years have transported them to various locations, most recently to St. John’s, Lewistown. From there they are sent on to the Lutheran World Relief Distribution Center, in New Windsor, Maryland until they are needed. No one knows where they will end up and who the recipients will be.

St. John’s knotters have turned quilting into a mission -- and a ministry. It is obvious that they are serving God, and their purpose is to show others that God loves them - in the gift of a quilt. When you have been the victim of a devastating war, hurricanes, or other disaster and literally have nothing, the gift of a comfort can be everything.

How can you help...the ladies are always 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.



MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 3

Communion: Susan Keller
Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeters: Deb French and Mady Conner
Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Ed Bilich
Ushers: Don and Jed Smith

March 10

Elevator: Paul Byler
Greeters: John and Brenda Boring
Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader
Money Counters: Volunteers Needed
Sound System: Joe Kanagy
Ushers: Bob and Susan Keller

March 17

Communion: Deb French
Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeters: Paul and Linda Byler
Lay Reader: Jami Zook
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Jay Byler
Ushers: Ed Bilich and Joe Kanagy

March 24

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeters: Ralph and Esther Murphy
Lay Reader: Jami Zook
Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy
Sound System: Jay Byler
Ushers: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

March 31

Elevator: Paul Byler
Greeter: Joe Kanagy
Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan
Money Counters: Oaul and Linda Byler
Sound System: Ed Bilich
Ushers: Paul and Linda Byler

Altar Care ~ Marge Buchanan and Linda Byler

Altar Flower Delivery ~ March 3 Only ~ Sharon Dancy (No altar flowers during Lent)

Bulletin Delivery ~ Sharon Dancy

Social Hour ~ Linda Byler

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

St. John's Easter Flowers



*There is no set price for the flowers.
A variety will be purchased and placed
throughout the sanctuary and narthex.*

*An insert with the names of the persons
placing them, along with those they are in
honor/memory of will be included in the
bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 1.*

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

**Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Sunday, April 14th**