

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

**APRIL 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

## April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>9:30am</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>10:45am</b> <b>Sunday</b> <b>school</b>	1	2 7:00pm Sky Family Concert Soup being served in FH at 6:00pm	3	4 9:30am Knotting	5  THE LORD IS MY <b>STRENGTH</b> AND MY <b>SONG</b> HE HAS BECOME MY SALVATION. <small>PSALM 118:14, ESV</small>	6
7 Holy Communion Children's SS 8:30am Social Hour 8:45am Choir rehearsal in FH	8 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish 7:00pm Long Range Planning	9 St. John's has Meals on Wheels 12:00pm Soup and the Word in library	10	11 St. John's has Meals on Wheels 7:00pm Council Meeting	12 BMS School Sale	13 BMS School Sale 11:00am Janice Smith Graveside Service
14 Palm Sunday Holy Communion 8:45am Choir rehearsal in FH	15	16 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	17	18 St. John's has MOW's 9:30am Knotting 7:00 Maundy Thursday Worship	19 Daycare and Church office closed 7:00pm Good Friday Worship at West Kish	20
21 Easter Holy Communion Fellowship time in library before and after worship	22 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish 7:00 Property Committee Meeting	23 	24	25 9:30am Knotting	26	27
28	29	30				



These first couple of months, pastoring St. John's, and West Kish have been perhaps a bit too full of pageant and planning, fancy robes and thinking caps. I'm glad as I'm settling in to have more time for the real work of ministry, preaching and pastoring, connecting and visiting, mentoring and missioning.

I think my husband, to stop himself from laughing, had to take this picture of me geared up in my winter work clothes a couple of months ago. A warm billed cap to deflect the blinding light of sun reflecting off melting snow, and thick leather gloves to pick up the dropped limbs and thorny debris left by windstorms. I feel a bit like I'm putting on those work clothes again this Lenten season.

Anytime we talk about light and thorns in the same sentence we have the core of the gospel message, don't we? Much of what I have preached about in the last few weeks has had to do with this kind of contrast, the tensions of a faith-lived life:

- ❖ The Disciples sent out at Pentecost (Thaddeus and Bartholomew) resulted in Armenia becoming the first Christian nation and a strong, joyous proud Christian nation today, despite a history of persecution and genocide.
- ❖ The blinding glory of the Transfigured Christ stands in stark contrast to the road to Jerusalem, and impending persecution and death.
- ❖ The Lenten task of both intentionality and receptivity calls for conscious restraint coupled with the openness that allows us to be touched by God's grace.
- ❖ Lifted on angels wings (Deuteronomy and Luke), we are brought down to earth by hearing the cry of people who need our comfort, care and prayer.

If we begin to feel our spiritual life is too ho-hum, humdrum or easy, something's wrong. The Christian life will always embrace that possibly uncomfortable tension of contrasts. As we open our hearts to the deep joy of God's blessings of creation and salvation we also open our eyes to Christ's sacrifice. Charged to serve, we put on our work clothes, to address the thorny issues that Christ lived and died for: the physical and spiritual hunger, pain, suffering and injustice in our lives and in our world. May this Lenten and Easter season of contrasts and challenge re-energize us with the joy of serving the ever present resurrected Christ.

*Pastor Ela*

### 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 March 1 thru 26

Checking account balance 3/1/19 ~ \$ 6,458.80

Income \$ 45,144.56

Expense \$ 42,417.10

Fuel Oil Balance 1/1/19	\$ 4,893.20
Income/Donations YTD	3,642.00
Fuel Oil purchased 1/10/19	- 2,970.53
Fuel Oil purchased 3/12/19	<u>-2,299.00</u>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>3,265.47</b>

### Daycare Financial Report March 1 thru 26

Checking account balance 3/1/19  
\$ 4,719.43

Income \$ 64,435.43

Expense \$ 60,457.94

\*Does not include deposit/expenses for the week ending 3/29.



### Pastor's Office Hours

**MONDAY ~ 2nd and 4th** at St. John's  
9:30-12:30

Afternoons: appointments and home visits

**THURSDAY:** 9:30-11:30 & 1:30-3:30

The cross has two sides...



a crucifixion side  
and a resurrection side.  
Jesus had to endure one,  
to get to the other.

## Committees

### Long Range Planning

Game Night continues on Thursday, April 25 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 April 7. Sunday school will not be held on Easter Sunday, April 21.

Any child attending church on Easter Sunday will receive a "goodie bag", following the children's sermon.



### Day Care

Giant A+ Rewards Program total earned from October thru February is \$621.87. The program ended for this year on March 15, and will resume again in October. Thank you for your continued support!

The daycare is having a Whitehall Store hoagie and salad fundraiser. Salads are \$6 and hoagies \$6/\$6.50. An order form and payment envelope can be found in the narthex. Orders are due by April 11; delivery is April 23 here at the church. Please make checks payable to the daycare.

Spring has arrived. If you are doing some cleaning out, we will gladly take your unwanted items for the 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!

### Social Ministry

The committee is continuing to support *Outreach Liberia*, with donations of powder, deodorant and soap during April.

Also being collected for a need close to home during this Lenten season, are items for the Abuse Network.

The Abuse Network is a non-profit organization which provides emergency shelter to those who are 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 these ministries, can place donations in the box located in the coat-room area beside the narthex.

### Music and Worship

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 or just come to the practices.

**Rehearsal will be held on Sunday, April 7 and April 14 at 8:45am in the fellowship hall.**







## **Holy Week and Easter Worship**




# **Maundy Thursday**

Worship at St. John's  
April 18 ~ 7:00pm



PROCESSION  
OF THE PALMS

Palm Sunday, April 14  
We will process upstairs  
together from the narthex.



# **Good Friday Tenebrae**

April 19 ~ 7:00pm  
at West Kish



# **EASTER**

*Worship 9:30am*



Needed is a volunteer to blow the trumpet for Easter Sunday.  
No experience necessary. Please see pastor Ela for more  
information.

## IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

The Belleville Fire Company is planning a **pizza buffet fundraiser** on Saturday, April 27 from 4:30 - ? at the BFC Activity Center (former Union Elementary School). For carry-outs, call 717-935-2412.

Donations will be accepted with all proceeds going toward a new electric sign.



Thank you to everyone who made a donation to the special "Outreach Liberia" offering. A total of \$617.62 was received and will help pay for the cost to ship the items our church is collecting. The goal was \$250.00...well done!

Being collected this month is soap, powder and deodorant. A donation box can be found in the coat-room area beside the narthex for anyone who would like to help supply these needed items.



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.

Council is once again hosting a *Fellowship Time* before and after our worship on Easter Sunday. Please come a little earlier or stay for a little while after the service and enjoy a cup of coffee with a hot cross bun and other refreshments.



Social hour will be held on Sunday, April 7th beginning at 8:30am.

Stop in for refreshments and conversation before the worship service.



**Penn State Extension in collaboration with Locust Grove Mennonite Church is offering the food safety training *Cooking for Crowds: A Volunteer's Guide to Safe Food Handling* on Thursday, April 9, 2019 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Locust Grove Mennonite Church, 3358 West Main Street, Belleville, PA. Contact Sharon McDonald at 814-865-6953 for more information or to register.**

The PA Dept. of Ag is visiting churches to make sure food being prepared and served is done under state regulations. Several churches have had to make changes to their kitchens because of these regulations. All kitchen volunteers in church kitchens are required to have training.



The Big Valley Ministerium is organizing a "Time of Caring" mission outreach project for Thursday through Saturday, May 2-4. If you have jobs that you need help with such as lawn/shrub maintenance, general clean-up, etc., call the church office.

Volunteers are also needed to help. The base of operation will be the Community Center (former Elem. School). The work schedule begins at 8:00am with coffee and donuts. There will be two shifts, with the last ending at 4:00pm. Lunch is being provided by area churches.

*The Knotters say "thank you" to the Council for recently recognizing them for their endeavor to help those in need. We are pleased to be able to continue this mission that has been a part of our church for many years. We also appreciate and thank all who have contributed in any way to this mission.*



*Thank 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](mailto:cmli@campmountluther.org)

The last Soup and Word session will be held in the library on Tuesday, April 9 at noon.

soup  
and the  
Word

Pastor Ela, Sharon Dancy and Gwen Hornberger will be attending the Synod Assembly being held on June 14 and 15. Please feel free to discuss any questions or suggestions you may have with them. Following the event they will be reporting on some of the 'happenings'.



**Upper Susquehanna Synod**  
**Gods Work. Our Hands.**

Pastor Ela will be attending the Juniata Valley Conference Assembly on Sunday, March 31. She will be looking into local mission opportunities for our church to consider participating in, and will share her findings with the congregation and church council.

**HOW**<sub>you can</sub>  
**HELP**

District Attorney Torquato has announced that some individuals are making methamphetamine in Mifflin County. They apparently are using improvised home labs and disposing of used equipment along roads in Mifflin County. The telltale equipment is groups of liter Mountain Dew bottles with a white substance inside. Depending on the chemical reaction these can be a fire hazard and the fire can not be extinguished with water. At this time the discarded groups of bottles are in the Reedsville/Milroy area. The PA State Police are of the opinion that if the manufacturers know the police know of their disposal sites they may dispose of the evidence at other locations. With nicer weather and more people walking, picking up litter, fishing season, and spring gobbler season people should be alert. If you see groups of Mountain Dew bottles do not touch and contact the authorities.



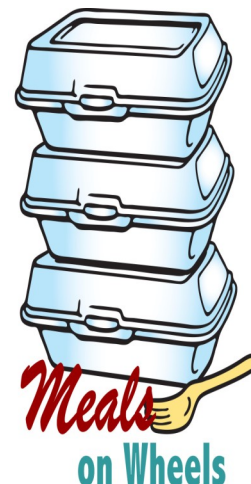
St. John's has Meals on Wheels in April. The following dessert/food donations are needed. If you can help to provide any, please sign-up in the narthex.

Tuesday, April 9 ~ Cherry or Blueberry Delight 5 (9x12) pans

Tuesday, April 16 ~ 7 dozen pickled eggs with beets  
7 dozen cookies (any kind)

Thursday, April 28 ~ 7 angel food cakes  
(can be made or purchased at White Hall Store /Peights)  
Pudding (any flavor) to top the cake slices with

Please have your food donation at the Community Hall by 9:00am the day it is needed. Thank you!



# 54<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Auction

## April 12 & 13, 2019

April 12, Dinner 4-7 PM, Gift Certificate Auction at 6:00 PM  
April 13, Breakfast at 6:30 AM, Auction at 8:30 AM

- Traditional Turkey Dinner
- Pancake Breakfast
- Handmade Quilts
- Baked Goods, including a limited quantity of our famous Strawberry Pies!

Visit  
**[www.bmsprek12.org](http://www.bmsprek12.org)**  
for information, photos and  
auction items.



**BELLEVILLE**  
MENNONITE SCHOOL



**CHAMPIONSHIP IRISH DANCE - BLAZING FIDDLES**

# ***Celtic Revival*** **THE SKY FAMILY**



**SOAR...**

**CRY...**



**THINK...**

**LAUGH OUT LOUD!**

**A HIGH ENERGY MUSIC, DANCE AND GOSPEL PRODUCTION!**

## **Saint John's Lutheran Church**

**"Soup and the Word"**

*All Welcome!*

**3597 Main St.**

**Belleville**

*All Welcome!*

**Tuesday April 2**

**6:30 pm soup, 7 pm Concert**

**For more info: 717 935 2032**

*~ No tickets, a love offering will be taken ~*

**"AN EVENT NOT TO MISS!" - CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

## Inner City Outreach in Philadelphia – Spring Break 2019

First off, thank you all for your prayers and support over the past two months as my team and I prepared to go to Philadelphia over our Spring break. Our team of 16 students (from Grove City College) was able to serve alongside the Philadelphia project in multiple local ministries throughout the week. We were hosted by Roxborough Presbyterian church, which is the home of the Philadelphia Project. One of my favorite things about this ministry is its mindset for these short-term trips. They help teams recognize that in the grand scheme of things, the work they are doing is not going to make a huge impact, but that small connections and conversations can mean the most. They focus on sending us out, not for a short few days of ministry, but for a lifetime of ministry.

The ministries that I was able to work with were Stenten Family Manor, Whosoever Gospel Mission, and the Broad Street ministry. Stenten Family Manor is a homeless shelter for families, Whosoever Gospel Mission is a rescue mission for helping homeless men get back on their feet with a job and a place to live, and the Broad Street Ministry serves the homeless meals restaurant style, so I got to be a waitress for an afternoon. I was especially impressed with how much hospitality and dignity was shared within the community through the Broad Street Ministry. And my whole team got to participate in packing hot lunches and sharing them with anyone in need of a hot meal and a warm conversation in the train station below the Comcast Center in center city.

My experience at Stenten Family Manor broke my heart the most, and simultaneously gave me the most joy. We helped with their after-school homework club, where students wait until their parent(s)/guardian(s) comes to pick them up for dinner. The children were extremely joyful and loved being read to, we spent most of the time picking out picture books to read together. But the teacher did not have much in the way of materials for the children to use, and you could tell they yearned for consistency. I love what the shelter is doing with the homework club, I met many intelligent students, but I wish I could have been more of a help.

Throughout all this was the constant reminder of how good God is! Many prayers were answered and it was clear that God was at work in the whole team before, during, and after the trip! I am so grateful that I was able to go on this trip two times, it has been a pivotal part of my college experience, and I pray that we all continue to find ways to serve and show love where we are.

In Christ,

Anne Harshbarger

Right- a picture of our team at the church

Left- a picture from a dance-off at homework club (after finishing homework of course)





# ***APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **April 7**

**Communion:** Regina Peachey  
**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** John and Denise Chester  
**Lay Reader:** John Boring  
**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester  
**Sound System:** Ed Bilich  
**Ushers:** Jay and Joy Byler

## **April 14 ~ Palm Sunday**

**Communion:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger  
**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger  
**Greeter:** Reba Harmon  
**Lay Reader:** John Boring  
**Money Counters:** Eleanore Rachau and Sandra Metz  
**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy  
**Ushers:** Deb French and Sandra Metz

## **April 21 ~ Easter**

**Communion:** John and Brenda Boring  
**Elevator:** Paul Byler  
**Greeters:** Ken and Nancy Wyland  
**Lay Reader:** Joe Kanagy  
**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler  
**Sound System:** Jay Byler  
**Ushers:** John Boring and Randy Harshbarger

## **April 28**

**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Greeter:** Carolyn Conner  
**Lay Reader:** Joe Kanagy  
**Money Counters:** Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy  
**Sound System:** Jay Byler  
**Ushers:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger

**Altar Care** ~ Georgianna Buchanan and Carol Fultz

**Altar Flower Delivery** ~ April 21, 28 ~ Sharon Dancy (No altar flowers during Lent)

**Bulletin Delivery** ~ Edna Chester

**Social Hour** ~ Jay and Joy Byler

## **April 18 ~ Maundy Thursday**

**Greeter:** Denise Chester  
**Communion:** Ed Bilich and Joy Byler  
**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy

### **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

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In honor of

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Given by

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