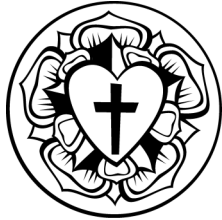


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3597 WEST MAIN STREET  
PO BOX 5716  
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

**NOVEMBER 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.*

## ***Our Vision Statement***

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love  
in our community through our prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

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)



### **Pastor's Message:**

Have you noticed that Christmas ornaments are on the shelves in the Dollar Stores before Halloween or even Labor Day these days?!

If Halloween is meant to remind us of our mortality and facing scary things in our lives then perhaps having this tandem to reminders of Christ coming to earth to assuage our fears is a good thing!

However, our Church calendar provides a more sequenced and intentional way to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christmas through the season of Advent. This year, the Ministry committees along with Session and Council have discussed and approved two special services that will help us to do that. Both of these are joint church services to which the public is also invited.

As listed in the calendar, on Wednesday Nov 20 at 6:30 PM, St. Johns Lutheran Church we will host an **Advent Preview: The Nativity in Renaissance Carols and Art**. Beautiful and intriguing pictures of 15th and 16th century Renaissance art will be featured on St. John's 'Big Screen.' This will be accompanied by readings and Renaissance carols, both sung and played on instruments, telling the story of hope, expectation and the revelation of God come to Earth. At about 7:00 we will gather for refreshments and fellowship downstairs and the opportunity to make a small Christmas ornament or gift. We hope we will also be able to celebrate the release of our new 2019 Advent Devotional calendar. This is all done for the glory of God, and has given many the opportunity to engage in the spiritual practice of devotional writing. The calendar of readings will provide a day by day guide for the rest of us through the Advent Season. Maybe we could even circumvent humility a bit and have a book signing for all who contributed writing to the project!

West Kish Presbyterian will host our first **Blue Christmas - Longest Night Service on Saturday, Dec 21 at 7PM**. This is a beautiful service of Word, song, prayer and healing and may feature guest musicians. It is important for all of us to recognize and support those for whom the Christmas season is a challenge. Separation from family members due to divorce, the military, incarceration, work abroad, or death often makes it difficult to hook into the 'merry' part of the season. Even for those who are blessed to be surrounded by family and friends and the resources to share material gifts, a Blue Christmas service gives us time to be sensitive to others' needs while honoring our own spiritual requirement for quiet reflection during this heightened time before Christmas. Everyone will receive a small gift as a reminder that even the darkest night turns to new light with the blessing of Christ in our life. Be still, be filled with the spirit, and receive the many gifts of this event.

There are two other ways that St. John's is using the Advent Calendar to respond as Christians in the season of giving:

One is the calendar setting up daily donations of food and basic needs to be given to local families during the Christmas season. Talk to Sue or Social Ministry committee members and check the Narthex for ways to participate. Also, the December Gift calendar fundraiser sponsored by the Day Care offers some really "Wow" prizes many of which would make great gifts so be sure to pick up one of those as well.

Blessings and best wishes for a truly thankful Thanksgiving leading into our Advent Season.

Pastor Ela J. Robertson.

### **PASTORAL and COMMUNION VISITS:**

Along with deacons, social ministry and outreach committees, Rev. Robertson tries to get around to bring communion and visit parishioners, especially those in senior care, treatment or rehab, as often as possible. If you or someone you know would like a visit feel free to call the church office or the pastor's cell at 740 338-7123. If someone is receiving rehab or long term care at Valley View or another facility just let the chaplain there know and they will contact Pastor Ela.

### Looking Ahead ~ Sunday Dec 8

The Bishop of the Susquehanna Synod, Barbara Collins and her assistant Craig Miller often travel around central PA speaking at meetings and preaching in worship. We had the opportunity to work with Craig at the Joint Congregational meeting on October 2 and he will return on Dec 8 to preach at both St. John's and West Kish. We welcome this opportunity to hear from our denominational leadership and ecumenical partners!

On October 13, Anne Harshbarger, and James Gates, another former counselor from Camp Mt. Luther led a special Camp Mt. Luther service of prayer and reflection written by Camp Director Chad Hershberger. The congregation all sat up front camp style!! Everybody loved the message, music and the wonderful enthusiasm of the young people leading the service.

James, Pastor Ela and Anne.



Pictures below ~ Using theatre to illustrate the scripture lesson from Matthew and the parable of the vineyard workers.

Kyle Harshbarger and fiancé, Julie Long, James, Gabriel Clark and Anne.



Julie and Anne



Sunset at Camp Mt. Luther



Improv Theater is a big part of fun, team building, and scripture re-enactment at Camp Mt. Luther— (Anne Harshbarger - as a beached whale!)

A chrysalis at Camp. Camp Mt. Luther is often a place a child's spiritual life and expression begins to emerge and butterflies abound at camp.



### 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

Valerie McTavish, Director  
Phone 717-935-2959

### St. John's Congregational Council

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Ed Bilich ~ President	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—October

Checking account balance 10/1/2019  
\$ 9,454.72

#### Budget Report ~ October

Income \$ 39,658.84    Expense \$ 43,220.90  
Net Income \$ -3,562.06

#### Budget Report ~ YTD

Income \$ 178,914.13    Expense \$ 168,103.12  
Net Income \$ 10,811.01

### Daycare Financial Report January—October

Checking account balance 10/1/2019  
\$ 9,329.13

#### Budget Report ~ October

Income \$ 23,163.17    Expense \$ 29,248.26  
Net Income \$ -6,085.09

#### Budget Report ~ YTD

Income \$ 221,512.01    Expense \$ 230,048.16  
Net Income \$ -8,536.15

The following persons will be finishing their term as council representatives the end of this year ~ Joy Byler, Sharon Dancy, Joe Kanagy., and Sue Lynch. They will be actively searching for members willing to have their name placed on the ballot for election to the church council.

*"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10*



## Daylight-Saving Time



## Ends Sunday, November 3

## IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Being collected for November/December is underwear and socks for men, women and children, along with white t-shirts for men and boys. Your donations can be placed in the boxes located in the coatroom area beside the narthex.

Thank you to everyone who purchased backpacks, composition books and other school supplies. Your donations mean so much to those who have so little.



**We are trying something different with our Children's SS.** Instead of the holding the sessions once a month after church, they will be dismissed before the sermon for "children's church" each week, where a volunteer will take them downstairs for a Bible story and craft. Plans are to begin in November, **but we need your help. Volunteering one Sunday a month or every other month would be greatly appreciated.**

If you are interested or would like a little more information, please sign up in the narthex, and a member of the Christian Ed committee will contact you.

### Juniata Valley International Gifts and Baked Goods Sale

Where: Cedar Grove Brethren in Christ Church  
287 Deerville Road, Mifflintown  
When: Thursday, November 21 from 9am-7pm  
Friday, November 22 from 9am-7pm  
Saturday, November 23 from 9am-3pm

The mission of the International Gifts Sale is to support world artisans and craftsmen through the sale of fair trade products.

We seek to promote cultural understanding in our community by providing high-quality gift items from around the world.



Pastor Ela will be celebrating communion at Valley View on Tuesday November 12 from 6:30-7:00pm in the Terrace Recreation room. Please come join in the fellowship. Several of our wheel-chair bound members there could use assistance getting to the service.

If you would like to help with wheeling people to and from the service, please let the pastor know.

The 2020 church birthday calendar will be completed this month. Any member who would like to add/remove persons to/from the calendar is asked to PLEASE contact the church office with the name(s) and birthdate(s) by Sunday, November 17th.

Reminder ~ only the names of active members, along with persons they have requested to add will be included on the calendar.



Social hour is scheduled for Sunday, November 3 beginning at 8:30am. Stop in for some refreshments and fellowship before our 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.**

In the narthex, are sign-up sheets for anyone who would like to place Altar flowers next year. We will once again refrain from using them during Lent beginning Sunday, March 1 through Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 5.

Please remember to notate whether you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered.

Some of you may wish to honor loved ones by dedicating flowers on special occasions. If one of those days is during Lent, you may still order an arrangement which can be placed beside the lectern. Please contact the church office if you are interested in doing this.







Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. With Thanksgiving being late this year, the news tells us that we have 6 days less to prepare for Christmas than we normally do. Many of us spend time decorating, baking, shopping and wrapping gifts, planning and attending parties and gatherings with friends and family, but, we must also take care to prepare our hearts and minds as well as our homes.

This year members from West Kish volunteered to help write meditations for our Advent devotional. It will be available for the Advent kick-off event being held here on Wednesday, November 20. Copies will also be placed in the narthex and by the elevator.

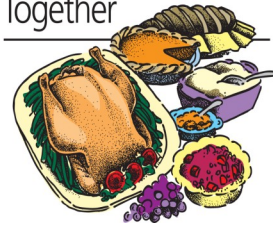
#### Advent Devotionals

If you know of others who would enjoy having one to use as part of their daily devotions, please feel free to take for them.

St. John's is hosting a "Community Table Game Night" from 6:30 – 8:00 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month starting November 21<sup>st</sup> through March 19<sup>th</sup>. Bring one or two of your favorite table games and see if others would like to play it. Maybe someone else will bring a game you will want to play. Come and join in the fun!



#### We Gather Together



Our Thanksgiving meal will be held November 10 at noon. The meat (ham/turkey) beverages and place settings will be provided.

Please bring a covered dish or dessert to share.

The daycare has been exploring new fundraising ideas, and have decided to try a "Calendar Raffle". Businesses in our county have graciously donated gift cards, nice quality items and certificates for services, which will be given away to a lucky winner each day in December. The cost of the calendar is \$10.00, and they will be available to purchase by mid-November.

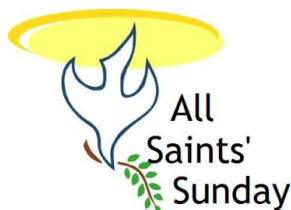
More details will be included in upcoming weekly bulletins.

The Belleville Fire Company Pancake /Sausage Breakfast will be held on Saturday, November 2 from 7:00am-11:00am at the Union Twp Activity Center. There is no set cost for the meal, but your donations are appreciated.



November 3 is All Saints Sunday. We remember those from our church family who have entered the Church Triumphant this past year. They are Saints through God's grace extended to them in their baptism.

A white rose to honor each loved one will be placed on the altar and given to the family following the service.



Two new ways to prepare our hearts for Christmas plus two traditional Christmas Eve Services

**Nov 20, 6:30 PM** at St. Johns Lutheran Church  
**Advent Preview: The Nativity in Renaissance Carols and Art**, followed by fellowship and making small Christmas ornament crafts


**Dec 21, 7PM** at West Kish Presbyterian  
**Blue Christmas: Longest Night Service**

A beautiful service of Word, music, prayer and healing acknowledging the weight of loss, separation and personal challenges during this season as the longest night turns to new light and the blessing of Christmas.

**December 24 Christmas Eve Services**

**7PM St. John's Lutheran**

**11PM Candlelight 'midnight' service at WKPC**



The Holiday Gift Show is being held in the fellowship hall on Friday, November 29 from 9:00am—5:00pm and Saturday, November 30 from 9:00am –2:00pm. The purpose of the show is to raise money for the Casey Marthouse Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition assistance to low-income families who attend our daycare. The show features only high quality hand crafted artwork from some of the finest artisans in the area. There will be homemade ham potpie, soups and other foods, as well as baked goods. A chance to win high quality raffle items will also be offered, with all proceeds going directly to the scholarship fund.

Live wreaths are once again being sold. We have a new supplier, and the cost has increased slightly. Plain wreaths are now \$20.00, and new this year are wreaths with mixed greens for \$24.00. Both include a hand-crafted bow; please notate your choice of color.

You can pre-order by signing up in the narthex or contacting the church office (2032). All orders must be picked up at the gift show; payment can also be made at that time.

We are looking for donations of *homemade* cookies, pies, fudge, cakes, pumpkin roll, bread, etc. If you would be willing to help in this way, please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office.





The Social Ministry Committee invites the congregation to participate in something different they would like to try. It is called a *Reverse Advent Calendar*. Instead of opening a window to take something (like a piece of candy) each day, a Reverse Advent Calendar encourages giving. The idea behind it is to fill a box or bag with a non-perishable food item for each day during the Advent season. The donations are then given to a food pantry or families in need.

The committee would like to distribute the donations received before Christmas, **so the calendar will only run through, Thursday, December 12**, and instead of one item per day, they are asking for two. Their hope is that each member will take one of the devotionals being compiled between St. John's and West Kish, and collect the suggested items for that day as part of their Advent meditation. The reverse Advent calendar encourages us to think of others as we wait to celebrate the birth of our Lord.

You can add the items each day, or purchase several items every time you shop. You can start collecting them in the middle of November or wait until the beginning of December. You can create the reverse Advent calendar however YOU choose to. If you would rather make a monetary donation, the committee will gladly purchase the items for you. Just send/bring it to the church office.

Below is a list of suggested items for each day through December 12. The committee is planning to distribute the donations to *needy families in our community*. Some have children, so you can also include items such as drink boxes, fruit snacks, animal crackers/cookies or even a little candy.

Sunday, December 1 ~ box of cereal and a box of oatmeal  
Monday, December 2 ~ Peanut Butter and a cake/dessert mix  
Tuesday, December 3 ~ Stuffing mix and instant/boxed potatoes  
Wednesday, December 4 ~ Macaroni and cheeses and canned tuna or other canned meat  
Thursday, December 5 ~ canned fruit and jar of applesauce  
Friday, December 6 ~ canned sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce  
Saturday, December 7 ~ Spaghetti sauce and box of spaghetti noodles  
Sunday, December 8 ~ canned soup and a box of crackers  
Monday, December 9 ~ can of corn and a can of green beans  
Tuesday, December 10 ~ can of mixed vegetables and can of carrots  
Wednesday, December 11 ~ canned tomatoes and package of rice  
Thursday, December 12 ~ Pancake mix and syrup

Some other suggestions are granola or cereal bars, juices, coffee, tea bags, boxed/packaged mixes that only require water or milk, sugar and ketchup or mustard.

**A box will be placed in the narthex to place your donations in. Please make sure to have your items to the church, no later than Wednesday, December 18.**



# ***NOVEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **November 3 ~ All Saints**

**Communion:** Susan Keller  
**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Greeter:** Dorie Remensnyder  
**Lay Reader:** Gwen Hornberger  
**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester  
**Sound System:** Ed Bilich  
**Ushers:** Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

## **November 10**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** Jami Zook and Mike Boring  
**Lay Reader:** John Chester  
**Money Counters:** Eleanore Rachau and Sandra Metz  
**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy  
**Ushers:** Paul and Linda Byler

## **November 17**

**Communion:** Deb French  
**Elevator:** Paul Byler  
**Greeter:** Edna Chester  
**Lay Reader:** Deb French  
**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler  
**Sound System:** Jay Byler  
**Ushers:** Jay and Joy Byler

## **November 24 ~ Christ the King**

**Communion:** Regina Peachey  
**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** Jed and Alice Smith  
**Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich  
**Money Counters:** Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy  
**Sound System:** Jay Byler  
**Ushers:** Deb French and Sandra Metz

**Altar Care** ~ Brenda Boring and Sandra Metz

**Altar Flower Delivery** ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

**Bulletin Delivery** ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

**Social Hour** ~ John and Denise Chester

### **Please remember:**

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

The following living Men and Woman from this congregation,  
have served our Country in war and peace.

We honor you and give you thanks this  
Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11, 2019.

Gary P. Anderson  
Alan W. Baker, Jr.  
Calvin L. Baker  
Dudley T. Baker  
Mark D. Baker  
Robert F. Bratton  
Edward K. Buchanan  
James D. Buchanan  
Albert Carson  
Glenn W. Carson  
Jeremiah Carson  
William R. Carson  
Matthew F. Chester  
Michael P. Conner  
Tristan K. Conner  
Mark A. Crownover  
William L. Dancy  
Christopher A. Durst

John K. Durst, III  
Gary R. Fultz  
Robert W. Gardner  
Terry L. Harmon  
H. Ross Harshbarger  
Randall C. Harshbarger  
Sheldon S. Kauffman  
Robert D. Keller, Jr.  
Andrew K. Kramm  
Johnn Marie Kruse  
Ralph W. Murphy  
Daniel L. Narehood  
Frank R. Oburn  
Dirk Remensnyder  
Robert W. Romig, Jr.  
Christopher N. Plank  
Charles C. Royer  
Richard W. Shilling

Paul C. Sitch, Jr  
Donald F. Smith  
Donald L. Smith, Sr.  
Larry F. Smith  
Daniel G. Stroup  
David Stroup  
Jackson Stroup  
Jason T. Stroup  
Brian A. Stuter  
Suzette Stuter  
Jack K. Wagner  
Lawrence E. Walter  
James R. Warner  
Steven E. Warner  
Brandon J. Weaver  
Mark S. Winegardner  
John S. Winegardner  
Kenneth C. Wyland



We Honor You  
St. John's Veteran's





## ***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 our church.*

In memory of

---

---

In honor of

---

---

Given by



---

---

**Please return this form along with your donation  
to the church by Sunday, December 15th.**

# St. John's Lutheran Church

## November 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>	<b>Looking Ahead</b> Sunday, December 1 ~ Advent begins Sunday, December 15 ~ Congregational Meeting Tuesday, December 24 ~ 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service			1 		2 7:00-11am BFC Pancake Breakfast DST Ends 2:00am Sunday
3 All Saints Holy Communion 8:30am Social Hour	4 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish	5 	6	7 9:30am Knotting	8	9
10 12:00pm Thanksgiving Tureen	11 	12 11:30 BV Ministerium at Watts Meth. 6:30pm Communion at Valley View	13	14 7:00pm Council	15	16
17 Holy Communion	18 11:30am WKPC meal 7pm Mtgs. MOW's Music/Worsh and Property Committees	19	20 6:30pm Advent Kick-Off at St. John's	21 9:30am Knotting 6:30-8:00pm Table Game Night	22	23
24 Christ the King Holy Communion	25	26 Gift Show set-up in Fellowship Hall	27 Gift Show set-up in Fellowship Hall	28 	29 9am-5pm Holiday Gift Show DC/Church Office Closed	30 9am-2pm Holiday Gift Show