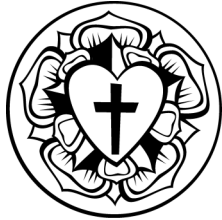


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3597 WEST MAIN STREET  
PO BOX 5716  
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

**DECEMBER 2019  
JANUARY 2020**



## ***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)





*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[a]  
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV*

This 12th month of the year proclaims three new creations, three new beginnings and all are found in the picture of the Nativity. This one drawn by my sister Joan, shows Joseph with his staff scratching the head of the gentle lamb, as the Christ Child points to Mary. Mary, who has held the news of the coming Christ in her body and soul, now joyfully communicates with the baby Jesus with attentive wonder and care.

December 1 this year is the first day of Advent, the beginning of our Church Year, where we too look forward with Hope and anticipation to the coming of the Messiah, to Christ's presence on Earth. Our 2019 Advent Devotional book provides a scripture reading and a community member's reflection and prayer for every day leading up to Christmas. A way, for us too, to communicate with, nurture and to be attentive to Jesus in our lives.

Christmas itself is a First Day, the day Christ was born, issuing in a whole new world and the beginnings of the formation of the church. Like Mary and Joseph we are called to be the caretakers, shepherds and builders of the new life found in Christ. As the church, we are called to both offer the gift and receive the gift of community formed through Christ's saving Grace.

The month ends with New Year's Eve, issuing in the secular New Year with horns, and noisy celebration. To avoid any commemoration of the Gods of the Roman Empire, Quakers simply refer to the months and days of the year by number, so January is 1st month. Yet the two headed image of the Roman God, Janus, with one face looking back and one looking forward offers us a New Year reminder to both reflect on the past and look to the future.

As the church we can remember our special Holy Week events, the hundreds at the Sky Family revival, meaningful funeral lunch gatherings, the beautiful knotters quilts, communions at Valley View, welcoming a new Day Care Director, Liberian and community outreach, while honoring the many ways the leadership and mission of the church have worked together to shape our future.

Taking time for quiet this season, taking time to reflect on the beauty of God's creation dusted with snow, to read devotionals and scripture or talk to your pastor (!) may result in yet a 4th new creation. A new realization, a new creation, a new joy may spring forth from the root of Jesse in you. This season may the gift of Christ's love come gently, unexpectedly, surprisingly chosen, wrapped up and given just for you.

Pastor Ela J. Robertson

### 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

Checking account balance 11/1/19  
\$ 9,585.07

#### Budget Report ~ November

Income \$ 30,688.60    Expense \$ 32,713.51  
Net Income \$ -2,024.91

#### Budget Report ~ YTD

Income \$ 212,585.31    Expense \$ 201,092.40  
Net Income \$ 11,492.91

### Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 11/1/19  
\$ 1,115.66

#### Budget Report ~ November

Income \$ 19,602.70    Expense \$ 20,179.72  
Net Income \$ -577.02

#### Budget Report ~ YTD

Income \$ 234,850.73    Expense \$ 250,179.22  
Net Income \$ -8,628.53

We thank the outgoing council representatives Joy Byler, Sharon Dancy, Joe Kanagy, Sue Lynch for their service to this church and our Lord.

Joy and Sue 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. (No meetings are scheduled in July and August).



Our Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 15. Information pertaining to the meeting, along with the 2020 service schedules can be found member mailboxes.

If you did not receive anything, please contact the church office.



## Committees

### Day Care

Thank you to everyone the Raffle Calendar fundraiser. We made \$2,800.00 + as there is still money coming in. A name is drawn daily and contacted. All winners are posted on the Daycare Facebook page.

A huge thank you to Carol Fultz for taking the time to solicit the area businesses for the gifts and certificates. And, to everyone who sold and bought the calendars. We could not have done it without your help!

Our Christmas program is being held at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 18. The children and teachers have been working hard and it should be quite an entertaining evening. There will be home-made cookies and other goodies served afterward. You are invited to come!



### Social Ministry

Thank you everyone who attended the Thanksgiving meal. There was a lot of good food and fellowship enjoyed by all.

The committee would also like to help Ralph and Charlie Murphy. They have dealt with a lot of loss these past 8 months, and have now lost their home to a fire last weekend. We thank God for His many blessings, as neither was injured. They are actively searching for a house in the area to rent/purchase. As members of our church family, we want to help in any way we can. Your prayers and concerns have been a comfort, and they are very grateful for them. We are accepting donations on their behalf through Sunday, December 29. Please notate Murphy Fire on your check or envelope.

### Christian Ed

We have had a good response to the Children's Church and will continue it through December. The children are dismissed before the sermon and a volunteer takes them downstairs for a Bible story and craft.

In order to continue in January we will need volunteers. If you would like to help for a Sunday once a month, or even every other month, it would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions or are interested.



### Comfort Knotting

Comfort Knotting will be held on Thursday, December 5th at 9:30am and again in January on the 2nd and 16th 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.





## IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Our organist Bill Frank has announced that he will be retiring as our organist on December 24 following our Christmas Eve service.

We thank him for his faithful service to our Lord and this church for the past 8 years, and we pray God's blessing as he begins a new chapter in his life.



Thank you and best wishes Bill!

The 2020 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.

Our monthly Social hour will be held on Sunday, January 5 beginning at 8:30am in the library. A volunteer is needed to host it.

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

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



The 2020 church birthday calendars will be available in the narthex on Sunday, December 15. **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.



St. John's has Meals on Wheels January 14, 16, 21 and 23. **A sign-up sheet for food donations will be placed in the narthex in the next couple weeks.**

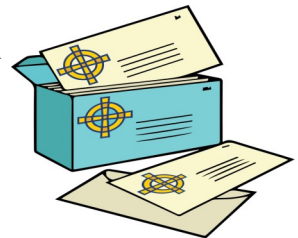
We are looking for cookies, fruit salad, cupcakes, Cherry or Blueberry Delight, homemade applesauce and donations for pies.

Meals are prepared for anywhere from 65-75 persons each Tuesday and Thursday, so your food donations are greatly appreciated!



The 2020 offering envelopes will be available in member mailboxes on the December 15. 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.



St. John's "Community Table Game Night" is being held on Thursday, December 19 and again on January 16 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

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!



The following dates are still available to place flowers for next year. ~

February 2, 16, 23

May 31

June 7, 21, 28

August 2

October 4, 18

September 20

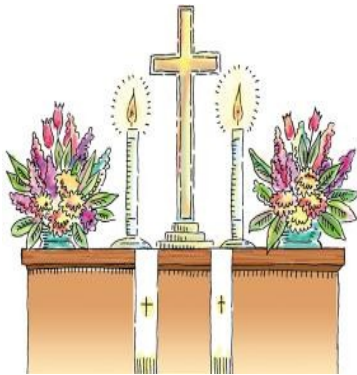
November 22

December 13

You can sign-up in the narthex or call the church office. Please remember to notate whether you would like to keep or have the flowers delivered.

Reminder ~ We will not use flowers during Lent beginning Sunday, March 1 through Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 5.

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.



Advent began last Sunday, and copies of our devotional can be found in the narthex and by the elevator. If you know of others who would enjoy having one, please feel free to take for them.



**If you participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar, please have your donations to the church by Sunday, December 15.**

*Shining Light Through the Darkness* annual Christmas light display begins on December 7. 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 3.

The Central PA Clinic on South Kish Street is planning three vaccine clinics at their office on December 16, January 6 and 20. If you know of anyone who would benefit from this service, please have them call the office at 717-935-2065 for more information.



Winter is here, and there may be times that we will need to consider cancelling a Sunday morning service. The easiest way is to email our 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 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.





# Christmas Worship Schedule



West Kish Presbyterian will host a Blue Christmas – Longest Night Service on Saturday, December 21st at 7:00 PM. 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 give 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.

**St. John’s Lutheran ~ 7:00pm**

Special music and Christmas  
goodie bags for the children

**West Kish Presbyterian ~ 11:00pm**



## Lessons & Carols

*Sunday, December 29*

*St. John’s ~ 9:30am*

# ***DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **December 1**

**Communion:** Jami Zook  
**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** Don and Rosalie Smith  
**Lay Reader:** Erica Hargenrader  
**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester  
**Sound System:** Ed Bilich  
**Ushers:** John Boring and Randy Harshbarger

## **December 8**

**Elevator:** Paul Byler  
**Greeter:** Ed Bilich  
**Lay Reader :** Jami Zook  
**Money Counters:** Dick and Marge Shilling  
**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy  
**Ushers:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger

## **December 15**

**Communion:** Joe Kanagy  
**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Greeter:** Gwen Hornberger  
**Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan  
**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler  
**Sound System:** Jay Byler  
**Ushers:** John Chester and Jim Buchanan

## **December 22**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** Jim and Georgianna Buchanan  
**Lay Reader:** John Boring  
**Money Counters:** Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy  
**Sound System:** Jay Byler  
**Ushers:** Don and Jed Smith

## **December 29**

**Elevator:** Paul Byler  
**Greeter:** Randy Harshbarger  
**Lay Reader:** Joe Kanagy  
**Money Counters:** Paul and Linda Byler  
**Sound System:** Ed Bilich  
**Ushers:** Bob and Susan Keller

**Altar Care** ~ Sandra Metz and Alice Smith

**Bulletin Delivery** ~ John and Brenda Boring

### **Please remember:**

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

## **December 24 ~ Christmas Eve**

**Communion:** Joy Byler and Susan Keller  
Intinction

**Elevator: VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

**Greeters:** Bob and Susan Keller

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

**Altar Flower Delivery** ~ Lucy Magda

**Social Hour** ~ Jay and Joy Byler



# ***JANUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **January 5**

**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 12 ~ Baptism of Our Lord**

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

## **January 19**

**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 26**

**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





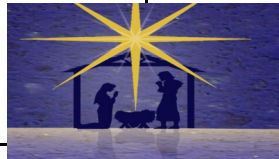

### **Please remember:**

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

## 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Advent Holy Communion 8:30am Social Hour	2 11:30am Fellowship Meal at WKPC	3	4	5 9:30am Comfort Knotting	6 	7
8 Second Advent Bishop's Asst. Craig Miller preaching at St. John's	9 	10	11	12 7:00pm Council	13	14
15 Third Advent Holy Communion Congr. Meeting	16 11:30am WKPC Meal 7:00 pm Music and Worship and Property Comm. Mtgs	17	18 6:30pm Daycare Christmas Program	19 9:30am Comfort Knotting 6:30-8:00pm Table Game Night	20  Winter begins December 21	21 7:00pm Blue Christmas: Longest Night Service at West Kish
22 Fourth Advent 	23	24 DC/Church Office Closed 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 The Nativity of Our Lord 	26 Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28
29 Lessons and Carols St. John's and West Kish Men singing	30 Church Office Closed	31 				<b>9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday school</b>

# St. John's Lutheran Church

## January 2020

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 DC/Office Closed  <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	3	4
5 Holy Communion 8:30am Social Hour	6 11:30am Fellowship Meal at WKPC	7 	8	9 7:00pm Council Meeting	10	11 
12 The Baptism of our Lord Holy Communion	13	14 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	15	16 St. John's has Meals on Wheels 9:30am Knotting 6:30-8:00pm Game Night	17	18
19 Holy Communion	20 11:30am WKPC Meal 7:00 pm Music and Worship and Property Comm. Mtgs	21 St. John's has Meals in Wheels	22	23 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	24	25
26	27	28 				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

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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, December 15th.**