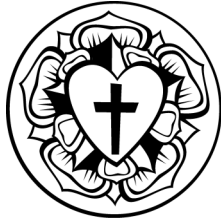


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

FEBRUARY 2020



1John 4:7-8

**Beloved, let us love
one another: for love
is of God; and every
one that loveth is
born of God, and
knoweth God.**

**He that loveth not
knoweth not God; for
God is love.**

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



New Year Blessings in the Year 2020

As the ball at Times Square drops on December 31, glasses clink, horns are blown, people may embrace or kiss someone close to them whether they know them or not. In unison, hundreds, thousands shout “Happy New Year!” with a sense of gladness of having made it through another year and hope for something even better. As Christians, what is the hope we proclaim when we shout “Happy New Year!?”

Newness! The very word ‘new’ is at the heart of our Christian faith. In Christ all things will be made new! We find this word at least 271 times in the Bible from the Old Testament to the New: New creation, new growth, new life, new song, new covenant, new humanity, new hope, new self, new commandment.

“...clear out the old to make way for the new” Leviticus 26:10

And what about this New Year? 2020! Yes, another year, but not just another new year. ‘Ditto’ or repeated number years like this only occur once every century! So unless you were born in 1919 or before its probably the only year like this you’ll see. We want to make the most of it. 2020! There’s a certain solidity in these numbers, a sense of symmetry, of balance. The reference to the US standard for good vision ‘20/20’ can’t be missed. All kinds of organizations, bill boards and church marquees have picked up on this.

What does it mean as Christians to live 20/20 vision in the year 2020?

First of all it reminds us of the importance of creating and embracing a vision for the future, something to work towards in small, yet significant ways, something to keep in sight throughout the New Year. Second, both in terms of the church and in terms of our personal lives, it encourages us to have a balanced vision: vision that is balanced between right and left; vision that is neither too nearsighted, nor too farsighted.

Being too nearsighted means we don’t see beyond those things and people closest to us. We don’t see beyond the here and now. We’re not getting the big picture. The season of Epiphany, bridging Christmas and Easter reminds us that Christ came in to the world to walk with us, to be close to us, and to save, not just us, but the whole world, people near and far. Epiphany is the revelation of God incarnate to the world, Jesus as both God and human, the link between heaven and earth, between past, present and future. Yet being too far-sighted implies having our sights set on things in the future so much that we miss what is going on right around us. We focus on our goals, on our own personal, physical, financial or spiritual hopes and dreams and miss that we too are here to be the church, to be, through the Holy Spirit, the living body of Christ, to live and proclaim the love and justice of Christ all around us.

Research tells us that less than half of the adult population have 20/20 vision. Most of us need corrective glasses or lenses to recapture this balanced vision. In our spiritual lives Christ provides this lens:

*“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another;
as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”* John 13:30

This is the lens, the corrective lens that brings our vision into balance, that lets us see both near and far, not just in this New Year but into the future of the world.

As we move through Epiphany, let this commandment be the Valentine of God’s love that sits in our hearts. Let this be the lens that provides a clarity of vision that makes God’s goals our goals. Through this lens we expand our peripheral vision too. Looking to the left and the right, to those that seem close to us and those that seem distant from us we may bring Christ into focus in our world.

Blessings of God’s grace, joy and vision in 2020, today and into eternity.

Pastor Ela J. Robertson

St. John's Lutheran Church

Pastor – Reverend Ela J. Robertson
Phone 740-338-7123
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

Valerie McTavish, Director
Phone 717-935-2959

St. John's Congregational Council

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Ed Bilich ~ Treasurer	end of 2021
John Boring	end of 2020
Joy Byler ~ Vice President	end of 2022
Denise Chester	end of 2021
Deb French	end of 2022
Carol Fultz ~ President	end of 2020
Michele Harshbarger	end of 2020
Susan Lynch	end of 2022
Lucy Magda	end of 2021
Nancy Penepacker	end of 2022
Jami Zook ~ Secretary	end of 2022

St. John's Financial Report

Checking account balance 1/1/20
\$ 16,763.74

Budget Report ~ January 1-23

Income \$ 7,733.20 Expense \$ 12,115.09
Net Income \$ -4,381.89

Parking Lot Donations YTD ~ \$420.00

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 1/1/20
\$ 3,729.06

Budget Report ~ January 1-23

Income \$ 17,866.59 Expense \$ 19,644.05
Net Income \$ -1,777.46

Council Officers for 2020

President ~ Carol Fultz
Vice President ~ Joy Byler
Secretary ~ Jami Zook
Treasurer ~ Ed Bilich

Please Note ~ At their January session, council approved changing the meeting time from 7:00pm to **6:30pm.**

Copies of the minutes will be available in the narthex and by the elevator, **after** they have been approved by council at their scheduled meeting, the following month.



Our congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23 following the worship service.

The meeting will consist of the 2019 Financial and Committee reports, Audit Committee report and any other pertinent business.

Reports and meeting information will available in member mailboxes on Sunday, February 9.



*Congregational
Meeting*

Committees

Day Care

Giant A+ Rewards earned from October thru December is \$366.36. 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.

Comfort Knotting

Comfort Knotting will be held on Thursday, February 6 and 20 at 9:30am 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.



Social Ministry

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar. The food collected was sorted, boxed and delivered to 8 families in our community. We hope this project inspired you. Doing for others, as well as giving of our time and what God has blessed us with, is what we are called to do each and every day, not just at Christmas. The committee will be meeting on Wednesday, February 12 at 10:30am.

Music and Worship

Our congregational singing continues to be led and encouraged by a schedule of organists/pianists and special musicians through Lent. We welcome James Grant back with guitar on Feb 16, along with hidden talents in our own congregation leading worship.

CHIME CHOIR: Our new Chime choir will play on Feb 2. If you can hold a chime and ring it even once, we invite you to join the Chime Choir. Our next rehearsal is Tuesday January 28, at 6:30.

Christian Ed

There continues to be a good response to Children's Church, so it will continue on for the next couple months.

Any child attending is welcome to come. Children are dismissed before the sermon, and a volunteer takes them downstairs for a Bible story and craft.



Property Committee

A church workday is scheduled for Saturday, February 15 beginning at 8:00am. **Help is needed** to clean out and dispose of the light bulbs, paint and other items in the 2 closets located under the staircases in the narthex. We will also be cleaning out underneath the stage and doing some painting in the choir room. If you have any questions, please contact any property committee member ~ Jim Buchanan, John Chester, Ed Bilich, Mike Harshbarger, Don Smith and Joe Kanagy.

IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

There will be no Social Hour in February, unless someone is willing to host it.

The following months are still open ~ February, March, June, August, September, October and December.

If you are interested, a sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex.



THANK YOU to everyone who helped by donating desserts, money for pies, preparing the meals and those who delivered them. Approximately 70—73 were fed each day we had Meals on Wheels these last 2 weeks. Many people have and continue to be blessed by this ministry.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. During this time, we pray and reflect on the love Jesus has for us. To receive that love...to share it with others...and to live it, each and every day.

The church is providing two devotionals to choose from ~ *By His Wounds We are Healed* and *From Suffering to Salvation*. They will lead you through the 40 days of Lent and sacred days of Holy Week and Easter, and will be available in the narthex and by the elevator on Sunday, February 23.

If you know of someone else who may enjoy a devotional, please take one to share with them.

Jan Seager and Bev Eichhorn are interested in starting up the Relay for Life team again, and plan to do some fundraising the in the next couple months. If would like to join them, please contact Jan (935-5384) or Bev (935-2832).

The Relay for Life event is scheduled for June 13.

Pray Always. Do not lose heart. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

The volunteers on St. John's prayer chain are always available to pray for you or someone you know. Dorie Remensnyder is the 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.

Due to confidentiality issues, we ask that you PLEASE be sure to have permission from the person/family you are requesting prayer for.



Council agreed at the January meeting to ensure the newsletter goes out in a timely manner, ALL committee reports or other information/articles to be included, **MUST be submitted to the church office by the 3rd Monday of the month.** Aside from the July/Aug and Dec/Jan editions, the newsletter will be emailed/in member mailboxes by the last Sunday of each month.

There are several birthday calendars still available in the narthex/by the elevator. If you would like one, but are not able to attend Sunday worship, please contact the church office, and we will see that you receive one.

St. John's "Community Table Game Night" is being held on Thursday, February 20 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!



Two boxes containing the items collected this last year were recently sent to Liberia. Thank you to everyone who donated towards the \$500 shipping cost. We are going to continue to collect items for the 2021 shipment.

During February and March we are looking for First Aid/Health Care items. Band-Aids, Q-tips, cotton balls, ointments such as Neosporin, or other antibiotic creams/sprays, Aspirin, Tylenol, Motrin, Hydrocortisone creams burn ointments, etc.... all items can be bought off the shelf at any grocery, drug or dollar store.

Collection boxes can be found in the coatroom area beside the narthex.

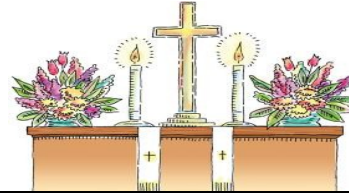
Are you looking for a part-time job with good pay and flexible hours? The US Government is looking for persons to help with the 2020 Census. If hired, employees work in their own community, receive paid training (by computer in your own home), weekly paychecks and are reimbursement for mileage while conducting 2020 Census work.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please call 1-855-562-2020 or visit their website www.2020census.gov/jobs.



We still have a few dates available to place Altar Flowers ~ February 16, 23, and October 18. The cost is \$40.00. Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex.

Please remember to notate if you would like to keep one or both bases, or have them delivered to another.



The poster to track donations to pave the parking lot is on display in the Narthex. With your generous support, we are hoping to meet our goal by the time the weather permits us to start the project.

St. John's Council



Pastor Ela will be celebrating communion at Valley View on Tuesday, February 11 at 6:30pm in the Terrace Recreation room. Come join in the fellowship. Several of our members there could use assistance getting to the service. Please contact the pastor if you would like to help.

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.

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.



The Central PA World Hunger Association Meat Canning Project is scheduled for February 10 thru 13 at the East Derry Fire Co., 1801 Glenwood Avenue, Lewistown from 7:00am to 7:00pm (along with cleanup). Volunteers are needed to help fill, weigh, wash and label cans of meat.

Approximately 90% of the canned meat goes to Mennonite Central Committee, where it is then distributed in time of need. The remaining 10% locally supports area projects as Meals on Wheels, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, Meals on Wheels, etc. This effort is dependent entirely on volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact ~

Jesse Diem 717-463-3792
Ben Stoltzfus 814-625-2430
Jonathon Coldren 717-250-6840

All monetary donations are used to cover canning costs. Turkey prices range from \$1.30 to \$1.40 per pound. Cans, lids and labels run \$.85/can, and shipping cost is \$.20/can. Last year's canning totaled over \$67,000.00. At this time the organization has only a quarter of the money needed. If you would like to support the project in this way, you may send a check to ~

Central Pa World Hunger Association
P.O. Box 76
Belleville, Pa 17004

"If you love me, feed my sheep."
John 21:15-19

The following pictures were taken
at the *Advent Kick-off* held at
St. John's on Wednesday, November 20.

Below ~ Reba Harmon and Judy Waddell are inspecting
one of the angels made by those who attended.



Above ~ Edna Chester and Carolyn Conner enjoy
some refreshments and conversation.

FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

February 2

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 9

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler
Lay Reader : Deb French
Money Counters: Sandra Metz and Eleanore Rachau
Sound System: Joe Kanagy
Ushers: Jim Buchanan and John Chester

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

February 16

Communion: Joy Byler
Elevator: Volunteer needed
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 23

Communion: Rosalie Smith
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

February 29 ~ Ash Wednesday

Communion: Jami Zook

Altar Care ~ Gwen Hornberger

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Joy Byler

Bulletin Delivery ~ Ed and Marge Buchanan

Social Hour ~ Volunteer needed

St. John's Lutheran Church

February

2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday school						1
2 Holy Communion No Social Hr 	3 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish	4	5	6 9:30am Knotting	7	8
9	10	11 6:30pm Communion at Valley View	12 10:00am Social Ministry Committee	13 6:30pm Council	14 	15
16 Holy Communion Newsletter info/articles due Monday, February 17	17 11:30am WKPC Meal 7:00 pm Music/Worsh and Property Committee Meetings	18	19	20 9:30am Knotting 6:30-8:00pm Game Night	21 	22
23 Transfig. of Our Lord Holy Comm. Congr. Meeting	24	25  Fat Tuesday	26 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	27	28	29