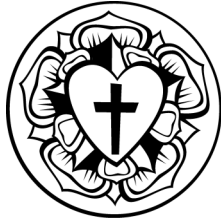


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

MARCH 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
Website ~ stjohnsbelleville.org



Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, is a time for reflection and evaluation not only of ourselves but of our church and our world. Lent is a time, personally and communally, to think about and act on what we truly value. We realize what we value most is life. We are reminded of the ultimate value of Christ in our lives, Christ who went to the cross for us and was raised to bring us new life and eternal life.

From the very beginning of Lent, we are humbled by this great gift. When we hear those words on Ash Wednesday from Genesis 3:19 : “*Remember that dust you are, and to dust you shall return,*” and are blessed and branded with that ashen cross, we are reminded of our own mortality. As we look around to those gathered and we see that same cross, reflected in face of others we may be moved to great love for all humanity and for our church which allows us to see ourselves as we are. Penitence is not a matter of self blaming and finger pointing, but of being accepting of ourselves and compassionate towards others’ failings and strivings as well. We are reminded that everyone around us, (even your pastor) is human.

Barbara Blodgett, Associate Dean of Assessment at Pittsburgh Seminary, writes in her 2020 Lenten reflection - speaking to all leaders in the church:

Ministry is many things. On the negative side, it's often lonely, difficult, prone to fostering feelings of inauthenticity. Ministry is lonely, not in the sense..you aren't with other people, but sometimes you're the only one in your particular role. ...You're spread thin, busy with so many different responsibilities toward so many people.

I, though, would not describe my ministry here as ‘lonely.’ Busy, yes, but at both churches people are so moved by the Spirit, invested in and involved in worship and mission in the community, ministry has always felt, as it should be, like a shared endeavor. It’s apparent there has been a variety of expectations for the pastor role and for others leading in ministry in the church and as a result a variety of evaluations as we all seek to align our day to day lives with the Gospel.

As for inauthenticity, Blodgett adds: “*How hard it is to convey the meaning of the cross and the resurrection! When people look to us as the expert*”... and, I might add, you know you’re just another Christian with a cross on your forehead, and on your heart. Authenticity of testimony is fostered as each person takes that walk with Christ themselves supported by the fellowship of the church. Our Ash Wednesday all day Prayer Vigil at West Kish and 7:00 evening service at St. John’s help to facilitate this.

This Lent let’s reflect, accept, and evaluate where we place our values and how they shape our life and our ministry in the world. Let’s be open to sharing this while extending our trust in and love for others. Let’s be always asking, “What is God doing and what is God calling us to do?” Let’s be ever thankful for God’s grace and the beautiful life given us to share in this world and 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 January 1 thru February 20

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

Budget Report

Income \$ 26,701.54 Expense \$ 25,107.90
Net Income \$ 1,593.64

Parking Lot Donations YTD ~ \$ 1,100.00

Daycare Financial Report January 1 thru February 20

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

Budget Report

Income \$ 41,134.59 Expense \$ 40,801.90
Net Income \$ 332.69

I was regretting the past and fearing the future. Suddenly my Lord was speaking: "My name is I AM". He paused. I waited and He continued, "When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WAS. When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WILL BE. When you live in this moment it is **not** hard. I am here. My name is I AM." – Helen Mallicoat



Sunday, March 8

Committees

Long Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee is working on a St. John's Church brochure. It is still in process and the current draft is below. The final product will be a two-sided laminated brochure. What you see is the front and the back. Our goal is to have a completed brochure – ready for print – by the end of March.

If you have any ideas for revising the brochure, please contact Ed Bilich, Mike Harshbarger, Joe Kanagy or Joy Byler. If you would like to be a part of the team putting this together, we would like to have you join us. We meet on the 1st Monday of every month at 7pm.

St. John's Lutheran Church



Belleville, PA

Our Mission

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

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

God loves you and so do we!

Come and join us as we experience and share the message of our Lord and Savior – Jesus Christ

9:30 am Worship

10:45 am Adult Sunday School

Children's Sunday School is held during the 9:30 service

Social Hour is held 8:30 – 9:30 before the church service on the 1st Sunday of each month

St. John's Lutheran Church
3597 W. Main St. Belleville, PA 17004
717-935-2032 --- Church Office
717-935-2959 --- St. John's Christian Daycare and Preschool
Pastor – Ela Robertson

Social Outreach

Comfort Knotting

If you are looking for something to do, please consider joining the knotting group making blankets. They meet in the library several times each month. Call the office for dates and times.

Community Table Game Night

6:30 – 8:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month from Nov – Apr. Come and join the fun! Bring one or two of your favorite table games and see if others would like to play them.

Mission Outreach

Meals on Wheels

We join other area churches in providing meals to the needy in the valley on Tues. and Thurs.

Support of our sister church in Liberia

In addition to our prayers, we collect and ship clothing and supplies.

Blankets made by the Comfort Knotting Group

Each year, on Blanket Sunday, the group sends their blankets to Lewistown where they are boxed up and shipped to other countries.

Christian Daycare and Preschool

This is our signature mission outreach. Since 2004 we have been providing a Christian based program to children of area families Monday thru Friday from 6:00 am until 6:00 pm.

Music and Worship

Music Ministry encourages people to join the chime choir, offer special music and join the men's choir or other ensemble for special services. Talk to John Boring about the men's choir, Reba, Jami or Pastor Ela about chime choir and other special music. Make a joyful sound unto the Lord!

John Haubrick will be our half time organist for now, and Daniel Fry, Diane Shetler, Carol Fultz, Denise Chester and others will participate on other weeks as we continue to seek a full time organist.

The following is a schedule of who will be playing the organ/piano for our worship through March.

February 23 ~ John Haubrick

February 26, Ash Wednesday ~ John Haubrick

March 1 ~ Daniel Fry

March 8 ~ Carol Fultz and Diane Shetler

March 15 ~ Daniel Fry

March 22 and 29 ~ John Haubrick

Daycare

Giant A+ Rewards earned from October thru January 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.



Property Committee

Completed YTD

- ◇ Fan in men's bathroom disconnected and removed by Don Smith. Jim Buchanan ordered new motor and should be in by February 25.
- ◇ Cleaned under stage and disposed of some old floor coating.
- ◇ Painted stained spot in choir room with primer and then overcoat.
- ◇ Paint used in Sanctuary is "Dover White"
- ◇ Cleaned under steps on East side of Narthex. Disposed of some old paint and other items.

To be completed

- ◇ Explore refinishing remainder of banisters going up to sanctuary.
- ◇ John Chester looking at other options for heating contractors.
- ◇ Whenever weather warms up Joe will schedule time to put new roof on end of fellowship hall.
- ◇ Repair or replace walls on east end of fellowship hall- Need more permanent planning and a possible partner with an annual budget. Estimate is for \$2400 to \$3700 depending on repair. Include in report for annual meeting.
- ◇ Place felt around front doors of church to seal better-have ¼” felt we will look to install in spring or get wider felt.
- ◇ Need to check drains at end of Fellowship Hall weekly.
- ◇ Signage in church to designate sanctuary and other parts of church. Display a welcome sign by coat rack “Welcome to St. Johns Lutheran Church and Daycare”
- ◇ Jim has parking signs and sign posts for installation. When ground thaws we will install.
- ◇ Pastor would like window in her door.

St. John's 2020 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 member or council representative.

Cemetery

Council Rep -

John Chester	935-5614	jfc0632@embarqmail.com
Joe Kanagy	994-3094	fre2bfre50@yahoo.com

Christian Education / Youth

Council Rep - Nancy Penepacker

935- 2966 nana2r3@embarqmail.com

Sharon Dancy	483-6985	sharondancy@hotmail.com
Carol Fultz	935-0140	carolfultz@embarqmail.com
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
Carol Fultz	935-0140	carolfultz@embarqmail.com
Joy Byler	250-3545	jaynjoybyler@embarqmail.com
Deb French	994-5426	mommygram53@yahoo.com

Finance / Investment

Council Rep - Ed Bilich

935-5395

edbilich@embarqmail.com

Joy Byler	250-3545	jaynjoybyler@embarqmail.com
Ed Bilich	935-5395	edbilich@embarqmail.com

Long Range Planning

Council Rep - Joy Byler

250-3545

jaynjoybyler@embarqmail.com

Ed Bilich (Chairperson)	935-5395	edbilich@embarqmail.com
Mike Harshbarger	935-2453	mandmharsh@embarqmail.com
Joe Kanagy	994-3094	fre2bfre50@yahoo.com

Property

Council Rep - Deb French

994-5426

mommygram53@yahoo.com

Jim Buchanan (Chairperson)	935-5328	jimbuck196@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
Don Smith	935-2877	rodosmith139@gmail.com
Jed Smith	935-2977	ajssmith@yahoo.com

Committees continued...

Social Ministry

Council Rep - Sue Lynch	935-2013	sml403@yahoo.com
Brenda Boring	935-2052	jbboring@embarqmail.com
Carolyn Conner	935-2850	
Sue Lynch	935-2013	sml403@yahoo.com
Lucy Magda	935-0001	
Dorie Remensnyder	935-2508	
Jane Fultz	935-2780	

Worship and Music

Council Rep -Denise Chester	994-2570	dechester@embarqmail.com
Reba Harmon	935-2624	rjharmon@embarqmail.com
Jami Zook	994-2570	jami@sa-re.com

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER HELPED BY RAISE THE REGION MARCH 11 @ 6:00 PM - MARCH 12 @ 11:59 PM

Make donations to Camp Mt. Luther and have them matched by the Community Foundation.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated that Transfiguration Sunday each year be recognized as “Camp Mount Luther Sunday” to help support and promote outdoor ministries in the synod. St. John’s was ahead of the game with Annie Harshbarger and James Gates, former Mt. Luther counselors, helping to lead worship and show a video of the camp on Feb 16. All funds we collect for the camp before March 11 will be gathered together and contributed on line during the Raise the Region fundraiser. The total amount we donate will be increased with matches and special prizes!

More information follows or may be accessed at <https://www.uss-elca.org/event/camp-mount-luther-helped-by-raise-the-region-2>

Camp Mount Luther is participating in “Raise the Region” on March 11-12, 2020. The event, coordinated by The First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania, helps the community support local nonprofit organizations’ fundraising efforts. FCFP, in partnership with Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships, will be launching the 30-hour fundraising event starting at 6:00 p.m. on March 11 and ending at 11:59 p.m. on March 12. Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships has donated money that will be used to stretch a portion of donations made to pre-registered nonprofits. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded throughout the entire event. This program is designed to help organizations, like Camp Mount Luther, kickoff 2020 fundraising campaigns and increase donor bases. Proceeds from this event will go to camp’s Annual Fund, unless a donor gets in touch with the camp office to designate it for another camp cause.

How It Works:

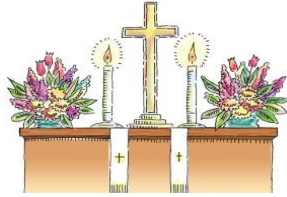
1. On March 11 and 12, donors will visit raisetheregion.org from a computer, smart phone, iPad, etc. to learn more about the nonprofits participating and how their work is impacting our community.
2. You can then make an online donation to support one or more of those nonprofit organizations on the Raise the Region website. Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the Raise the Region
3. At the end of the donation period, a pro-rated match per gift will be determined and the Community Foundation will send checks to all participating nonprofits with the amount raised, the pro-rated match, and any EXTRA money from prizes awarded throughout the day.

Camp Mount Luther has participated in Raise the Region for seven years and has garnered about \$100,000 in donations during this event! The camp hopes you will help us to have another successful year!

IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Reminder ~ We **will not** use altar flowers during Lent beginning March 1 thru Palm 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.



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.



St. John's "Community Game Night" continues on Thursday, March 19 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Come, bring some of your favorite board games, and spend a fun evening with others.



Monthly Social Hour will be held on Sunday, March 1 beginning at 8:30am .

Volunteers are still needed for June, August, September, October and December. If interested, please sign-up in the narthex.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26. 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. They can be found in the narthex and by the elevator.

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.

Paving the Way

Our goal is \$35,000.00.
Donations made to date are \$1,100.00. Every dollar donated is a dollar closer to our goal!



The Social Ministry Committee is expanding their Cards and Caring ministry. We would like to collect any poems, quotes, pictures and scripture that have meaningful to you in times of need or loss to include with our letters or cards. Please bring them to the church office or put them in Sue Lynch's mailbox.



ASH

Wednesday Worship

with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

7:00pm at St. John's



Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil

7:00am ~ 9:00pm
at West Kish

Pastor Ela will place a sign-up sheet in the narthex on Sunday, February 23 for anyone who would like to sign-up for one the of the 20 minute slots.

Holy Week Services

April 9 ~ 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship at St. John's

April 10 ~ 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service at West Kish

April 12 ~ 9:30am Easter Worship at St. John's
11:00am Easter Worship at West Kish



The third annual Big Valley Ministerium mission outreach project is being held on **Friday, April 24 from 8:00am—4:00pm and Saturday, April 25 from 8:00am—Noon.** This is a time for volunteers from our community churches to join together to blanket the Big Valley with a “Time of Caring.”

The base of operations will be in the Community Center, located in the former Union Elementary School. Needed are skilled and non-skilled volunteers. Tasks may include: landscaping, leaf pick up, lawn and shrub maintenance, general clean-up, mulching, rototilling, weeding, and garbage pick-up – take to the landfill.

More information along with a sign-up sheet will available the end of March. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talents to help others in our community.

Also needed are jobs for the volunteers to tackle. If you have projects you could use help with, please contact the church office (2032).

Lutheran Leadings: News from the Synod

Leadership Training: *"I will give you knowledge, teaching you the way to go."* Psalm 32:8

A free leadership training open to all members of the Synod was offered Feb 1; Joy Byler and Joe Kanagy from our church attended. The Assistant to the Bishop, pastors, lay leaders and church members taught and participated in a day of trainings on a range of topics.

Joy attended workshops on **Finance and Effective Meetings**, confirming many things our council is already on top of like incorporating devotions into each meeting and she also brought back suggestions on finance reporting that we are now incorporating.

Joe attended a session on **Technology and the Church**, a topic which is also the theme of the recent *Living Lutheran* magazine. The council and congregation of St. Johns years ago upgraded the technology of the church to include a wide retractable screen, digital projector and a full sound board.

"Let everyone with ears to hear, listen!" is found at least four times in the Gospel of Mark and Luke. Very recently a new, high-end pastor's head set, and congregant head-sets for those hard of hearing has vastly improved the amplification during our worship services making it possible for everyone to have "ears to hear."

During the past year we have used our tech set up for special events, and to bring video presentations of mission efforts in Armenia, and at Camp Mt. Luther. We have also lifted the Word by bringing professional music and art illustrations into our worship service to expand our lectionary themes. A faith based movie night has been suggested as well. Your feedback and suggestions are appreciated.

Grants Available

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of PA wants congregations to be aware of a new grant application that is available for non-profits, that includes houses of worship. Governor Wolf announced the availability of \$5 million in funding for security enhancement projects for nonprofit organizations serving diverse communities throughout Pennsylvania and non-profits that principally serve individuals, groups or institutions that are included within a bias motivation category for single bias hate crime incidents as identified by the [FBI's 2017 Hate Crime Statistics](#) publication. The non-profit security grant applications are available now and will be accepted through February 14, 2020. Applicants can find the [application and information about the Program](#) on PCCD's website. Grant awards can range from \$5,000 to \$150,000.

2020 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Announced

Your marriage relationship is something that provides the greatest potential for happiness. Is yours living up to this potential? Please make 2020 the year you resolve to attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend to learn how to maximize the joy and intimacy that God intends for your marriage!

The following Northeast US Weekends have been scheduled:

April 24-26, 2020 at Country Inn & Suites, Ithaca, NY. A hotel with lots of country charm in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of New York.

May 1-3, 2020 at Heritage Hotel in Lancaster, PA. A recently-renovated hotel, home of the unique, treehouse-inspired restaurant, "Loxley's."

MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 1

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

March 8

Elevator: Volunteer Needed
Greeters: John and Brenda Boring
Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader
Money Counters: Eleanore Rachau and Sandra Metz
Sound System: Joe Kanagy
Ushers: Bob and Susan Keller

March 15

Communion: Deb French
Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeters: Volunteer(s) Needed
Lay Reader: Jami Zook
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Jay Byler
Ushers: Ed Bilich and Joe Kanagy

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

March 22

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

March 29

Elevator: Volunteer Needed
Greeter: Joe Kanagy
Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan
Money Counters: Erica Hargenrader and Nancy Penepacker
Sound System: Joe Kanagy
Ushers: Volunteers Needed

Altar Care ~ Marjorie Buchanan




Altar Flower Delivery ~ (No altar flowers during Lent)

Bulletin Delivery ~ Sharon Dancy

Social Hour ~ John and Brenda Boring

St. John's Lutheran Church

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion 8:30am Social Hour	2 11:30am Fellowship Meal at West Kish 7:00pm LRP meeting	3	4	5 9:30am Knotting	6	7 Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday set clocks ahead 1 hour
8 	9	10 11:30am Big Valley Ministerium meets at the Upper Room	11	12 Daycare closed for trainings 6:30pm Council meeting	13	14
15 Holy Communion	16 11:30am WKPC Meal 7:00 pm Music/Worsh and Property Committee Meetings	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 9:30am Knotting 6:30-8:00pm Community Game Night	20  Spring Begins March 19	21
22	23 Newsletter Info/Articles Due Today	24	25	26	27	28
29 St. John's Men Singing during worship	30	31	Looking Ahead Thursday, April 9 ~ 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship Friday, April 10 ~ 7pm Good Friday Worship at West Kish Sunday, April 12 ~ Easter worship 9:30am St. John's 11:00am West Kish			