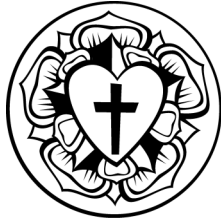


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

JULY/AUGUST 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*

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



What can we say about this time? This is a question I ask every week as I prepare our service and message. What can we say about this time looked at through the lens of the scriptures for the week, looked at through the lens of the founding beliefs of the Lutheran and Reformed Church, through the lens of Christ's Greatest Commandment: *Love thy Lord, thy God ... and love thy neighbor as thyself.*

The other question we have had to ask during this time is how are we going to say these things? How are we going to continue to be the church, to do the work of the church, to be the body of Christ - the feet, hands and voice of Christ when we were not allowed to go out, to touch and only to speak behind masks? Keeping the spirit of the church vibrant and well from Palm Sunday to Trinity Sunday, maintaining fellowship and Christian nurture even when we can not be together in the church building, has been our challenge.

First we offered curbside church with a short individualized mini service of greeting, prayer, music and blessing. Then radio church with a team of readers, speakers and musicians from here and far away contributing to a professionally recorded and produced 1/2 hour program of worship. Throughout this time we had a team of bell ringers proclaiming the presence of the church every Sunday and the Council members as 'Good Shepherds' checking in with congregants to chat, keep in touch and hear their need for prayer.

Now since June 7 we are again holding worship in the Sanctuary with thorough safety precautions in place and an exemplary, though necessarily different, way to take communion which we will continue to celebrate every first Sunday and feast days as we see where guidelines take us. We have been working on how to replicate as best as possible the 'radio worship' experience for those who are unable or choose to not attend these services. We have had a couple of trial runs with recording in the sanctuary which did not produce the good sound we were hoping for, but are leading us in a good direction for making worship available by internet, CD or phone.

Everyone, including the Holy Spirit, has been working overtime these last few months. God has presented us with unforeseen challenges, with new ways to offer praise, respond to his grace, take stock of our lives, and embrace our neighbors. Let us continue to participate in worship, attend to the Word, reach out to others and pray for the world.

This prayer for our 'Human Family' in the green LBW hymnal (pg 44) is a good one.

THE HUMAN FAMILY

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings, God's grace and protection be with you as we begin to meet again.

Pastor Ela



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**
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 2021
Nancy Penepacker	end of 2022
Jami Zook ~ Secretary	end of 2022

St. John's Financial Report January 1 thru June 24

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

Income \$ 123,823.12 Expense \$ 99,759.14
Net Income \$ 24,063.98

Parking Lot Donations YTD ~ \$ 10,690.00

Daycare Financial Report January 1 thru June 24

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

Income \$ 91,624.63 Expense \$ 79,159.08
Net Income \$ 12,465.55

2019 Payroll Expense Owed to St. John's
September 9, 2019 \$11,738.56
June 24, 2020 \$9,738.56

Meals on Wheels has resumed and St. John's is scheduled for August 25, 27 and September 1 and 3.

We will be asking for members to donate fruit in season and desserts. More details will be included in upcoming bulletins. If you know of anyone who would eligible and benefit from receiving these meals, please contact Sue Lynch (20130 or the church office.

St. John's would like to make sure our service is available to **ALL** members, especially those who are not able to attend Sunday morning worship. The service will be recorded on CD and delivered to anyone who requests a copy. **If you do not have a CD player, the church will provide one for you.**

Please contact the church office or your Good Shepherd if you are interested.

It is time again to renew/become a new sponsor in the Liberia Tuition Sponsorship Program. As part of the church's continuing efforts to ensure member safety, the process will be handled a little differently this year. Persons currently participating in the program will be contacted by email/phone to inquire whether they would like to continue supporting their student, along with the tuition cost.

Payment can be sent to the church or placed in the offering plate in a sealed envelope with Liberia Tuition or Joe Kanagy notated on the outside.

Envelopes containing the profiles will either be mailed, or placed on a table in the narthex and Joe will hand them to those participating as they enter the church on Sunday mornings. When contacted, please be sure to let us know how you prefer to receive your student's profile.

Daycare News

It is with great regret that the Daycare board recently accepted Valerie's letter of resignation (below) as director. Since then we have advertised and the board is in the process of interviewing applicants. We hope to soon find the person God has in His plans for this position. Valerie did an awesome job and we wish her well.

Dear St. John's Community,

I am writing to let you know that I have resigned as the Director here at St. John's Christian Daycare & Preschool. I have greatly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities I've had. The children are so precious to me and they have blessed me in so many ways. I am thankful for the relationships I have had with the children and their families. I will miss the center tremendously as it has taught me so much. I had every intention of staying here for many years but my path is taking a different direction.

I have the opportunity to stay home with my own children and after careful consideration I am excited to explore this new path in my journey. Right now, my home and my family need my attention more than I have been able to give it as we have been experiencing some major transitions in our lives.

My last day with St. John's will be on Wednesday, June 17th, 2020. The Daycare Board will be advertising for my position and praying for the next Center Director. I ask that you join them in prayer as they work hard to find the perfect fit for this community.

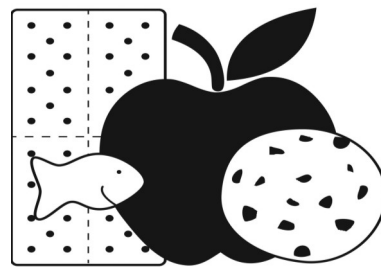
Thank you for allowing me to work with such wonderful families!

Prayerfully Yours,
Valerie L. McTavish

The daycare yard sale is usually held the week of July 4th. This year, with being closed for almost 3 months, they were not able to advertise for the donations which make the sale possible. Plans are to hold it on Tuesday, August 4 and Wednesday, August 5.

If you have **ANYTHING** in good usable condition you are looking to part with, we will gladly take it. **No clothing or televisions...please!** Donations can be placed on the stage or dropped off outside the fellowship hall doors.

The daycare board is asking for snack donations for the children. Below is a list of suggested items. If you would like to help in this way, please place them in one of the boxes located in the narthex (bottom of staircase Belleville side) and by the restrooms.



Juices ~ apple, grape, or any other fruit or fruit mixture juices, (please no Kool-Aid)

Crackers ~ Cheez-its, Club crackers, Ritz, Animal crackers, Goldfish, etc.

Peanut Butter or Nutella spread

Fruit and Cereal bars

Fruit cups or cans of fruit ~ peaches, pears, and mandarin oranges

Fresh fruit ~ Bananas, apples, oranges, strawberries, melons, grapes, etc.

Please note ~ be sure to check the expiration dates, as **no outdated food** may be used per state regulations.



The geraniums planted around St. John's are given to the Glory of God by...

*Jami Zook and family in memory of
John P. Zook and James L. Harmon.*

Eleanore Rachau in loving memory of Dick Rachau.

*Bob and Susan Keller in memory of
Robert D. Keller, Sr. and Mark Smoker.*

*Edna Chester in honor of her family,
and in memory of John H. Chester, Savilla and J. Frank Smith.*

*John and Brenda Boring in honor of Pastor Ela
in her efforts to keep our church family connected and
those who helped make it a success...well done!*

Vivian Plank and family in loving memory of Samuel Plank.

*Randy Harshbarger in memory of
Clarence and Irene Harshbarger and Nancy Snook.*

*Ruth T. Baker in honor of her children and grandchildren,
and in memory of her husband, her parents and her grandparents.*

*Don and Rosalie Smith in honor of their children,
Don and Benita, Samantha and Alexandra,
Jed and Alice, Eric and Cynthia and Sarah,
and in memory of their parents,
Bud and Elsie Smith, George and Henrietta Naylor.*

*Reba Harmon in honor of her children,
Holly Cleck, Jami Zook and Jim Harmon,
and in loving memory of James L. Harmon.*

Buck and Sandra Metz in honor of their family.

JULY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Worship Duties ~ **If you are not comfortable performing the duty you volunteered for, please contact the church office or your Good Shepherd.** Please do not feel you have to, we have others who are ready and willing to help as we continue with COVID-19 precautions in place. **Please note ~ there is no need for ushers for at the present time, until some of the worship restrictions are more relaxed.**

July 5

Communion: Sandra Metz
Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeter: Ed Bilich
Lay Reader: Deb French
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Ed Bilich

July 12

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeter: Gwen Hornberger
Lay Reader: Deb French
Money Counters: Eleanore Rachau and Sandra Metz
Sound System: Joe Kanagy

July 19

Communion: Sandra Metz
Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeter: Randy Harshbarger
Lay Reader: Ed Bilich
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Jay Byler

July 26

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler
Lay Reader: Ed Bilich
Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy
Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Carol Fultz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Carol Fultz

Bulletin Delivery ~ Rosalie Smith ~ Bulletins will be placed on the old altar in the narthex. Valley View will be separated from the others with Apt/Room number notated on each bulletin, please leave them at the front desk.

AUGUST SERVICE SCHEDULE

Worship Duties ~ **If you are not comfortable performing the duty you volunteered for, please contact the church office or your Good Shepherd.** Please do not feel you have to, we have others who are ready and willing to help as we continue with COVID-19 precautions in place. **Please note ~ there is no need for ushers for at the present time, until some of the worship restrictions are more relaxed.**

August 2

Communion: Sharon Dancy

Elevator: Carolyn Conner

Greeters: Jim and Georgianna Buchannan

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

August 9

Elevator: Carolyn Conner

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Eleanore Rachau and Sandra Metz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

August 16

Communion: Sharon Dancy

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeter: Dorie Remensnyder

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

August 23

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

August 30

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeters: Volunteer(s) Needed

Lay Reader: Volunteer Needed

Money Counters: Volunteers Needed

Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Rosalie Smith

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Gwen Hornberger

Bulletin Delivery ~ Edna Chester ~ Bulletins will be placed on the old altar in the narthex. Valley View will be separated from the others with Apt/Room number notated on each bulletin, please leave them at the front desk.

St. John's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting

Our Mission Statement

***We, the members of the St. John's Congregation, promise to share
the good news of Jesus Christ and love one another
through worship and service in our homes, church and community.***

Council members present Pastor Ela, Michelle Harshbarger, Sue Lynch, Ed Bilich, John Boring, Carol Fultz, Denise Chester, Joy Byler, Nancy Penepacker, Deb French and Jami Zook.

President Fultz called the meeting to order. Pastor Ela led us with devotions and prayer.

Approval of Minutes - April minutes were presented, with a motion to accept the minutes with the following changes; Kelley Maguire's last name to be added concerning the completion of the audit and deleting a sentence in old business regarding hiring a full time organist. Motion was made by Ed Bilich and second by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

Financial Report – St. John's financial report was presented. Motion to approve was made by Joy Byler and second by Deb French. Motion carried.

St. John's Day Care financial report was presented. Motion to approve by Jami Zook and second by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report -See attached.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Day Care

Discussion was heard on St John's Day Care reopen in yellow or wait until green restrictions/guidelines are in place. There are numerous recommendations (not requirements) that come into play if opening in yellow. Currently, a "sign in" area was suggested at the door by the restrooms, with a registration book to sign, hand sanitizer and masks available for all who enter. All people will exit thru the door by the narthex/coat rack area.

Wall was removed to enlarge Pre-K Counts room. This was entirely paid by the Pre-K Program. Painting and cleaning will be done prior to reopening day care. This work to be on Monday's and Fridays. New flooring will need to be installed but this will be discussed at a later date.

An electric heater needs replaced in the room by the elevator. A motion was made by Jami Zook that the property committee repair or replace the electric heater, spending up to \$500. if needed, motion second by Joy Byler. Motion carried.

Discussion was heard on having the parking lot repaved while the Day Care is closed. Although this would be the perfect time, we are still short on funds. Looking over our existing accounts; the youth account has not been used for many years and neither has the Randolph and Kester investments. The Wellsley account could also be an option.

Gladys Mahady Trust funds would not be available till after September 2020, generously leaving St. John's 35% of her remaining estate. A motion was made by Ed Bilich that we speak to the Randolph and Kester families about the stipulations of their donations and if it would be possible to use some, or all of this money toward repairing the parking lot. Jami Zook seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jami Zook has agreed to talk to Glen Randolph and Denise Chester will speak to Bill and Charlie Kester. Michelle Harshbarger agreed to see if some of the Pre-K Counts monies could also be used for the parking lot repairs.

A copy of the Day Care report/ May minutes is attached.

Property Committee ~ No report.

Social Ministry ~ No report.

Long Range Planning ~ They continue to work on the brochure.

Music and Worship ~ No report

Christian Ed/Youth ~ No report.

Finance ~ No report.

Cemetery ~ Denise Chester reported that: they are looking into digitizing our cemetery records.

CYBER BUSINESS

A motion was made by Ed Bilich, and seconded by Jami Zook to extend the radio broadcast for another 4 weeks. (Our broadcasts were to end on May 3. The extension would run to May 31.)

Motion had carried. This business was done via email prior to our May 14th meeting.

However, Pastor Ela tells us this evening, that the broadcasts could be extended weekly. These productions have become very time consuming for her and Bill. She suggested maybe parking lot preaching instead. To start parking lot preaching at this time would require too much planning/ changes to have for a possible week or two. To continue with the radio services, discussion was heard on shortening the broadcast services, making it less time consuming and easier to produce. Council is hopeful that we can start meeting in the church again the beginning of June, with procedure changes. No action was taken.

OLD BUSINESS

Synod Assembly canceled indefinitely.

John Haubrick will be available to play organ for us (3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays) until June 2021.

Council retreat and inviting Craig Miller/Jim Bricker to St. John's are tabled at this time.

Website is a work in progress. The home page is up and running. We hope to attach the monthly Newsletter, weekly bulletins, and Day Care updates. The current, simplified financial statement will be included in the bulletins. A motion was made by Sue Lynch to attach the Council minutes to the monthly Newsletter. Motion seconded by Michelle Harshbarger. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Someone has been using our dumpster. Jami Zook made a motion to put a lock on the dumpster; it was second by Deb French. Motion carried.

Kelly Byler suggested that we think about filling the oil tank while prices were down. Ed Bilich made a motion to fill the oil tank. It was second by Joy Byler. Motion carried.

Next meeting is June 11, 2020, 6:30 pm. Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Jami Zook and second Nancy Penepacker. Meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

CYBER BUSINESS ~ 5/19/2020

A motion was made by Joy Byler to reopen St. John's Day Care as of June 1. This comes after a Day Care meeting outlining safety precautions and procedures. Jami seconded the motion. Motion carried

Jami Zook, secretary

8/28/19 Council Meeting

Emergency Fund (for emergency church expenses / issues) – was discussed. Joy Byler made a motion to use the interest from the Thrivent Investments to start an “Emergency Fund” that could not be touched without Council approval and Congregational notification. Carol Fultz second the motion. Motion carried

The logic behind the creation of this fund was:

Chapter 12 – C12.05.c – of the SJ Constitution states, “The Congregation council may enter into contracts of up to \$2,500 for items not included in the budget.

An emergency payment of more than \$2,500 – ex: furnace repair – would need the approval from the congregation before the council could legally move forward with the repair

Church congregational meetings require a 2 week notice before a meeting

The fund was created to allow timely response to a “church emergency”

No disbursements from this fund are to occur without council approval

Discretionary Fund

As the name of the fund indicates, disbursements from this fund are at the discretion of the fund manager (the pastor).

The pastor manages the fund

Money is used to help the recipient with a known or perceived financial need

Checks issued from the fund are signed by the pastor and a second designated person as a “check and balance” on the disbursements

Names of the recipients are kept confidential

Documentation regarding disbursements are kept on file in the church office

Ed Bilich – 5/15/20