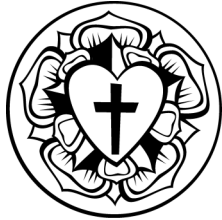


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

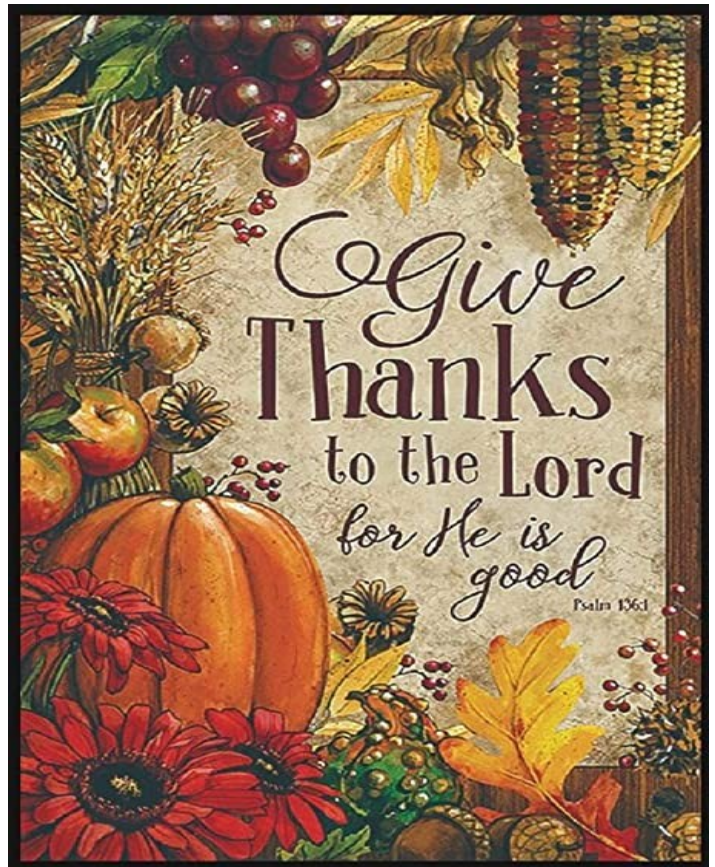
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 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



Message from the Pastor:

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The Apostle Paul starts each of his letters to his founding churches with a greeting from God, and follows it with a personalized expression of his gratitude, love and concern for its people. The mutual reliance of the apostle and the people of the church is evident, bound in the fluid and ever present gift of God’s Grace and Peace and the responsibility to share that gift with the world.

Ironically, taking time away from our lives in the world, be it a few hours or 40 days, strengthens that commitment. Our Synod supports this practice of group and individual retreat. On Nov 7, Council members will take a small retreat with a synod team to focus on the life of the church. We will prayerfully and pragmatically reflect on our practices pre-Covid, during Covid and into the future.

On a recent retreat at Krislund I woke up in the middle of the night, tossed and turned until I got up. I went out on the porch of the cabin wrapped up in a sleeping bag, sat in the green adirondack chair tilted back to gaze at the heavens. Soon I settled into reflection and prayer. The words of Jesus in Mark from our evening devotional “What do you want me to do for you?” and my response “What do You want me to do for You?” cycled within me as the stars shifted. Finally I seemed to sense a nudge, and taking a deep breath, a sense of peace settled over me.

Asking these questions in moments that you find for prayer during the day may be a good preparation for our retreat whether you are participating or supporting our council in prayer. It may result in a different nudge from for each of us: write letters (as did Paul), slow down, don’t hesitate, ask others, take food, care for prisoners. Each nudge from God, considered together, will help move our church forward.

God of our everyday and everything it brings be the light within us that guides each new beginning.

Pastor Ela



November 1: All Saints Sunday - Communion

We celebrate the saints of the church honoring those who have past in the last year and those we continue to hold dear.

The Lutheran and Reformed faith’s commits to engagement in both church and community as a way of bringing about God’s vision for our world. So on this day we also honor those in our church actively engaged in service to the community. This year we particularly honor those in our church who volunteer and work for the fire department celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year, and those who serve Big Valley Ambulance particularly honoring Joy Byler who was recognized as the State wide recipient of the outstanding 2020 PA State BLS (Basic Life Support) Provider of the Year Award

November 22: Christ the King Sunday

November 29: First Sunday of Advent with special Fifth Sunday Advent music.

We begin the first day our joint Church created Advent Devotional book.

Be sure to sign up to offer your own reflections on this time of Advent.

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
Lisa Lingle ~ Director

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
Jami Zook ~ Secretary	end of 2022

St. John's Financial Report January 1 thru October 29

Checking account balance 10/29/2020
\$ 303,484.79

Income \$ 494,684.67 Expense \$ 204,488.22
Net Income \$ 290,196.45

The income and checking account balance figures include the bequest of \$290,421.27 received from the Gladys Mahady Estate which was deposited to non-budget income for the time being.

The expense figure includes the final payment for the parking lot paving \$22,990.00 and \$11,087.96 for the boiler repair.

Parking Lot Donations YTD ~ \$ 27,528.72
Boiler Donations ~ \$7,650.00

*Daycare gave \$10,000.00 to the parking lot project and \$5,000.00 for boiler repair

Daycare Financial Report January 1 thru October 29

Checking account balance 10/29/20
\$ 60,272.19

Income \$ 239,575.20 Expense \$ 183,472.78
Net Income \$ 56,102.42

Expense includes \$10,000.00 towards the Parking Lot paving and \$5,000.00 for Boiler repair

The following persons will be finishing their term as council representatives the end of this year ~ John Boring, Carol Fultz and Michele Harshbarger. They will be actively searching for members willing to have their name placed on the ballot for election to the church council. If you are interested, please contact one of them.

"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
November 1st





Comfort Knotting

The knoter's group will resume on Thursday, November 5 at 9:30am. After 7 months, all are looking forward to the fellowship they share while getting back to their mission of making the comforts, which provide comfort to those in need.

Thank you to everyone who supported Blanket Sunday. A total of 200.00 was received.



Property Committee

Completed Items since Last Meeting

Air Conditioners Removed from Downstairs rooms.

Parking Lot paved and lined along with new barrier installed. Stone backfill also completed.

Open Items

- ◇ Washer & Dryer received at Esh's and Richard Yoder will install the electric and plumbing. Approved at prior meeting.
- ◇ Don Smith to confirm if roof was fixed.
- ◇ Daycare wants a couple of Bulletin Boards moved. Don Smith to schedule. Mike will help.
- ◇ Push Button Lock approved for Back Door at prior meeting. Daycare will take care of buying and install.
- ◇ Snedeker will not charge us for rental of propane tanks as we buy fuel oil from them. We would like to keep both tanks. Mike to call Snedekers.
- ◇ 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.
- ◇ Long Term Planning for Painting Masonry on back side of Church.
- ◇ \$5000 for Budget to include in 2021 Church Budget. Motion Ed, Second Joe; Motion Approved.
- ◇ Felt was too thick for doors. Will try weather stripping next. Don Smith to install.
- ◇ Pastor would like window in her door. Kit has been received and Ed to install.
- ◇ Lights need attention in Basement. Jim got estimate on replacing and installing new lights. Replace \$58.40 New \$137.60. 10 lights identified in Basement (4 in Kitchen) Daycare will pay for 10 lights in the basement to start.

Next Meeting 6:30 PM November 16th, 2020

IN OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29 and we are hoping to complete another Advent devotional with help from West Kish. A sign-up sheet with the scripture reading for each day has been placed on the table in the narthex. Volunteers are needed to write the meditations. **Submissions are due by Friday, November 13...PLEASE.**

The booklets will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 22. 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.



The ordination anniversary celebration for Rosalie Smith scheduled for Sunday, November 8 has been postponed for the time being, and will be held a later date. More information will be shared closer to that time.

Reminder to please return your questionnaire if you have not already done so. If needed, extras can be found in the narthex.

The results and comments will be shared at the December congregational meeting, scheduled for Sunday, December 13.

The 2021 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 name(s) and birthdate(s) by Sunday, November 18th.

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



Two years ago, the church received notification that we were named as a beneficiary in the Gladys Mahady Estate. The funds were recently distributed and St. John's received a check for \$290,421.27. According to the will, there are no stipulations on the use of the funds. The Finance Committee will be making recommendations on investing the money.

What a blessing Gladys has been and continues to be to this church, during her life and after.



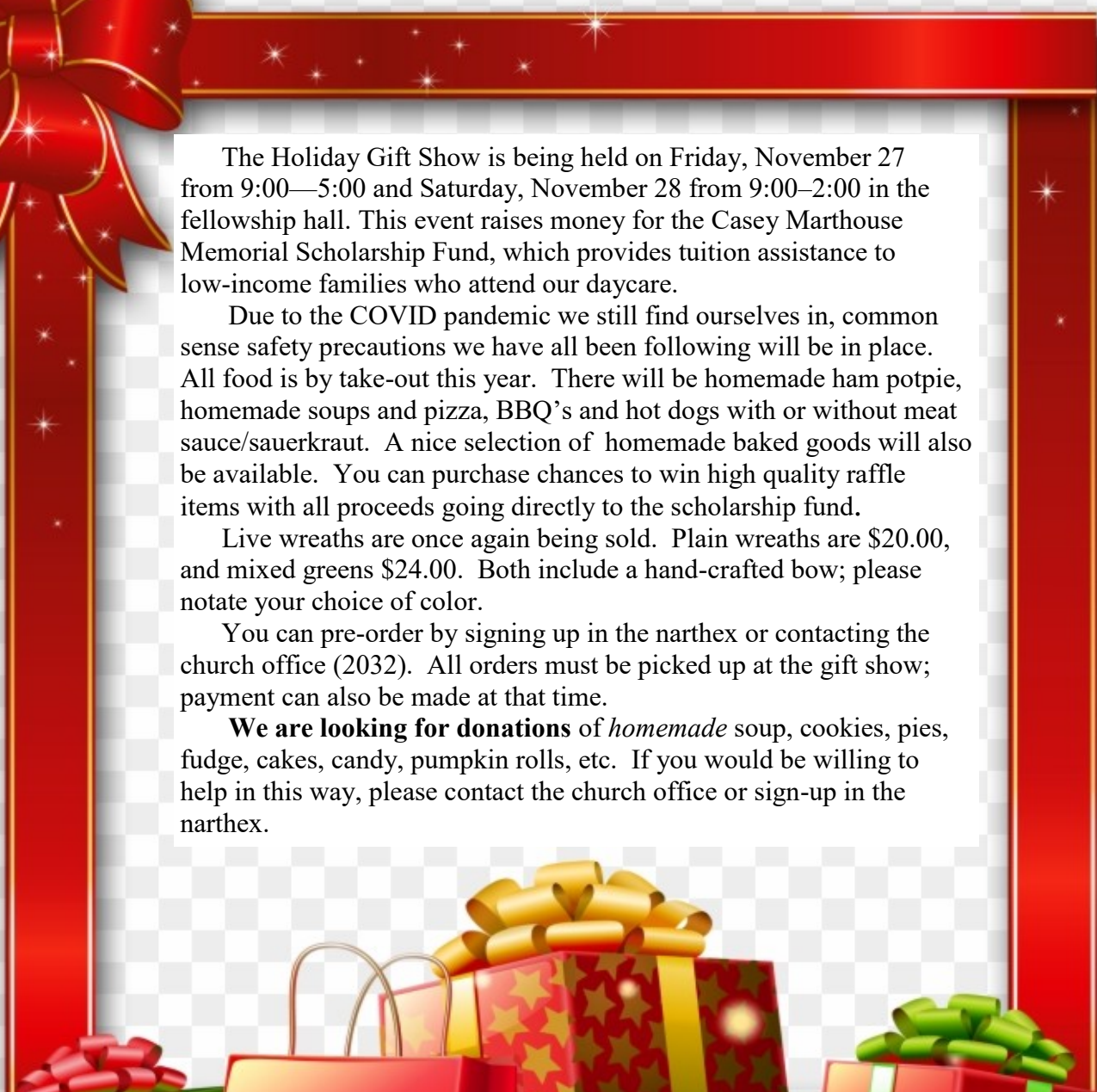

In the narthex, are sign-up sheets for anyone who would like to place Altar flowers next year. We will once again refrain from using them during Lent beginning Sunday, March 1 through Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 5.

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



Reminder ~ The Service Schedules for next year are being compiled. If you are no longer able to/or are interested in serving please contact the church office or your Good Shepherd by **November 1st. We will not be** scheduling ushers or communion assistants at this time.

If you are currently serving and do not respond, it will be assumed that wish to continue. **Please note ~ there are fewer people to help, so you may be scheduled more often.**



The Holiday Gift Show is being held on Friday, November 27 from 9:00—5:00 and Saturday, November 28 from 9:00—2:00 in the fellowship hall. This event raises money for the Casey Marthouse Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition assistance to low-income families who attend our daycare.

Due to the COVID pandemic we still find ourselves in, common sense safety precautions we have all been following will be in place. All food is by take-out this year. There will be homemade ham potpie, homemade soups and pizza, BBQ's and hot dogs with or without meat sauce/sauerkraut. A nice selection of homemade baked goods will also be available. You can purchase chances to win high quality raffle items with all proceeds going directly to the scholarship fund.

Live wreaths are once again being sold. Plain wreaths are \$20.00, and mixed greens \$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* soup, cookies, pies, fudge, cakes, candy, pumpkin rolls, etc. If you would be willing to help in this way, please contact the church office or sign-up in the narthex.



NOVEMBER 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 communion assistants and ushers at the present time, until some of the worship restrictions are more relaxed.

November 1 ~ All Saints

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring
Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Ed Bilich

November 8

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeter: Edna Chester
Lay Reader: John Chester
Money Counters: **Volunteers Needed**
Sound System: Joe Kanagy

November 15

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeters: Jed and Alice Smith
Lay Reader: Jami Zook
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Jay Byler

November 22 ~ Christ the King

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeter: **Volunteer Needed**
Lay Reader: Ed Bilich
Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy
Sound System: Jay Byler

November 29 ~ First Advent

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeter: Ed Bilich
Lay Reader: Deb French
Money Counters: **Volunteers Needed**
Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Brenda Boring and Sandra Metz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Bulletin Delivery ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan ~ 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 Council Meeting

Sept 08, 2020

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, community and the world.

Council members present - Pastor Ela, Sue Lynch, Ed Bilich, John Boring, Carol Fultz, Denise Chester, Joy Byler, Deb French and Jami Zook. President Fultz called the meeting to order and led with devotions. Pastor Ela led us with prayer.

Approval of Minutes - Motion was made to accept the June 11, 2020 council minutes and minutes taken on July 12 and July 24. Motion was made by Joy Byler and second by John Boring. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report -

- ^{Cullingford} Bill ~~Cullen~~ has been putting a lot of time in audio and tech services beginning with our radio broadcasts. As of late, he is video taping the sermon to upload to our website and facebook. (Our bulliten's are also available on our website.) This brings about starting a Tech support committee to take over these responsibilties. CD's will be made after this Sunday's church service. Contact John Boring (935-2052) on who wants and how many CD's need to be made. We should all be in touch with our member Good Shepherd lists to see who would like CD's.
- Sharing of prayers that our congregation wrote several weeks ago is going well. Everyone has enjoyed Pastor Ela reading them aloud and adding additional prayers with the piano accompaniment.
- Funds remain available for use in the discretionary fund.
- Pastor Ela attended a Big Valley Ministerium Meeting.
- Pastor suggested we *summarize* council meeting minutes at the end of each meeting.

To keep everyone on the same page and who is doing what !

- Fall retreat - We are planning a fall retreat in early November. Pastor Ela will email us some questions about what we would like to focus on at the retreat. Examples; personnel review/duties of pastor, organist, responsibilities of council, and out reach to shut ins.
- Joint Council Mutual Ministry committee also met last month. Discussion was heard on Pastor's time and worship outreach.
- Pastor Ela will be off Sept 27th and has contacted Sara Segewick to lead our worship.

Financial Report -

St John's financial report was presented. Motion to approve was made by Joy Byler and second by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

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

Committee Reports

Day Care

- Day Care is in need of a part time person as they are near capacity attendance. They are also still in need of snack donations.
- The Day Care finances are back on track after COVID closure. They are receiving COVID monies and Pre K Count funds. A motion was made by Sue Lynch and second by Ed Bilich to resume collecting rent (\$500. monthly) starting the end of September.
- Ed Bilich had asked if they had looked into the Stabler Grants. Carol will ask Lisa to look into these funds.
- Deb French asked that the church/property committee reconsider allowing the Day Care to have a washer and dryer. They are especially needed with the COVID cleaning regulations.
- It was suggested that we get a "push button" lock for the back door. Deb will take this

to the property committee.

Property Committee

Work has started on the boiler and it appears to not be as extensive as first thought.

Social Ministry

No report.

Long Range Planning

No report.

Music and Worship

An organist was hired, Ms. Susie Yoo at \$150. per week which will be reviewed after a 3 month period. She currently is renting a car to attend services (\$50.per week). Council discussed helping with her traveling expenses. As a graduate student of Penn State, council agreed Ms. Yoo would not be paid should she need to self quarten.

REMINDER - A special service for the anniversary of Rosalee Smith's ordination on Nov 8, 2020.

Christian Ed./Youth

No report.

Finance

No report.

Cemetery

No report.

Old Business

- Ed Bilich will look into our insurance concerning COVID coverage.
- Looking ahead to October's volunteer schedule, Council divided duties for those who have not been in attendance.

New Business

- Pres. Fultz read a letter from the Shelter Services asking for a monetary donation. Jami Zook made a motion to take up a special offering for the Shelter closer to Thanksgiving. Deb French seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Joy Byler made a motion to remove the tape from the pews in the sanctuary. Deb French second the motion, motion carried.
- Joy Byler made a motion to purchase what is needed to have "parking lot broadcasting". Sue Lynch second. Motion carried.
- Joy Byler made a motion to purchase Vimeo Video Service for St. John's. This helps in uploading services on our website. Deb French second the motion. Motion carried.
- Reminder to have all committee minutes to Kelly in time to be added in the monthly newsletter.








Next meeting Oct 8, 2020, 6:30 pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Jami Zook and second by John Boring.

Jami Zook, secretary.

St. John's Lutheran Church

November

2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion 	2	3 	4	5 9:30am Comfort Knotting 7:00pm Music and Worship Committee	6	7 9:00-12:00 Council Retreat w/fellowship time at 8:30am
8	9	10	11 	12 6:30pm Council	13 Advent Devotional Meditations Due	14 Sally Shingler Memorial Service
15 Holy Communion	16 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	17	18	19 9:30am Comfort Knotting	20 	
22 	23	24 Gift Show set-up in Fellowship Hall	25 Gift Show set-up in Fellowship Hall	26 DC/Office Closed 	27 9am-5pm Holiday Gift Show DC/Church Office Closed	28 9am-2pm Holiday Gift Show
29 FIRST ADVENT 	30	31	