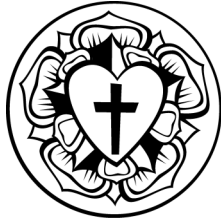


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

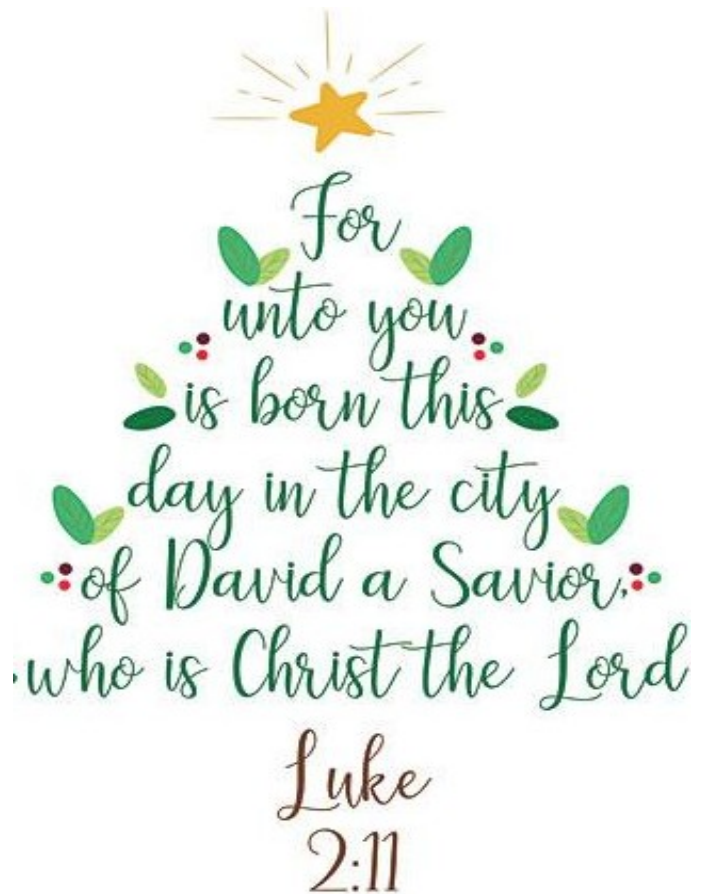
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 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



Sunday was the first day of Advent and the advent again of a new way to gather in worship. Dedicated council and session leaders became ‘gophers’ checking reception and feedback, delivering bulletins and booklets to worshippers in the parking lot, while others listened or followed their bulletins at home. With a crew of four in an empty sanctuary, scripture, prayers, music and message were delivered to just the figures on the stain glass windows: angels, the Holy spirit and Jesus himself. Though again we could not enter the doors of the church, the Christ child, the risen Christ, the shepherd was there knocking inviting us to open our doors and let him in. There is a message in this reversal isn’t there!?

It seems in the last year, familiar features of our life and worship landscape have become a fog. Yet we have been challenged to hear God’s word, lift our voices, share in others’ suffering, extend our hearts, and make connections in new ways. Let us not take this lightly.

This season between Thanksgiving and Epiphany, like a prayer reminds us to give thanks, to come before God with reverence and awe, and to appreciate the many ways through the Holy Spirit, Christ is revealed to us each day. More than ever we are asked to take an active part in doing Christ’s work, empathizing with others, caring for others even as we physically separate ourselves from them.

Our cars, that vehicle that brings us from our lives at home to gathering as a congregation, becomes our worship space. But in fact it is our faith that does this. It is our faith our commitment, our covenant to be the Body of Christ the church together that moves us and moves within us from home to sanctuary, from Sunday to Sunday.

I missed the presence of the congregation in the sanctuary on Sunday but I was uplifted by the presence and persistence of the communities’ faith. Sunday evening I sat down with the joint church Advent Booklet and read it front to back. I found great peace in sitting back and hearing the doors of scripture opened through the hearts of each individual on each page.

“Nothing ..in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God.” Romans 8:38-39

Thank you for affirming we are God’s created, each created unique, gathered together in the love of Christ. As we anticipate and prepare for gathering around the crèche in awe of God among us may the fog be lifted as we are enveloped in the light of Christ.

Reverend Ela J. Robertson



St. John's Lutheran Church

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

Lisa Lingle, 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 2021
Jami Zook ~ Secretary	end of 2022

St. John's Financial Report

Checking account balance 11/30/2020
\$ 308,334.78*

Income \$ 511,907.13* Expense \$ 217,200.32
Net Income \$ 294,706.81

*Includes \$290,421.27 from Gladys Mahady Estate

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 11/30/20
\$ 47,859.01

Income \$ 263,090.23 Expense \$ 219,648.42
Net Income \$ 43,441.81

Council has been working on alternative ways to continue providing worship on Sunday mornings. Due to the rise in Covid cases, ***in person*** services for the last 2 weeks were cancelled, and will be again this Sunday, December 6. Council is meeting after church to determine how to move forward the rest of the month. Your "Good Shepherd" will keep you informed, along with updates in the weekly bulletin.

When we return to ***in person worship***, members who are not comfortable coming inside, are encouraged to attend in the parking lot. Please be sure to park **in the back, not front of the church** and tune your car radio station to 102.3. For the time being, before the service a volunteer will come to your car with a bulletin, collect your offering, and during communion Sundays, they will also provide a sealed juice with wafer cup.

Please note ~ those persons attending ***in person worship*** and the ***parking lot service***, (**ONLY held when there is NO in person worship**), are asked to park in the **front** parking lot of the church.

Signs are being purchased to place in the church yard advertising our Parking Lot service. Invite a friend or family to attend this "safer way" of worshipping.



Parking Lot Worship
The Church does not close
...only the building!

Day Care

The Christmas program for this year has been cancelled. It is always so well attended, and often there are not enough chairs for everyone. Due to the number of daycare families and their family members who would normally come, it seemed to be the appropriate decision, as it would be difficult to distance as well as we should.

The daycare staff works hard to keep a clean and safe environment, and so far their efforts have made it possible to continue providing care for the children of the working families we serve.



The Gift Show went well “all things considered”. There were not as many people, which was good for social distancing purposes. Some of the vendors still did well, while others did not, but all commented they were glad they participated, and knew it was going to be a “different year”.

The total made for the Casey Marthouse Tuition Scholarship Fund has not been determined. It will be less than previous years, but this is their only fundraiser. Every little bit helps to provide for families in need of assistance paying for their child's care.

THANK YOU to those members who donated baked goods and other goodies for the food stand, purchased wreaths and came just to browse and/or buy. We appreciate your support, especially during this time of so much uncertainty.

We are
grateful
Thank you!

Comfort Knotting

Comfort Knotting has been cancelled for the time being. Thank you to our loyal volunteers, and we are hoping to get 'back to business' in the new year.



Music and Worship

The committee agreed to extend a one year contract to Susie Yoo as church organist. They recommended \$200/week with a yearly salary of \$10,400.00, which council approved at their November meeting.



**Committee
Reports**

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

January 3, 10, 24, 31

February 7, 14

April 25

June 6, 13, 20

August 8, 15, 29

September 19, 25

October 3, 17, 24, 31

November 7, 14, 21

December 12, 19

You can sign-up in the narthex, email 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, February 21 through Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 28

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.



Altar Flower Sign-up



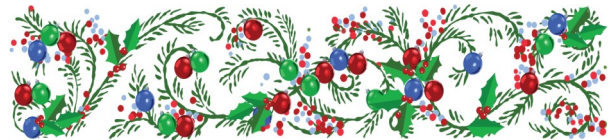
Advent began on Sunday, November 29 and copies of our devotional can be found in the narthex. If you know of others who would enjoy having one, please feel free to take for them.



If you cannot pick one up, please contact the church office or your Good Shepherd and we will see you receive a copy.

For the time being we will only be scheduling members who volunteer as Lay Readers, Greeters, Altar Care and Bulletin/CD delivery on a month by month basis. The Jan/Feb newsletter will include volunteers for those 2 months only.

If you are willing to help, please contact the church office or your Good Shepherd.

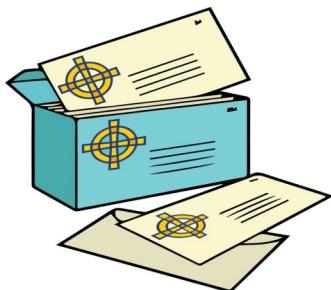


The 2021 church birthday calendars will be available in the narthex on Sunday, December 15. **There is no cost, feel free to take one or more.**

Reminder ~ only the names of active members are listed, with the exception of those persons who requested their extended families be included.

The 2021 offering envelopes will be available in the narthex on Sunday, December 15. Please contact the church office if you did not receive one.

Feel free to deliver to a neighbor, relative, friend or shut-in who may not be able to pick theirs up.



Our December congregational meeting has been tentatively postponed until February (date to still be determined). Information will be mailed out to all active members 2 weeks prior to the meeting.



DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 6

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

December 13

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Jim Buchanan

Lay Reader : Jami Zook

Money Counters:

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

December 20

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeter: Randy Harshbarger

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Elevator: VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Greeters: Bob and Susan Keller

Sound System: Jay Byler

December 27

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring

Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Sandra Metz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Please call the church office or your *Good Shepherd* if you are willing to help in this way.

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.

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Oct. 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, Michelle Harshbarger, Joy Byler, Deb French and Jami Zook. President Fultz called the meeting to order. Pastor Ela led us with prayer.

Approval of Minutes - Motion was made to accept the Sept. 08, 2020 council minutes with the corrected spelling of Bill Cullingford's name. 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 Jami Zook. Motion carried.

St. John's Day Care financial report was presented. Motion to approve by Joy Byler and second by Deb French. Motion carried. Day Care has agreed to give St. John's \$10000. toward the parking lot, \$5000. for boiler repairs and are planning to help pay for upcoming upgrades to lower level lighting and electric for stackable washer/dryer.

President Fultz was happy to report that we have heard from the Gladys Mahady's Estate attorney. \$290,421.47 was gifted to St. John's from Tom and Gladys !

Pastor's Report -

- Pulpit supply for 2 churches will be \$150. plus milage.
- Pastor asked that the Music and Worship committee meet to discuss upcoming special services; Rosalee's celebration and Christmas. Council would like to see a combined (Presbyterian & Lutheran) Advent book again this year.

- Discussion was heard on the Sunday worship service CD's (how many to make and who is receiving), and we will soon be able to broadcast to the parking lot. Other Outreach available through our Facebook page and Website. We also discussed having communion for our shut ins.
- Fall retreat set for November 7th, 9-12. We will review personnel duties/contracts and responsibilities of council/committees.
- Ministerium meeting; discussed Covid cases, safety plans and communion distribution.
- Schedule of Pastor hours for each church and time off for a Krislund event Oct 21 & 22.

Committee Reports

Day Care

- Day Care has agreed to give St. John's \$10000. toward the parking lot, \$5000. for boiler repairs and are planning to help pay for upcoming upgrades to lower level lighting and electric for stackable washer/dryer. These funds will be coming from income received from CARES Act funding and CARES Covid funding.
- Day Care has hired a part time person. They are still in need of snack donations.

Property Committee

Washed & dryer and push button lock installation were approved for the Day Care. There will also be upgrades to the lower level lighting.

Social Ministry

No report.

Long Range Planning

No report.

Music and Worship

Would like to extend Ms. Susie Yoo a contract position at St. John's. She currently is renting a car to attend services (\$50. per week). We will also look into the organist's present job

description.

Christian Ed./Youth

No report.

Finance

Will be working on 2021 budget.

Cemetery

No report.

Old Business

- Ed Bilich received an email from Brad Herman concerning Covid claims against the church. According to Brad, we do have general liability coverage but recommended we get a safety policy and procedure plan in place.
- Looking ahead to November and December's volunteer schedule, Council divided duties for those who have not been in attendance. Carol will contact those who have been in attendance, and if they are still willing to help.
- Parking lot broadcasting should be up and running this Sunday.

New Business

- A Memorial service will be held at St. John's November 14th for Sally Shingler. She and her husband Tom will be buried together in St. John's cemetery. Pastor Bender will be co pastor for the service.
- Congregational meeting is set for Dec. 13th, 2020. At this time 30 members is a quorum. Council discussed having to lower this number as we have been having 17 members on average at services. We also discussed new officers for 2021, and having an 8 member council next year. Council members whose terms are up at the end of 2020 are Carol Fultz, Michelle Harshbarger and John Boring.

- Pres Fultz suggested we go back to full, normal services, even if the liturgy would need to be spoken. We agreed to work toward that goal, hopefully by the beginning of the year.
- Pres Carol Fultz handed out a survey to be sent out to past and currently attending members. A motion was made by Joy Byler and second by Sue Lynch to mail out the survey to members. Motion carried.
- Joy Byler recently had CPR training for the Day Care. We are in need of a new AED, as the one we have is not working. A motion was made to purchase an AED by Michelle Harshbarger and second by Deb Frech. Motion carried.
- Council members were asked to call their Good Sheppard list to let them know "not to park in the front parking lot" for Sunday services due to the new paving.

Attached to the minutes; October meeting agenda, financial reports for St. John's and St. John's Day Care, Day Care Preschool Pre K Counts letter, the Pastors report, email from The Stewardship Group concerning Covid and the survey to be sent to members.

Next meeting Nov. 12, 2020, 6:30 pm at St. John's. A motion to adjourn was made by Jami Zook and second by Deb French.

Jami Zook, secretary.

A special council meeting was held after Oct. 11th's church service. Joy Byler made a motion to allow the *Holiday Craft Show* at St. John's fellowship hall, November 27 and 28. This event funds the Casey Marthouse Scholarship, which helps with tuition at St. John's Day Care for those who may not be able to afford it otherwise. Deb French second the motion. Motion carried.

St. John's Lutheran Church

December

2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Second Advent Holy Communion Parking Lot Service	7	8	9	10 6:30pm Council	11	12
13 Third Advent	14	15	16	17	18  <i>Poinsettia Orders Due</i>	19
20 Fourth Advent Holy Communion	21 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting 7:00pm Music and Worship Mtg	22 <i>First Day of Winter December 21</i> 	23	24 Office/DC Closed 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service (TBD)	25 Christmas Day The Nativity of Our Lord	26 
27	28	29	30	31 Daycare closing at 3:00pm 		



St. John's Poinsettia Order Form

There is no set price for the Poinsettias.

We are not using the stands, and will only be purchasing 24. They will be placed throughout the narthex and sanctuary.

Please notate at the bottom of this form if you would like to keep yours.

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

***_____ Yes, I/We would like to keep our poinsettia.
(Poinsettias can be picked up after Christmas Eve worship,
or will be placed in the library/blue room with your name on)***

***Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Friday, December 18th.***