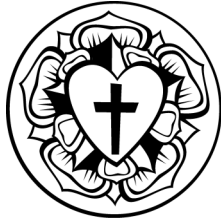


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

FEBRUARY 2021



During the
*Season
of Lent*
contemplate
your heart and
look at our
world with
Hope.

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



A Prayer for the New Year
In this New Year of the year 2021...

I will strive to be grateful; giving thanks to God who is loving and merciful and provides all that is needed to live.

I will strive to be kind; in thought, word, and deed to everyone I encounter and those I may never meet.

I will strive to be respectful; not only to my family and friends, but to those who think, live, look, sound, and believe differently from me.

I will strive to be generous; to use what God has given me for the good of others.

I will strive to be forgiving; because harboring anger and hate only tears a person down.

I will strive to be hopeful; trusting the future to God in all circumstances, good or bad.

I will strive to be me; for this is who God created me to be. And I will pray that every human being on earth may care enough to strive to be all these things and even more.

TEN WAYS TO LOVE

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <i>Listen without interrupting. (Prov 18)</i> | 6. <i>Share without pretending. (Eph 4:15)</i> |
| 2. <i>Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)</i> | 7. <i>Enjoy without complaint. (Phil 2:14)</i> |
| 3. <i>Give without sparing. (Prov 21:26)</i> | 8. <i>Trust without wavering. (Cor 13:7)</i> |
| 4. <i>Pray without ceasing. (Col 1:9)</i> | 9. <i>Forgive without punishing. (Colo 3:13)</i> |
| 5. <i>Answer without arguing. (Prov 17:1)</i> | 10. <i>Promise without forgetting. (Prov 13:12)</i> |

(my apologies: I can not trace the origin of the poem and 'ten ways')

Valentine Moments

You may remember this Biblical 'Ten Ways to Love' from last February. [Yes #10 does get more difficult with age!] I am including it in a letter to Day Care families and wanted to share a version with you too. If any of you are still hunkering down at home looking for something creative to do I'd love to have some homemade Valentines to put in each of the 35 Day Care family letter packets. Let me know.

"I have found that the Day Care children love to sing "Jesus Loves Me." Jesus always loves us and will always help us to be more loving. This list of "Ten Ways to Love," all from the Bible, are there to help.

Talk about these with your children and grandchildren. Ask them to give examples. Ask when they have noticed themselves or other people doing or not doing each of these 'loving actions.' This will help them (and us) become more aware of what it is to be a loving person, but be prepared, they might point out something in your behavior too! Make this a "Valentine moment." Perhaps a moment for "I'm sorry we haven't been able to visit Grams during Covid; I forgive you for being unhappy; I love you so much!" Help them to learn that love is always there, that Jesus loves them and that you always love them

We celebrate St. Valentines Day with love knowing we can't always be saints yet the love Christ shows us overcomes all obstacles. Happy Saint Valentines Day!"

Pastor Ela

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
Joy Byler ~ Secretary	end of 2022
Denise Chester ~ Vice President	end of 2021
Deb French	end of 2022
Carol Fultz ~ President	end of 2023
Susan Lynch	end of 2021
Jami Zook	end of 2022

St. John's Financial Report

Checking account balance 1/27/21
\$ 302,635.41*

January 1 through January 27, 2021

Income \$ 8,783.00 Expense \$ 11,441.46
Net Income \$ -2,658.46

*The checking acct balance includes \$290,421.27 from the Gladys Mahady Estate, which we are in the process of transferring into investments with Thrivent and Vanguard. An additional \$10,000.00 has also be directed to the Emergency Fund savings account. A detailed report will be shared with the congregation at the February 28 meeting.

Council Officers and Members for 2021

President ~ Carol Fultz
Vice President ~ Denise Chester
Secretary ~ Joy Byler
Treasurer ~ Ed Bilich
Members ~ Deb French, Sue Lynch and Jami Zook.

There are currently only 7 council members, and our Constitution states that we are to have no fewer than 8. If you would be willing to serve the church in this way, please contact your good shepherd or one of the council officers/members listed above.

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 1/27/21
\$ 31,845.11

January 1 through January 27, 2021

Income \$ 13,508.73 Expense \$ 13,126.52
Net Income \$ 382.21

The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 28 in the sanctuary following our worship service. Information will be placed in member mailboxes by Sunday, February 14. If you would like to have it mailed, please contact your Good Shepherd or the church office.

Due to the cancellation of the December meeting, the 2021 budgets will be presented for approval, along with the Audit and 2020 Financial reports. Due to COVID, committees either did not meet or only met when needed, so there may not be much in the way of their reports for last year.

The Property Committee will be discussing upcoming projects which require congregation approval.

As promised, council will be reviewing the results of the questionnaire which was sent out last fall.

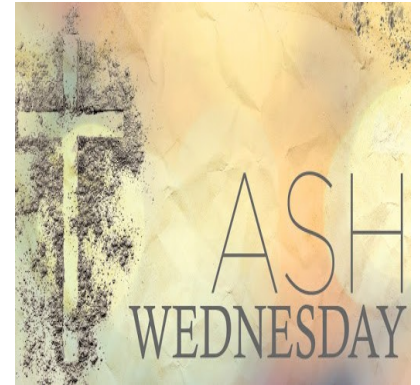
We hope you will plan to attend, as some of the business cannot be conducted without enough members for a quorum, which is currently 30.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE FEB 17, 7PM

Ash Wednesday is February 17 the beginning of Lent! We will have our traditional service that evening with individual cups of ashes and oil to make the sign of the cross on ourselves and/or on family members sitting with us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the transformative power of this passage into Lent will not be diminished by our Covid adaptation. This has been a meaningful service for worshippers the last two years; after this year it may be even more so. I urge everyone who is able to attend.

Pastor Ela



In person worship continues Sunday mornings at 9:30am. Please remember to enter the church through the front doors only. COVID safety measures are being followed, and an updated list can be found on the following page.

We all know how challenging it has been for churches to become creative and find other ways to conduct worship, but this picture really sums it up. Even if you cannot be there in-person, your person can be.

PRAYER VIGIL

West Kish is once again holding their Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil on February 17 from 7:00am to 9:00pm. If you would like to participate, a sheet will be placed in the narthex to sign-up for one of the 20 minute slots.

The doors will be open for you to go up into the sanctuary and pray. Please remember to wear your mask while in the church.



Those persons wishing to continue attending worship in the parking lot, are reminded PLEASE park in the back parking lot behind the church, and tune your radio to 102.3 FM

The greeter(s) will **no longer** be coming to your car. There is a mailbox attached the metal basement stair railing which contains the weekly bulletin. Along side of it is a box for your offering, and another which contains wafer and juice cups (communion Sundays only). They all have signs posted on them.



Parking Lot Worship

St. John's COVID In-Person Worship ~ Precautions and Safety Measures (updated January 2021)

1. Church will be cleaned thoroughly and sprayed with disinfectant following each service.
2. For worship services, members are asked to please enter through the front doors of the church **only**.
3. Masks are to be worn. Disposable masks are available in the narthex. All other entrances to the church will remain locked.
4. A greeter(s) will be there with a mask and gloves on. A bulletin will be either handed to you/laid on the table. Disposable gloves are available on the old altar for use by the greeter(s) and elevator operator.
5. Members and visitors are asked to use the steps to the right (Belleville side) to enter the sanctuary, and exit using the stairs to the left (Mechanic St. side).
6. Please sit 6 feet apart from one another, unless you are a family living in the same household, remembering to leave at least one or more pew(s) between you and others.
7. The entire service is printed in the bulletin, including the hymns.
8. **Anyone attending is asked to please leave your mask on for the entire service.**
9. Offering plates can be found on the front and back pews on the (Mechanic St. side). You may place your offering in one of them following the service.
10. Volunteers operating the elevator will be required to wear a mask and gloves.
11. Communion ~ for the time being, we will be using the juice and wafer cups. The greeter will hand one to you the Sundays we celebrate Holy Communion. Trash cans have been placed in the back pew by the offering plate and in the narthex. Please use these for your empty communion cups, bulletins and any other items you wish to dispose of.
12. Anyone wearing a coat, can either take it upstairs with them, or hang it in the coatroom.
13. Newsletters and other information is once again being placed in member mailboxes. Anyone preferring to have their items mailed are asked to please contact the church office or your good shepherd.
14. Hand sanitizer can be found in the narthex, on the sanctuary windowsills and throughout the church.

Until further notice, there will be no Sunday school, Social Hour or gatherings of any kind, with the exception of council and committee meetings.

These restrictions are in place for the safety all. The council would like to thank everyone for your continued cooperation and willingness to attend worship as we look forward to the day when we can come together again, without the need for these precautions and measures. If you have any questions or comments, please contact any council member or Pastor Ela. Thank you!

We are continuing to schedule volunteers to help with the Sunday morning duties on a monthly basis. **Needed in March are ~**

Greeters ~ March 14 and 21

Lay Readers ~ March 7, 14, 21 and 28

We are not using the altar flower during lent, so a volunteer is not needed until Easter Sunday, April 4.

ANYONE willing to help with any of these duties, is asked to please contact the church office or your Good Shepherd.



We are now into the time of year when snow, ice and freezing rain can make Sunday morning travel difficult. When services are cancelled due to weather conditions, the good shepherds will contact members on their lists, it will also be posted on the church Facebook page, website and included on the answering machine message.

Please keep Pastor Ken Longfield in prayer, as he had open heart surgery to repair his mitral valve at Danville on Thursday, January 28. Well-wishes can be sent to PO Box 127, Reedsville 17084.



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.

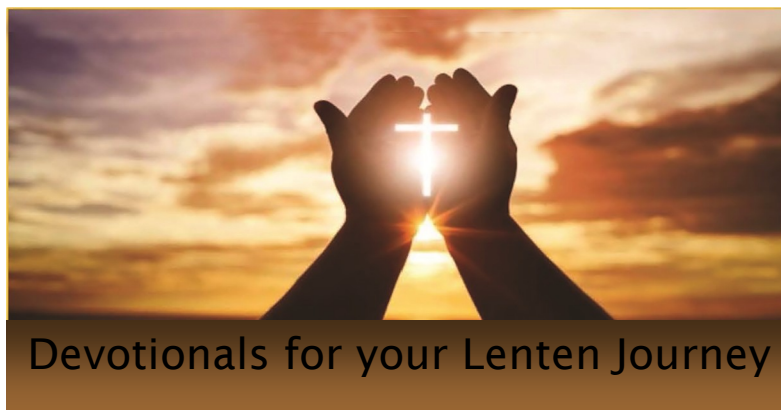
*Pray Always.
Do not lose heart.
Persistence in our every
encounter with the divine
will be blessed.*



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. 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 again providing two devotionals to choose from. The first, *A Season of Grace* is large print, and is written by Seniors for Seniors (not the High School graduating kind). The second, *Steadfast Love* is based on the works of Henri Nouwen. Each one is well-written and will be a nice addition to your daily meditation during this Lenten season.

They will be available in the narthex on Sunday, January 31. Please contact the church office or your good shepherd if you would like to have one mailed to you.

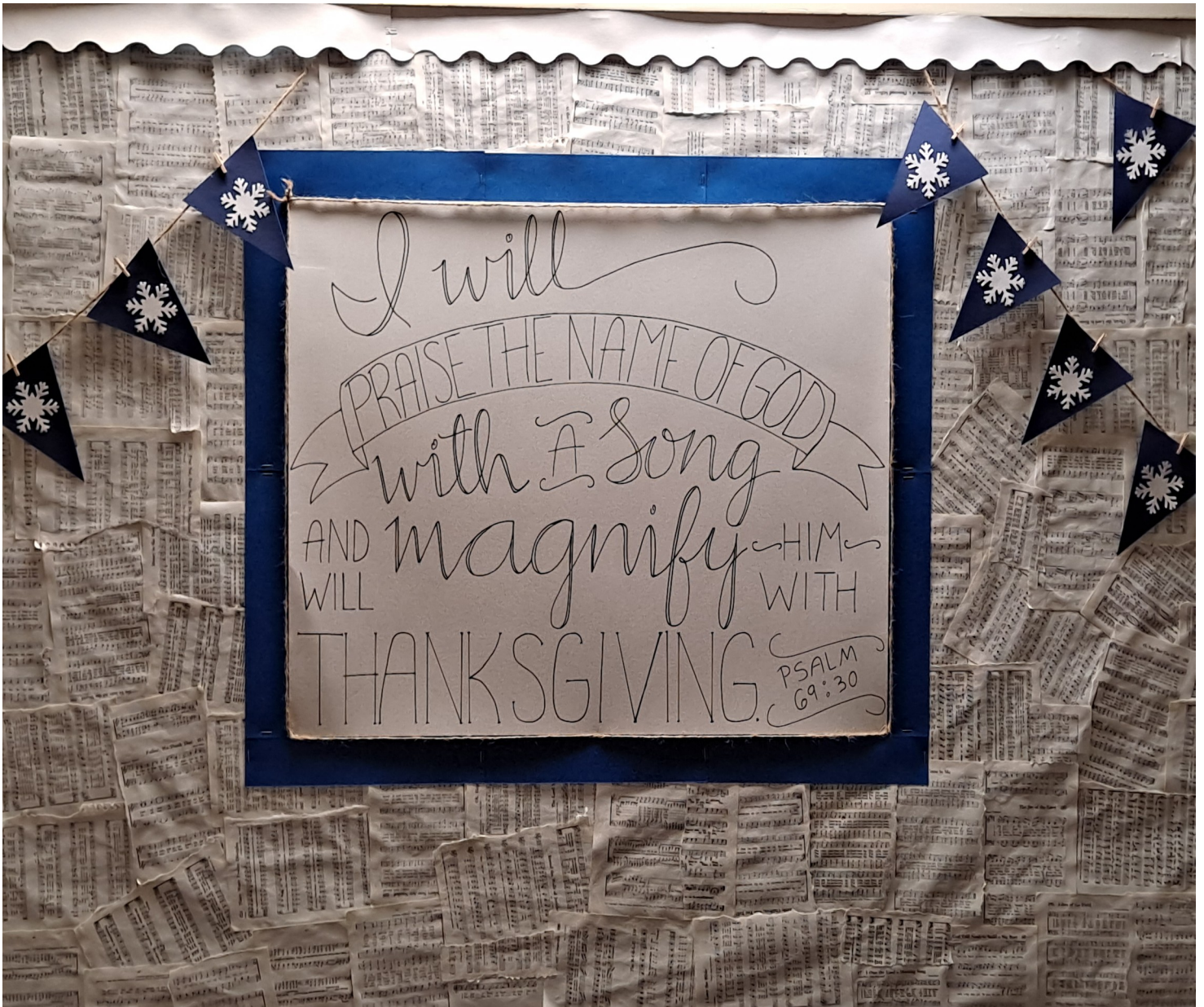


Devotionals for your Lenten Journey

Daycare News

After reopening in June, the daycare was blessed to have no COVID cases among the staff until December. At that time the center was closed for thorough cleaning and quarantine per PA Department of Health guidelines for all child-care facilities. After re-opening just before Christmas, two weeks later another staff member tested positive and we had to close once again. But, in the midst of these challenging and uncertain times we continue to be blessed, as the families of our children have been extremely understanding and supportive. When the fears and frustrations that surround COVID surround us, we look to the powerful words of Psalm 91, placing our trust in God's promises, and pray protection over the children He has placed in our care.

Below and on the next page are three pictures. The first is the inspiring bulletin board found at the bottom of the basement stairs. Anita Hostetler, who works part-time as a teacher's aide used over 150 pages of hymns taken from an old hymnal, to cover the board. It is a reminder that this is not just a daycare, but a Christian daycare, where the teachers and staff provide a foundation for each child's faith, teaching them about the Bible, through word, song and prayer. The second and third come from the bulletin board in the infant room, done by teacher, Lisa Colpetzer. Each month she showcases the babies in her room in creative and entertaining ways. We are always anxious to see what she has planned next. Look close, and you may recognize something familiar about the little fellow beside the Christmas tree and on the sled at the top of the hill. He is William "Liam" Kauffman, son of Sabrina (Boring) and Ben Kauffman.





FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

February 7

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Jami Zook

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

February 14

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Denise Chester

Lay Reader : Ed Bilich

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

February 21

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Carol Fultz

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

February 28

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Joy Byler

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Sandra Metz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Jami Zook , February 7
Sue Lynch, February 14

Bulletin Delivery ~ Randy Harshbarger






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

February

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am Worship	1	2  Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6
7 Holy Communion	8	9	10	11 6:30pm Council Meeting	12 	13
14 	15 Property Committee Meeting	16  ★ Presidents' Day ★	17 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	18	19	20
21 Holy Communion	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Congreg. Meeting following worship						

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Nov. 12, 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, Ed Bilich, John Boring, Carol Fultz, Denise Chester, Michelle Harshbarger, Joy Byler, and Jami Zook.

President Fultz called the meeting to order. Pastor Ela led us with prayer. This was a virtual meeting

Approval of Minutes - Motion was made to accept the Oct. 08, 2020 council minutes with the correction, Joy Byler did not lead a CPR class for the Day Care. That line will be stricken from the October minutes. Motion was made by Ed Bilich and second by John Boring. Motion carried.

Financial Report -

St John's financial report was presented by Ed Bilich. Motion to approve was made by Jami Zook and second by John Boring. Motion carried.

St. John's Day Care financial report was presented. Motion to approve by Michelle Harshbarger and second by Joy Byler. Motion carried.

Proposed 2021 Budgets -

Discussion was heard on the 2021 proposed budget. Changes; increase to include the proposed organist salary and Music and Worship committee expenses being increased to \$800. Motion to approved proposed budget was made by Michelle Harshbarger and second by Jami Zook. Motion carried.

Pastor Ela mentioned that with the generous donation by Gladys Mahady we should consider putting a line item in our budget for Outreach ministries. In recent years we have not had the

funds to contribute to a greater mission outside of our church. Michelle and Mike Harshbarger also had the same thoughts and suggested half the interest earned from the Mahady funds once invested. This was tabled until the Finance Committee has a chance to come back to the council with their recommendation for investment etc.

The proposed budget for St. John's Day Care was presented. Motion to approve proposed budget was made by Joy Byler and second by Denise Chester. Motion carried.

Old Business-

Pastor Ela reviewed with council the organist's contract that will be extended to Susie Yoo for approval. There are several revisions to be made, fees for weddings and funerals, and clearances verified. Pastor Ela, and the Music and Worship committee recommend \$10400. annually with 2 weeks paid vacation. Joy Byler made a motion to accept the contract and Denise Chester second. Motion carried.

New Business-

President Fultz suggested we have a sign in front of the church welcoming people to join our parking lot services. Pastor Ela thought we could also offer bulletins and communion. We would have them park out back in order to see how many are there and cut down on the traffic noise. A motion was made by Michelle Harshbarger for Ed Bilich to purchase signs at Kish Printing, spending \$100. or less. Joy Byler second the motion. Motion carried

Pastor Ela reported that the Synod is allowing leniency for all church related meetings, voting and so forth due to COVID. After discussion, John Boring made a motion to hold our December 13th congregational meeting but to hold off on voting until the Feb. 14th 2021 meeting. Joy Byler second the motion. Motion carried.

It was suggested we have a back up plan for our Christmas Eve service. Michelle Harshbarger suggested that we hold the service in the parking lot, have a shorter service with caroling in the parking lot. Council will meet Sunday Dec 6th, after church, to make a decision. Also, it was decided that we have the church order 24 poinsettias, then offer them to members for a donation. Those that don't sell, we can distribute to shut ins. No decision was made on ordering gift bags for the children that may attend the service.

The question was then asked if we should shut the church down. It was decided that we can safely social distance, and other precautionary measures have been working well. Those

members that do not feel comfortable in the sanctuary can join us from the parking lot.
Starting this Sunday we will ask members to wear masks throughout the entire service.

The 2021 volunteer schedules will be printed monthly in the Newsletter, rather than yearly, due to the small amount of members attending services. Please consider serving if you are not already.

There was an unanimous motion to end the meeting. All second the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor Ela ended the meeting with prayer.

Next regular council meeting will be held Dec. 10, at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Zook, secretary

St. John's Lutheran Church

Minutes of the December 10, 2020 Council 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, community, and the world.

St. John's church council met on Thursday, December 10, 2020 in the sanctuary of the church (due to COVID social distancing). Present were: Pastor Ela Robertson, President Carol Fultz, Ed Bilich, John Boring, Deb French, Sue Lynch, Joy Byler, Michelle Harshbarger. Absent were Jami Zook & Denise Chester.

The meeting was called to order. Pastor Ela provided devotions and prayer. The minutes were presented from the November 12, 2020 ZOOM meeting. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Sue Lynch and seconded by Michelle Harshbarger. Motion carried.

The Financial report was presented by Ed Bilich, Treasurer. Ed pointed out a few items of importance. A motion to accept the church financial report was made by John Boring and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried.

The Daycare financial report was presented by Ed Bilich, Treasurer. A motion to accept the financial report for the daycare was made by Michelle Harshbarger and seconded by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

Pastor's report – Pastor Ela had her report typed out and gave everyone a copy. You will find this report as a separate attachment to the minutes. In addition to the report provided, Pastor Ela elaborated on the possible radio service option (if it comes to that again), that the radio station is offering it at \$300 per month, which is \$100 less than before. Pastor Ela also mentioned the Discretionary Fund and asked if there was anyone who would benefit from help from this fund, and to let her know if there is anyone in need.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery, Long Range, Property, and Christian Ed Committees had no reports.

Music and Worship - Worked on Susie Yoo's contract and will have it for Susie on Sunday (12/13/20). Pastor Ela is encouraging Reba Harmon to help lead worship while doing parking lot service, as she does a great job. Also, Pastor Ela is requesting people to suggest their favorite Christmas carols.

Day Care – the day care committee met on 12/9/20. Lisa Lingle (the day care director) requested a meeting concerning some of the parents taking their children out of daycare temporarily for various reasons and wanting their spots to be held. It is in the contract that you must pay the full amount of tuition even if they can't come at times for various reasons. Now that the pandemic is among us, there are parents who may be laid off at work and can be home with their children, but want their spot held and can't afford the full tuition. It was decided that we would charge a base rate of \$200 for one child and if there are any other siblings it would be an additional \$50 per sibling until January 13th (when school is to reopen from the COVID shut down). When it gets closer time, we will re-evaluate this in the event school doesn't reopen. While in the daycare meeting on 12/9, the daycare director was contacted that one of the employees is COVID positive, and there are already a few other employees who were off due to exposure. It was then decided that we cannot effectively run the daycare with the shortage of teachers, so we made the decision to close the daycare until 12/21/20 and employees that haven't already been tested, will be tested for COVID. The week of 12/14 the employees that tested negative will then go in and sanitize the center. There are NO children at the center with COVID to date.

Finance – Ed Bilich, Treasurer, discussed the Mahady bequest. The finance committee is working on placing the Mahady moneys in various investments, checking accounts, etc. and will be finalizing this very soon. Also, Ed has been looking in to the telephone/internet bills and trying to find ways to save money and get a better internet package. A motion was made by John Boring and seconded by Joy Byler to give Ed permission to make the decision on a good package. Motion carried.

Old Business –

Services: It was decided to have only parking lot services through the end of the year due to the rising COVID counts. We will then re-visit this and decide where to go at that point.

We still need at least one name for the new 2021 church council in order to meet the minimum requirements.

Carol Fultz thanked Ed Bilich for heading up the signs for the parking lot service. It's much appreciated.

Pastor Ela would still like to continue looking into making policies for COVID and church safety.

New Business –

The 2021 church calendars and offering envelopes will be ready next week. It was discussed how to get these to members, since they normally come to church for them. It was decided that the shepherds would deliver them to their shepherd list.

There was discussion on the Christmas Eve offering. The Siennick family from Juniata County, is a family who had a tragedy in January of this year, when the mother of six children was in bed, and her then boyfriend stabbed her to death, leaving behind 6 children. Juniata Valley Bank has an account set up for this family. Michelle Harshbarger made a motion and Sue Lynch seconded the motion to direct the Christmas Eve offering for this family.

Carol asked about altar flowers during our parking lot services. Do we want to cancel our altar flowers during parking lot service, as long as we contact the people who have signed up for them to make sure it's ok with them? It was decided to go forward and cancel them after contacting the people each week.

There was a discussion of the Christmas Eve service and how we may want to approach it this year since it will be in the parking lot.

With there being no further business, the meeting was properly adjourned. The next monthly meeting of church council will be Thursday, January 14, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Byler, Fill-in secretary