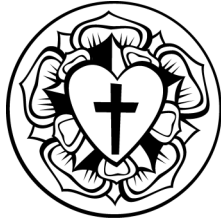


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

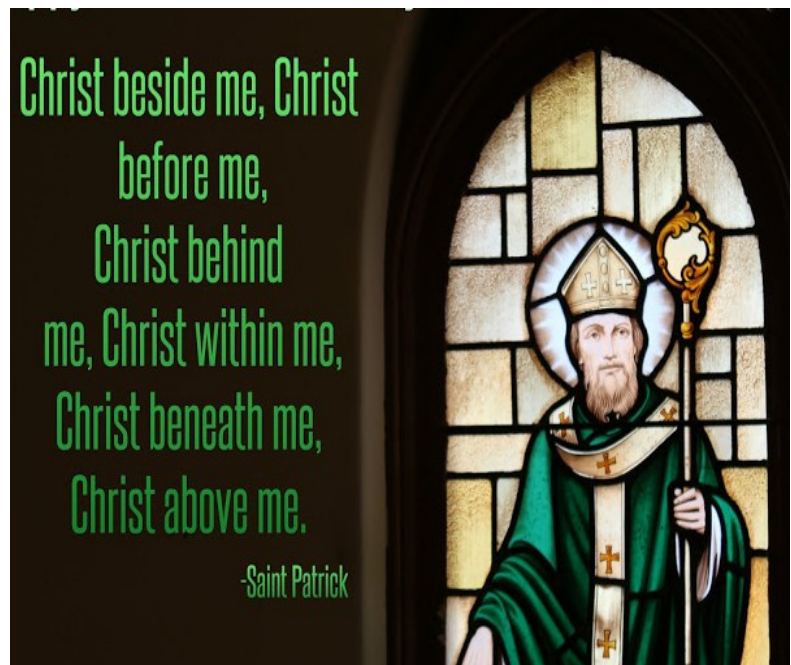
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

MARCH 2021



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 secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org
Website ~ stjohnsbelleville.org





Hanging on the wall in my office at St. John's is a reproduction of the painting "The Last Supper" with a signature in the left corner "J. Chester 1962." The original "Last Supper" is a mural painted by Leonardo da Vinci for a church and convent in Milan in approximately 1495. Even after 500 years it is one of the world's most recognizable paintings and frequently reproduced.

I called Edna to chat and get a little more information about the painting. She told me her husband John had loved to paint by number. This is one he obviously spent a great deal of time on.

As I looked at it, I could imagine each stroke of the brush and choice of color, the great focus and care it would have taken John to recreate in detail this event in Christ's life.

What a great Lenten or spiritual practice! Intentionally taking time to dwell in the gospel story of Christ's journey to the cross is something we can do by reading the Bible or devotionals or focusing on these stories as depicted in hymns or visual art.

This week as I was thinking about our congregational meeting coming up, I looked up at the painting and saw it as a meeting too. The most poignant message in the painting in terms of the church, of course, is that Christ is at the center, hands extended out to the disciples on both sides.

"The Last Supper" is meant to depict a particular moment of the event as told in John 13 verses 21 and 22:
*21 After saying this Jesus was troubled in spirit, and declared, "Very truly, I tell you, one of you will betray me."
 22 The disciples looked at one another; uncertain of whom he was speaking."*

Some of the disciples and their words are identified in the verses that follow. The painting helps us imagine how the rest of them may have reacted in that moment.

I noticed the gestures, the hands and posture of each disciple, each one different: one pointing to heaven, one in a gesture of alarm, the figure on the left standing on his tip toes with his hands firmly on the table as if to say - 'Wait a minute!' Everyone seems to be talking at once. We see the diversity of their characters from Judas firmly clinging his bag of coins to another seeming to offer patience and wisdom and all of this, all of this, with Christ at the center.

If there was a cartoon bubble above each of the disciples, what words would you say each of their gestures depict? Which of the figures do you most identify with? What would you be saying to them?

Take some time with this and pray this Lenten prayer: *Forgiving Lord, Even among your chosen disciples one betrayed you. Help me to acknowledge the ways I betray you too. Lead us to be your church as we follow in your footsteps these 40 days. Amen*

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

[As a bonus see if you can name each of the disciples numbered 1-12 left to right. Answer below.]

Bartholomew, James the Minor, Andrew, Peter, Judas, John - Jesus - Thomas, James Major, Philip, Matthew, Thaddeus, Simon.

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 secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org

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 2/24/2021
\$ 21,305.08

February 11 through February 24, 2021

Income \$ 31,441.82 Expense \$ 23,954.05
Net Income \$ 7,487.77

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 2/24/2021
\$ 19,520.25

February 1 through February 24, 2021

Income \$ 21,481.20 Expense \$ 34,462.05
Net Income \$ -12,980.85



Begins
Sunday, March 14

Our worship service followed by the congregational meeting will be held Sunday, February 28 in the **fellowship hall**.

Fresh fruit, pastries and beverages will be served. **ANYONE** who is not comfortable coming into the building can attend **worship and the meeting** in the back parking lot. Council is working on the details, but you will be included in the total needed (30) for a quorum.

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.

PLEASE ATTEND IF YOU CAN!

We are continuing to schedule volunteers to help with the Sunday morning duties on a monthly basis. Needed are persons to help greet, lay read, deliver bulletins/CD's and altar flowers (beginning in April) for March, April and beyond.

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



Reminder ~ We **will not** use altar flowers during Lent (through Palm Sunday).

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.

The church's email address has changed. Please begin using secretary@stjohnsbelleveille.org when contacting the church office.



The double doors at the back of the church are no longer accessible with a key. Council requested the daycare have another coded lock installed. The same 4 digit codes used to enter the double doors by the restrooms have been programmed to work at the back door, as well. Daycare families can only enter the church with their personal codes during daycare hours 6am to 6pm Monday–Friday. The code is removed for any family whose child is no longer attending. Members who use the church's code can enter at any time.

Synod Assembly Volunteer ~ Anne Harshbarger has eagerly agreed to be one of our representatives for Synod Assembly which will be held by Zoom in June. We need one more representative! If you have internet you will be able to participate from your home. Please let Carol, Kelly or Pastor Ela know if you are interested



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

There are still a few Lenten devotionals available in the narthex. *A Season of Grace* is large print, and is written by Seniors for Seniors. *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.

Please contact the church office or your good shepherd if you would like to have one/both mailed to you.

JESUS
DIDN'T SAY,
"I AM FINISHED."
HE SAID,
"IT IS FINISHED."
HE WAS JUST
GETTING
STARTED.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

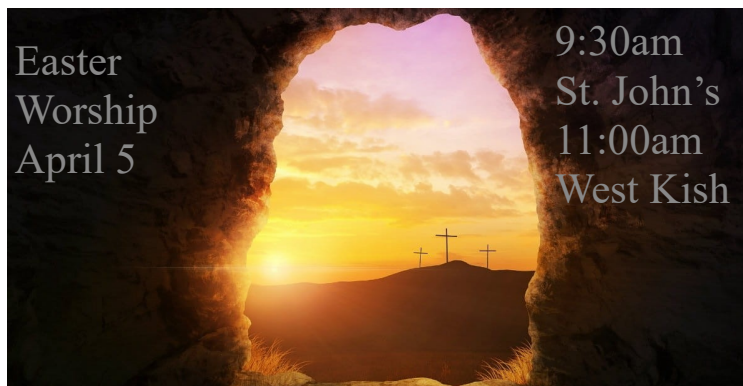
*Palm Sunday
The Passion of Our Lord
March 28 ~ 9:30am*



**Good Friday Tenebrae
April 2 ~ 7:00pm
at West Kish**



Maundy
THURSDAY WORSHIP
7:00pm ~ April 1
at St. John's



Easter
Worship
April 5

9:30am
St. John's
11:00am
West Kish

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

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

Daycare News

The Daycare is holding another calendar raffle fundraiser. Businesses and individuals have graciously donated cash, gift cards, nice quality items and certificates for services, which will be given away to a lucky winner each day in April. The cost of the calendar is \$10.00, and they will be available to purchase by the middle of this month. If you have something which can be included in the raffle, please contact Carol Fultz (935-0140) by Friday, March 5.

Summer is only a few months away, and so is the annual yard sale. If you are doing some cleaning out, we will gladly take your unwanted items. Anything in clean, usable condition, including furniture is always appreciated. Please feel free to place your items on the stage. **NO CLOTHING OR TELEVISIONS PLEASE! Your junk is another persons treasure!!!!**

Below are pictures used on recent bulletin boards done by Lisa Colpetzer of the little ones in the infant room. Who wouldn't want to vote for one of these President's!



CAMP MT. LUTHER

Anne Harshbarger has been hired in a new position at Camp Mount Luther for the summer - Camper - Family Liason. She is also our official "Camperson." Did you know that you do not have to be a kid to go to camp? There are special programs for adults and opportunities for individual retreats. If you want to introduce a young person to camp with out attending the whole week there are day camper opportunities too.

Anne writes:

"Thank you for the prayers and your support of Mount Luther.

Anyone can contact me at home (717-935-2453) or by email harshbargeranne13@gmail.com if they want to talk about camp or camp events. If someone wants to send a kid, grand kid, or themselves to camp, I have camel bucks for them to spend at the camp store! There are two brochures in the narthex and they can be found online at campmountluther.org.

And here are some **important dates** as well:

Early **Registration** Deadline: April 15, 2021 (\$25 discount)

Work Day: May 22, 2021

Practice stewardship through service at camp at Camp Mount Luther at the Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 22, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! Please bring supplies to do cleaning, mulching, raking, and light construction projects such as step ladders, buckets, rakes, etc. A light lunch will be served. RSVP by May 17 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587.



Upper Susquehanna Synod News

Bishop's Open Golf Classic: May 10, 2021

Camp Mount Luther's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors and golfers. Congregations are also encouraged to become hole sponsors. If you can help, please contact the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. The cost to sponsor a hole is \$125.00. Cost for an individual golfer is \$125 (includes golf, cart and lunch).

MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 7

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

March 14

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader : **Volunteer Needed**

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

March 21

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: John Chester

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

March 28 ~ Palm Sunday

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: Volunteer Needed

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Joy Byler and Susan Keller

Altar Flower Delivery ~ No flower delivery needed during Lent

Bulletin Delivery ~ Jim Buchanan





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

March

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Holy Communion	8	9	10	11 6:30pm Council Meeting	12	13 Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday set clocks ahead 1 hour
14 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  BEGINS	15 Property Committee Meeting	16	17 	18	19	20 
21 Holy Communion	22	23	24 Newsletter Info/Articles Due	25	26	27
28  PALM SUNDAY	29	30	31	Looking Ahead Thursday, April 1 ~ 7:00pm Maundy Thursday worship at St. John's Friday, April 2 ~ 7pm Good Friday Tenebrae at West Kish April 4 ~ 9:30am Easter worship service		



There is no set price, anyone wishing to place a flower(s), is asked to make a donation and a variety will be purchased to decorate the church.

An insert with the names of the persons placing them, along with those they are in honor/memory of will be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 5th.

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

**Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Sunday, March 28**

St. John's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting

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.

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

The monthly meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church council was held on Thursday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m in the sanctuary.

Present: Pastor Ela Robertson, President Carol Fultz, Ed Bilich, John Boring, Joy Byler, Denise Chester, Sue Lynch, Jami Zook.

Absent: Deb French, Michele Harshbarger

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions:

- Pastor Ela read scripture from 2 Corinthians, Chapter 5 and followed it up with a message and prayer.

Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes of the December 10, 2020 meeting were presented and accepted without any changes.
- Motion to approve was given by Sue Lynch and 2nd by Denise Chester.

Vote for council officers for 2021:

- After discussion, the following list of officers for 2021 was presented for council approval:
 - President – Carol Fultz
 - Vice President – Denise Chester
 - Secretary – Joy Byler
 - Treasurer – Ed Bilich
- Motion to approve the officers was given by John Boring and 2nd by Jami Zook

Financial Reports:

- Ed Bilich presented the financial report St. John's
 - Motion to approve was given by Joy Byler and 2nd by Jami Zook
- Ed Bilich presented the financial report for the Daycare
 - Motion to approve was given by Joy Byler and 2nd by Denise Chester

Pastor's report:

- Pastor Ela went over the report she handed out (attached to the minutes). Notable items were:
 - **Item 3** – Ed Bilich suggested putting a brochure and newsletter in each of the daycare mailboxes and creating a place for the brochures and future newsletters somewhere downstairs where parents may be encouraged to pick one up and take home.

- **Item 8.6** – Denise Chester was asked if she would talk to John Chester about writing up safety procedures for the church regarding a violent act/acts occurring during worship services or other activities at the church. She said she would talk to him and get back to us with his response.
- **Item 10** – Pastor Ela is looking at the possibility of taking some vacation at the end of January. She has not yet confirmed a supply pastor for when she is gone.

Committee Reports:

- **Cemetery** – Denise reported there was 1 traditional burial and 1 cremation in 2020.
- **Long Range** – Joy – No report
- **Property** – Deb – No report
- **Music & Worship** – Denise
 - Reba has been our congregational song leader over the past few weeks and will be continuing.
 - Susie Yoo has signed the organist contract.
 - Carolyn Connor donated her keyboard for Susie to practice on
- **Social Ministry** – Sue
 - Valentines Day – making up candy packages for shut-ins. Hoping to get daycare to help create cards.
- **Day Care** – Carol
 - Daycare will be opening back up this coming Monday, January 18 after quarantining from a teacher being exposed to COVID-19. They have thoroughly cleaned and disinfected everything.
- **Finance** – Ed
 - Distributed a spreadsheet showing the church investments and a recommendation on how to split up the Gladys Mahady Endowment money (\$290,421.47).
 - Thrivent - \$100,000 (long term investment and \$50,421.47 (short term investment).
 - Vanguard - \$100,000 in the Wellesley Income Fund and \$40,000 in the Wellington Fund.
 - Talked about the meeting some council members had with our Thrivent Rep. Peter Krum and distributed a paper Peter gave us with his recommendation for investing \$50,000
 - \$12,500 in each of these 4 funds; Diversified Income Plus, Opportunity Income Plus, Fixed Income – High Yield, and Fixed Income – Income
 - Peter is advising initially putting the \$100,421.47 into a money market account where he will then contact us about moving it into other investments as the market stabilizes.
 - After discussion, council decided to take \$10,000 of the \$100,000 originally targeted for the Wellesley Income Fund and putting it into the Emergency Fund account giving us an Emergency Account amount of \$14,503.91
 - Ed said the authorized signatures for our investment funds need to be updated as they have not been revised in years. After discussion, it was decided to give signature authority to the council officers.
 - Motion to approve was given by Sue Lynch and 2nd by Joy Byler
- **Safety** – Carol
 - After discussion, council decided to amend our COVID safety procedure saying members are to keep their masks on for the entire service. This will also be printed in the bulletin.
- **Staff Support** – Carol & Sue
 - Met with Pastor Ela. They reported the meeting went very well and was productive
 - They are now making plans to meet with Kelly and Susie.
 - They talked to the Daycare staff about keeping their masks on when they go upstairs.
- **Christian Ed** – No report

Old Business:

- **Alter Flowers** – Several Sundays were not signed up for but council members personally filled the vacant spots.
- **Parking Lot Service**
 - Need box for money envelopes and communion cups
 - Carol talked about making up a message board that would also include the radio station # 102.3 FM
 - Mount everything to railing at the steps going down to the kitchen
- **Code Lock Back Door**
 - Need to find out who installs it and contact them. The Daycare will be paying for the lock.
- **New Council Members**
 - We are to have a minimum of 8 members on council. We currently only have 7. A discussion centered on possible people to ask.
- **Congregational Meeting**
 - The Congregational meeting will be held on February 28.
- **Christmas Eve Service evaluation**
 - Instead of some snow, we got rained on. That forced the men to move inside.
 - It was wonderful to hear the combined men's group from West Kish and St. John's sing.
 - Christmas tree and poinsettias were set up in fellowship hall.
 - 37 people attended

New Business:

- **Side door by the coat room**
 - There has been an issue with the side door leading into the coat room not being locked at all times. We need to get this corrected as it results in a security issue both for the church and the Daycare. Anyone unlocking the door to come into the building should immediately hold the door open and relock it.
- **Sign-ups for Duties**
 - Carol went through the list of church duties that were currently without having someone assigned. Various council members volunteered and all duties now have been assigned.
- **Good Shepherd's List Update**
 - The list was re-allocated to council members as follows:
 - Ruth Baker thru Jonathon Chester --- John Boring – (Changed to Deb French after the meeting)
 - John Chester thru Gary Fultz --- Denise Chester
 - Ronald Fultz thru Samuel Hassinger --- Carol Fultz
 - Gwen Hornberger thru Robert Metz Jr. --- Joy Byler
 - Ralph Murphy thru Richard Shilling --- Sue Lynch
 - Smith thru Steven Wagner --- Ed Bilich
 - Rex Warner thru Wyland --- Jami Zook
 - Council members were reminded to ask their people if they will do duties
- **Committee reports** need to be turned in to Kelly by Jan. 26.
- **Parking Lot Paving Estimate**
 - Carol reported that the estimate to pave the remainder of the parking lot is \$39,400.
- **Communion**
 - Pastor will be using a small amount of wine and a wafer at the altar on communion Sundays. The congregation will be using a pre-packaged cup of juice with a wafer packaged separately on top.
- **Update phone no. & email contact list**
 - Members indicated the information on the contact list for current members is still the same. Hopefully we will have one more council member to be added to the list

- **Sound system**
 - Ed reported that the microphone at the pulpit is giving a high pitch sound as if it is picking up a back feed or something. This needs looked into for resolution.
- **Live Streaming our church services**
 - Ed has been looking into the possibility of live streaming our services to get costs for implementing it.
 - It will take manpower to make this happen and that would have to be addressed before anything is purchased.

With there being no further business, the meeting was properly adjourned at 8:27

- Motion to adjourn was given by John Boring and 2nd by Jami Zook

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Bilich, Fill-in secretary