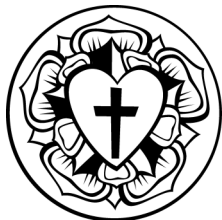


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

APRIL 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



MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

In our faith, good things come in 3's. The Trinity is one and the 'Triduum' or 'Three Days' leading to Easter is another. We praise the Trinity for all creatures and creation, the grace of salvation, and our comfort and inspiration. The Triduum reflects these aspects of the Trinity by focusing on Christ's last three days incarnate on Earth. It is actually one service in three parts: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil or Easter. Beginning with Palm Sunday, attending all these services of Holy Week allows us to focus on particular aspects of how we celebrate and worship God as we prepare ourselves to serve.



Maundy Thursday we relive Christ's last Passover feast with his disciples taking communion in disciple groups of 12. We will receive a tiny basin of water to remember Christ's servanthood to the world and will hear the words of the New Commandment as if for the first time: "love one another as I have loved you." Lisa Griffith will sing "Oh Love" by Elaine Hagenberg accompanied by Susi and Pastor Ela,

Good Friday we solemnly mourn the world's sins, Christ's suffering, betrayal and death and as the altar is "stripped," experience the empty darkness of a world without Jesus. Special music will be the *Via Dolorosa* or the *Way of Sadness*, a solo by Lisa, with John Haubrick and Pastor on cello.

Palm Sunday and Easter we proclaim Christ with palms, flowers, children's and men's choirs and the celebrative songs and hymns of the Easter Season. Safety precautions will continue to be in place with social distancing and masks worn during the service. Enjoying the services from the parking lot is also an option and recordings will be made available for those who can not attend.

Let's look forward to sustaining and concluding our Lenten journey with each of these Holy Week and Triduum services. Don't think we missed Lent and Easter last year though! Do you remember all those bell ringers, cross installers and decorators, bulletin and flower deliverers, curbside church visits, Good Shepherd calls, joint church radio programs, and Easter dinner deliveries ?!! All of this proclaimed Hosanna!, Hallelujah!, Christ is Alive!, Christ is risen indeed! and all helped sustain us through 2020.

Thanks be to everyone! Thanks be to God.
Rev. Ela J. Robertson

On Sunday evening March 14 *Hope Lives*, a concert by the National Lutheran Choir and a gospel choir from Chicago, the Keith Hampton Singers, was internet streamed live in the sanctuary and viewed on the big screen. Though there were only a handful attending, those of us there enjoyed joining in with choir members from across the country each singing from their home and assembled digitally as they offered songs of comfort, praise, lament and joy at this one year marker of the pandemic.

Just being in the sanctuary at that time of evening in itself is a treat. The low sun coming through the stain glass windows at that time of day is resplendent, revealing colors and textures and glimmering light I had never seen before.

The evening was also a successful trial run for using the screen and internet for other events in the future, perhaps a video-based Bible Study or a movie night followed by discussion as suggested by our Council before the Covid shut-down. This may be something to look forward to as we cautiously move towards being able to gather in fellowship, study and worship more closely and frequently in the coming months.



Do you remember last Easter?
Cross, corona crown and ribbon
at the closed front door of St.
John's Easter 2020.

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 3/24/2021
\$ 25,382.96

March 1 through 24, 2021
Income \$ 41,663.04* Expense \$ 32,203.09
Net Income \$ 9,459.95

*St. John's received \$5,000.00 gift from the
Diddy Cleck Estate

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 3/24/2021
\$ 23,286.11

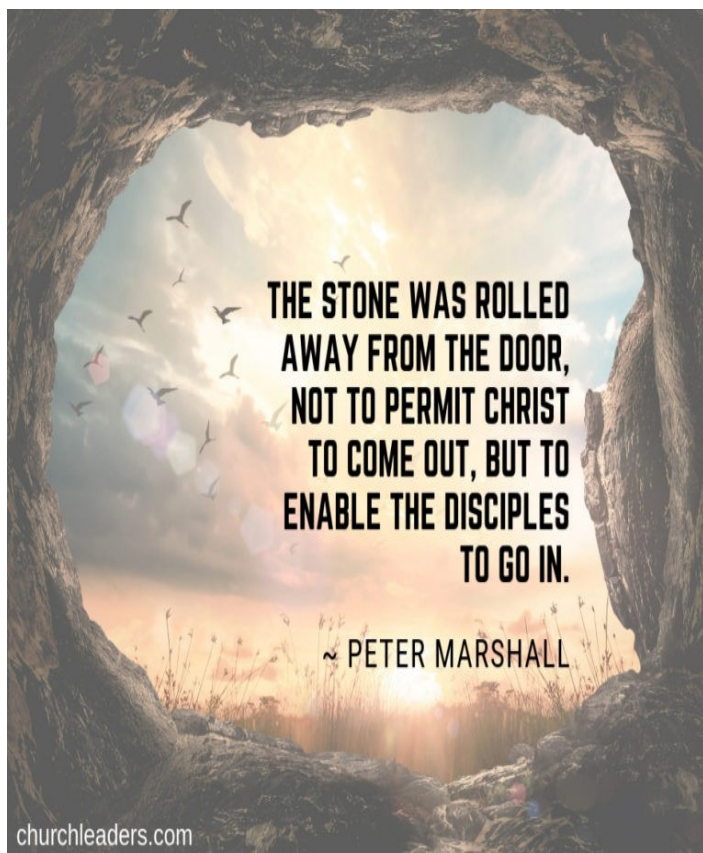
March 1 through 24, 2021
Income \$ 49,675.45 Expense \$ 60,886.98
Net Income \$ -11,211.53

Committee and Sunday morning duty sign-up sheets are available in the narthex. After a year of few or no meetings we are looking to get back to doing the work of the church. Council will review the committee lists and assign council reps at their April meeting.

We continue scheduling 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 in May and June.

Please prayerfully consider serving the church in one of these ways. Jesus came to serve and we serve God by following His example. The giving of your time is another form of tithing.

*God does not want you
to serve only because
you are supposed to...
He wants you to serve
because you love him.*



The daycare is holding a *raffle calendar* fundraiser. Cost is \$10. You have a chance to win a very nice selection of cash, gift cards and prizes, during the month of April. A description/pictures of the donated items are included on each calendar. All of the prizes were donated by local businesses and members of our community. The daily drawings are being posted on the daycare Facebook page, and winners will be contacted by phone.

If you would like to purchase one, please see a member of the Daycare Committee (Joy Byler, Deb French, Carol Fultz or Michele Harshbarger) following the worship service. They can also be picked up at the church office.

Summer is only a few months away, and so is the annual yard sale. Tentative dates are Tuesday, July 6 and Wednesday, July 7. 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!!!!

Mission support is often thought of as something that happens in other countries, but opportunities to help others are all around us. Council is looking for ways St. John's can reach out and offer support both financially, and through acts of service locally in our own community, and they need your help. If you know of an organization or ministry which would benefit from this outreach, please contact a council member, the pastor or church office.

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Hebrews 13:16 NIV

We are cautiously beginning to relax some of the safety precautions, which were being observed this past year for the safety of those attending worship services.

- ◇ Members/visitors can once again enter and leave the church through any of the doors.
- ◇ Hymnals have been returned to the pews and will be used for the hymns, instead of being printed in the bulletins.
- ◇ Either staircase can be used to go up into and come down from the sanctuary.
- ◇ Offering plates will now be placed on the **front and back pews on both sides.**
- ◇ Greeters no longer need to stand behind the table to hand out bulletins.

This year's Lenten offering is being directed to the Discretionary Fund. You will find an envelope included in your offering for March 7.

BMS 56th Annual Auction May 28 & 29, 2021

The Annual Auction has been scheduled for the end of May, when most activities can more readily be held outdoors. Friday's activities will include a Chicken Bar-b-que dinner, Silent Auction, Live music, a preview of auction items, fellowship and more! Saturday begins with Breakfast served from 6:30-8:30am and will include the Merchandise & Certificate Auction starting at 8:30, Kid's Activities, Baked Goods, Food and a special 75th Anniversary Quilt. Plan now to join us!

St. John's has Meals on Wheels the second and third week in May. The following desserts are needed. A sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex for anyone who can help provide any.

Tuesday, May 11 ~ Fruit Salad 5 quart and 5 dozen Cookies (any kind, not too small please)

Thursday, May 13 ~ 5 Angel Food Cakes

(can be purchased locally at White Hall Store or Peight's)

Tuesday, May 18 ~ 4 9x12 pans of Lemon Lush, Graham Cracker Pudding or Cherry Delight

Thursday, May 20 ~ Donations to purchase pies (see Sue Lynch/church office)

Reminder ~ Please be sure to have your dessert at the Community Hall by 9:00am the day it is needed.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

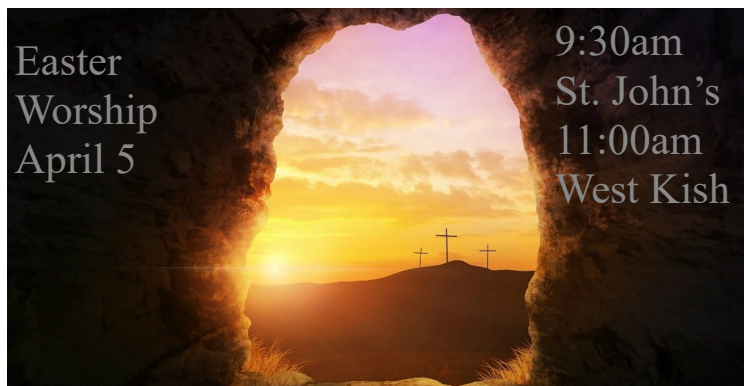
*Palm Sunday
The Passion of Our Lord
March 28 ~ 9:30am*



**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

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.

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

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

Spring Open House ~ May 2

New and former campers, family, and friends are invited to the Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House on Sunday, May 2, 2021, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. to enjoy a nice spring day at camp. Come see what it is like to be a camper, tour our facilities, ask questions, and participate in fun "camp" activities. If you are a returning camper, consider bringing a friend who has never been to camp. Want to get a taste of camp before the summer season? This event is perfect for new campers who are a little apprehensive about leaving home for the first time. First time campers who attend can get a coupon for a discount on their summer registration!

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).

APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 4 ~ Easter

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Jami Zook and Chelsea Reed

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

April 11

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Anne Harshbarger

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

April 18

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Sharon Dancy

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

April 25

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Joy Byler

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Carol Fultz

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.



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



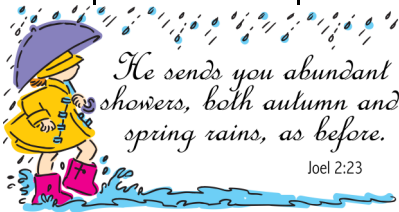

Given by

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

April

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am Worship				1 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship at St. John's	2 DC and Church Office Closed 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae at West Kish	3
4 Holy Communion 	5	6	7	8 6:30pm Council Meeting	9	10
11	12 	13	14	15 Camp Mt. Luther Early Registration Deadline	16	17
18 Holy Communion	19 Property Committee Meeting	20	21 Newsletter Info/Articles Due	22	23 	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

St. John's Lutheran Church

Minutes of the February 9, 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, February 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

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

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Joy Byler provided devotions.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of the January 14, 2021 meeting was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were presented. A motion to accept the St. John's financial report was made by Sue Lynch and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried. St. John's Daycare financial report was presented. A motion to accept the report was made by Deb French and seconded by Denise Chester. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Ela expressed her appreciation to the people who help with worship (song leaders, lay readers, etc.)
- February 14th is Transfiguration Sunday and Camp Mount Luther Sunday. Annie Harshbarger will have a presentation on Camp Mount Luther and the loose offering (and any other designated donations) will go for Camp Mount Luther.
- Lenten Services – Ash Wednesday service at St. John's and Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil at West Kish. Volunteers needed for the service at St. John's.
- Council members will be installed at the worship service on February 28th.
- CD's are being made each Sunday for shut ins...Pastor Ela puts a reflection on Facebook approximately once per month. The pastors husband Bill videos sermons each Sunday to be put on the website.
- Mission: Had discussion on missions, whether being local or global. The ELCA is doing food box deliveries, Pastor Ela will try and get more information on that project.
- Pastor Ela stated she had good connections with members before her vacation and has plans to continue that with communion after February 14th.
- Would like if the good shepherds could provide "uplift calls" to their list of members. Try to remain positive. Ralph Murphy is willing to help reach out to people, as he has had Stephen Ministry training in the past.
- Goals were briefly discussed for 2021 for the council...nothing was really decided.
- Policies need to be followed through and updated.
- Pastor had multiple meetings recently by zoom (ELCA, Synod, Conference, Presbytery).
- Big Valley Ministerium has not met due to the pandemic, but stay in contact via Email.
- Pastor Ela enjoyed her vacation time off.

Committee Reports:

- **Cemetery** – Denise - none

- **Long Range** – Joy - none
- **Property** – Deb - none
- **Music & Worship** – Denise - none
- **Social Ministry** – Sue – working on valentines for shut in's.
- **Day Care** – Carol – Praying the day care can remain open. We have had a couple of times that we had to shut down daycare. Report from day care director is attached to this report.
- **Finance** – Ed - none
- **Safety** – Carol – re-did the COVID safety procedures for church.
- **Staff Support** – Carol & Sue – meeting with Kelly in the next week. Already met with Pastor Ela and will plan on meeting with the organist in the future.

Old Business:

- Valley Lock and Key has all hardware for the new lock on the back door. He will be here on February 19th to install it.
- Church duties availability will be sent out with the congregational meeting packet so members can start helping out.
- Newsletters/Brochures are being put in the daycare mailboxes for families of students. Ed suggested putting some brochures downstairs for any daycare family members that are interested.
- Safety Plan – Denise Chester spoke to John Chester about this. John's not sure what information to provide for that.
- Procedure for cancelling church will also go out in the congregational packet.
- Council member – Need one more council member. If anyone is willing, please let a council member know.
- A voting member is needed for synod assembly. It will be a virtual zoom meeting.
- Investments – Ed noted that all the Gladys Mahady money was distributed as we discussed in January meeting.
- Parking Lot boxes – There is a box being made for the parking lot to put the offering and communion cups on.
- Live Streaming – Tabled for now, because our internet speed isn't fast enough to livestream. We have also decided not to switch the internet service to ZITO due to some concerns.

New Business:

- Newsletters back in church mail boxes. Can be mailed if requested.
- A summary from the survey that we sent out in October will be mailed out with our congregational packet for congregation to see.
- There will be refreshments for Congregational meeting on February 28th and it will be held in the Fellowship Hall.
- Council Installation date: February 28th during worship.
- Handicap toilet is having issues with clogging frequently. It was decided to tell Kelly to call either Lyle Yoder or Richard Yoder.
- The Belleville Fire Company would like to use church for elevator safety class on February 27th and 28th. Denise made a motion to allow the fire company to use the church and Ed Bilich seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Discussion was made concerning the voting membership....it is likely we would not have the amount needed to have a quorum at the congregational meeting. A motion was made by Ed Bilich and seconded by Jami Zook to bring to the congregation that we take the average of the Sunday attendance for the previous 12 months and take 2/3, or whatever percentage we decide is best, of that total to change the total needed for an allowable quorum.
- We are also having issues acquiring enough people to be on council. We will address this at the congregational meeting to change Chapter 12 Congregational Council, C12.01 to "The voting membership of the congregation council shall consist of the pastor(s) and not more than 12 and a minimum of 6 members of the congregation."

- The 2021 budget includes a line item for the Gladys Mahady Fund – Projects \$5,000. These monies were included in the budget to complete the project of repairing the steps at the end of the Fellowship Hall. Property committee and council are targeting this project for 2021 upon budget approval of the line item.
- We should add the completion of the paving project to the agenda for the congregational meeting.
- The property committee would like to replace ceiling lights in the church with LED lighting. Their plan was to proceed with replacing a certain number of lights each quarter until the project is complete. A motion was made by Ed Bilich to allow property committee to replace lights on a quarterly basis..not to exceed \$2,000 per quarter. Deb French seconded the motion. Motion carried
- Song leaders are needed to help each Sunday.....please contact the pastor if you feel the need to help.
- Ed Bilich brought up a concern about the daycare using the Sunday school room at the bottom of the steps. They were told they could use it if they kept it in a fashion where the church could have evening meetings if needed....he just wants to make sure that is in place. Carol advised she would talk with the daycare director.
-

A motion was made by Sue Lynch and seconded by Deb French to adjourn.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Byler, Secretary