

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

SEPTEMBER 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:

Even if we haven't been enrolled in school in over 30 years the rhythm of 'back to school' seems to stay with us. September or late August is a time we think about new clothes, meeting new friends, and meeting the challenge of learning something new. Often a little fear and anxiety is mixed with the excitement of what the new year will bring. This is a time to support young people, teachers and administrators as they return to school and a time for all of us to think about what we want to learn. How do we want to grow as individuals, as disciples of Christ, as the church in the coming year. How will we do this?

In August I took two weeks off for retreat, study and denominational service. For me retreat means a time for silence and reflection, alone and with others. Aptly, I spent the week with conservative 'Friends' whose form of worship involves group silence and waiting on the Spirit to speak reflections on the way of Jesus. 6:30AM Bible study was held in a similar way. A group gathered at sunrise on the porch of the Meeting House in expectant silence. Only the leafing of pages of the Bibles at hand could be heard until someone would speak verses they felt prompted to share. No commentary, anecdotes, interpretations would follow; just the sense of the group turning their minds and hearts together to those words and a generous time for this until the next scripture would be lifted. In both the Bible study and the Meeting for Worship, in the silence between sharing's, was a sense that the group had received from the Holy Spirit a special gift that had spoken to and strengthened each one of us. It was similar to communion in that way.

My second week was spent preparing for a concert on Aug 12 focused on spiritual songs and interpreting a classical sonata by Brahms in light of the opening words of Genesis. In the Brahms I looked for those phrases that express Christ's tender mercy and also tried to imagine Genesis 1 - the contrast between the smoky roiling deep void and the emerging sweet and piercing light, the contrast between chaos and order as the seas were separated by land and God's creation took form.

The titles of the songs that were performed that evening communicate what we may find when we engage with God: *Deep River*, *The Prayer*, *Oh Love that Will Not Let me Go*, *His Eye is on the Sparrow*, *The Lord is My Light*. Lisa Griffith and Patty Loudenslager brought these experiences emotionally alive, the cello providing an undercurrent. The concert will in the next month be digitally optimized and made available on our church, presbytery and synod websites for all to enjoy. If you don't have computer access we can arrange a visit and I will personally bring the concert to you on my ipad or perhaps we can arrange a viewing on the big screen at St. Johns.

Thank you to all who helped lead and facilitate worship during the month of August: Pastor Rosalie Smith, Ed Bilich, our Gideon friends and all the lay readers, greeters, altar preparers, communion helpers and offering counters. Thank you also to Joe Kanagy for sharing his faith journey and mission experience in Liberia and to all those who have signed up to partner with their schools by sponsoring a Liberian student. Sometimes we think we don't have much to say or that there is little we can do but a little sharing of our spiritual life and giving in support of others may have an impact greater than we know. We thank God for the engagement of the members of this church in the work of Jesus Christ.

God be with you in the coming months of learning and growing in our faith.

Pastor Ela

Pastor's Office Hours - St. John's

Pastor's hours flex to facilitate the needs of the two churches, to address pastoral needs and to participate in church, ecumenical and denominational meetings and trainings. That given the pastor will plan to be in the office:

10 - 12:30 Monday and Wednesday at St. Johns,

10 - 12:30 Tues and Thursday at West Kish.

Variations that are known in advance are usually announced in the bulletin and/or posted on the Pastor's office door.

The pastor is often in the office many more hours than this so feel free to call to make an appointment by calling the church or the pastor's cell.

Rev. Robertson may be contacted at:

717 935-2032 St. John's Lutheran Church

717 935-2337 West Kish Pres; Joy relays messages to Pastor.

740 338-7123 Cell phone, text/voice mail. Please be patient with our intermittent Big Valley reception!



Quilt Ministry ~

We got an email from a representative of the quilting group at Reedsville Evangelical Lutheran who would like to have one or two of them come and share what they are doing and see what our group is doing. I talked to 5 of the knotters after church on a Sunday who thought that would be nice. I think it would be a good mutual exchange. They would try to arrange to come for one of their September or October meetings 1st and 3rd Thursday 9:30AM. We will give you an update when we have a date set.

ELCA USS Synod News ~

Gathering for Congregation Leaders from Mifflin County **with Bishop Collins** is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 12 6:30 PM** at Evangelical Lutheran in Reedsville.

This is a wonderful opportunity for our Council and other church leaders and leaders of other churches to have a time of sharing and prayer with the Bishop. Let Pastor Ela know if you are interested in participating.

Camp Mount Luther ~

Camp Mt. Luther completed a successful 2021 return to in person camp with virtual camp experiences also made available. Check out their website or talk to Anne Harshbarger for an update. ———



Upper Susquehanna Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

August 13, 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After eighteen months, I didn't think I would be writing letters like this again. And, if you are one who prefers not to read a letter at length, here is the short version:
Been there!

Done that!
You know what needs to be done!
Be safe!

We have all enjoyed easing up on restrictions, getting back together in one form or another, and planning for when COVID is behind us. COVID + humans has not brought us to the end of that equation ... yet. I am back to watching the daily reports, the counting of cases and deaths, as well as the predictions for what is ahead. Not where I wanted to be at the end of another summer. But I remain hopeful because we know what works to stay ahead of this virus.

Yesterday, I received word from the Chair of our Conference of Bishops that our Fall, in-person meeting is now back to being a meeting online. It is simply not smart to gather us from all fifty states and beyond. As I look to my own Fall schedule, I will need to take into consideration what is safe for me to do and what is not. When out and about, I will be wearing my mask, I will not be singing, and I will be doing my best to keep at safe distances. I will do this to not only help protect my six family members who remain vulnerable, but for all of you and your families and your communities.

And so, eighteen months later I repeat my strong recommendations. Keep watch on your community and be aware of the virus' impact. Take care of those still vulnerable and put "back" into place what keeps this virus at bay. And be safe, not just for yourself and your family, but be safe for the sake of your neighbors, your community, and for the "other."

Shalom
Bishop Barb Collins

United as Christ's Disciples, we Support one another; and Serve God in the World

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 8/24/2021
\$ 16,812.67

July 1 through August 24, 2021

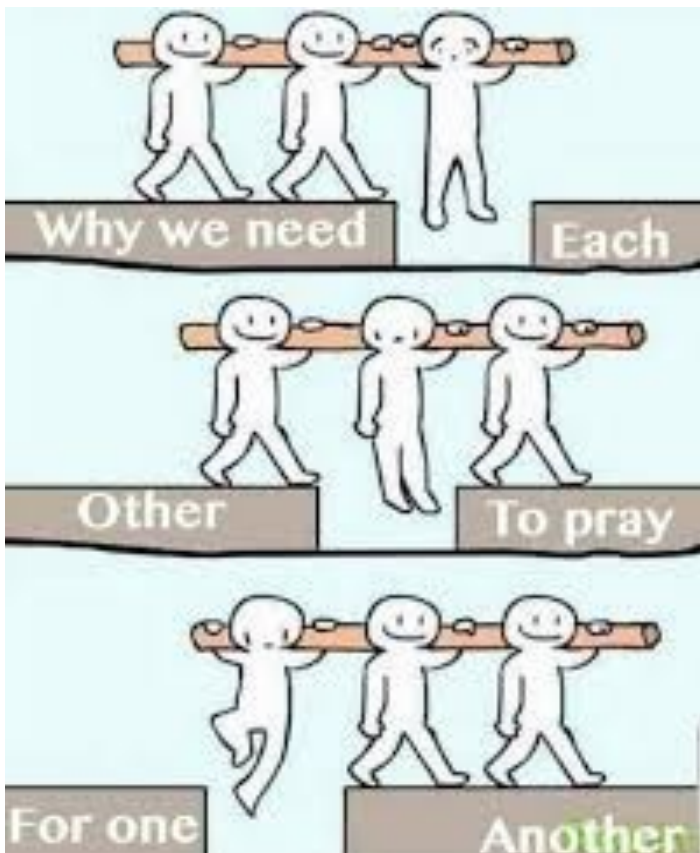
Income \$ 106,021.29 Expense \$ 102,181.84
Net Income \$ 3,839.45

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 8/24/2021
\$ 48,293.08

July 1 through August 24, 2021

Income \$ 203,665.30 Expense \$ 187,922.83
Net Income \$ 15,742.47



After taking a break for the summer, council will resume meeting on Thursday, September 9. **PLEASE NOTE** ~ since council did not meet, the June minutes have not been reviewed and approved. They will be included in the October newsletter.

Periodically, the ELCA, Synods and churches make changes to the constitution, with each congregation being responsible for keeping theirs updated.

St. John's council has spent a portion of the monthly meetings this year reviewing ELCA/Synod amendments, along with the proposed revisions presented at the February congregational meeting. In the next few months, they will do the same with our church bylaws. Upon completion, active members will receive a copy to review before the December congregational meeting.

The council would like to thank Ed Bilich for the time and work he has put into this project.

There are three council members whose terms will expire at the end of this year. Please prayerfully consider serving the church in this way.

Comfort Knotters

After almost a year, St. John's Knotters will be gathering together again on Thursday, September 2 at 9:30am in the blue room.

We pray they will be able to continue their mission of providing comforts to the lives of those who do not have a lot of things that are comforting.

Blanket Sunday is October 3. Envelopes will be included in the September 26 bulletin and placed in the narthex. A selection from their finished comforts will be displayed throughout the church.

Your donation to support this ministry, can be made through Sunday, October 10th.



Daycare News

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's yard sale by donating items, and/or coming to browse and buy. We made over \$1,600.00!

Preschool begins on Monday, August 30 and we are blessed with two classes this year. Pre-K Counts which provides free preschool based on income guidelines and funded through the state, along with the tuition paid classroom. Alicia Hartzler will be teaching Pre-K again this year, and Joy Garland has been hired for the other classroom. She taught at the Reedsville Lutheran preschool for 5 years, before they closed this year. Joy lives in Shawnee Hills with her husband, Chris and children. She is looking forward to continue with her love of teaching...closer to home.

Property Committee

Several projects are currently being worked on or are scheduled to begin soon ~

Belleville Heating and Cooling has been working on replacing the fluorescent lights throughout the church with LED fixtures. To date, 36 have been installed between the basement and main floor. The library, coat room beside the narthex, and hallway to the F.H. are scheduled to be done in September.

The wall leading down the outside steps at the back of the F.H. was in need of repair. Keystone Builders recently knocked down and replaced it with new block.

Tate's is scheduled to pave the back parking lot on Monday, August 30.

Answers

Answers to prayers come in various ways, sometimes in minutes, sometimes in days.

And some take years to fully unfold the harvest of love and blessings they hold.

Answers to prayers come in various forms, sometimes in sunlight, sometimes through storms.

Some blossom early, and some blossom late, but each one will flower — have faith and wait!



St. John's has Meals on Wheels September 14, 16, 21 and 23. There is a sign-up in the narthex for desserts, along with monetary donations to purchase pies. Money can be given to Sue Lynch, or dropped off at the church office.

Tuesday, September 14 ~ 5 9x12 pans of Apple Crisp

Tuesday, September 21 ~ 5 Pound Cakes

(Make your own, or purchase ready made from local grocery store bakeries)

Thursday, September 23 ~ Donations to purchase pies

(Please give to Sue Lynch or drop off at the church office)

The Heritage Center in Belleville will observe Museum Day on Saturday, September 18, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM featuring antique farm equipment, being demonstrated outdoors.

A new issue of *The Lutheran Message* (**not the ELCA publication *Living Lutheran***) can be found in the narthex. It is provided at no cost to Lutheran churches and is not affiliated with any particular synod. Their purpose is to provide inspirational and uplifting articles, most of which have been written and submitted by members of other Lutheran churches. Please feel free to pick up a copy for yourself, or someone else who you feel may enjoy one.

The church also subscribes to the ELCA monthly publication, *Living Lutheran*. Copies can be found in the narthex, along with the Upper Room (available in large and regular print), Christ in our Home, and Word in Season devotionals.

Calvary Bible Church will be presenting "Joy, Love, Grow" featuring Tammy Whitehurst on Thursday, Sept. 30. A catered meal will be served at 5:45 and the session begins at 6:45. Meal tickets are \$15. Call to purchase a meal ticket and/or register for the session. (Phone numbers are on the bulletin board). Enjoy an evening together and celebrate laughter, experience joy and hear about the love of Jesus.

Thank you to those persons who continue to help with the Sunday morning duties. We are in need of volunteers for the following in September.

Greeter(s) ~ September 19

Lay Reader ~ September 5, 12, 26

Altar Flower Delivery

If you can help in any way, please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office.

Locust Grove Mennonite Church

3358 W. Main Street

717-935-2164

Single Parent Family Ministry

DC (Divorce Care) for adults and DC4K are support groups which meet weekly for 13 weeks, to help adults and children recover from the pain of separation and divorce. Participants experience a warm, caring environment led by people who care and want to help attendees find healing and wholeness in the midst of their circumstances. The next DC and DC4K groups kick off in Mifflin County on Monday, September 20, 2021, in two locations including New Life Church in Burnham and Locust Grove Church in Belleville. For more information or to register at New Life Church call or text 717-250-6852. For information or to register at Locust Grove Church call or text 717-437-4946. DC4K groups are limited to 8-10 children.

Single Moms Care and Support Group ~ Are you a Single Mom? If so, consider this your invitation to join us at the Mifflin County Single Moms Care & Support group. We will meet the 2nd and 4th Friday evenings from 6:30-8PM at New Life Church Café, 101 Beech Street, Burnham, PA from September 10, 2021 – May 27, 2022. We are not a "professional group" or a therapy group. We are a support group by and for Single Moms. Dinner is served from 6:30 PM – 7 PM for mothers and children. Child care runs from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM while mothers meet in a group. If you are a Single Mom – divorced, never-married, widowed, grand-single-parenting – come on! For more information call or text Ann at 717-437-4946. (Childcare provided).

Raystown Country's Gospel Music Celebration

~ COMING ~



McKamey Legacy

**The Werner
Family Band**



Saturday, August 28, 2021

**FREE
Admission**

6:00 p.m.

**Free
Will
Offering.**

Allensville Vol. Fire Co.

**162 Main Street
Allensville, PA 17002**

Fire Co. will be serving food at 5:00 pm

Bring your lawn chair.

Sponsored by Area Businesses

For more information, Call: (814) 643-0536

SEPTEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

September 5

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Carolyn Conner

Lay Reader: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

September 12

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Bob and Susan Keller

Lay Reader: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

September 19

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

September 26

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Carol Fultz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

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

September

2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|--|--|-----|
| 9:30am Worship | | | 1 | 2 9:30am Comfort Knotting resumes | 3  | 4 |
| 5 Holy Communion | 6 Daycare and Church Office Closed | 7  | 8 | 9 6:30pm Council Meeting | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 St. John's has Meals on Wheels | 15 | 16 9:30am Comfort Knotting St. John's has Meals on Wheels | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Holy Communion | 20 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting | 21 St. John's has Meals on Wheels | 22  | 23 St. John's has Meals on Wheels | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27  | 28 | 29 | 30 | Looking Ahead October 3 ~ Blanket Sunday October 31 ~ Reformation Sunday | |