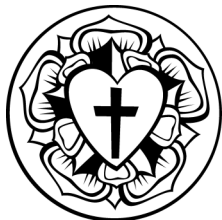


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

OCTOBER 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:

*Fires, earthquakes, volcanoes' !
Century record breaking heat, drought, floods !
Inflammations, poison ivy, insect born diseases !
Fungi, bacteria, viruses !*

These are not just harbingers of calamity in the Old Testament but everyone of them, events and present threats in our world, country, community just in the last few years, months, and weeks. In addition to everything listed above many are dealing with cancer, heart, lung and organ ailments; muscular, skeletal and systemic weaknesses. Is anyone crying "Enough already!" Are we on overload? Have we heard so much, had so much, we just can't take anymore? Do we just want to zone out on our favorite news or social media streams but close off to Christ streaming into our lives? Perhaps, but as ever I find people in our church respond by reaching out to others with food, comfort and comforters, fellowship, worship and prayer.

As Christ came to earth to experience all that humans suffer, we are called to open our eyes, open our ears, open our minds to the realities that people all over the world are suffering in the wake of these challenges. We are called to participate with God in extending comfort, aid and compassion. And that includes compassion for ourselves. Are we reluctant to ask for prayer or ask for help when it seems others are so much worse off?

Let us not compare our needs to others but open our hearts to the global scale of our shared needs and challenges. Let us be strengthened by knowing the family of Christ extends to our brothers and sisters around the world. Our October 3, World Communion Sunday invites us to celebrate God, our church and the world Church with a big 'C'. Let's gather there to open our hearts in prayers of hope for our world and comfort for those experiencing tragedy.

God's grace with you,
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!

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.

ELCA NEWS:

One of the many resources from the ELCA is list of prayers for each day of the month. In recognition of our dependence on God they respond to recent disasters, and relief efforts and seek pathways to justice and renewal. The prayers for October are included below with a few select prayers from previous months. Keep these by your bed, breakfast nook or reading table. When you look at that list above don't despair, be in prayer.

ELCA: PRAYER VENTURES

Give thanks for the mysteries of creation and the universe that stir our wonder, inspiration, gratitude and desire to explore. Praise God!

Pray for forgiveness when our words, writing and online posts cause hurt or offense or wound the spirits of others. Ask the Spirit to help us think through our intentions and what we want to say so that our words will reflect the love, forgiveness and encouragement that God has shown toward us.

FOR OCTOBER 2021

1 Remember in prayer countries or regions where there is conflict, civil unrest or violence, especially Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar and the Middle East. Pray that God will protect and care for people who endure conflict; have been displaced from their homes and nations; suffer loss, despair, persecution or trauma; and long for peace, healing and stability. Give thanks for the work we do together through Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA Witness in Society, ELCA World Hunger and our partner organizations.

2 Continue praying for people and communities impacted by recent hurricanes, flooding, severe weather and wildfires, and for those working to recover from natural disasters. Pray that all will find comfort, strength and hope in God's loving presence and in the response and support of caring neighbors, faith communities, disaster response volunteers, Lutheran Disaster Response, and the global community of siblings in Christ.

3 Give thanks for the teachings of Jesus that clarify God's desire for us to value, respect and accept people of all ages, genders and circumstances.

4 *Feast of Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)* Pray that we will greet each day with a sense of awe, gratitude and respect for creation, for the organisms and creatures that inhabit the earth, for our pets, and for humanity in all its diversity and complexity — the handiwork of God entrusted to our care and love.

5 Praise God for the gift of Jesus Christ — the Son of God, born as one of us and the “exact imprint of God's very being” (Hebrews 1:3) — who fulfills the promise of God's love and mercy and assures us of our salvation.

6 Pray for ELCA congregations and our work together to serve our neighbor, share the story of Jesus, create vibrant communities of faith and reflect the radiant light of God's love, grace and justice in the world.

7 Pray for congregational leaders, laypeople and health care professionals participating in the Addiction & Faith Conference (“Awakening Faith Communities to Address Addiction”) in Bloomington, Minn., that they will be inspired and further equipped to care for people who struggle with addiction, as well as their loved ones.

8 We should be humbled to know that God has crowned us with glory and honor, especially given how insignificant we seem in the vastness of God’s creation. Give praise and thanks to God!

9 Pray for the planning team of the 2022 Multicultural Youth Leadership Event, which precedes the ELCA Youth Gathering and focuses on youth of color. Ask God to nurture an inclusive, Spirit-inspired community, that we might celebrate our cultures together in the church, embodying equity, diversity, mutuality and oneness in Christ.

10 Pray that the Word of God, example of Jesus and work of the Spirit will inspire, equip and guide us to be service-minded disciples bearing faith, hope, justice, peace and love into the world.

11 Give thanks for the bounty of autumn and the people who tend crops and orchards that nourish and sustain us. Pray that we will work together year-round in our communities to help our food-insecure neighbors find convenient, consistent, affordable sources of healthy food.

12 God, we ask you to teach us to appreciate life and see each day as an opportunity to do God’s work in the world — serving our neighbor, sharing our faith and expressing our gratitude for God’s steadfast love and compassion.

13 Pray for soldiers serving in places of conflict, returning home from deployment or recovering from injuries or trauma. Give thanks for the people who attend to their well-being and daily needs, especially chaplains serving in the U.S. military and in Veterans Affairs hospitals, and congregation members providing care and support for soldiers and their families.

14 Nothing is hidden from God, who knows our every thought, intention, desire and need. Give thanks for Jesus, the Son of God, who lived in the world with us and reassures us that, in every circumstance, God is approachable, full of grace, mercy and understanding.

15 Give thanks for women today and throughout church history who have served as reformers and leaders, helping ground our church, institutions and ministries in the good news of Jesus Christ and the work God calls us to do in the world.

16 Pray that the Spirit will strengthen our wisdom and skills that we might better steward our oceans, which influence weather, provide bountiful food, facilitate global trade and travel, and renew us with their beauty and power, reflecting God’s creative might.

17 Pray that, as siblings in Christ, we will encourage and assist one another in being diligent, empathetic and humble as we serve our neighbor throughout our baptismal journeys.

18 Pray that during this lingering pandemic the Spirit will guide us to show patience, exercise flexibility and care for our neighbor’s physical and spiritual well-being, and that it will inspire in us a spirit of sacrificial love and concern for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

19 Pray for our elders, who strengthen our congregations and ministries with their experience, wisdom and passion for doing God’s work in the world. Ask the Spirit to stir our creativity in reaching out to and engaging with elders who are homebound or in assisted-living facilities or senior communities.

20 Give thanks that in Christ we have a loving, patient teacher and a clear example of how to care for our neighbors in need and pursue justice, equity and healing in the world.

21 Give thanks that we can trust in God — our refuge, strength and hope in every circumstance.

22 Pray for the ELCA Innovation Lab, created to help our church respond to the opportunities and challenges of introducing more people to God's grace in an ever-changing, increasingly complex world.

23 Praise God that our salvation doesn't depend on who we are or what we do but comes to us as a gift of God's love and forgiveness through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

24 Pray that our faith in Jesus Christ will reassure us that God's grace, mercy and compassion can be trusted and that only God can truly transform us and make us whole.

25 Pray for the work and ministries of our global companions during this time when we cannot accompany them in person. Give thanks that the Spirit continues to strengthen our relationships as siblings in Christ through prayer, technology, generosity, advocacy and shared resources.

26 Give thanks for our siblings in Christ who write hymns and songs that reflect on our faith, Scripture and God's work in the world, helping us express our daily joys, sorrows and concerns.

27 The year-round outdoor ministries and retreat centers of our church provide opportunities for spiritual growth and renewal, leadership development and ministry with youth. Pray that they will flourish as they recover from and adapt to the impact of the lingering pandemic.

28 Praise God for the wisdom and intent of creating a wonderfully diverse humankind and world. Pray that we will respond with awe, respect and joyful thanksgiving.

29 "The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced" (Psalm 126:3). Give joy, praise and thanksgiving to God!

30 Pray for our neighbors who are, in increasing numbers, homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. Give thanks for communities of faith that respond with food, shelter, clothing, social services and health care, and that work diligently to end homelessness.

31 *Reformation Day* The impact of Martin Luther and other reformers has special significance for the global community of Lutheran Christians. Give thanks that we are set free by the grace and light of God to grow, change, confess our flaws and failings, and ground our church anew in the word and truth of God in Jesus Christ.



On Sept 16, St. Johns Knotters and the quilters from Evangelical Lutheran, Reedsville gathered together to share tips and techniques and encourage each other in their shared mission quilting comforters for ELCA distribution around the world. What a joy to have so many hands and hearts working together on these beautiful patchwork coverlets. They in turn will bring joy to many who have lost homes and belongings through natural catastrophes, economic challenges and political upheaval in the last year. Thank you to all for your care and service.



The Tuesday Meals on Wheels crew indoctrinate Pastor Ela to the well oiled collaborative process of preparing and delivering close to 50 meals to appreciative mobility-restricted friends and neighbors. The meal that day featured, home made pound cake and pumpkin bread (Joy Byler and Sandy Metz), home baked dinner rolls, homemade apple sauce and ham and beans (Georgianna and Jim Buchanan). Prep and delivery crews include: Sue Lynch, Brenda and John Boring, Kelly and Calvin Byler Linda and Paul Byler, Jami Zook, Molly Hummel, Carol and Jane Fultz, Randy Harshbarger and Ed Buchanan.

Caring for our neighbors? Feeding the hungry? Christ did it - we do it too.

Thank you to all who make a difference in people's lives and lift their spirits by sharing the love of Christ in this way!



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 9/22/2021
\$ 14,976.12

January 1 through September 22, 2021

Income \$ 159,675.36 Expense \$ 158,352.83
Net Income \$ 1,322.53

*Per council, \$44,000.00 was transferred from the Thrivent Money Market to cover the back parking lot paving (\$39,400) and repair of the block wall at the back of the F.H. (\$5,575).

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 9/22/2021
\$ 45,976.22

January 1 through September 22, 2021

Income \$ 223,287.57 Expense \$ 210,145.55
Net Income \$ 13,142.02



From the Council

There have been concerns raised over the presence of individuals on church property, especially during daycare hours. Council is looking into placing signs in the parking and has also decided to keep the coded back and double doors locked on Sunday mornings. Anyone parking in the back lot will need to use the door code to enter the building. The front and side doors will be the only ones unlocked for Sunday and special worship services.

Reminder to all ~ Please remember to close and lock all windows and doors you may have opened in the church before leaving. Check to make sure all lights have been turned off. Thank you!

Council also agreed to resume the use of our hymnals instead of bulletins which included the entire service. Going forward, we will print two of the full service bulletins for visitors, along with several regular bulletins/celebrates in large print for any members who have need of them.

The Parking lot service has been discontinued for now, but the radio broadcast is still available by tuning to 102.3FM in the parking lot or within close vicinity of the church.

There are three council members whose terms will expire at the end of this year. We currently have 7 people serving and according to the Constitution, council must consist of no less than 6. Please prayerfully consider helping to serve the church in this way.

St. John's Member Information Update

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number(s) _____

Email address _____

I would like to receive the newsletters by email _____

Over the past few years, some of our members may have moved, or made changes to their phone service resulting in new numbers/email addresses. We are asking each of you to **PLEASE** fill out the information above and return it by **Sunday, November 14.** It can be mailed, dropped off at the office or placed in the offering plate.

The updated information will be included in a mailing the end of November, which will consist of the December congregational meeting information, along with the December/January newsletter.

Thank you!!

If you do not wish to share your cell phone number/email address outside direct contact from the church office/pastor, please notate.

Comfort Knotters

Blanket Sunday is October 3. Since the service is being held outdoors, a selection of comforts which were lovingly pieced, sewn and knotted by our Knotters, will be displayed in the narthex and sanctuary on the 26th. Envelopes are being included in the bulletin and can be found in the narthex.

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

Due to Covid restrictions last year, St. John's comforts were not sent. Thank you to Ed and Marge Buchanan for volunteering to deliver them to the Synod office this year.



Daycare News

The daycare once again participated in the United Way Day of Caring. This year, 9 members from the Rotary Club spread a large truck load of mulch on the playground and painted the pavilions, along with one of the classrooms.

We are always so grateful for all the work they do each year...for the price of lunch from the White Hall Store.

~PLEASE NOTE~

~ The daycare **NO LONGER** collects the labels from cans of Campbell's soups. The company discontinued the program in 2018.

~ We **DO NOT** collect box tops for education, as preschools are not eligible.

~ The Giant has also discontinued their A+ Rewards program.

Thank you for supporting us while we were able to benefit from some of these programs!

Property Committee

The back parking lot has been paved along with repair of the block wall at the back of the F.H. LED light fixtures continue to be installed in the basement and on the main floor.

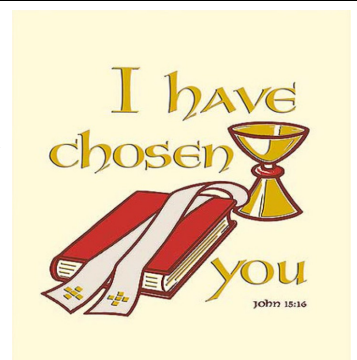
The next meeting will be at 6:30pm on Monday, October 18 in the library.



Mark your calendar ~

After being postponed last year, Reverend Rosalie Smith will now be celebrating the 31st anniversary of her ordination on Sunday, November 14 during the 9:30am worship service.

Bishop Collins is presiding over the service, and Reverend Laura Klick will preach. A reception is being held afterwards. More details will be included in upcoming bulletins and next month's newsletter.



Advent 2021

St. John's and West Kish ~ Expressions of Faith and Devotion



Advent begins on Sunday, November 28 and we are hoping to complete another devotional with help from West Kish. A sign-up sheet with scripture readings can be found in the narthex. Volunteers are needed to help write the meditations. **Submissions are due by Sunday, November 7...PLEASE.**

Take time to read the scripture and meditate on its meaning. You can tell a story that relates to the passage and end it with the point you would like to make. A short prayer can also be included. Most importantly, be yourself, and let it reflect what is in your heart.

The booklets will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 21. If you know of others who would enjoy having one to use as part of their daily devotions, please feel free to take for them.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the "Liberia Tuition Sponsorship Program". A total of 40 students were sponsored at an average of \$101.00 per student, for a total of \$4,030.00. Of those, 33 were sponsored by current and former members of St. John's totaling \$3,510.00, average of \$106/per student.

Your gift has helped to change the life of a child by providing them with an education and hope for a better life.



"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and hope." - Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)

The 2022 church birthday calendar will be completed in November. Any member who would like to add/remove persons to/from the calendar is asked to **PLEASE** contact the church office with the name(s) and birthdate(s) **by Sunday, November 7th.**

Reminder ~ only the names of active members, along with persons they have requested to add will be included on the calendar.

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

Lay Readers ~ October 24 and 31 Altar Care

Sheet for November/December will soon be available in the narthex. If you can help in any way, please sign-up or contact the church office.



Join the Belleville Mennonite School community for their annual Faith Promise Banquet on Friday, October 1 at 6:30 pm as they celebrate the Lord's faithfulness to the school over the past 76 years. The evening will feature a homemade dinner, alumni speakers Delmar Glick (class of 1963) and Rich Peachey (class of 1994). The dinner is free of charge, however an invitation to give to the Faith Promise Annual Fund, which supports the school's operating budget, will be presented. Please RSVP by calling the office, 717.935.2184.

The annual Crossroads Fundraising Banquet is being held on Tuesday, October 19 at Locust Grove mennonite Church. You have the option of attending the Brunch (10am) or Dinner (5pm) Program. Reservations can be made at CPCFORLIFE.ORG or by calling 814-643-3570 by October 12.



St. John's 10th Annual Holiday Gift Show

Friday, November 26, 2021

(9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

&

Saturday, November 27, 2021

It's hard to imagine, but the annual gift show is only 2 months away. This year's event will feature some new vendors along with many returning artists and craftsmen who have been a part of the show for several years. Due to Covid, changes had to be made last year. This year, the safety of the vendors and visitors will continue to be a priority, with some restrictions relaxed. The wearing of masks will be encouraged, but optional and in-person seating will be available along with take-out for all food being served.

Wreaths are once again being sold, and a sign-up for anyone wishing to pre-order will be placed in the narthex by Sunday, October 17. Donations of homemade soup, baked goods, candy and other treats is always appreciated. If you would like to help in this way, please sign-up in the narthex.

The show is designed to raise money for the Casey Marthouse Memorial Scholarship fund. A former teacher of the daycare, Casey displayed unconditional love for all children entrusted to her care. Casey was called home on November 29, 2008, and in 2009, this scholarship fund was established in her memory. This scholarship is used to help offset childcare costs for families in need at St. John's Daycare and Preschool. Booth rental fees, proceeds from the sale of the wreaths, all food, raffle prizes along with personal donations go directly into the fund.

We hope you will come to browse, buy, eat and visit.

Every year on the last Sunday in October, the Lutheran church celebrates “Reformation Sunday”. 2021 marks the 504th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church on Reformation Day, October 31st.



Why Does Reformation Sunday Matter?

1. Reformation Sunday gives us a chance to tell our story – a chance to remember.

Reformation Sunday is a day when we remember and re-tell the family stories of our faith. Stories about men and women who came before us and taught us about the faith. Stories about people who risked everything so that we would be able to gather and worship in the manner that we do.

2. Reformation Sunday reminds us of the most important things.

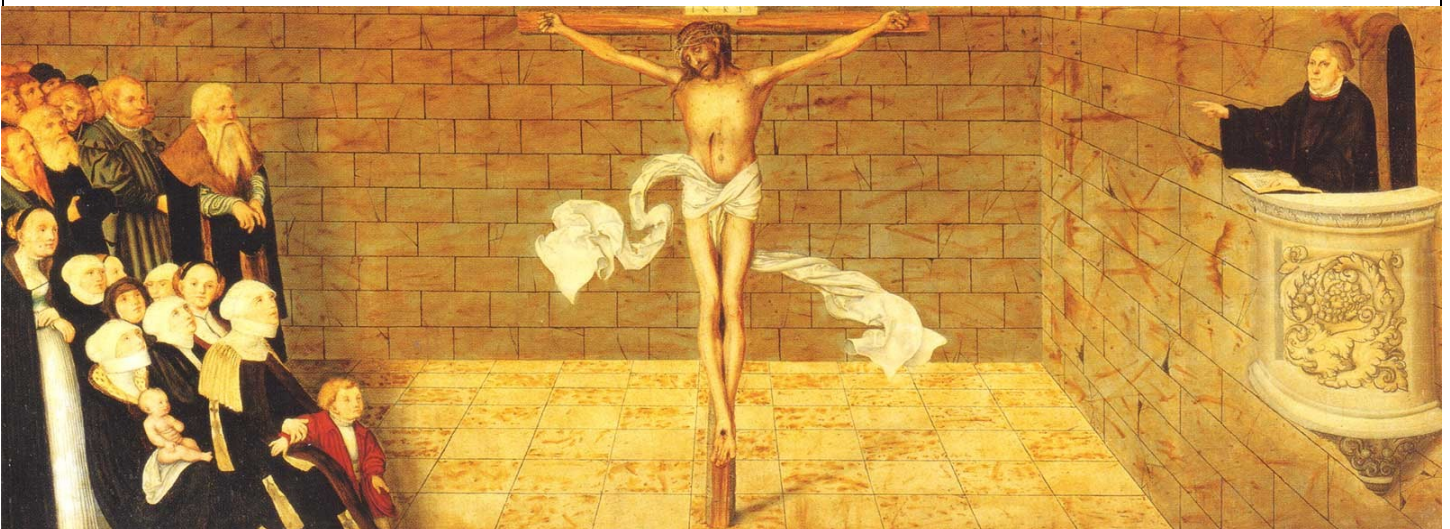
Throughout the year we preach about many things in church. About how we live our daily lives, the choices we make, the habits of our faith. On Reformation Sunday we are brought back to the most important thing – the thing that compelled Luther and others to risk their lives~ the core of our faith: *God loved us first, and God continues to shower us with grace and mercy.*

3. Reformation Sunday challenges us to do better.

Reformation Sunday inspires us to do better. We are called to be more loving and grace-filled, because God is gracious and merciful to us. We are called to repent of the times that we have placed barriers that have kept others from hearing the Good News. We are called to remember that all that we are, is a gift from God.

In the church in Wittenberg where Martin Luther preached, is this wonderful painting. In it Luther stands in the pulpit on the right hand side, and the people stand on the left. In between the people and the preacher is Christ on the cross. Reformation Sunday is a reminder that this is the bedrock of our faith – the grace and mercy given to us in Jesus Christ. Keeping the most important thing in the center of the picture is the only hope for our faith and for this community that we call “church.”

Happy Reformation Sunday!



OCTOBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

October 3

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

October 10

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Denise Chester

Lay Reader: Deb French

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

October 17

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Ed Bilich

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

October 24

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

October 31 ~ Reformation Sunday

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Sue Lynch

Lay Reader: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Money Counters: Mike Boring and Jami Zook

Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Carol Fultz

Bulletin Delivery ~ Georgianna 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

October

2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am Worship	Looking Ahead Sunday, November 7 ~ All Saints/Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 14 ~ Rosalie Ordination Celebration Friday/Saturday, November 26 & 27 ~ Holiday Gift Show Sunday, November 28 ~ Advent Begins				1	2
3 Outdoor Worship Service World Communion and Blanket Sunday	4	5	6	7 9:30am Comfort Knotting	8 	9
10	11 Columbus Day 	12 6:30pm Gathering for Congregation Leaders Reedsville Lutheran	13	14 6:30pm Council Meeting	15	16
17 Holy Communion	18 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	19	20 	21 9:30am Comfort Knotting	22	23
24 31 Reformation Sunday	25	26	27	28	29	30 

St. John's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the June 17, 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 June 17, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the blue room.

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

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Sue Lynch led devotions.

Devotions for September: Denise Chester

Devotions for October: Joy Byler

Devotions for November: Jami Zook

Devotions for December: Deb French

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 2021 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes of the May 2021 minutes was made by Ed Bilich and seconded by Jami Zook. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: The financial reports for the month of May were presented. A motion to accept the St. John's financial report was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried. St. John's Christian Day care financial reports were presented. A motion to accept the St. John's Christian Day Care financial report was made by Deb French and seconded by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

The person who tunes the piano will be calling on Tuesday. He will also tune the piano in the fellowship hall. A motion was made and approved to have him tune the pianos when he is scheduled to be in the area. A musician contacted Pastor Ela about performing during a worship service...she will follow up with the musician. The ELCA Open Door grant that Pastor Ela applied for did not go through for us.

Ministry & Worship: Transitions from COVID worship going well. Pastor Ela questioned whether we should shorten the service on hot summer Sundays. We could possibly shorten the second hymn if needed.

Mission: Pastor Ela gave books (written by Jed & Alice Smith's daughter) to the daycare teachers along with a nice letter. Discretionary Fund balance was reported.

Pastoral care: Memorial Day procession – Special thanks to Carolyn Conner for initiating this form of uplift and care to members and the community!

Council & Congregation: Discussion on the constitution and the meanings of some parts of the constitution were discussed. Going forward after COVID with clarity and coherence with the constitution.

Meetings: 2021 Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly June 19th. Pastor Ela, Sharon Dancy and Annie Harshbarger will be joining in. The theme is: "Liberated to Love" – affirming the power of God's grace to liberate us to serve with Jesus' power of love beyond all boundaries.

Self Care, Vacation and Time off: The pastor has requested the last two weeks of July off as vacation.

Pastor Ela provided her 2nd quarter 2021 report for her visits, calls, planning, services, etc.

Committee Reports:

- **Cemetery** – Denise - None
- **Long Range** – Joy - None
- **Property** – Deb – Ed reported the next group of lights to be replaced by LED lights is the remaining 3 lights near the coat racks, the lights in Kelly's office and the lights in Pastor Ela's office. Carol said the daycare requested 3 lights downstairs to also be added to the list for replacement in this group. Carol will ask Lisa to mark them for identification.
- **Music & Worship** – Jami – Pastor Ela would like to meet sometime in August.
- **Social Ministry** – Sue – None
- **Safety** – Carol -
- **Day Care** – Carol – Meeting this morning (6/17/21). New gate for infant room, Don Smith took care of. Loose boards in pavilion. Don Smith and Mike Harshbarger fixed this. Grates over radiators had a hole in and Mike Harshbarger will repair. Ceiling tiles were cracking/bowing. Mike Harshbarger will repair. Tuition will increase in September 2021. Met with Lisa to go over happenings in the daycare. No response from daycare concerning Camp Mount Luther. We agreed last meeting to pay for Michelle Harshbarger's nephew to attend Camp Mount Luther. In the meantime, the child's family already paid the camp fee. A motion was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Ed Bilich to offer the family the reimbursement, and if they won't accept it, we will donate the amount to Camp Mount Luther. Motion carried.
- **Finance** – Ed – None
- **Staff Support** – Carol & Sue – Met with Pastor Ela to discuss some things.

Old Business:

Parking lot service, no one has been putting out the sign. Carol will place a note on the bulletins for the greeters to put the sign out and also to put two bulletins and the communion and offering boxes out back. Communion – Keep the way we are doing until September council meeting, when we will re-visit it.

New Business:

- Newsletter will go out June 29th. Information must be to Kelly by June 25th.
- Altar Care for July – Sandy Metz
- Lay reader for July 4th – Jami Zook
- Flower Delivery for July – Carolyn Conner
- August 1st Lay Reader – Deb French
- August 15th – Greeter – Joy Byler
- Greeter, Lay Reader, & Money Counter – 5th Sunday in August – Jami
- There are still a lot of openings in August for various positions.

Brad Herman, our insurance agent, gave information on our insurance. He wondered if we wanted to continue with what we had, which was:

The church is already insured at 90% coinsurance, which means the building value on our recent renewal is 90% of the replacement cost value. The replacement cost estimate is \$3,735,643 and we are currently covered for \$3,362,079. If we would want to raise the building limit back to 100% replacement cost at \$3,735,643, the premium would increase to \$7,505 from \$7,298. After some discussion, a motion was made by Sue Lynch and seconded by Deb French to increase the limit back to 100% since it would only cost us \$207 more per year. Motion carried.

Pastor Ela stated we had discussed at prior meetings about getting CD players for shut ins to listen to the worship service. Joy has one she will donate and then Joy Byler made a motion and Jami Zook seconded the motion to purchase 2 more CD players. Motion carried.

Constitution: The council members each received three copies of the constitution at the May meeting that Ed Bilich prepared.

Copy 1 – A model constitution of the ELCA

Copy 2 – St. John's draft constitution after edits shown in copy #3

Copy 3 – St. John's current constitution marked up with additions and deletions to bring it in line with the ELCA model constitution.

Ed split the council members up into three groups. We read through copy #3 constitution word for word to assure the changes were made correctly and got through Chapter 9 at our May, 2021 meeting. At our June meeting, we completed the reading of the constitution. Ed will make all change and send the completed constitution to the synod office for their review and tell them we will send the revised bylaws when we complete them in September. A copy of the email will also be sent to all council members. All went well and we commend Ed for all the work he put in to this!

The next meeting will be held on September 9, 2021. It will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Byler, Secretary