

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

DECEMBER 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



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 11/24/2021
\$ 17,927.00

January 1 through November 24, 2021

Income \$189,528.83 Expense \$185,201.35
Net Income \$4,327.48

*The daycare gave \$10,000.00 towards the back parking lot paving expense.

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 11/24/2021
\$ 40,606.06

January 1 through November 24, 2021

Income \$284,738.31 Expense \$278,471.08
Net Income \$ 6,267.23

The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 12 following the worship service. Information pertinent to the meeting, will be placed in member mailboxes by Sunday, November 28. Any envelopes remaining after the worship service will be mailed out.

Please contact the church office if you did not receive yours.



We thank the outgoing council representatives Ed Bilich, Denise Chester and Sue Lynch for their service to this church and our Lord.

Our constitution states no less than six may serve, and with 3 persons going off, we will only have 4 council members.

Church leaders inspire members to keep coming back and help grow the church. Without good leadership, it's difficult for a church to continue to thrive. **PLEASE** prayerfully consider serving our church in this way.

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. (No meetings are scheduled in July and August).



Advent 2021
St. John's and West Kish ~ Expressions of Faith and Devotion

The devotionals are available in the narthex. 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.



In the narthex, are sign-up sheets for anyone who would like to place Altar flowers next year. We will once again refrain from using them during Lent beginning Sunday, March 6 through Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 10.

Please remember to notate whether you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered. At this time, the cost remains at \$40.00.



Altar Flowers

Committee sign-up sheets will soon be placed in the narthex. Many have not met on a regular basis or at all, over the last year and a half. Hopefully, the new year will bring renewed interest.

Please prayerfully consider serving on one...or possibly two!



The 2022 church birthday calendars will be available in the narthex on Sunday, December 12. **There is no cost, feel free to take one or more.**

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



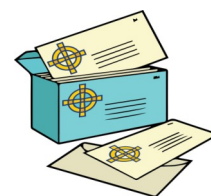
Thank you to those persons who continue to help with the Sunday morning duties. We are in need of a volunteer for the following in December ~

Christmas Eve ~ Elevator Operator

The January/February service schedule has also been placed the narthex. If you can help, please sign-up or contact the church office.

The 2022 offering envelopes will be available in member mailboxes on the December 12. Please contact the church office if you did not receive or would like to have one.

Feel free to deliver to a member who may not be able to pick theirs up.



Pastor Kramm will be celebrating his 92nd birthday on December 9. Let's help to brighten his day by sending him cards and well-wishes.

Reverend Thomas Kramm
C/O Valley View Retirement Community
4702 E. Main Street
Room 210
Belleville, PA 17004

We were blessed to have been gifted the communion kit used during his years of ministry. It is hard to imagine just how many nursing home residents, persons hospitalized, those sick or homebound, and others in difficult circumstances known only to him, received the hope and healing that comes from the sacrament of Holy Communion. It will be placed in the narthex display case (Mechanic Street side) in the next few weeks.

St. John's has Meals on Wheels January 25th, 27th and February 1st and 3rd. Volunteers are needed to help provide the following desserts ~

Tuesday, January 25 ~ 5 dozen Whoopie Pies (any kind)

Thursday, January 27 ~ money to purchase pies

Tuesday, February 1 ~ 5 quart fruit salad and 5 dozen cookies

Thursday, February 3 ~ 5 Angel food cakes (homemade or purchased locally)

A sign-up sheet will be placed in the narthex the end of December. Several churches are no longer participating as they cannot find volunteers to help. St. John's is blessed to have "willing workers" who enjoy preparing and delivering meals to members of our community.



There have been many comments of how nice the service honoring Rosalie's ordination anniversary was. The uplifting music and especially Laura Klick's message, where she shared of Rosalie's life, and how God used it to call her into His ministry.

If you could not attend or would like to listen again, CD's of the service can be found in the narthex.

Shining Light Through the Darkness annual Christmas light display at Derry Community Park (former Kish Park) begins Friday, December 3 and runs through January 2.

Featured are thousands of lights and displays for young and old to enjoy. There will be free entertainment, carriage rides, food and more. There is no cost and everyone is welcome. The park is open daily from 5:00pm to 10:00pm.

~ Reminders to the Congregation ~

The coded double doors (front and back) remain locked for Sunday morning worship. Anyone using them will need to enter the code. The side and front are the only doors being unlocked at this time. This and other safety concerns will be addressed at the congregational meeting on December 12.

If you have not done so already, please fill out the *Member Information Update* form found in this newsletter and return to the church by Sunday, December 12.

Poinsettia order forms are also included in this newsletter. Only 24 will be purchased and displayed throughout the church. If you would like to place one, please return the form by December 13.

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting items for the Shelter Service and "Mitten Tree". Please take note of the requested donations needed ~

Shelter Service ~ (place donations on/under the grey folding table in the narthex)

canned goods, bottled juices
non-perishable foods including cereals, pasta, etc
paper towels, toilet paper, and tissues,
shampoo, body wash/soap for children and adults

Mitten Tree ~ (found in the narthex)

mittens, gloves, scarves, hats,
and new this year, socks for children/adults
slipper socks and children's slippers

The committee has decided to discontinue serving funeral luncheons. Families are welcome to use the fellowship hall, and can provide the food themselves or have it catered. Two names of local individuals were given as possible caterers, Jeri Young 717-935-0057 and Mel McNerr 717-348-0376.



Christmas Worship



WORSHIP

St. John's ~ 7.00pm West Kish ~ 11.00pm



Special Carol Service

Sunday, December 26

9:30am



Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services

Winter is coming, and along with it, the possibility of bad weather. If there is snow/ice expected, the council president, vice president and pastor will determine if conditions require cancelling the worship service. This will be completed **no later than 6pm** the day before.

The church secretary will change the answering machine message to include the cancellation information. An email will be sent to all members who have supplied the church with their email address, and will also be posted on the church's website and facebook page.

If bad weather is being predicted please check to see if services are being held before leaving the house.

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 5

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: Rosalie Smith

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

December 12 ~ Congregational Meeting

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Ed Bilich

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

December 19

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Elevator: Volunteer Needed

Greeters: Nancy Penepacker, Erica Hargenrader and Gabe

December 26

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 ~ Sandra Metz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Carolyn Conner and Jane Fultz

Bulletin Delivery ~ John and Brenda Boring

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
Minutes of the October 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 October 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the blue room.

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

The meeting was called to order by Ed Bilich.

Devotions: Joy Byler led devotions. Devotions for November: Jami Zook; Devotions for December: Deb French

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes of the September 2021 minutes was made by Sue Lynch and seconded by Jami Zook. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: The financial reports for the month of September were presented. A motion to accept the St. John's financial report was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Joy Byler. 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 Joy Byler and seconded by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

- ♦ Ministry-Pastor Ela will post in the bulletin and newsletter the upcoming special Sundays and other happenings.
- ♦ Worship Outreach-Valley View Communion was cancelled on September 14th due to COVID cases, hope to reschedule Wednesday, November 10th.
- ♦ Advent Devotional Book-Pastor Ela would like to meet with interested members of both churches on Wednesday, October 20th to work on the devotionals together, sharing ideas, asking for help, etc. This will be held in the social room at West Kish at 6:30 p.m.
- ♦ Mission-Pastor Ela has gone to help with Meals on Wheels with both St. John's and also West Kish.
- ♦ Camp Mount Luther-Fundraiser coming up, you can raise funds by walking, running, jogging at your leisure, and you would need to get sponsors.
- ♦ There were 9 boxes of blankets delivered to Lewisburg from St. John's and Reedsville Lutheran quilters.
- ♦ Pastoral Care-Pastor Ela has had good visits with many, while still juggling shut downs in various wings of VV and Ohesson.
- ♦ Meetings-ELCA had a Leaders Meeting on October 12th in Reedsville. Pastor Ela said it went well, and possibly trying to come up with some local mission projects between the churches. A second meeting is planned for congregational leaders in the conference at Milroy Lutheran on November 30th, if you were unable to attend the October meeting.

- ◇ Of all the churches in the conference, St. John's exhibits a healthier financial situation than most churches...number did not take into account the support we provide to Day Care in terms of business maintenance, etc.
- ◇ Conference and Synod meetings continue once a month via zoom.
- ◇ We received a letter from the Bishop and Craig Miller on our recent mission support.
- ◇ Worship and Music had a good meeting recently.
- ◇ Community-Ministerium is meeting for lunch in December to discuss way forward.
- ◇ It was good to participate in Meals on Wheels with both churches and see appreciative and smiling faces.
- ◇ Self Care, Vacation, and Time-off-Pastor Ela is requesting November 13th – November 26th including Thanksgiving. This will use up the 2021 vacation. She thanks the council for approving to extend three weeks from 2020 to carry over, which she still has available. (may not be necessary as it was in last month's minutes.)

Other-Partnership Grant-Moving forward; making it a priority to include youth and/or young adults.

Committee Reports:

- ◇ **Cemetery** – Denise – None
- ◇
- ◇ **Finance**-Ed Bilich – There will be a budget meeting in the near future to prepare the budget for 2022.
- ◇
- ◇ **Long Range** – Joy - None
- ◇
- ◇ **Property** – Ed stated that Jim Buchanan, chairman of the Property Committee is stepping down from Property Committee after many years of dedication that was much appreciated.
- ◇
- ◇ **Music & Worship** – Jami – On All Saint's Sunday, November 7th, we will have banners displayed, use the chimes for those who have passed on in the past year, and have flowers available for all who would like to take and place one on their loved one's graves, or take home with them, even if they passed away more than a year ago.
- ◇ **Social Ministry** – Sue – None
- ◇ **Safety** – Carol – Discussed the COVID Plan that was drawn up several months ago. A motion to accept the plan after discussed edits have been made, was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Joy Byler. Motion carried. If there is a COVID/contagious exposure concern, call the office. After a minor edit, we will have these ready to put in the newsletter and have some available in the narthex.
- ◇ **Day Care** – Carol was absent from the meeting, but Joy brought up a question from the Daycare director that they would like to extend the play areas out behind the church. We would like to know what the dimensions they are suggesting before we make a decision.

A daycare report was provided by Lisa Lingle, Director. All classrooms are full and there are waiting lists. A part timer was hired, but others are still needed. There are issues with the drains in the concrete outside the kitchen door and the exterior door at the parking lot end of the daycare hallway. The kitchen floods every time we get a significant rain unless the drain grate is completely removed which is a safety hazard.

- ◇ **Staff Support** – Carol & Sue – None

Old Business:

- ◇ “Plan for COVID and serious contagious exposure in the church” drafted previously and updated for current situation was approved with amendments. It will be included in the net newsletter and made available in the narthex.
- ◇ Security cameras – A security company recently came to the church to discuss a security system. Many options available, but quite pricy. It was decided to table it until the next meeting and possibly check with other companies for comparison pricing.
- ◇ Security Screen doors for the fellowship hall doors were looked in to. Also, an idea was brought up to get mini-splits for in the fellowship hall which would benefit the church and the daycare. They would be good for funerals, church meals, daycare play time, etc. Ed will take these ideas to the property committee and see which they feel would benefit the church.
- ◇ The radio service sign that we put out front, is going to be placed permanently so we don’t have to lug it out each week.
- ◇ The kitchen door in the basement needs either fixed or replaced.
- ◇ The piano tuner was here to tune the piano on October 11th.
- ◇ 2 new table carts are needed for the Fellowship Hall – Joy made a motion and Jami seconded the motion to purchase the tables with monies from the Memorial Fund. Motion carried.
- ◇ November 14th a service for Rosalie for her 31st year ordination. Sue talked to Rosalie about a reception and Rosalie stated to just do pastries, donuts, coffee, tea, etc. in the narthex.
- ◇ Flooding downstairs was discussed and Ed said the property committee will be discussing a possible solution to the problem. It was decided to ask the property committee to rip the carpet up from the elevator in the basement to the first room on the right at the foot of the steps, as it is a concern with mold and mildew.
- ◇ Pest control company will be coming on October 21st.
- ◇ We have decided to hold off on trying to find a handyman.

New Business:

- ◇ Kelly wondered if we still wanted to purchase the Lutheran Magazine, since not many take them. Joy will ask Kelly how many we order each month and go from there.
- ◇ Camp Mount Luther is seeking donations. We gave \$300 last year and a motion was made by Joy Byler and seconded by Sue Lynch to donate \$300 this year. Motion carried.
- ◇ The newsletter will be going out on October 27th and items are needed by October 26th.
- ◇ The Casey Marthouse gift show is requesting permission to hold their Christmas Gift Show again this year, following the same COVID precautions as they did last year. It would be held the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving. A motion was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.
- ◇ The congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 12th following a brief worship service. Nominees are needed for council ballot. Please prayerfully consider being involved with the decisions of the church.
- ◇ Due to the meeting running a little long, we have decided to set a date of Saturday, October 30th at 9 a.m. to work on the by-laws and continuing resolutions.

Motion to adjourn made by Jami Zook and seconded by Joy Byler. Motion carried. Together we recited the Lord’s Prayer.

The next meeting will be held on November 11, 2021. It will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Byler, Secretary



St. John's Poinsettia Order Form
Please note changes.....

There is no set price again this year.

We ***will not*** be using the poinsettias trees.
*A total of **24** will be purchased and placed in the sanctuary and narthex.*

*Since Christmas falls on a Saturday, they will **remain until after the service on Sunday, the 26th.***
You can take yours at that time.

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

**Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Monday December 13th.**

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 _____

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

Council is asking for a new updated address directory, and only a few people have turned theirs in. If you have not already,

PLEASE







fill out and return it to the church by Sunday, December 12.

**We would like to have them out before the end of the month.
Thank you!!**

St. John's Lutheran Church

DECEMBER

2021

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|---|-----|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| 9:30am Worship |  | | 1 | 2 9:30am Comfort Knotting | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 6:30pm Council Meeting | 10  | 11 |
| 12 Third Sunday of Advent Congregational Meeting | 13  Poinsettia Orders Due | 14 | 15 | 16 9:30am Comfort Knotting | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Fourth Sunday of Advent Holy Communion | 20 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting | 21  | 22 | 23 | 24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Office and Daycare Closed | 25 The Nativity of Our Lord  |
| 26 Special Caroling Service | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Daycare closing at 2pm  | |