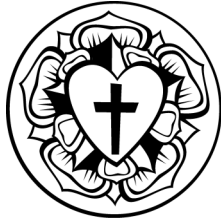


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2022**



Our Mission Statement

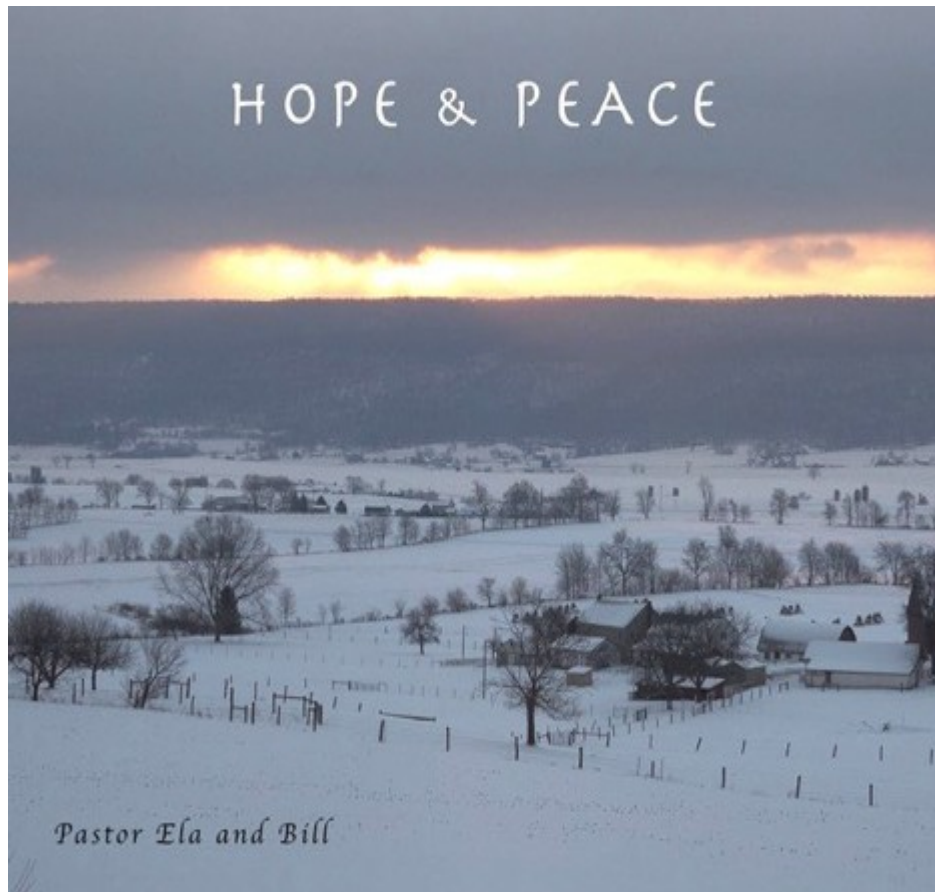
*We, the members of St. John's congregation,
promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ
and to love one another through worship and service
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

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

Advent and Epiphany emphasize the contrast of the dark and light. Sunday readings during Advent speak to peoples' great Hope for salvation, for a new way of life where they can know Peace and Joy. Christmas celebrates this in the birth of the Christ child, our Savior, God's gracious gift of Love to the world. Epiphany reminds us that this gift, this great light in the darkness, is for all the world. The wisdom of the Magi is that keeping our eye on that star will lead us even in the darkest moments of our journey. Bearing our gifts for something greater than ourselves acts out our faith in the God that will bring the world peace.

So darkness and light; what does this really refer to in our life and in our world? People may have different perspectives on this. Some may try to personalize this, naming certain people or issues as the dark and the other as the light. Often it is our own opinions or beliefs that are seen as truly righteous, while those with other perspectives and experiences are seen as obstructive and incomprehensible. Often we are unaware how spouting those righteous judgments or beliefs rather than seeking understanding may often create more darkness rather than light.

In our personal lives: grief, loss, poor health, job stress or financial difficulties, accidents, depression, addiction, or natural disasters may bring on times of frustration or despair or just create a dark lens through which it is difficult to see new possibilities or potential. Often it is even difficult to receive others holding the light for us.

Continued

As Christians we carry this light for each other. We recognize that as much as we may hate to hear that word, we are all sinners. We probably sin in some way: thought or word or deed each day. This doesn't mean that we should be down on ourselves or others but that we recognize that each and every one of us carries both darkness and light. Sometimes it is the very darkness that leads to the light. The journey of following that glimmer of light through difficult times and difficult relationships, with God's help, strengthens our faith as individuals and as the church.

These Twelve Days of Christmas walk us across the bridge of the New Year to Epiphany. Walking through our own darkness and light with humility we are able to empathize with others whose cares and concerns may be different than or greater than ours. May this Epiphany and this New Year 'reveal and manifest' the new life possible through Christ's love in our Church, in our community and in our world.

Rev. Ela J. Robertson



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.

Thank you to everyone who provided their updated information. There are still a few of you who have not, and we would like to make sure the addresses/phone numbers and emails being provided to others is correct. Please return by January 9...Thanks!!

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	end of 2024
Joy Byler	end of 2022
Deb French	end of 2022
Carol Fultz	end of 2023
Nancy Penepacker	end of 2024
Jami Zook	end of 2022

St. John's Financial Report

Checking account balance 12/28/2021
\$ 15,506.29

January 1 through December 28, 2021

Income \$ 203,216.54 Expense \$ 201,671.97
Net Income \$ 1,544.57

* Does not include end of year income and expenses.

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 12/28/2021
\$ 50,832.91

January 1 through December 28, 2021

Income \$ 325,045.34 Expense \$ 308,822.41
Net Income \$ 16,222.93

* Does not include end of year income and expenses.

The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 27 following the worship service. Information pertinent to the meeting, will be placed in member mailboxes by Sunday, February 13. Any envelopes remaining after the worship service will be mailed out.

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

Any committees who met this past year, please have your reports to the church office by Sunday, January 30.

Congregational Meeting



We thank the outgoing council representatives Denise Chester and Sue Lynch for their service to this church and our Lord. Ed Bilich agreed to serve another term, along with new representative, Nancy Penepacker.

Council installation will be held on Sunday, January 2 during worship. They will meet briefly following the service. All council members are asked to please be there, if possible.



The following dates are still available to sponsor 2022 altar flowers. Please contact the church office or sign-up in the narthex, if you are interested.

February 6 and 20
July 24 and 31
October 9
November 20 and 27

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 can be found 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.

There are two new committees this year. They are Mission and Website.

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



The 2022 church birthday calendars are available in the narthex. **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, are included on the calendar.



The 2021 Gift Show which benefits the Casey Marthouse Memorial Scholarship Fund was very successful this year.

Jim and Daphne have generously tithed \$600.00 or 10% of the proceeds from the gift show to St. John's fuel oil fund, to cover the heating cost and use of the fellowship hall.



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

The envelope number may have changed for some, as the amount of boxes being ordered has continued to decrease.

It will not affect your giving records.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. During this time, we pray and reflect on the love Jesus has for us. To receive that love...to share it with others...and to live it, each and every day.

The church is again providing several devotionals to choose from. They will be available in the narthex on Sunday, February 20. Please contact the church office if you would like to have one mailed to you.



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

Thursday, January 27 ~ money to purchase pies

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

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

A sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex. Several area 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.



Big Valley Meals on Wheels is in need of a volunteer or volunteers to take charge of maintaining information provided to the participating churches. Responsibilities include updating the list of persons receiving weekly meals, along with any changes to the delivery routes (only if someone is permanently removed or another added). A computer is needed, and Meals on Wheels will reimburse or supply the ink and paper used. This is a great opportunity to serve our community! If you are interested and/or have any questions, please contact the church office.

There was a very nice response to the Social Ministry Committee's recent collection of items for the Shelter Service and Mitten Tree.

Due to your generous donations, they collected ~

20 Hats

12 pair of Mittens/Gloves

24 pair of Socks

8 Hat/Glove/Mitten sets

5 bags and 5 boxes of canned foods,
non-perishable boxed foods and
personal care products

*Thank
You!*



The volunteers on St. John's prayer chain are always available to pray for you or someone you know. Dorie Remensnyder is the contact person. If you have a request for prayer, please contact her at 935-2508, or if she is not available, the church office (2032). When a request is received it is quickly passed onto others who have expressed a desire to pray for the concerns brought to them.

Due to confidentiality issues, we ask that you PLEASE be sure to have permission from the person or family you are requesting prayer for.

The current list is being updated. If you would like to be included or removed please contact the church office by the end of January.

Pray Always.

Do not lose heart.

*Persistence in our every
encounter with the divine
will be blessed.*



The Central PA World Hunger Association 48th Annual Meat Canning Project is scheduled for February 7thru 10 at the Chief Logan Fire Co. (formally East Derry Fire Co.), 1801 Glenwood Avenue, Lewistown.

MCC has set up and will be implementing new Covid guidelines for this year. Volunteers are needed to help fill, weigh, wash and label cans of the 30,000 pounds of chicken being processed.

Approximately 90% of the canned meat goes to Mennonite Central Committee, where it is then distributed in time of need. The remaining 10% locally supports area projects such as Meals on Wheels. This effort is dependent entirely on volunteers. If you would like to help, please contact ~

Jesse Diem 717-463-3792
Sylvanus Peachey 717-935-2511
Jonathon Coldren 717-250-6840

Monetary donations are used to cover canning costs. The price of meat and other supplies, like so many other things, have all increased. At this time the organization has only a quarter of the money needed. If you would like to support the project in this way, you may send a check to ~

Central Pa World Hunger Association
P.O. Box 76
Belleville, Pa 17004



Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services

Winter is officially here, 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.

JANUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 2

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Jami Zook

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

January 9

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Deb French

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

January 16

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Mike Harshbarger

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

January 23

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler

Lay Reader: Deb French

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

January 30

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

Money Counters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring

Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ VOLUNTEER NEEDED

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.

FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

February 6

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler

Lay Reader:

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

February 13

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters:

Lay Reader:

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

February 20

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters:

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

February 27

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters:

Lay Reader: Ed Bilich

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~

Altar Flower Delivery ~

Bulletin Delivery ~

St. John's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the November 11, 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 November 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in the blue room.

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

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Jami Zook led devotions. Devotions for December: Deb French

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 14, 2021 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes of the October 2021 minutes was made by Sue Lynch and seconded by Jami Zook. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: The financial reports for the month of October 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:

WORSHIP

- ◇ Rosalie's ordination anniversary is November 14th. Much planning has gone into this, the Bishop will lead part of the service. Thanks to Ed Bilich for leading parts of the liturgy.
- ◇ Planning for Advent.
- ◇ Christmas Eve Service will go on as normal, still have parking lot service available.
- ◇ Requests from some members to continue the full page bulletins for easy tracking and visibility.

WORSHIP OUTREACH

- ◇ November 10th was Valley View Communion – 10 attended – good visits for all who attended.

MUSIC OUTREACH

- ◇ Susie's Reformation piece was awesome.

MISSION

- ◇ Still a great need for mission outreach through Lutheran Disaster Assistance.
- ◇ Discretionary Fund remains at \$1,823.04.
- ◇ Hospital, Valley View Workers? What can we do to show appreciation? Take lunch?

PASTORAL CARE

- ◇ Concerns for several people having medical concerns, ongoing treatments, mobility issues, please pray for all.

OFFICE

- ◇ Updated contact list? Has it been updated? Are we getting people to contact us with updated addresses, etc.

MEETINGS

- ◇ Ministerium will meet for lunch to discuss the future of their group.
- ◇ ELCA/SYNOD/CONFERENCE – Prayers for Brenda Krouse – her husband being taken off life support.

SELF CARE, VACATION, TIME OFF

- ◇ Rev Rick Adams will provide emergency pastoral care while Pastor Ela is on vacation from 11/14-28.

Committee Reports:

- ◇ **Cemetery** – Denise – None
- ◇ **Finance**-Ed Bilich – The finance committee met recently to work on the budget for 2022. The budget for St. John's Lutheran Church was presented to council. Ed went over the increases/decreases and the total budget for 2022 would be \$136,023. A motion to accept the budget was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried. The budget for St. John's Lutheran Day-care was presented and gone over. The total budget for 2022 would be \$221,000. A motion to accept the Daycare's 2022 budget was made by Deb French and seconded by Joy Byler. Motion carried.
- ◇ **Long Range** – Joy - None
- ◇ **Property** – Deb French – the furnace was fixed; will be getting a new door in the kitchen downstairs; the property committee does not want the carpet ripped out in the basement hallway toward the elevator; there are still lights that need replaced. Will be getting estimates for mini-splits for in the Fellowship Hall.
- ◇ **Music & Worship** – Jami – None.
- ◇ **Social Ministry** – Sue – Met on 11/8 and organized Rosalie's ordination anniversary; got a gift card for Rosalie; there will be no more funeral luncheons prepared at the church by the social ministry; We will once again have the hat, gloves, socks, slipper tree in the narthex for people to make donations; collecting canned goods, non-perishable items for the Shelter.
- ◇ **Safety** – Carol – None
- ◇ **Day Care** – Carol -Purchasing new portable sinks. Donating \$10,000 to the church toward the parking lot paving.
- ◇ **Staff Support** – Carol & Sue – None

Old Business:

- ◇ Received a quote from GME Communications for security cameras/internet of \$12,777. We may try something different, as that is quite expensive. Ed has asked him to break this quote into 2 sections 1) Internet backbone, Wireless access points, cables, etc. 2) Cameras and equipment required to implement them.
- ◇ Centre Wisp has a fiber line that goes along 655. Dave Gibbons, from Centre Wisp, is looking for a site to put power to the fiber line. He would like to lease a 5 X 5 ft. piece of our property on the back corner of our lot along Mechanic Street. Payment would be in the form of free Internet of 1GB speed plus connection hardware. He would be installing a telephone pole cut off at 5 ft. above the ground and mounting his 5 ft. cabinet on that pole. He would also install a 25 ft. telephone pole directly behind the cabinet to supply power to his equipment. A motion to move forward with the project and take it to the congregation for a vote was made by Ed Bilich and seconded by Denise Chester. Motion carried.
- ◇ Yoder's Tee's is making a sign for out front with information for our parking lot service.
- ◇ We will continue to purchase the Lutheran Magazine.
- ◇ We can not find anyone to run for council. This is getting harder each year. If we can't get at least one person, we will have to change our constitution to lower our limit for minimum number of council members. We need to plead with people and tell them how very important it is to have council members.
- ◇ The table carts for the fellowship hall have arrived. Deb stated she would ask the property committee if they could put them together.

New Business:

- ◇ The congregational packet and newsletter information needs to be to Kelly by November 22.
- ◇ Jami will order and pick up the poinsettias for Christmas Eve.
- ◇ It was decided to fill the oil tank before the price increases any more.
- ◇ We received a bill from L&L Boiler. We will call them and question them about it.
- ◇ Ed Bilich sent our updated constitution to Craig Miller for review.

A motion was approved at the Congregational meeting in February 2021 to use 50% of the interest/dividend money from the Gladys Mahady monies for Mission Work. We will need a continuing resolution for the Missions account. Ed presented a draft he created for the continuing resolution. A motion to accept the draft with one minor change was made by Joy Byler and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried.

A motion to adjourn made and properly carried. Pastor had prayer and we then recited the Lord's Prayer together.



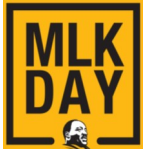

The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2021. It will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Byler, Secretary

St. John's Lutheran Church

JANUARY

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Holy Communion Council Installation	3	4 	5	6 Epiphany 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	7	1 New Year's Day 8 _____
9 Baptism of Our Lord Holy Communion	10	11	12	13 6:30pm Council Meeting	14 	15
16 Holy Communion	17 6:30pm Property Committee 	18	19	20 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	21	22
23	24	25 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	26	27 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	28	29
30	31 					

St. John's Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	2 	3 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting) St. John's has Meals on Wheels	4	5
6 Holy Communion	7	8	9	10 6:30pm Council Meeting	11	12
13 	14	15	16	17 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	18	19
20 Holy Communion	21 6:30pm Property Committee 	22	23	24	25 	26
27 Transfiguration of our Lord Congr. Meeting	28		Looking Ahead March 2 ~ 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship Sunday, March 13 ~ Daylight Saving Time Begins			