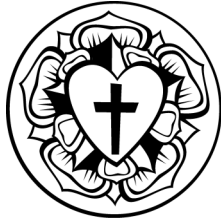


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

MARCH 2022

What do you want
Lent to be about
for me this year, God?

What do you want ME
to be about for YOU
this Lent, God?

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





As I sit down to write on this date, 2/22/2022, I am reminded of two things: 1) The power of partnership and how much is accomplished when we work two by two. Whether it is two people stirring a soup kettle for Meals on Wheels or Souper Bowl Sunday, or a couple married for over 30 - 70 years dedicating their lives to Christ's mission and justice in the world in small ways, or the church partnering with community agencies to bring disaster relief and spiritual nurturance. Partnering with each other, two by two is what we're called to do. 2) The number 22, twice 11, is also often associated with the first eleven 'faithful' disciples. We learn so much in scripture from their questions, their doubts, their fears, their willingness, their endeavors and their faith. Yet, we are also reminded of the 12th, the Judas, going behind the backs of others in his own self interest and we question whether we would act his part or be of the 11. The generating power of these disciples' struggles and sacrifices, 11 multiplied by 2 and 2 and 2 again has created the potential of the church today even as we relive their errors and doubts.

February here has been a month of frigid ice storms, 35 mile an hour winds that whiz by in one direction and then suddenly, inexplicably, turn forces the other direction stirring up dead leaves in their wake, yet uncovering sleeping daffodils, new growth shooting up through the snow. It is a month set aside to honor the legacy of both St. Valentines and Martin Luther King, Christ's love celebrated in chocolate and cards and the more challenging call to justice.

In the church year we approach Transfiguration of the Lord, the unveiling of the glory of God in Christ, the pivot point between Epiphany and Lent. Both Paul's letters and Christ's words to the disciples at this point in our lectionary often seem harsh and impatient. But are they harsh and impatient or isn't this just urgency? No matter how many thousands of years it takes there is always an urgency for each individual in their short flash of history to respond to the Church's ultimate purpose. There is always an urgency to keep this 'ultimate' purpose in mind. And what is this ultimate purpose? It is again to accomplish a world here as it is in heaven, where God's will is done, where Christ's mercy to us is experienced in tears and joy, where tenderness is not reserved for some and not for others, where even in the urgency of God's ultimate purpose we can slow down, pay attention to detail, listen, be open to God's call, be open to each other, forgive, mend and foster disciple relationships in love.

Let us live God's grace and gifts.

Pastor Ela

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

Devotionals:

Just yesterday someone shared how words in their devotional that morning moved them to reach out to the pastor about someone experiencing a health issue. I appreciated having that link to be able to bring prayers and to visit when, due to hospital restrictions, only clergy might be allowed to do so. Thank you for caring about others and keeping me posted!

Our Lenten Devotionals out in the Narthex provide daily inspiration for thought and action. One is taken from the writings of Henri Nouwen. Nouwen was one of Tom Longfield's favorite authors. Many books by Nouwen sit on the shelves in the pastor's office. If you want to read more than just the daily devotionals you are invited to borrow one any time. You will be moved.

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 2024
Joy Byler ~ Secretary	end of 2022
Deb French	end of 2022
Carol Fultz ~ President	end of 2023
Nancy Penepacker	end of 2024
Jami Zook ~ Vice President	end of 2022

St. John's Financial Report

Checking account balance 2/22/2022
\$ 18,202.69

January 1 through February 22, 2022

Income \$ 33,269.71 Expense \$ 29,672.61
Net Income \$ 3,597.10

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 2/22/2022
\$ 71,798.78

January 1 through February 22, 2022

Income \$ 50,807.58 Expense \$ 38,328.17
Net Income \$ 12,479.41



Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 13

Ash Wednesday

St. John's
Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00pm
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

West Kish
Wednesday, March 2 ~ 7:00am to 9:00pm
Prayer Vigil in their sanctuary
You are invited to sign-up in the narthex
for one of the 15 minute slots .

"As the church Camperson, I would love to talk to anyone about attending camp this summer. An exciting new program is our pick-a-day for family camp where campers can come for a full day of adventure during family camp and enjoy creation while fellowshiping with other families of all ages. Register for summer camp before April 15th for a discount!

Supporting an ELCA outdoor ministry like Camp Mount Luther, gives us an easy way to expand our opportunities for Christian education and growth on a year-round basis for kids and kids at heart. For more information contact me, Anne Harshbarger at 717-935-2453, the camp office at 570-922-1587, or visit www.campmountluther.org.

There will be a special offering on Sunday, March 6 supporting Camp Mt. Luther. All donations will be matched for maximum impact through *Raise the Region* fundraiser.



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: (570) 922-1587 Fax: (570) 922-1118

E-Mail: cml@campmountluther.org

You will find a Lenten offering envelope in your box for Sunday, March 20. Council voted to direct all donations to the Discretionary Fund.



Committee sign-up sheets are in the narthex. There are two new committees this year, Mission and Website.

We have all been blessed with certain skills, talents and abilities...prayerfully consider using yours.



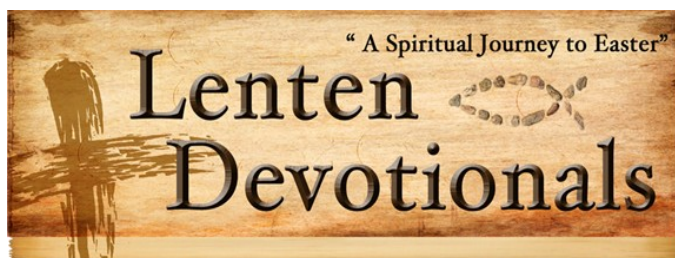
Take a seat...

Under the stage, are several carts of the old metal folding chairs. There are more than we will most likely ever use again, so council decided to first offer them to our members, before advertising their availability. If you are interested in any, please feel free to take as many as you wish.



Reminder ~ We **will not** use altar flowers during the Lenten season (March 6 through Palm Sunday, April 10).

If you would like to place an arrangement beside the lectern in memory or honor of a loved one during this time, please contact the church office.



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. During this time, we pray and reflect on the love of God and his abundant mercy. The church is providing the following devotionals to help you on your *faith walk* through these 40 days ~ *Drawn to the Cross* and *A Season of Grace*, written by a senior for seniors. They can be found in the narthex. Please contact the church office if you would like to have one mailed to you.

Over the next several months, the Social Ministry committee would like to once again collect items for Liberia. There is a real need for everything from first aid supplies to non-perishable foods. During the month of March they are looking for donations of the following personal care items.

Deodorant
Toothpaste and toothbrushes for adults and children
Shampoo
Bar soap
Toilet paper

There are boxes located in the narthex and coat room area. Monetary donations are also needed to help with shipping costs. If you would like to give towards this expense please notate Liberia Shipping on your check or envelope.



When God is at the center of your life,
you worship...
when He is not...
you worry.

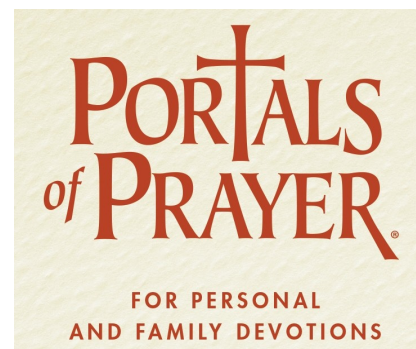


The weather this past week with 60 degree days and rain, reminds us that warmer weather is not too far away. With summer, comes the annual yard sale. We will take anything in good usable condition, with the exception of clothing and TV's.

Several members have already blessed us with their unwanted items! Donations may be placed either in front of, or on the stage. Thank you!!

DAYCARE
YARD
SALE

A member recently mentioned a devotional which was shared with them, titled *Portals of Prayer* from Concordia Publishing Company (Lutheran), and commented on how much they enjoyed it. Council has agreed to purchase 12 copies of the April-June issue for members to try. They will soon be available in the narthex for anyone wishing to take one. If it is well-received, we may look at subscribing them.



MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 6

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Deb French

Lay Reader: Deb French

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

March 13

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Mike Harshbarger

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

March 20

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: **Volunteer Needed**

Lay Reader: **Volunteer Needed**

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

March 27

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: **Volunteer Needed**

Lay Reader: **Volunteer Needed**

Money Counters: Sharon Dancy and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Please remember:

If you are unable to be present
on your scheduled day,
it is your responsibility,
to find a replacement.

Altar Care ~ Volunteer Needed

Altar Flower Delivery ~ No delivery during Lent

Bulletin Delivery ~ Volunteer Needed



There is no set price, anyone wishing to place a flower(s), is asked to make a donation and a variety will be purchased to decorate the church.

An insert with the names of the persons placing them, along with those they are in honor/memory of will be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 17th.

In memory of

In honor of






Given by

**Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Sunday, April 10**

St. John's Lutheran Church

MARCH

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>The month of March Has just blown in, To say that spring Will soon begin!</p>	1	2 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7am-9pm West Kish Prayer Vigil	3 9:30am Knotting	4	5
6 Holy Communion Camp Mt. Luther special offering	7	8	9	10 6:30pm Council Meeting	11	12 Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday set clocks ahead 1 hour
13 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  BEGINS	14	15	16	17 9:30am Knotting 	18	19 11:00am Memorial Service for Ev Young
20 Holy Communion 	21 6:30pm Property Committee	22	23	24 The month roars in like a lion, With a crash and a slam! Then, tiptoes out gently . Like a quiet little lamb.	25	26 
27	28		Looking Ahead April 14 ~ 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service at SJ April 15 ~ 7:00pm Good Friday Worship at WKish Sunday, April 17 ~ Easter Day			

St. John's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting

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

Vision Statement: To be welcoming people who encourage God's love in our community through our prayers, devotion, benevolence, and deeds.

The monthly meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church council was held on Thursday, December 9th at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

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

Absent: Joy Byler

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions:

- Deb Evans read from the Upper Room

Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes of the November 11th meeting were presented and accepted without any changes.
- Motion to approve was given by Jami Zook and 2nd by Sue Lynch.

Financial Reports:

- Ed Bilich presented the financial report St. John's
 - Motion to approve was given by Jami Zook and 2nd by Deb French.
- Ed Bilich presented the financial report for the Daycare
 - Motion to approve was given by Sue Lynch and 2nd by Denise Chester.

Pastor's report:

- Pastor Ela went over the report she handed out (attached to the minutes). Notable items were:
 - Christmas Eve – Communion - No wafers – Will use bread on toothpicks
 - Sandy Metz has altar care and Joy and Carol will be backup
 - Parking lot service – Prepare 5 bulletins 8 ½ x 11
 - Jan 9 – Baptism of our Lord – will be a Communion Sunday
 - Mission – Taking lunch to VV workers – Put off till new year
 - Dec 21 pastor will be at a Synod retreat

Committee Reports:

- **Cemetery** – Denise – No report
- **Long Range** – Joy – No report
- **Property** – Deb
 - Dec 20th the outside door leading into the kitchen is scheduled to be installed
- **Music & Worship** – Jami
 - Short service before Congregational meeting
- **Social Ministry** – Sue
 - Working on the Shelter Service and Mitten Tree projects
- **Day Care** – Carol
 - Day Care shut down last Thurs for covid-19

- Lisa Interviewed Belinda Beers and plans to hire her
- Ciera gave a 2 wk. notice
- Lisa hasn't done measurements for playground expansion yet
- **Finance** – Ed – No report
- **Safety** – Carol – No report
- **Staff Support** – Carol & Sue – No report
- **Christian Ed** – No report

Old Business:

- **Security Cameras / Internet**
 - No quote from GME Communications yet
 - Ed asked council to approve of him spending up to \$1500 on the purchase and installation of a network cabinet and equipment for our new Internet backbone. Jami Zook made it into a motion and 2nd by Sue Lynch.
- **Sign out front**
 - Needs calked on top before getting installed to prevent rain from getting into the sign
- **Council Members**
 - Nancy Penepacker put her name in to be on council
- **Table Carts**
 - They have been put together but the tables were not put on them
- **Furnace Bill**
 - Jim Buchanan is contacting them. We don't think there should have been a bill for this service.
- **Constitution**
 - Ed said the constitution revisions will be completed and ready for the Synod's final review after completing a revision to Continuing Resolution C13.04.A21 regarding the Mutual Ministry Committee
 - Council discussed the text suggested by Rev. Craig Miller and decided to use it with not modifications.
- **Missions Account**
 - The Gladys Mahady bequest portion of the Vanguard accounts has earned \$2,168.96 through November in interest/dividends. 50% of that amount is \$1,084.48. There has also been a small amount earned in the Thrivent accounts and the results of December's account activity.

New Business:

- **Christmas Offering**
 - Ed Bilich made a motion that the offering be directed to the Discretionary Fund and 2nd by Jami Zook.
- **Jan/Feb Newsletter**
 - Have info to Kelly by the 27th
 - Committees should submit their 2021 reports for the newsletter
- **Altar Flowers**
 - 17 openings
 - Denise Chester made a motion that the church pay for flowers that nobody signs up for and 2nd by Deb Evans.
- **Congregational Meeting Date**
 - The congregational meeting was scheduled for February 27th
- **Adjourn**
 - Ed Bilich made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jami Zook 2nd it.
 - The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Bilich, Fill-in secretary

St. John's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the January 24, 2022 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 Monday, January 24, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

Present: Pastor Ela Robertson, President Carol Fultz, Ed Bilich, Joy Byler, Deb French, and Nancy Penepacker. Jami Zook was excused.

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Pastor Ela led devotions. The devotion schedule for 2022 is:

February – Ed Bilich

March – Deb French

April – Jami Zook

May – Nancy Penepacker

June – Joy Byler

July & August – no meetings

September – Joy Byler

October – Deb French

November – Jami Zook

December – Carol Fultz

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the December 9, 2021 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes with a correction of Deb's last name from Evans to French, was made by Deb French and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried.

Financial Reports:

The financial reports were presented by Ed Bilich.

St. John's – A motion to accept the church financial report was made by Joy Byler and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried.

St. John's Daycare – A motion to accept the daycare financial report was made by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried.

Pastor's report:

- January 16 – February 20 is Epiphany. January 30th is the 5th Sunday and we will have a Service of Healing and Wholeness. February 6th – Chad Hershberger from Camp Mount Luther will be delivering the message. February 27th is Transfiguration of the Lord. We will have an abbreviated service that day because of the congregational meeting. Lent begins March 6; Palm Sunday is April 10th; Easter Sunday is April 17th.
- Pastor Ela would like to have a special showing of "The Most Reluctant Convert: the Untold Story of C.S. Lewis". It would be nice to do it up in the sanctuary on the big screen. She needs good internet service, so will have to wait until we have our upgrade later this spring.
- Discretionary Fund balance is \$1,405.04. The Christmas offerings of \$732 were donated to the Lewistown Red Cross Fire Fund.
- The pastor noted grief concerns in the congregation.
- There were two recent funerals: Vivian Plank 12/30/21 and Beverly Harmon Bell on 1/21/22.
- A clearer policy is needed for non-members for funeral home and family.
- Meetings – There will be a Congregational Leaders Gathering on Tuesday, February 15th at 6:30 p.m. at Reedsville Evangelical with Craig Miller leading.
- Retreat – Discussion on when we could do a retreat, maybe a Saturday. Council members were asked to bring available dates to the February 10th meeting.
- ELCA/SYNOD retreat on December 21 was inspirational and restful.
- Juniata Conference is normally on West Kish office time, so hard to attend.
- Scheduled time off for Pastor Ela is February 2nd – 9th. Rev. Rick Adams is covering emergency pastoral care.
- Long Term Planning – 2021 – Reviewing and revising the constitution; 2022 – living the constitution.

Pastor Ela wished to thank everyone for all their dedication the past couple years through the pandemic. The pastor noted that Ohesson Manor has been changed to Greenwood Village and Elmcroft has been changed to Celebration Villa.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery - Nancy Penepacker – no report

Long Range - Ed Bilich – no report

Property – Ed Bilich – L&L Boiler will be here 1/26/22 to fix an issue on the boiler. We did not have worship on 1/23/22 due to the boiler malfunction. It was an electrical issue.

Music & Worship – Jami Zook – no report

Social Ministry – Carol Fultz – no report

Day Care – Deb French – Director Lisa Lingle provided information on the expansion of the playground area. Ed will take it to Property committee.

Finance – Joy Byler

Safety – Carol Fultz – no report

Staff Support – Carol Fultz – no report

Christian Ed – Nancy Penepacker – no report

Old Business:

Security cameras/Internet – The cabinet and supplies for internet will be approximately \$2,500. A motion was made by Joy Byler and seconded by Deb French for Ed Bilich to purchase the necessary equipment and the monies would come from the Thrivent Money Market Account. Motion carried.

Parking Lot sign caulking – Carol reminded Ed (property committee) to put caulking on the sign.

Council contact information – We have a list of council members contact information updated.

Additional table cart – another table cart is needed for the fellowship hall. A motion to purchase another cart was made by Ed Bilich and seconded by Joy Byler. Motion carried.

Progress on office phone – It was decided to tell Kelly to get call waiting on the phone until we have our upgraded system in place.

Ed Bilich presented the final two changes required to complete the revision to our constitution. The following changes will be made:

C11.03 No officer shall hold more than one office at a time. No elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Revised: C11.03: No officer shall hold more than one office at a time.

New Business:

Investments – Discussion was made about our investments not making money in the Thrivent accounts. It was decided to wait until after the first quarter to make a decision on what we want to do with the monies.

Year-end reports/congregational meeting information – all reports are in to Kelly for year end.

Kelly will be on vacation the week of February 14th. The only time she will be in is Thursday morning to do the bulletin.

Chairs under stage – There are a lot of the old metal chairs under the stage that need to go. It was decided to advertise them in the bulletin/newsletter, then on our Facebook page. If no takers, put in daycare yard sale.

Lenten offering (March envelope) – Ed Bilich made a motion and Joy Byler seconded the motion to use the monies for the discretionary fund. Motion carried.

Request for paid use of parking lot - 1-2 weeks per year – There was a letter sent asking the church if they could park their RV in our parking lot occasionally. It was decided we would like more information before we make a decision.

An updated membership list was passed around to see if we could see anyone that is missing. It was decided to make sure ALL actual members are listed in the directory.

Discussion concerning filling the oil tank. It was decided we could check into the availability of a standard yearly price if we get on the auto-fill option with the exception of summertime.

With there being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn was made by Ed Bilich and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Byler, Secretary