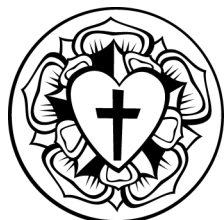


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

APRIL 2022



Our Mission Statement

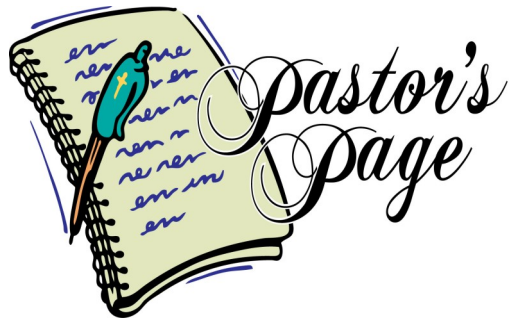
*We, the members of St. John's congregation,
promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ
and to love one another through worship and service
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

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





Lent reminds us that each day God gives us is precious. We are encouraged in these 40 days to find time to turn inward, to be honest with ourselves, to 'inspect and introspect' and ask forgiveness for attitudes and ways of being that we may not even have realized, are less than or different than what Christ would have us be. This may be a turning point in our lives when we truly sense Christ's love pouring through us and transforming our 'outward glance,' the way we see and respond to the world around us. We are asked to respond with generous compassion to war in the Ukraine, to people experiencing crisis, and loss. Let us be generous with ourselves as well. Some people have asked about the Lenten poem read in the March 20 message. We share it with you here.

On Borrowed Time: A Lenten poem

These Lenten days are loaned to us, set aside – beg, borrow or steal –
from winter's numbing latterness - so we remember who we are, have been –
might have been and might hope to be.

An ancient season, reason to turn inward,
to inspect and introspect with a view toward renewal of the outward glance
so that, when spring eventually arrives with lilies in the chancel,
when Pentecost blooms forth in flame, the debt will be repaid,
the pawn reclaimed, the fresh discovered deeps poured out
in deeds of love and mercy, justice too.

by J. Barrie Shepherd,, an award-winning poet and an honorably retired pastor

UPCOMING:

On Tuesday March 29, 9:30AM - 3:30PM, several members of the Council will be attending by zoom a conference from the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. If you are interested in attending this as well, please let the Pastor or Kelly know no later than Sunday, March 27 or Monday morning March 28. This looks at facilitating healthy congregation - pastor relationships as well as shepherding change of pastorship in a healthy way. This and other trainings from the Center remind us that the hope for 'Peace,' the peace of Christ we share each Sunday, refers not just to the geo-political arena but operates in every relationship we are engaged in, in every word we share, in how we are the church.

The Listening sessions which we will be engaging in with the Synod are designed to foster this peace as well. The Bishop has written to let us know she has "gathered the necessary team members to conduct the upcoming 'Listening' sessions," and adds: "all active members are encouraged to come talk with committee members." The date is set for Saturday April 23, 9:30 - 3:00 so please hold that time open. A letter giving more details about this process with a form for you to fill out and a schedule of time slots will be sent out or put in your boxes at the church by or before April 8.

.... the tongue of the wise brings healing....Proverbs 12:18

God's grace and peace with you all,

Pastor Ela

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**
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 3/23/2022
\$ 27,801.39

January 1 through February 22, 2022

Income \$ 58,975.63 Expense \$ 45,933.15
Net Income \$ 13,042.48

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 3/23/22
\$ 71,795.66

January 1 through March 23, 2022

Income \$ 92,349.71 Expense \$ 80,241.41
Net Income \$ 12,108.30

We have heard from Bishop Collins and the listening team is scheduled to come on Saturday, April 23. She has stated that letters are to be sent to all congregation members, and we encourage everyone to come with their joys and concerns.

For our shut-in members and those who cannot attend due to work or prior obligations, you too will have the opportunity to express your thoughts to the committee, by filling out a form which will be included in the upcoming mailing.

We ask that you please direct any questions to the Pastor or church council.

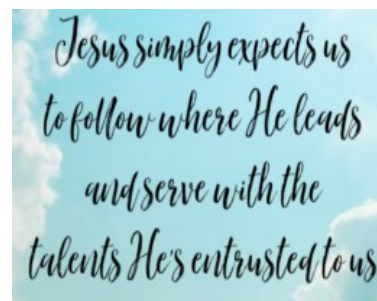
Thank you,
Carol Fultz
Council President

Please note ~ the April council meeting has been rescheduled for Wednesday the 6th, due to our Maundy Thursday Worship service on the 14th.

Committee and Sunday morning duty sign-up sheets are available in the narthex. Members are still needed to serve on the Website and Long Range Planning committees.

We continue scheduling volunteers to help with the Sunday morning duties on a monthly basis. Needed are persons to help, greet, lay read, deliver bulletins/CD's and altar flowers in May and June.

Please prayerfully consider serving the church in one of these ways. Jesus came to serve and we serve God by following His example. The giving of your time is another form of tithing.



Jesus simply expects us
to follow where He leads
and serve with the
talents He's entrusted to us.

Thank you to everyone who donated to our Camp Mount Luther offering, we were able to give \$520.00 during their Raise the Region Fundraiser! During the fundraiser, CML exceeded their goal and raised \$33,850. Because of your generosity lots of families, children, and youth will have a summer camp experience. Thank you for helping make outdoor ministry happen.

As the church Camperson, I would love to talk to anyone about attending camp this summer. Register for summer camp before April 15th for a discount. Brochures can be found in the narthex.

Anne Harshbarger



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

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

E-Mail: cml@campmountluther.org

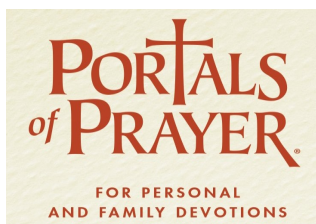
We are accepting donations for the annual yard sale, and will take anything in **good usable condition**, with the exception of clothing and TV's. They may be placed either in front of, or on the stage.

Thank you!!

DAYCARE
YARD
SALE

The logo for the Daycare Yard Sale features the words 'DAYCARE', 'YARD', and 'SALE' stacked vertically. The word 'YARD' is in a larger, bold, green font. A small illustration of a house with a red roof and a chimney is positioned between the 'Y' and 'A' of 'YARD'.

There are copies of the Portals of Prayer April through June edition in the narthex. Please let the office/council know if you prefer it over any of the devotionals we currently subscribe to.

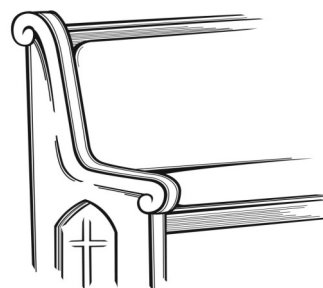


Social Ministry is collecting the following personal care and first aid items for Liberia ~
Multivitamins, Band-Aids, gauze, tape, cotton swabs, anti-bacterial ointment, digital thermometers, eye drops, and tweezers, alcohol wipes, or you can purchase a ready made First Aid kit
Deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes for adults/children.

Your donations can be placed in one of the boxes located in the coatroom area and narthex.

We still have plenty of the metal folding chairs under the stage. Feel free to help yourself.

There is also half of a pew (broke off the middle support of one of the pews taken out of the sanctuary) on the stage. It is available to anyone who would like to take it. It could also be used by someone who likes to work with wood. Please note ~ it is heavy, and help will be needed to load it.



Belleville Mennonite School 57th Annual Auction ~ May 27 & 28, 2022

Friday's activities will include a Chicken Barbeque dinner, Silent Auction, Live music, a preview of auction items, fellowship and more! Saturday includes Breakfast from 6:30-8:30, Food & Baked Goods throughout the day, and Kid's Activities from 9:00am-2:00pm. The Merchandise & Certificate Auction begins at 8:30 and features Handmade Quilts sold at the top of each hour!

**Facebook Auction
May 23, 2022**

We will be featuring a variety of special merchandise and certificates during a special online auction!



Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday
Worship
7:00pm ~ April 14
at St. John's



Good Friday
Worship
7:00pm ~ April 15
at West Kish



Palm Sunday ~ April 10

Service begins with Procession of Palms



*Worship With Us
This Easter*

St. John's
9:30am



West Kish
11:00am

Ukraine Support Donation Site

Sharp Shopper, Belleville

March 30 ~ Next Pick Up

Items Needed ~

- ◇ Baby Food (plastic containers)
- ◇ NEW Clothing
- ◇ NEW Blankets
- ◇ Dry food for the soldiers - lightly boxed, expiration date 3-6 months out or greater
- ◇ Personal hygiene (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc.) – smaller bottles /personal sized (not family size)
- ◇ Hand and foot warmers
- ◇ Pillar candles (no glass)
- ◇ Feminine hygiene items
- ◇ Wrapped bars of soap
- ◇ Flashlights with batteries attached (not inside)
- ◇ Personal / Home First Aid Kits
- ◇ Band-Aids / Gauze Rolls and Pads
- ◇ Adhesive and Non-Adhesive Dressings
- ◇ Wound Treatments
- ◇ Alcohol Swabs/Pads

St. John's thanks Sharp Shopper management for sponsoring this collection site.

APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 3

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Don and Rosalie Smith

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

April 10

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Gwen Hornberger

Lay Reader: Gwen Hornberger

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

March 14 ~ Maundy Thursday

Greeters: Reba Harmon and Jami Zook

Lay Reader : Jami Zook

April 17 ~ Easter

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Georgianna Buchanan

Lay Reader: Ed Bilich

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

April 24

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Joy Byler and Carol Fultz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** for April 17 and 24

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.



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

APRIL

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am Worship	Looking ahead ~ Sunday, May 8 ~ Mother's Day Monday, May 30 ~ Memorial Day Office and Daycare closed Parade begins at 9:30am				1 	2
3 Holy Communion	4 	5	6 6:30pm Council Meeting (Note change of date)	7 9:30am Comfort Knotting	8	9
10 	11	12	13	14 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship at St. John's	15 DC and Church Office Closed 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae at West Kish	16
17 Holy Communion 	18 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	19	20	21 9:30am Comfort Knotting	22	23 9:30am-3pm Synod Listening Committee
24	25	26	27 	28	29	30

St. John's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the February 10, 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 Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

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

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Ed Bilich led devotions. The devotion schedule for 2022 is:

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 01/24/2022 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes with a correction from the January 2022 minutes in the Pastor's report: The Christmas offerings were \$732 and \$700 of that was sent to the Lewistown Red Cross Fire Fund. Also, an addition, that if St. John's had to cancel church for any reason (i.e. furnace malfunction, etc.), West Kish would allow us to have our church service at their church at our normal 9:30 a.m. time slot. With the corrections and additions, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Ed Bilich and seconded by Deb French. 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 Joy Byler and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried.

In 2021 it was decided to give 50% of the interest/dividends gained from our investments to Mission. A motion was made by Deb French to give \$2,100 of the \$4,152.49 we gained in 2021. Joy Byler seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's report:

- ◇ Worship services: February 20th, Communion; February 27th, Transfiguration of the Lord (abbreviated service due to the congregational meeting); Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd; Palm Sunday April 10th; Easter Sunday April 17th. There will be an Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil at West Kish and all are invited to sign up to stop in for a 15 minute time slot.
- ◇ The Discretionary Fund balance is \$1,505.04.
- ◇ Upcoming Memorial service for Ev Young on Saturday, March 19th. A luncheon will be provided by Linda Byler.
- ◇ There will be a Congregational Leaders Gatherings on Tuesday, February 15th at 6:30 p.m. at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Reedsville with Craig Miller leading.
- ◇ We will attempt to set a date for a council retreat. Pastor Ela will send an email to council members to get possible dates.
- ◇ Synod – a meeting to discuss questions for interviewing candidates for new Bishop.
- ◇ Pastor was on vacation for a week recently.
- ◇ Registration for Transitional Ministry Conference cancelled in 2020 has been reinstated for July 2022.
- ◇ Long Term Planning – Vision for 2022 – After revising, now reviving and living our constitutional guidelines, how is what we are doing contributing to the mutual ministry of 1) pastor, council and congregation, 2) our Synod partners 3) Christ's world ministry?
- ◇ Respond in compassion, prayer and action to the cumulative impact of the pandemic on community, church, care workers, and families.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery - Nancy Penepacker – no report

Long Range - Ed Bilich – nothing to report

Property – Ed Bilich – L&L Boiler came and moved the condensate tank back in the pit. Things have been working well since. L&L Boiler did not make us pay for the repairs since it was an oversight on their part. We asked them to replace an elbow that had a pinhole causing water to spray out of it when they were moving the condensate tank. They did not charge us for that repair saying they wanted to keep us as happy customers.

Music & Worship – Jami Zook – no report

Social Ministry – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Day Care – Deb French – nothing to report

Finance – Joy Byler – nothing to report

Safety – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Staff Support – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Christian Ed – Nancy Penepacker – no report

Old Business:

Parking Lot sign caulking – Carol reminded Ed (property committee) to put caulking on the sign. We reviewed the Policy and Fees for non-member use of the Fellowship Hall. They will be updated for us to review them at the next meeting.

New Business:

- ◇ All newsletter information must be to Kelly no later than February 22nd.
- ◇ There was information on a new type of devotional, “Portals of Prayer”. It was decided to order 12 devotionals to see if the members like them.
- ◇ It seems that not many people are signing up for committees. We need to encourage people to sign up.
- ◇ There are still many openings for greeters in the near future. It was decided if no one signed up, we would set the table up with the bulletins and people could just pick one up.
- ◇ Audit – The girl that normally audits the books is unable to do it anymore. Joy will ask Bev Eichhorn if she is interested in doing it.
- ◇ Ed brought up a concern about how Quickbooks is set up. We should have sub-accounts for our checking accounts. He will look in to this matter and report back in March.
- ◇ A motion was made by Joy Byler to donate \$250 to the Meat Canning Project and seconded by Ed Bilich. Motion carried.
- ◇ We discussed maybe making out forms for Kelly and the Pastor to keep track of their vacations.

We recently had some concerns from the congregation. Carol contacted the synod office and Bishop Collins thought it was necessary to attend our meeting. She addressed the concerns and gave some very helpful information to follow the proper procedures as written in our by-laws and constitution. Carol, Pastor Ela and the Bishop Collins will work together to compile a letter to be included with the congregational meeting packet.

With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned. Pastor Ela led us with prayer and we all recited the Lord’s Prayer. Next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Byler, Secretary