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

MAY 2022

Remember...Our eternal and earthly freedom both came with a price



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





PASTORAL CARE: As I visit and bring communion to members of the church who have difficulty leaving home or are in senior care facilities, they always ask me to pass on how much they have missed (often for months or years) attending church, and how much they value the cards, flowers, bulletins and visits they receive. Many face illness, physical limitations and loneliness, some not even able to stand up or use their hands to open their mail. Yet their resilience, realistic and positive attitudes, the smiles and stories they tell are always a gift to visitors. Now that halls and residences have opened up as Covid recedes, I encourage you to make time to drop in, open mail, read to, talk with, and share a little joy with some of these folks. If you would like an idea who to visit talk to Pastor Ela, and if you know someone you would like us reach out to, please share that as well.

Gathering with families to tend, to honor, mourn, bury and celebrate the life of loved one is a cherished part of my work with the church. They always express gratitude for all who have participated in making this life passage meaningful and easier. Recent services for Stacy Spicher and Ev Young brought together many in our community honoring the place these women and their families have held in the heart of our church.

MEMORIAL DAY observances:

Thank you to Carolyn Conner and others who helped keep the spirit and tradition of Big Valley Memorial Day alive during the last two years. This year the VFW resumes their official parade and ceremonies with Dorie Remensnyder's son, Dirk, now a Colonel in the National Guard, participating as guest speaker and Pastor Ela offering prayers of invocation and benediction.

We also thank Ron Carson, his son, family and volunteers who have honored veterans with memorials in every cemetery in the area for the recent decades. This year, St. Johns will host veterans and community members for the Service before Memorial Day on Sunday May 29. Jesus said when offering the first Last Supper "Do this in remembrance of me." We gather for this special service to honor our God and all who have served God and country.

SYNOD NEWS:

New Bishop Search

Meetings of our Synod and Conference congregational leaders and pastors recently have focused on the upcoming election of a new Synod bishop. Two essential elements of this process are:

- 1: Gathering input from church constituents about what qualities they would value in a bishop. Our church representative for instance hoped a candidate would value family and developing youth involvement through camp ministry. Shaping interview questions that will reflect this without leading the conversation has been a challenge for the committee.
- 2. Prioritizing the work of the Holy Spirit in the search and election process, by allowing any voting member to nominate a rostered leader anywhere in the country whom they think would be a good bishop. Anyone of you may know, or have been watching or listening to an ELCA pastor during Covid you might want to nominate. Just let Pastor Ela know and she can submit that name to the pool! The idea is that the Holy Spirit may be speaking through any one of us, bringing obvious as well as unexpected nominees to the floor.

<u>Listening Team</u>

On April 23 our church participated in an information gathering and 'Listening process' with the Synod to help discern the way forward. We thank the Bishop, six member team and all who have offered input in this discovery process. This is another way we listen to each other and to the Holy Spirit, by opening up avenues for conversation and discernment inviting resurrection light into the church community. The team will be reporting back to us soon.



Funeral luncheon honoring Ev Young.

Knotters work on a recent quilt from Ruth Baker's patch work palette of bright and cheery patterns. Each person has a part in the process of bringing these quilts to completion, for outreach and ministry far beyond the walls of our church.



Our organist Seulki 'Susi' Yoo has been preparing two graduate recitals at Penn State recently. Her solo recital is Monday May 2 at Music Building 1 Recital Hall very near the Nittany Parking Deck. Plan to attend! Sunday May 1 we will have a substitute pianist so that she can prepare for this. Did you know she also has her

own YouTube channel? Check it out!!



Do you have grandchildren or neighbor children who would benefit from a week for fun and time with Christ at Camp Mt. Luther? We will make sure they have partial or full scholarships for Camp Mt. Luther this summer. Let our camp person, Anne Harshbarger know.

Pastor's Page continued...

The Sunday after Easter is set aside and celebrated as Holy Humor or Holy Hilarity Sunday. Christ rising from the dead is often considered the best joke in history- fooling his captors, condemners, his own disciples and, yes, even Death itself. And so we celebrate the gift and the humor in this world transforming, life transforming act. God certainly laughed a hearty laugh too. Was that snow on Easter part of this humor?







"Before we discuss destroying the competition, screwing our customers, and laughing all the way to the bank, let's begin this meeting with a prayer."



"Blasphemy, yes, but it was funny."

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 Financial Report

Checking account balance 4/28/2022 \$ 29,537.89

January 1 through April 28, 2022

Income \$ 72,623.23 Expense \$ 57,224.55 Net Income \$ 15,398.68

Thank you to Carol Fultz and Jami Zook for taking the time to contact our members to help with Sunday morning worship duties through the end of this year.

Included in this newsletter is a list of persons helping with altar care, delivering bulletins/flowers, as well as greeters and lay readers.

As a reminder, the monthly service schedule will continue to be included in the newsletters, along with those serving as greeters and lay readers for the upcoming week in the bulletins.



St. John's Congregational Council

	<u> 1 erm 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

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 4/28/2022 \$ 77,793.91

January 1 through April 28, 2022

Income \$ 135,216.00 Expense \$ 118,469.32 Net Income \$ 16,746.68

St. John's is the host church for the Veterans on Sunday, May 29.

Our worship service will glorify our Risen Lord, who died that we may have eternal life, and honor the men and women who gave their lives for our earthly freedom.

A reception is being held. Come and enjoy the fellowship with and our veterans and church family.

The annual Memorial Day parade begins at 9:30 on Monday, May 30 after a two-year hiatus due to Covid restrictions. A program and light luncheon will follow at the VFW. Come and support our Veterans.

Social Ministry

The committee met recently and is planning the following ~

- Reach out and help the victims of the recent Lewistown fire which displaced 9 persons and took the life of another. All loose offering from our worship services on April 24, May 1 and 8th will go to help the victims. If you are unable to attend worship and would like to donate, please notate "Lewistown Fire" on your check or envelope and mail/drop off at the church.
- The committee is entering a float in the annual Memorial Day parade. Carolyn Conner will follow in her car, and anyone who is not able to walk the parade route is welcome to ride along with her. If you are interested in participating, please contact a committee member. A list of our current committees and those who have signed up to serve is included in this newsletter.
- The committee is continuing to collect items for the Liberia cargo container. Along with First Aid supplies and personal care products, socks, underwear and flip flops for adults and children are also needed. Your donations can be placed in one of the boxes located in the coatroom area and narthex.
- ♦ There will be a Mother/Father Brunch following the worship service on Sunday, June 5. A sign-up has been placed in the narthex for those planning to attend, and the provide following needed food donations ∼ breakfast casseroles

homemade cinnamon rolls or sticky buns milk, chocolate milk or juice monetary donations to purchase sausage/bacon and a fruit tray (please give monetary donations to Sue or the church office by Sunday, May 29)



Daycare

The annual yard sale is only 2 months away. We are still looking for donations in **good usable condition**, including furniture. **NO clothing or TV's please!** They may be placed either in front of, or on the stage. Thank you!!

The daycare recently said good-bye to the preschool teacher and director. Joy Garland made the decision to leave in order to spend more time with her children, and support her husband in the ministry position he holds in their church. Lisa Lingle resigned due to personal reasons and is looking to possibly relocate closer to her mother and family. We wish them the best and thank and them for their time here.

Former director, Valerie McTavish is filling in during the interim. Several of the staff have moved into different positions. Older toddler teacher, Shirley Kinzie has moved into the preschool (not Pre-K counts) classroom. Deb French agreed to temporarily teach Shirley's toddlers, and ended up enjoying so much, she decided to take the position. These and other changes have been well-received and offered new opportunities the staff.

The Crossroads Baby Bottle fundraiser begins Mother's Day, May 8th and continues through Father's Day, June 19th. If interested, you can pick up a bottle in the narthex and fill it with your pocket change, cash or a donation by check.

A collection box will also be placed in the narthex for return of the bottles or you can drop them off at the church office.

Crossroads Pregnancy Center is a non-profit organization which receives no state or federal funding. Their mission is to reach out to those facing pregnancy decisions know and understand all their options, by offering help, hope, and healing in Jesus' name.



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

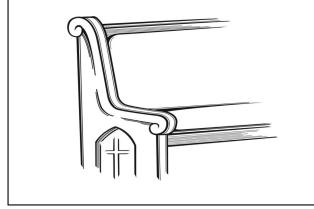
Friday's activities will include a Chicken Barbeque dinner, Silent Auction, Live music, a preview of auction items, fellowship and more! Saturday includes Breakfast from 6:30-8:30, Food & Baked Goods throughout the day, and Kid's Activities from 9:00am-2:00pm. The Merchandise & Certificate Auction begins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

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 \sim it is heavy, and help will be needed to load it.



St. John's has Meals on Wheels the end of May/beginning of June. Please sign-up in the narthex if you can held provide the following \sim

Tuesday, May 31 ~ 5 Angel Food cakes (Make your own, or purchase homemade from Peight's, WHS or elsewhere)

Thursday, June $2 \sim 5$ dozen cookies (any kind)

Tuesday, June $7 \sim 4$ 9x12 pans or 5 dozen Homemade Sticky buns (can also be purchased locally)

Thursday, June 9 ~ monetary donations to purchase pies (see Sue Lynch/church office)

Please make sure your to have your dessert at the Community hall by 9:00am the day it is needed.

St. John's 2022 Committees

Listed are our current committees along with those persons who have "signed-up" to serve on them. Several meet on a monthly basis, while others meet several times a year, or only when needed. If you would like to serve, or have questions/concerns please contact one the committee members or council representative. Their information can be found in the recently updated Member Directory. If you did not receive once, extras are located in the narthex.

Previously, phone numbers and email addresses were listed for each committee member, but with the newsletter available to view on our website, "anyone" can access that information.

Cemetery

John Chester Council Rep - Nancy Penepacker

Christian Education / Youth

Michele Harshbarger, Rosalie Smith, Erica Hargenrader Council Rep - Nancy Penepacker

Day Care

Michele Harshbarger, Joy Byler, Deb French Council Rep - Carol Fultz

Finance / Investment

Council Rep - Joy Byler No volunteers signed up to serve

Long Range Planning

Council Rep - Ed Bilich No volunteers signed up to serve

Missions

Michele Harshbarger, Anne Harshbarger, Joe Kanagy Council Rep - Carol Fultz

Property

Jim Buchanan, Deb French, Joe Kanagy, John Boring, Don Smith Council Rep - Ed Bilich

Social Ministry

Website

Council Rep - Ed Bilich No volunteers signed up to serve

Worship and Music

Carol Fultz, Reba Harmon, Rosalie Smith Council Rep ~ Jami Zook



The following is a list of St. John's living Veterans, who have served in time of war and in time of peace. Jesus paid the cost for our spiritual freedom, and we are able to freely worship Him because of those who paid the cost for our earthly freedom. Without these men and women and those who have gone before them, especially those who sacrificed their lives, we would not have the *privilege* of freedom and the security we enjoy. So on this Memorial Day 2022, we honor and thank them for their service to our God, and our country.

If you know of a living member not included on this list, please contact the church office.

Calvin L. Baker Dudley T. Baker Mark D. Baker Robert F. Bratton Edward K. Buchanan James D. Buchanan Albert Carson Glenn W. Carson Jeremiah Carson Ronald W. Carson William R. Carson Matthew F. Chester Michael P. Conner Tristan K. Conner Mark A. Crownover William L. Dancy Christopher A. Durst

John K. Durst, III Garv R. Fultz Robert W. Gardner Terry L. Harmon H. Ross Harshbarger Randall C. Harshbarger Sheldon S. Kauffman Robert D. Keller, Jr. Andrew K. Kramm Johnn Marie Kruse Ralph W. Murphy Daniel L. Narehood Frank R. Oburn Dirk Remensnyder Robert W. Romig, Jr. Christopher N. Plank Charles C. Royer

Paul C. Sitch, Jr Donald F. Smith Donald L. Smith. Sr. Larry F. Smith Daniel G. Stroup David Stroup Jackson Stroup Jason T. Stroup Brian A. Stuter Suzette Stuter Jack K. Wagner James R. Warner Steven E. Warner Brandon J. Weaver Mark S. Winegardner John S. Winegardner Kenneth C. Wyland



June ~ December 2022 Worship Volunteers

June

Altar Care ~ Susan Keller and Sandra Metz Bulletin/Flower Delivery ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

	Lay Readers	<u>Greeters</u>
5 th	Jim Buchanan	Jim and Georgianna Buchanan
12^{th}	Gwen Hornberger	Gwen Hornberger
19^{th}	Deb French	Deb French
26^{th}	Ed Bilich	Don and Rosalie Smith

July

Altar Care ~ Carolyn Conner and Brenda Boring Bulletin Delivery ~ John and Brenda Boring Flower Delivery ~ Sue Lynch

	Lay Readers	<u>Greeters</u>
3 rd	Deb French	Deb French
10^{th}	Ken Wyland	Bob and Susan Keller
17^{th}	Ken Wyland	Ken and Nancy Wyland
24^{th}	John Chester	Edna Chester
31^{st}	Ed Bilich	Carol Fultz

August

Altar Care ~ Joy Byler Bulletin Delivery ~ Nancy Penepacker Flower Delivery ~ Carolyn Conner and Jane Fultz

	Lay Readers	Greeters
7^{th}	Mike Harshbarger	Mike and Michele Harshbarger
14^{th}	John Boring	John and Brenda Boring
21^{st}	Jim Buchanan	Jim and Georgianna Buchanan
28^{th}	Erica Hargenrader	Nancy Penepacker and Gabriel

September

Altar Care ~ Carol Fultz
Bulletin Delivery ~ John and Brenda Boring
Flower Delivery ~ Nancy Penepacker

	Lay Readers	<u>Greeters</u>
4^{th}	Carolyn Conner	Jane Fultz
11^{th}	Sandra Metz	Don and Rosalie Smith
$18^{\rm th}$	Deb French	Deb French
25^{th}	Chelsea Reed	Chelsea and Merritt Reed

October

Altar Care ~ Carol Fultz and Michele Harshbarger Bulletin Delivery ~ Randy Harshbarger Flower Delivery ~ Carol Fultz and Nancy Wyland

	Lay Readers	<u>Greeters</u>
2^{nd}	Gwen Hornberger	Gwen Hornberger
9 th	Ken Wyland	Ken and Nancy Wyland
16^{th}	Jami Zook	Jami Zook and Mike Boring
23^{rd}	Ed Bilich	Jay and Joy Byler
30^{th}	John Boring	John and Brenda Boring

November

Altar Care ~ Joy Byler Bulletin Delivery ~ Randy Harshbarger Flower Delivery ~ Deb French

	Lay Readers	Greeters
6^{th}	Jim Buchanan	Jim and Georgianna Buchanan
13^{th}	John Chester	John and Denise Chester
20^{th}	Erica Hargenrader	Erica and Gabriel Hargenrader
27^{th}	Carolyn Conner	Jane Fultz

<u>December</u>

Altar Care ~ Carol Fultz and Sandra Metz Bulletin Delivery ~ John and Brenda Boring Flower Delivery ~ Carol Fultz

	Lay Readers	<u>Greeters</u>
4^{th}	Mike Harshbarger	Michele Harshbarger
11^{th}	Chelsea Reed	Jami Zook
$18^{\rm th}$	Sandra Metz	Carol Fultz
$24^{\rm th}$	Ken Wyland	Bob and Susan Keller

~ Please remember ~

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

Thank you for helping to serve!!

MAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

<u> May 1</u>

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler **Lay Reader:** Jami Zook

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

<u> May 8</u>

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Ed Bilich **Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

<u>May 15</u>

Elevator: Carolyn Conner

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Mike Harshbarger **Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

May 22

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Gwen Hornberger **Lay Reader:** Gwen Hornberger

Money Counters: Joe Kanagy and Randy Harshbarger

Sound System: Jay Byler

<u>May 29</u>

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger **Greeter:** Carolyn Conner **Lay Reader:** Jami Zook

Money Counters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring

Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Brenda Boring and Sandra Metz

<u>Altar Flower Delivery</u> ~ Jim and George Buchanan

Bulletin Delivery ~ Jim and 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 May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion	2	3	4	5 9:30am Comfort Knotting	6	7
8 Mothers Day	9	10	11	6:30pm Council Meeting	13	14
15 Holy Communion	16 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	17 Primary Election Day	18	9:30am Comfort Knotting	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Ascension Day	27 BMS School Sale	28 BMS School Sale
Veterans at St. John's	30 Memorial Day 9:30am Parade DC/Office Closed	Remember and Honor	June 5 ~ Pentecost Mother/Father brunch in F.H. 11:00am June 12 ~ Holy Trinity June 19 ~ Father's Day			

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Pastor Ela led devotions since Deb was absent. The devotion schedule for 2022 is:

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 2/10/2022 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Ed Bilich. 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 Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Joy Byler. Motion carried.

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

Pastor's report:

Worship services coming up include:

March 13 – Second Sunday of Lent

March 20th – Third Sunday of Lent with communion

March 27th – 4th Sunday of Lent

April 3rd – 5th Sunday of Lent with communion

April 10th – Palm Sunday

April 14th – Maundy Thursday Service with communion – St. John's 7 p.m.

April 15th – Good Friday Service at West Kish – 7 p.m.

April 17th – Easter Sunday Service with communion

Planning and Preparation:

Working with Worship and Music, bulletins.

Mission:

Discretionary Fund balance remains the same at \$1,505.04. • Individuals have expressed interest in sponsoring a refugee family through Samaritan's Purse or ELCA and PCUSA. It would probably be an ecumenical project.

Pastoral Care

Follow up on congregational meeting and listening process. Hoping to set a date soon for the listening process.

Ev Young's memorial service on March 19th 11 a.m. service. Nancy Penepacker offered to be a greeter and Randy Harshbarger will operate the elevator.

Meetings

Congregational Leaders Mifflin County met on 2/15/22 at 6:30 p.m.

Still thinking of when to have a council retreat. It will probably be after the listening process sometime.

Synod – Annie Harshbarger was nominated as a youth representative candidate for Church Wide Assembly.

Juniata Conference meeting

Workshop opportunity: Facilitating Healthy Pastor – Congregation Relations will be held on March 29th 9:30 - 3:30 via zoom.

Ministerium met on March 8th....and will now meet quarterly.

Self care, Education/Retreat/Time Off:

May take ½ week denominational service end of March.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery - Nancy Penepacker – no report

Long Range - Ed Bilich – nothing to report

Property – Ed Bilich – Ed will contact Penelec concerning the playground expansion and make sure they will be able to effectively reach the pole if needed. Property committee is getting estimates for a 200 amp service.

Music & Worship – Jami Zook – no report

Social Ministry – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Day Care – Deb French – Carol reported that the daycare director, Lisa Lingle, has put her resignation in as of March 11, 2022. Our former director, Valerie McTavish, will step in as an interim until we find a replacement. We have a couple of resumes and will be setting up a time to meet with them soon.

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:

- Pastor Ela will look over the Fellowship Hall policy and bring a draft to the next meeting.
- Beverly Eichhorn audited the books for the church and the daycare and they were found to be in good order.
- ♦ Ed discussed doing some changes in QuickBooks to make things a little easier to see actual balances in accounts. He will be working with Kelly on this.
- ♦ Jami will get a calendar for Kelly's office so Kelly and the pastor can mark their vacation requests on it. It will be a good way to keep track of vacations.
- Discussion continues on mini splits....Ed stated we first would have to have another 200 amp electrical box installed before we can make any decisions.
- The old metal chairs under the stage are available for people to pick up for free if they wish. If we can't get rid of all of them, we may advertise on FB, or sell them at the daycare yard sale.

New Business:

- ♦ We were notified that we would be receiving a bequest of \$50,000 from a former member, Evelyn Young. It is to be used at council's discretion.
- Our organist, Susie, is in need of a car. She is now renting every week and since the rental company is no longer open on Saturdays, she has to rent for two days. If anyone knows of a car for sale, let Susie know.
- Newsletter information must be to Kelly no later than March 23rd.
- ♦ The April meeting must be scheduled for a different date, as it falls on Maundy Thursday.

With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m. due to the normal week being Maundy Thursday.

Respectfully submitted, Joy C. Byler, Secretary