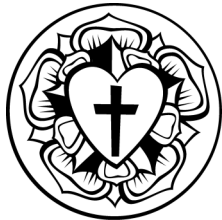


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3597 WEST MAIN STREET  
PO BOX 5716  
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

**SEPTEMBER 2022**



## ***Our Mission Statement***

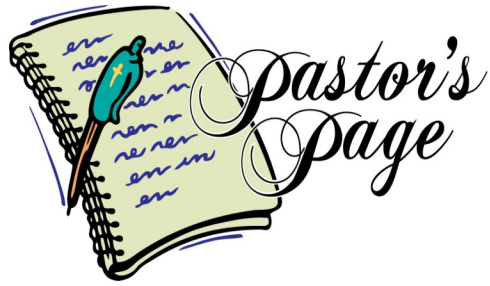
*We, the members of St. John's congregation,  
promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ  
and to love one another through worship and service  
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

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](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)  
Website ~ [stjohnsbelleville.org](http://stjohnsbelleville.org)





September is a time of transition from paring down to sundresses and shorts to beginning to layer up for fall; from enjoying extended time at the beach to gearing up for school and preparing for winter. These seasonal changes are engrained in our every year on earth.

Other kinds of transitions are more difficult to detect. I found this true at the San Francisco Bay when I naively tried to identify the exact moment the high tide of the August moon switched direction and receded back out to the sea leaving the inundated marshes, once again, bare. I found it much more subtle and puzzling than I thought it would be.

Prophets usually relied on God to alert them to tides of change so that they could relay His word to the people. In society we often think we can detect or even obstruct the direction of change. There are often many prophets or false prophets to confuse the mix. Even though we know things are changing we may not be sure which direction we are going or want to go and in the swirl may want some things to just stand still and stay the same.

Transitions in religion and in the church may seem more obvious. We can see the trends - lower attendance, aging population, digital age and soccer club distractions. It seems the tides are always receding. As Bill and I sat near a rocky inlet on the Pacific coast with a friend, she pointed out that during the receding tides a sharp eye can detect red or orange agates or carnelians amongst the tiny grey and sandy stones of the beach. She handed me one and I spotted a couple of these treasures and brought them home in my pocket.

At the Transitional Ministry Conference we seemed to be asking ‘what are the gems we can find and affirm at this time of low tide in any church we visit?’ We may have to look for them but identifying what things of value really stand out is one of the first points of being aware of and embarking on transition. Holding them in our hand as gifts of God then gives us a rock, a foundation for exploring what things to take with us, what things to put down and leave behind as we discern the direction God has in mind for us.

When I was at the conference, 4:30AM at Zephyr Cove was still 7:30AM Pennsylvania time to me so it was not difficult to get up for a time of silent uninterrupted meditation and prayer before early morning worship began. Almost every morning I would head down the path to the dock often having to make my way through swarms of little critters, bats!, who seemed to furtively claim the remaining darkness of those early hours. I remained calm and kept walking. I knew they had sonar and I was focused on having a peaceful, soulful morning with God.



A couple of rocking cedar benches have been put on the dock since this picture was taken. This was the first time I had been on a large body of water since before Covid. The gentle early morning waves still undisturbed by fishermen, tourist boats and jet skis kept a steady heartbeat pulse as they rolled under the deck. I would sit there and rock to rhythm with nothing between me and the deep blue waters, and the broad mountains spread out before me. Nothing between me and God. Then it came like a wave you could not block or divert or analyze, like a wave or voice in and through me

like a spring of tears seeping through the surface: “I am Here with you” and from inside myself I answered “Here I am, I am Yours.” God’s ever inflowing tide of love was there.

We often think that in prayer we initiate a conversation with God, we bid God come to us. Yet, in making the space for prayer, in putting ourselves in a place of awareness and waiting: sitting by the ocean, fishing by a stream, catching a sunrise, looking into a flower, walking in the woods, we often find God comes unbidden. There is a recognition of a fleeting affirmation of God with us. An experience that will stay with us and sustain us and that when we're ready we can share with others.

In our bulletin and here two questions are offered you.

***How and where did you enjoy God's good creation this summer?***

***Were you surprised by moments when it just felt God, Holy Spirit, Jesus was speaking to you?***

Place yourself on that bench by the lake or in your favorite place. Answer these questions for yourself, write them down and if you're willing share them with the pastor and note if you would also be willing to share them with the congregation in our newsletter. (Kelly would need them by Sunday, September 18 ).

This is a beautiful way to celebrate God's grace together and affirm these moments of spiritual growth in ourselves that will be the root of all transition in the church.

Grace with you. Amen.

Pastor Ela J. Robertson

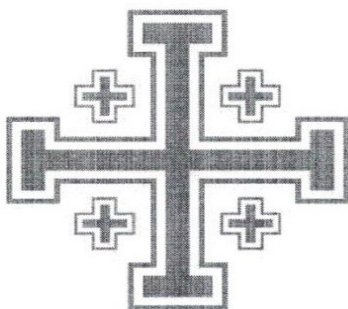


Anne Harshbarger and Camp Mt. Luther staff lead a discussion at the Synod Assembly, June 17 and 18.

Pastor at Transitional Ministry Conference in July.







*Your Prayers and Presence are Requested on*  
**Saturday, September 17, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.**

*for the*

**RITE OF INSTALLATION OF THE FOURTH BISHOP OF  
THE UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD OF THE  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**THE REVEREND  
CRAIG ARTHUR MILLER**

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
*5th and Market Streets, Sunbury, PA 17801*

A time of fellowship and light refreshments will follow  
the service. Clergy and deacons are invited to process.

*The color of the day is red.*

RSVP no later than September 2, 2022 at  
[www.uss-elca.org/events/installation](http://www.uss-elca.org/events/installation)  
*or scan the QR Code*



*call the Upper Susquehanna Synod Office at 570-524-9778 for information*

**MASKING IS ENCOURAGED**

*Parking is available on the street and in city lots between 4th  
and 5th streets and one block north on 5th street.*

## 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](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)

### St. John's Christian Daycare and Preschool

Valerie Stahl ~ 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 8/30/2022  
\$ 21,826.13

January 1 through August 29, 2022

Income \$ 113,981.98 Expense \$ 107,296.79  
Net Income \$ 6,685.19

### Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 8/30/2022  
\$ 53,260.57

January 1 through August 29, 2022

Income \$ 233,160.93 Expense \$ 245,272.41  
Net Income \$ -12,111.48\*

\*(Net income figure is result of ARPA grant  
(received in 2021/22) spending)



After taking a break for the summer, council will resume meeting on Thursday, September 8. **PLEASE NOTE** ~ since council did not meet, in July the June minutes have not been reviewed and approved. They will be included in the October newsletter.

There are three council members whose terms will expire at the end of this year. Please prayerfully consider serving in this way.



### St. John's Safety Concerns/Actions ~ Reminder

All doors of the church continue to be locked during worship. Following the service, you are asked to please exit through the coded doors or the single door by the coatroom, as they will all lock behind you.

## IN the CHURCH and COMMUNITY

### Daycare

Thank you to everyone who supported the annual daycare yard sale by donating items, coming to browse and buy...or both!! We made approximately \$1,200.00 which is very good considering 90% of what is sold is priced from .25 to \$1.00.

This year's gift show is scheduled for Friday, November 25 and Saturday, November 26. After 10 years, Daphne and Jim Marthouse have made the decision to discontinue the Casey Marthouse Memorial Scholarship Fund, and have handed the gift show over to the daycare as a fund raiser. They worked hard to establish this event which features high-quality, hand-crafted artwork from some of the area's finest artisans, and will be helping with the planning and show to ensure a smooth transition. More information will be included in the October and November newsletters.

The Adult Sunday school which meets in the blue room will resume on Sunday, September 18. Michele Harshbarger is leading the weekly sessions. You are invited to come and join them.

There are currently two available altar flower dates ~ October 9 and November 27. If you would like place them in memory or honor/memory of someone, sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office. The cost is \$40.00.

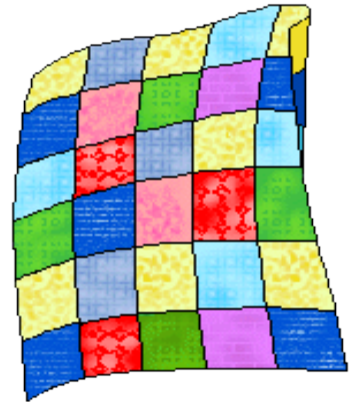


**Reminder** ~ In order to help keep communication flowing within the church, committees are requested to please inform the office of any meetings, so they can be included in the bulletin. Thank you.

After taking a break for the summer, the Knotters will gather together on Thursday, September 1st and again on the 15th at 9:30am in the blue room.

Blanket Sunday is October 2nd. Envelopes will be included in the September 25 bulletin and placed in the narthex. A selection from the comforts they finished this last year will be displayed throughout the church.

Your donation to support this ministry, can be made through Sunday, October 9th.



St. John's has Meals on Wheels October 4, 6, 11 and 13. There is a sign-up in the narthex for desserts, along with monetary donations to purchase pies. Money can be given to Sue Lynch, or dropped off at the church office.

Tuesday, October 4 ~ 5 9x12 pans of Apple Crisp

Thursday, October 6 ~ 5 dozen cookies (any kind)

Tuesday, October 11 ~ 5 Angel Food Cakes  
(Make your own, or purchase homemade from WHS or Peight's)

Thursday, October 13 ~ Donations to purchase pies  
(Please give to Sue Lynch or drop off at the church office)

We currently have a need for **substitute drivers**, who are willing to help with the meal delivery when the regularly scheduled drivers are not available. If you have any questions or can help in this way, please contact Sue Lynch (935-2013). Thank you!

# ***SEPTEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **September 4**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy

**Greeter:** Jane Fultz

**Lay Reader:** Carolyn Conner

**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester

**Sound System:** Ed Bilich

## **September 11**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger

**Greeters:** Don and Rosalie Smith

**Lay Reader:** Sandra Metz

**Money Counters:** Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

**Sound System:** Ed Bilich

## **September 18**

**Elevator:** Carolyn Conner

**Greeter:** Deb French

**Lay Reader:** Deb French

**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

## **September 25**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy

**Greeters:** Chelsea and Merritt Reed

**Lay Reader:** Chelsea Reed

**Money Counters:** Joe Kanagy and Randy Harshbarger

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

**Altar Care** ~ Carol Fultz

**Altar Flower Delivery** ~ Nancy Penepacker

**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

## September

## 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>9:30am Worship</b> <b>10:30am Adult Sunday school</b>	Looking Ahead  October 2 ~ Blanket Sunday October 30 ~ Reformation Sunday			1  9:30m Comfort Knotting resumes	2	3
4  Holy Communion	  Daycare and church office closed	6	7	8  6:30pm Council Meeting	9	10
11	12	13	14	15  9:30m Comfort Knotting	16	17 2:00pm Installation for new USS Bishop Rev. Craig Miller at Zion Lutheran, Sunbury
18  Holy Communion	19  6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	20	21	22  	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	