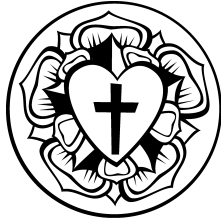


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

OCTOBER 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





A simple prayer

Precious words are often found tucked in the pages of an old book. They can offer us that 'god-wink' experience of words we just needed to hear, the uplift we needed at that particular moment in time. That is how this prayer was found by a young music teacher at a difficult time in her career.

Open my eyes to see what is beautiful, my mind to know what is true, and my heart to love what is good, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

The wonder of a short prayer is that it is easy to memorize. Perhaps a better way of saying that is - after reading it and saying it to ourselves for awhile, it just becomes a part of who we are, ready to lift us up and give us direction at a moment's notice. In the span of one sentence this prayer has the power to open us up *to see, to know, to love*. This in a nutshell is what Christ calls us to do.

Like many prayers this one begins with a command like 'Heal!, Save!, or Teach!' In this case it is 'Open!' What a powerful action to pray for! How many conflicts in relationships, in our churches and communities start with the unwillingness to be open to new or different ways of seeing, knowing or extending our love.

Being open means we, like an open door, are willing to step outside ourselves to see, appreciate, think about and care about people and the world that extends boundless beyond us.

God helps us do this.

In the previous newsletter and at the first Sunday after the equinox when summer officially turns to fall you were asked how you were opened up to beauty over the summer or at a special time in your life. How did you find those surprising moments of awe that seemed to affirm the presence of God?

It's often difficult to write this down. The words can not really capture the experience of knowing God in a sunset, in a hospital, in a moment with family.

But behind those simple words is a person's experience of opening up to beauty, to something larger than us, to a sense of God's presence, to a love that shines for us, speaks to us and sustains us through our days, through joys and difficulties.

As we read these words may they strengthen our sense of community and open us up to the beauty, truth and goodness God calls us to look for and live.

Pastor Ela

The following responses were submitted by members to Pastor Ela's questions ~

- ◇ Our beautiful valley—the fields, birds, animals, friends and family, and church family. Safety of our community.
- ◇ Ocean City, Md. ~ we enjoyed the beautiful sunrises and sunsets. Watching how the sand changed each day with the waves. God is not just a creator, but quite the artist in all these things.
- ◇ My first summer at Valley View Retirement Community was a blessing. It was a joy, enjoying the beauty of the area and the friendships I experienced.
- ◇ This summer we had many moments of God's presence and beauty. Anne and James married at Camp Mt. Luther amphitheater on a beautiful day in August. All were invited to Christ's table, and it was a beautiful sight to see all take communion, served with the help of James and Anne.

Continued on next page

- ◇ At camp a week with the grandkids.
- ◇ Our whole family got together for a Christmas gift of a picture of the whole family, requested by Memaw.
- ◇ After Anne and James wedding we went to Maine to visit my brother, Ray who was turning 70. He wanted to climb Mt Katahdin in Baxter State Park one more time. Mt. Katahdin is the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail. He had climbed it many times in his younger years. So, with the help of his daughter, Candace and her friends we made it. Candace is a certified North Maine Woods Guide. It was a beautiful day. The views were spectacular of God's creation.
- ◇ I thank God often for the beautiful valley we live in. The views are just AWSOME!
I like to sit on the swing on my back porch and watch the birds. I like the Robins and Finch but get a little excited when I see the Hummingbirds, Baltimore Orioles and Cardinals.
I usually take a walk in the morning and I often wish I had a camera to capture some of the moments. For instance, I love it when it's a little foggy and I see a tree or a barn with a silo silhouette against the foggy background. JUST BEAUTIFUL.
- ◇ Enjoying outings with my family and traveling to ball games.
- ◇ I have spent many days being blessed by God watching my grandsons play baseball and soccer! I have also had many days blessed with our family picnics in the summer. I am also blessed with wonderful church family! God has blessed all of us with life on this earth He created, and to know we live to serve and praise Him! Also, that is the way to salvation and eternal life with Him! I am thankful to God for everything! Because He lives we can face anything that comes our way!
- ◇ There have been a few times in my life when I have felt God speaking to me...one that sticks out the most is when I had an urge to check on my Dad. He was very ill and I had to take him to the hospital. Thank you God for your guidance.



SYNOD NEWS

Bishop Collins Retirement

Camp Mt. Luther sponsored a retirement party for Bishop Barb Collins honoring her six year term as bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. People enjoyed food and fellowship and getting to know her family and rambunctious grandchildren who were there to share in the festivities.

She sent a thank you of appreciation to our council and congregation, which can be found on the bulletin board located in the hallway outside the church and pastor's office.

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

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 09/27/2022
\$ 20,596.69

January 1 through September 27, 2022

Income \$ 125,418.17 Expense \$ 118,947.67
Net Income \$ 6,470.50

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 09/27/2022
\$ 50,145.45

January 1 through September 27, 2022

Income \$ 256,747.38 Expense \$ 270,330.92
Net Income \$ -13,583.54*

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

*I'm OK with kids soaping my
windows at Halloween. When
it rains, maybe they'll finally
get clean.*



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



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

Changes in our church family...



Sharon Dancy recently sold her home and is now living with her daughter, Noelle Calvin and family. Her new mailing address is ~ 903 Methodist Road
Greenville, Pa 16125

Molly Hummel and husband, Jerry are also moving in the near future to be closer to Molly's daughter, Jennifer. Their new address will be updated once we receive it.

We thank God for the blessing of church family. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they adjust to these changes in their lives.

"For he will order his angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands." —Psalm 91:11–12

Anne Harshbarger and James Gates were married August 13, 2022 at the Camp Mt. Luther amphitheater. They are currently living in State College. Anne continues to teach at the Mifflin County High School and James is working on his graduate degree in Conducting at the Penn State school of Music.

We pray God's blessing as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Michele added, "It was a beautiful day that brought all of us closer to God".



November 27 is still available to place altar flowers. If interested, please 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, all committees are requested to please inform the office of any meetings, so they can be included in the bulletin/newsletter. Thank you.

St. John's has Meals on Wheels the first two weeks in October. Thank you to everyone who helped provide the needed desserts or money for pies. Please remember to have your food donation at the Community Hall by 9:00am the day it is needed.

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!



The daycare once again participated in the United Way Day of Caring. This year, seven medical residents and one office worker from Geisinger Lewistown Hospital volunteered their time to paint 2 classrooms and do much needed work to the playground area. Thank you to Don Smith for supplying the power tools needed to complete a spur of the moment project they were willing to take on.

We are always so grateful for the work they do each year, and all for the price of lunch from the White Hall Store.



Advent 2022
St. John's and West Kish ~ The Journey to Christmas

Advent begins on Sunday, November 27 and with help from West Kish members, we are hoping to complete another devotional. A sign-up sheet along with scripture readings can be found in the narthex. Volunteers are needed to help write the meditations. **Submissions are due by Friday, November 11...PLEASE.**

Take time to read the scripture and meditate on its meaning. You can tell a story that relates to the passage and end it with the point you would like to make. A short prayer can also be included. Most importantly, be yourself, and let it reflect what is in your heart.

Booklets will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 20. If you know of others who would enjoy having one to use as part of their daily devotions, please feel free to take for them.



Thank you to everyone who participated in the "Liberia Tuition Sponsorship Program". A total of 39 students were sponsored at an average of \$106.00 per student, for a total of \$4,140.00.



The 2023 birthday calendar will be completed in November. Any member who would like to add/remove persons to/from the calendar is asked to PLEASE contact the church office with the name(s) and birthdate(s) **by Sunday, November 9th.**

Reminder ~ only the names of active members, along with persons they have requested to add will be included on the calendar.

Blanket Sunday is October 2nd. Envelopes were included in the September 25 bulletin and placed in the narthex. A selection of 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.



Meat Canning Project
Central Pennsylvania World Hunger Association
PO Box 76
Belleville, Pa. 17004

You are invited to attend the 49th Annual Meat Canning Kickoff Meeting, that will be held at the Burnham Church of Brethren, on Thursday, October 25, 2022, at 6:30 PM. The Church's address is 541 E. Freedom Ave., Burnham, PA 17009.

There will be a meal, short meeting, and Ken Litwiller, the new Canning Director from the Mennonite Central Committee, will be the speaker. We would ask that you reply by October 19, 2022, if you will be attending,

Please call: Jesse Diem at 717-348-9577, Ben Stoltzfus at 814-625-2430, or Jonathan Coldren, 717-250-6840, so we can have a count of how many to prepare for. A free will offering will be taken to help with meal. We are planning to can 30,000 pound of product (chicken or turkey) this year.

Thank you,
Rick Esh, Secretary.

OCTOBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

October 2

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Gwen Hornberger

Lay Reader: Gwen Hornberger

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

October 9

Elevator: Carolyn Conner

Greeters: Ken and Nancy Wyland

Lay Reader: Ken Wyland

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

October 16

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Mike Boring and Jami Zook

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

October 23

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler

Lay Reader: Ed Bilich

Money Counters: Joe Kanagy and Randy Harshbarger

Sound System: Jay Byler

October 30

Elevator: Carolyn Conner

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: Mike Boring and Jami Zook

Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Michele Harshbarger and Carol Fultz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Carol Fultz and Nancy Wyland

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.

St. John's Lutheran Church

OCTOBER

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Holy Communion World Communion and Blanket Sunday	3	4 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	5 10:00am Service of Prayer and Song at Valley View Terrace Chapel	6 St. John's has Meals on Wheels 9:30am Knotting	7	1 8
9	10 Columbus Day 	11 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	12	13 St. John's has Meals on Wheels 6:30pm Council Meeting	14	15
16 Holy Communion	17 6:30pm Property Committee	18	19	20 9:30am Knotting	21 	22
23 	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Reformation Sunday	31 	Looking Ahead November 6 ~ All Saints/Daylight Saving Time Ends November 20 ~ Christ the King November ~ 25 & 26 ~ Holiday Gift Show November 27 ~ First Advent				

St. John's Lutheran Church **Minutes of the June 9, 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, June 9, 2022 at 6:00 pm in the blue room.

Bishop Collins presented the recommendations from the listening committee. There was some discussion with her and she then left. We appreciate all the work Bishop Collins and the listening committee did for us through this process.

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

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Joy Byler led devotions. The devotion schedule for 2022 is:

July & August – no meetings

September – Joy Byler

October – Deb French

November – Jami Zook

December – Carol Fultz

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the May 11, 2022 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes 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 Jami Zook 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 Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried.

Pastor's report:

WORSHIP

- Pastor Ela clarified altar helpers and communion helpers and what their roles are. Rosalie and Gwen may help pastor Ela during the service and help distribute bread. The people that are signed up for altar care will set up the altar as usual and help distribute the wine.

Memorial Day Sunday service went well, as well as the VFW service on Memorial Day.

UPCOMING SERVICES

- June 12 – Trinity Sunday – no communion – will honor graduates and teachers at this time.
- The pastor will be taking time off and vacation in the following manner with the noted speakers:
 - July 17th – 23rd : Pastor Ela will attend a Transitional Ministry Workshop. The 17th will be a communion Sunday and the guest speaker will be Pastor Randy Traxler.
 - July 24th – 30th : She will attend Denominational Service – Prayer Partners. The 24th guest speaker will be Gideon Tom Gresh.
 - July 31st – August 7th : She will be on vacation. Guest speaker on July 31st – Pastor Randy Traxler
 - Guest speaker on August 6th – Rev. Richard Nyakaana.

MISSION:

The discretionary fund balance is: \$1,215.04.

PASTORAL CARE:

The pastor visited veterans, returning congregants, new attenders. She also led a funeral for Harry Yoder, brother of Nathan Yoder (non-member), who was buried with family members in St. John's cemetery.

MEETINGS:

Big Valley Ministerium will meet on June 14th. Meeting with the Valley View Chaplains as well. We asked that the ministerium keep us in their prayers. Synod Assembly is June 17 & 18. We will set a time to follow up on the listening team recommendations.

COMMUNITY EVENTS:

The Memorial Day Parade; There will be "Prayer at the Park" on June 18th at 10:00 a.m. at Victory Park in Lewistown. There is a meal to follow.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery - Nancy Penepacker – nothing to report

Long Range - Ed Bilich – nothing to report

Property – Ed Bilich – Ed stated the property committee would like to add one job to the sexton's duties: check outside drains on a weekly basis and sweep any leaves or debris away from them. A motion to add this job to the Sexton's job description was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried. Ed stated he spoke to Adam Glick and told him we accepted his bid for the new electrical boxes, however, Ed hasn't heard back from him yet. Centre Wisp is ready to install fiber line once our electric is taken care of.

Music & Worship – Jami Zook – The Memorial Day Sunday service and refreshments went great.

Social Ministry – Carol Fultz – The mother/father brunch went very well and there was a great turnout.

Day Care – Deb French – Deb stated that they purchased two new benches that are very nice. The new air conditioners have been installed. Jim Buchanan will talk with Sylvanus Peachey on venting these air conditioners, as they are floor units. Valerie McTavish (our former daycare director), who was filling in as interim, has decided to take on the director job. Things are going very well. Penelec approved the play area extension as long as there is a double gate to get in if needed to repair anything with the pole that will be two feet outside of the fence. Ed will check with the property committee on any recommendations of who to get for the project.

Finance – Joy Byler – nothing to report

Safety – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Staff Support – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Christian Ed – Nancy Penepacker – nothing to report

Old Business:

- We discussed the copyright license for the church hymns to be copied. Joy Byler made a motion and Ed Bilich seconded the motion to purchase a license from CCLI (a popular copyright company). Motion carried.
- Ed stated that the internet equipment will cost us approximately \$2,000 to install. A motion was made by Joy Byler and seconded by Ed Bilich to use the monies from the Memorial Fund to cover these costs.
- Mission support – Since Joe Kanagy isn't sure if he will be going to Liberia, the synod asked where we would like to direct the funds they have received for his trips. Joe's wife Raphina, will be going to Liberia in the near future and Joe has asked for that money to be directed for her expenses. Ed Bilich made a motion and Jami Zook seconded the motion to notify synod and direct the monies to help Raphina on her trip to Liberia.
- Ed Bilich wondered about where we are taking the monies out of for the Electrical box upgrade that was approved at the May council meeting. He suggested using some of the monies budgeted for the property committee. Ed Bilich made a motion and Nancy Penepacker seconded the motion to use some of the budgeted monies for the project.

New Business:

- Information for the July/August newsletter must be in the office by June 28th.
- We received an InFaith Grant in the amount of \$1,000. It was decided to put it in the bank and list as a line item in our quickbooks.
- Ed stated there was a concern from a member about possibly getting screen doors for the fellowship hall to keep air flowing through. Recently the doors were open and a bird got in and it took a while to get it out and it made a mess. Ed will speak to property committee on this item.
- Nancy Penepacker stated that the candle lighters we currently have are very old and only one works. A motion was made by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Jami Zook to purchase two new candlelighters funded from the Memorial Fund. Motion carried. They are approximately \$170 each.
- We are checking with synod on the proper times to use the Christ Candle.
- Deb French stated that the bench outside the porch doors is really in bad shape. A motion was made by Deb French and seconded by Nancy Penepacker to purchase 2 new benches for out front to be funded from the General Fund. Motion carried.
- Bishop Collins will be retiring her position soon and there will be a celebration for her through the synod office. A motion was made and properly seconded to donate \$200 to the bishop, as she has really been a help to us during her time in office. Motion carried. It is our understanding that she stated any monetary gifts she receives pertaining to her retirement will be direct to Camp Mount Luther.
- A motion to approve the pastor's time off (see pastor's report) was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried.
- We discussed the listening committee results and recommendations and came up with a plan for council: Make clear job descriptions, work on communications, and have a fall council retreat; be positive and recognize if we want things to be better – we may need to change. The recommendations the listening committee made will be included in the newsletter. The recommendations are based on the summary of what they heard from the participants. If anyone would like to see the results, they will be in the pastor's office, and an appointment may be made for you to see them.
- We made a tentative date of October 8th for a council retreat. Options for themes include "Healthy Congregations" curriculum materials and having a Synod representative work with us on "Mutual Ministry".
- Pastor Ela stated that Camp Mount Luther has a nice virtual program that will be available August 1st – 5th and thought the daycare might be interested in using it for the children. DAY CARE: Pastor Ela shared she has talked to CML representatives about making portions of the kid centered Christian education curriculum available to the day care. This could be set up 'live' with Anne Harshbarger or the Pastor as well as through their on-line camp programs. Links to a special program for August 1st – 5th was sent to Deb French. This is a free program that could be used with day care and school age students.

With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with a prayer by Pastor Ela. Next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Byler, Secretary