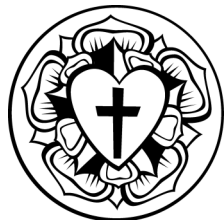


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 2022



"a child shall lead them" *Isaiah 11:6*

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



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

“Deep Peace of the Son of Peace to you.”



This last line to one of our ‘Prayer Songs’ captures the essence of the Christmas greeting. May this Advent season offer time for self reflection that opens new revelations and the deep peace that Christ brings into our lives.

Pastor Ela

FROM THE PASTOR

PRAYER SONGS

During the last few months we have been incorporating a few meditative prayer songs into our liturgy. This is part of the ‘Prayer Song Partners Project’ that brings together Presbyterians, Lutherans, Quakers and others to share a set of short original prayers that have come through the Spirit in the form of songs. Susi has been a part of this project, expertly transcribing the songs and adding a beautiful piano/organ accompaniment to lead us in singing them together in our services. Many of you have already expressed how much you have enjoyed this. We are gradually adding to our prayer song song sheets which are available as a reusable insert to the bulletin. You are welcome to take them home to sing them and pray them on your own as well.

R-1 VISA APPLICATION: Religious Worker visa application for Seulki Susi Yoo.

A few weeks ago, during our service, I provided an update on the process we have been involved with since May applying for West Kish and St. Johns to be approved to have a non-citizen Religious Worker at our churches. This will be required so that Susi can continue to be our Music Director/organist into the future when her student visa and Curricular Professional Training work permit expires as she finishes school. With an R-1 visa approved she would continue to work with us in music ministry and could potentially after two years or more apply for citizenship. We continue to pray that God helps us in the long convoluted process that will assure Susi will continue to be a part of our worship and church family. For Susi’s protection there may be a period of time when she would not be able to provide music direction for services until this work permit is approved. A letter explaining this process is available if you would like a copy.

SYNOD NEWS

RETREAT

Our second short retreat with a mentor from the Synod will be held Thursday December 8 from 5:30 - 7PM. The focus is on implementing the recommendations from the Synod listening team and the church in transition.

NARTHEX CHRISTMAS TREE

The tree in the narthex is again decorated with the beautiful needlework decorations by Linda Byler. Thank you, Linda!. Each symbol is tied to a message of our faith. How many can you identify?

ADVENT ACRONYMS - For all you word game folks!

During the four weeks of Advent we bring Christ's light into the darkening winter by lighting candles of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. This little acronym game is one way to think about what these words mean to us and may help encourage us in our Advent journey leading up to Christmas Eve when we light the Christ candle. Here are a couple examples I came up with to get you started. Have fun with this and feel free to use little articles 'a' or 'the' for example or prepositions 'of', 'to' etc. or adding a word if you need to. If you think of a couple, please share them by sending an email or dropping them off in the church or Pastor's office. *Pastor Ela*



H.O.P.E. Hold Onto Promise Eternal

H.O.P.E. Help Out People Everywhere

H.O.P.E. Hope Offers Purpose Each day

H.O.P.E.

P.E.A.C.E.

P.E.A.C.E.

J.O.Y. Jesus Offers You joy!

J.O.Y.

L.O.V.E.

L.O.V.E.

C.H.R.I.S.T.

C.H.R.I.S.T.

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 11/29/2022
\$ 11,302.11

January 1 through November 29, 2022

Income \$148,028.84 Expense \$148,677.70
Net Income -\$648.86

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 11/29/2022
\$ 43,170.10

January 1 through November 29, 2022

Income \$309,361.89 Expense \$327,390.72
Net Income -\$18,028.83

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

The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 11 following the worship service. Information pertinent to the meeting, has been mailed out to those members who did not pick theirs up following worship on November 27.

Please contact the church office if you did not receive yours.



We thank the outgoing council representatives Joy Byler, Deb French and Jami Zook for their service to this church and our Lord.

Our constitution states no less than six may serve, and with 3 persons going off, we will only have 3 council members.

Church leaders inspire members to keep coming back and help grow the church. Without good leadership, it's difficult for a church to continue to thrive. **PLEASE** prayerfully consider serving your church in this way.

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. (No meetings are scheduled in July and August).



The Social Ministry Committee is collecting items for the Shelter Service and *Mitten Tree* through January.

Mitten Tree ~ all items are needed for both adults and children items
Mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, socks, slipper socks and slippers

Shelter Service ~ the shelter currently has an urgent need for food
(place donations on/under the grey folding table in the narthex)

Any non-perishable foods including:

canned fruit, vegetables and soups, bottled juices, cereals,
pasta, pasta sauces, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter, jellies,
any other canned or boxed food items.

The 2023 church birthday calendars will be available in the narthex on Sunday, December 11.

There is no cost, feel free to take one or more.

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



Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex for anyone who would like to place Altar flowers next year. We will once again refrain from using them during Lent beginning Sunday, February 27 through Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 2.

Please remember to notate whether you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered. At this time, the cost remains at \$40.00.



Shining Light Through the Darkness annual Christmas light display at Derry Community Park (former Kish Park) begins Friday, December 3 and runs through January 6.

Featured are thousands of lights and displays for young and old to enjoy. There will be free entertainment, carriage rides, food and more. There is no cost and everyone is welcome. The park is open daily from 5:00pm to 10:00pm.

More information can be found on their website www.kishparkshininglight.org or Facebook page (the link is available on the website).

The 2023 offering envelopes will be available in member mailboxes on December 11. Please contact the church office if you did not receive or would like to have one.

Feel free to deliver to a member who may not be able to pick theirs up.



Thank you to *everyone* who supported this year's Gift Show. How blessed we are to have people who willingly gave of their time, money and talents, especially over the holiday weekend. With daycare families and others supplying almost all of the food, raffle prizes, homemade soups, baked goods and other items, there was minimal expense.

Overall, it was well attended, even though the turnout seemed to be less than last year. With the increase in heating oil, gas, food and just everything in general, people did not seem to be spending they way they have in previous years. Taking that into consideration, we are extremely pleased to report that the daycare made \$5,000.00 from various proceeds of the show.

A heart-felt thank you to the volunteers who came to the community hall at 5:30am Friday morning to help roll potpie dough and transport it to the church. Carol and Jane Fultz out-did themselves making enough to fill 2 large roasters and 90 quart containers. The show would not have been possible without the combined efforts of so many. God willing, there will be a 12th annual show. The vendors we spoke with are looking forward to coming back again, and we will be meeting in January discuss and make plans for next year.

Christmas Worship Schedule

2022 marks the 50th anniversary of our Nativity Set. It was hand-made and painted by Bernard "Bernie" and Barbara "Babs" (Stuter) Conner, and presented as a gift to St. John's in 1972. Many of us can remember it sitting behind the communion rail beside the "large, live" Christmas trees which stood in the front of the doors on the Mechanic Street side of the sanctuary. It now resides on the old altar in the narthex. Like us, over time it has endured a few breaks, is a little worn around the edges, but its message never grows old. Each year it is here reminding us of God's great love for us.



St. John's 7:00pm
West Kish 11:00pm

Candlelight
SERVICE

JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS EVE



Oh Come All Ye Faithful

Christmas Day
St. John's 9:30am
Worship will be held in the narthex



Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services

Winter is coming, and along with it, the possibility of bad weather. If there is snow/ice expected, the council president, vice president and pastor will determine if conditions require cancelling the worship service. This will be completed **no later than 6pm** the day before.

The church secretary will change the answering machine message to include the cancellation information. An email will be sent to all members who have supplied the church with their email address, and will also be posted on the church's website and facebook page.



Join Us!

The First Annual

Belleville Family Christmas Celebration

- **Tree lighting**
 - **Carriage Rides**
 - **Live Nativity with petting area**
 - **Live Christmas Music**
 - **Kids Games, Crafts, Facepainting**
 - **Storytime with Mrs. Claus**
 - **Photos with Santa Claus**
 - **Cookies, Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Hot Dogs**
 - **Christmas card signings for local soldiers away from home this Christmas season**
 - **Stop in at Watts Memorial United Methodist Church on Walnut Street and enjoy over 400 nativity displays**
- 
- 
- 

Friday, December 9th, 2022

6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Location: VFW



DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 4

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeter: Michele Harsbarger
Lay Reader: Mike Harshbarger
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Ed Bilich

December 11 ~ Congregational Meeting

Elevator: Carolyn Conner
Greeter: Jami Zook
Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz
Sound System: Joe Kanagy

December 18

Elevator: Joe Kanagy
Greeter: Carol Fultz
Lay Reader: Sandra Metz
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Jay Byler

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Elevator: Volunteer Needed
Greeters: Bob and Susan Keller
Lay Reader: Ken Wyland
Sound System: Volunteer Needed

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

Worship is being held in the narthex
Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

Altar Care ~ Carol Fultz and Sandra Metz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Carol Fultz

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

DECEMBER

2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:30am Worship 10:45 Sunday School</p>				<p>1 9:30am Comfort Knitting</p>	2	3
<p>4 Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion</p>	5	6	7	<p>8 5:30pm Council Retreat w/Meeting at 7:00pm</p>	<p>9 6:00-8:30pm Belleville Christmas Celebration at the VFW</p>	10
<p>11 Third Sunday of Advent Congregational Meeting</p>	12	13	14	<p>15 9:30am Comfort Knitting</p>		
<p>18 Fourth Sunday of Advent Holy Communion Poinsettia Orders Due</p>	<p>19 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting</p>	20		22	23	<p>24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship 11pm Worship at West Kish</p>
<p>25 The Nativity of Our Lord</p> 	<p>26 Office and Daycare Closed</p>	27	28	29	30	

St. John's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the October 13, 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, October 13, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

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

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Deb French led devotions. The devotion schedule for 2022 is:
November – Joy Byler
December – Carol Fultz

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the September 8, 2022 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Ed Bilich and seconded by Jami Zook. Motion carried.

Financial Reports:

The financial reports were presented by Ed Bilich.

St. John's – A motion to accept the St. John's Lutheran Church financial report was made by Jami Zook 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 Deb French. Motion carried.

Pastor's report:

- **Worship:** The services upcoming will be:
 - Advent – November 27, December 4, 11, 18
 - Possible Blue Christmas - December 21
 - Christmas Eve Service – Saturday, December 24th
 - Christmas Day abbreviated service – Sunday, December 25th
 - New Year's Day abbreviated service – Sunday, January 1, 2023
 - Epiphany w/communion – Sunday January 8th
- **Mission:** Discretionary balance remains the same. Suggestions are appreciated. With hurricanes, flooding, Ukraine needs, Africa with a drought, donations can be made to Disaster Assistance
- **Pastoral Care:** Visits to Valley View have been restricted due to another spike in covid. A Service of Prayer and Song was held on October 5th at Valley View. A DVD was made and may be shown at St. John's in the future.
Memorial Service for Pastor Tom Kramm on Saturday, October 22nd. 1:00 visitation 2:00 service at St. John's. Pastor Carla Volland, Bishop Miller and Pastor Robertson collaborating on service. Pastor Ela is working in conjunction with April Henderson of Henderson Funeral Home on a funeral planning form.

- Meetings: Synod – Installation of Bishop Miller via zoom, Juniata Conference meetings September and October. Listening team follow up with discussions with presenters to be at an upcoming retreat.
- Community Events: Prayer for Peace Service will be held November 16th at 6:30 p.m. at East Kish – planning with Evangelical Lutheran and East Kish Presbyterian.
- VISA: Susie's Visa is coming along. May be able to expedite the process, but it will have a cost.
- Self care, Education/retreat, Time off: Wee Kirk conference October 10-12. Pastor Ela and husband Bill both attended workshops. Vacation planned October 27th – November 3rd. October 30th pulpit supply will be Sister Marianne Brock, FCEP, Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation. November 4-6 – 2 ½ day workshop and Sunday off for Educational week already approved. November 6th pulpit supply will possibly be Harold Sharp. We will not have communion on November 6th ...it will be moved to November 13th.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery - Nancy Penepacker – not available

Long Range - Ed Bilich – nothing to report

Property – Ed Bilich – Fike Brothers came to look at the flooring in the upstairs kitchen. Brenda Boring and Sue Lynch will pick out the flooring. Todd Wyland will install a 5 gallon water heater under the sink in the upstairs kitchen. Todd Wyland will be our “handyman when needed”.

Music & Worship – Jami Zook – Hymns will be chosen before Advent begins. Lists will be compiled for greeters, lay readers, altar care, etc.

Social Ministry – Carol Fultz – Nothing to report

Day Care – Deb French – Rooms are being renovated, Val has been out all week with covid, we are down three teachers. There is going to be a field trip to the Rise and Shine Family Farm. Day of Caring worked on the playground, painted 2 rooms, cleaned the turtle tank and fixed benches.

Finance – Joy Byler – The finance committee will work on the 2023 budget.

Safety – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Staff Support – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Mission – Nothing to report

Christian Ed – Nancy Penepacker – not available

Old Business:

- The copyright payment was sent
- Discussion about the council spending limit. It will be brought to congregation at our fall meeting.
- Benches – Deb French will continue getting prices.
- Pascal/Christ Candle – This candle needs to be lit from Lent to Pentecost. It must stay out as well as the baptismal font any other times.
- Retreat – It was decided, after much discussion, to do the retreat at the next two council meetings. We will do the retreat from 5:30 – 7 p.m. and then do the meeting from 7 – 8 p.m. on November 10th and December 8th.

New Business:

- The Lion's Club in conjunction with other organizations, will be hosting the 1st Annual Belleville Christmas Celebration at the VFW on Friday, December 9th. Ed Bilich wondered if St. John's would like to do something to contribute to this, such as donation of money, crafts for children, etc. It was decided we could possibly hand out some bags with a few things in them. Carol said we could ask the daycare if they would be willing to help out.

- 2023 council members will be voted in at the fall congregational meeting and then following the January 8, 2023 worship service the council members will meet and the 2023 officers will be elected. Three members are needed to be on council, as Joy Byler, Deb French and Jami Zook go off this year.
- Josh Randolph has left us know that he has sold his business and it will take affect the end of the year. He also stated he would not be trimming our shrubbery. We will need to get interested parties/businesses to send bids to us.
- Carol had a list of the agenda for the fall congregational meeting. It will be held on Sunday, December 11th.
- We discussed the congregational vote for the pastor's contract. We all felt the congregation should be able to vote on this subject.
- The annual Holiday Craft show is planned for Friday, November 25th and Saturday, November 26th. A motion to allow the craft show to be held in the fellowship hall was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Ed Bilich. Motion carried.

With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2022, with the retreat beginning at 5:30 p.m. and the council meeting starting at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy C. Byler, Secretary

St. John's Poinsettia Order Form
Please note changes.....



There is no set price again this year.

*We **will not** be using the poinsettias trees.
A total of **24** will be purchased and
placed in the sanctuary and narthex.*

*Since Christmas Day worship is being held
in the narthex, anyone placing poinsettias,
may take theirs home following
the Christmas Eve service.*

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

**Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Sunday December 18th.**