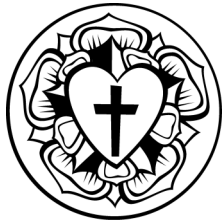


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

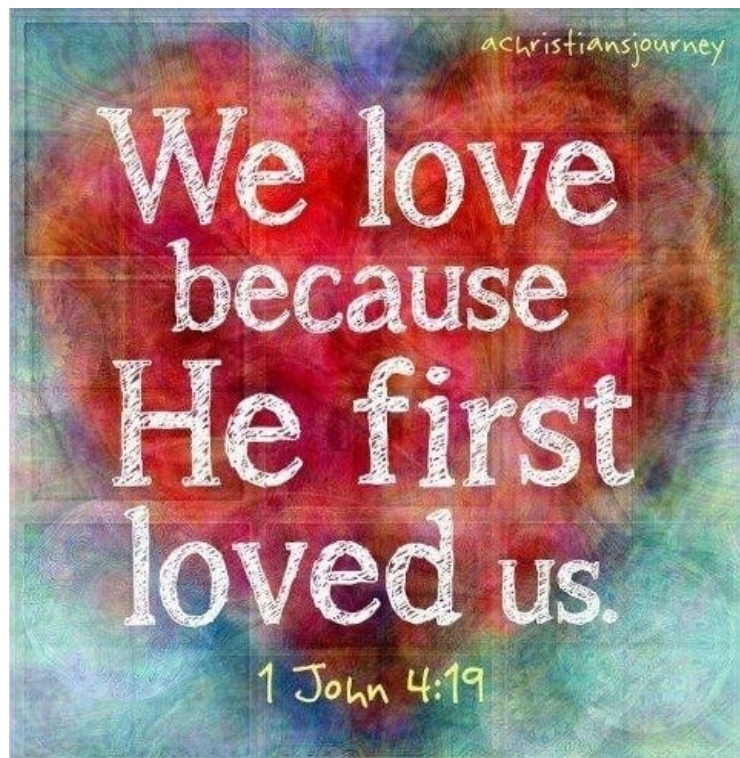
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

**JANUARY/FEBRUARY
2023**



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



FROM the PASTOR

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

It has always interested me that the greeting for the New Year is a wish for the gift of happiness. *Happy New Year!* Isn't that deep down what we all want? Seers and sages, Buddhists and popes have all written about the importance of happiness, how to acquire it and how to share it. Pope Francis has his own version in a little book printed just two months ago. Published in Italian, a translation of his 15 steps to happiness and an intro from a commentator, Isabela Carvalho, are printed below. How about picking one or two for your goals for the new year! ***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*** *2 Corinthians 5:17* Pastor Ela

Pope Francis' 15 tips to be Happy

In a book published in November 2022, Pope Francis talks about how to achieve happiness and reminds us that God, as our creator, wants the best for our lives. The book is only available in Italian for now and is titled "I want you to be happy: The hundredfold in this life," ("Ti voglio felice. Il centuplo in questa vita," Pienogiorno). In the first chapter the Argentinian Pontiff offers 15 "steps towards happiness." Here they are! I have listed a few in their entirety and the titles of the rest. You may read the English translation of his 15 points for happiness by googling Pope Francis - happiness or at: <https://aleteia.org/2022/12/26/pope-francis-15-tips-to-be-happy/>. (Credits: Isabella H. de Carvalho - published on 12/26/22, Antoine Mekary | ALETEIA accessed 12/27/2022)

1. "Read inside yourself"

"Our life is the most precious book that has been given to us" and it is precisely within those pages that we can find the truth and happiness that we long and search for... Saint Augustine .. said "return to within yourself; truth dwells in the inner man." He invites everyone, including himself, to read their own lives and journeys "with serenity."

2. "Remember that you are unique"

"Each of us is, and is in the world to feel loved in our uniqueness and to love others as no one else can do in our place," ... we should not sit on the bench, waiting to be called as someone's backup. It is through our uniqueness that we learn to love. "Each person is unique in God's eyes," and remember "we are in the world to live a love story, a love story with God, to embrace the boldness of strong choices, to venture into the wonderful risk of loving," the Pontiff explains.

3. "Bring out your beauty"

... "Beauty is one of the privileged ways to reach" God, who is "inseparably good, true and beautiful." This beauty is not "according to the fashion of the worlds," or "turned in on itself," or one which "comes to terms with evil," he specifies. ... "I speak of the beauty that never fades because it is a reflection of divine beauty," Francis explains.

4. "Learn to laugh at yourself"

5. "Live a healthy restlessness"

6. "Learn to apologize"

7. "Learn to read your sadness"

8. "Have big dreams"

9. "Don't listen to those who sell illusions"

10. "Be revolutionary, go against the tide" (*Photo Bill Cullingford*)

11. "Take risks, even if you end up being wrong"

12. "Walk with others"

13. "Live gratuity/generosity"

14. "Look beyond the darkness"

15. "Remember that you are destined for the best"

Finally, for the last tip, Pope Francis reminds us again that "God wants the best for us: he wants us happy." God does not ask us for anything but simply leaves in our hearts a joy that is "full and unselfish" and "never watered-down."

PASTORS NEW ROLE IN THE NEW YEAR

With the new year comes a new role for the pastor. As stated in the Bishop's recommendations:

- *"Pastor Robertson will work with the leaders of St. John's to address the recommendations in the report of the Listening Team and to transition to a new pastor."*

The Listening Team recommendations will continue to be a task of council and the Mutual Ministry Committee will have the resources of a Synod committee member.

The pastor will provide resources, guidance, questions and suggestions as Council outlines their process and steps for the call process. A notebook with resources from the Synod and ELCA will be available to council members and people interested in being on the call committee.

Let us practice 'grace not haste' in this important process.

A NEW MEMBER OF OUR CONGREGATION!

You may have noticed or introduced yourself to a new person in the pews at St. Johns over that last few months. The smiling face belongs to Rosemary Meyer. A relatively new resident at Valley View Village, she is a neighbor of Dorie Remensnyder and Carolyn Conner who invited her to attend services here. Rosemary, both a daughter and wife of Lutheran ministers is what you would call a 'dyed in the wool' Lutheran. However, she is more than just a sheep of the fold. When I asked her 'What do you love about being Lutheran?', she answered with a thoughtful and conscious understanding of what Lutheran liturgy and sacraments mean to her. "Perhaps it is just familiarity" she replied, "but I like the flow of the liturgy, how the words and the music connect and build up to communion." Explaining to a friend why communion is important to the service she explained that without communion it is somewhat like going to a party and standing around and talking and sharing fellowship but then never sitting down to dinner together.

Rosemary has particularly enjoyed the special services such as our Remembrance of Baptism last Sunday. She also shared that despite her decades in the church sermons sometimes give her a different perspective on the scripture and that she also has enjoyed the music particularly the 'prayer songs' that Susi has transcribed and have been introduced into services in the last few months.

Previously, Rosemary attended Nativity Lutheran Church in Allison Park near Pittsburgh. She maintains ties and friends in that church and often likes to worship with them on Sunday morning on line. However, feeling it is important to have a worship community where she lives she recently followed up on my invitation to become a member. Her former pastor has sent a letter of transfer and with Council approval will become a new member of our congregation at St. Johns.

Rosemary enjoys the Valley View community and being closer to her daughter who lives close by in Reedsville. She has been participating in oil painting classes with the same teacher that Marge Shilling so enjoys! I am glad that Rosemary is with us bringing her insights as a life time Lutheran and her joy in Christ to our church. Please take the opportunity to introduce yourself and welcome Rosemary Meyer to St. Johns.



SYNOD NEWS

FROM BISHOP MILLER: DECEMBER 2022

Opening the December issue of *The Christian Century*, I found Peter Marty's "First Words" column headed "Why aren't they coming back?" Rather than focus on those who have not returned, Marty advises five things to keep in mind:

- the hope we have from God is bigger and better than anything the world gives;
- we need to love our Christian communities as they are and not as how we want them to be; in the same way,
- our congregations need to love and accept people as they are – and then love them into who Christ has called them to become;
- recall your congregation's purpose and look for ways to grow in that purpose;
- and "delight in every sign of your congregation's faithfulness."

This is good advice for our congregations and for our synod. Too often we focus on the challenges and problems facing us in our ministry and do not take time to celebrate the good things that happen. We lament what we do not have rather than give thanks for and accept what God has already given us to use for God's mission. What if we would look at our ministries as having all that they need now to fulfill our church's purpose – what could we accomplish?

Our synod council recently approved two part-time additions to our staff to begin January 1: Pastor Stina Schaeffer (Salem, Selinsgrove) will serve as Assistant for Mobility and Transition, working with interims and call process; Pastor Karla Leiby (St. John's, Northumberland) will serve as Assistant for Leadership and Formation, working with Candidacy and Lay Ministry. These two pastors embody Marty's advice, and they will be a welcome addition to our office. We will provide more information about them in our next *Ark*. (Note from the Pastor: Members of the Synod staff and committees may be invited to work with us

Call Process in Brief: Stage 1 (Guidelines - there may be overlap in these processes)

- Resources on call process, Ministry Site Profile and call committee provided to Council
- Transitional pastor available to provide resources, guide, question, make suggestions
- Council determines whether seeking part-time, or full time pastor and salary offered
- Council/congregation work on MSP to be approved by council then activated by Synod
- Synod staff may be invited to assist and consult.
- Call committee representing a diversity within the congregation and no more than two council members is formed to review candidates.
- Potential candidates vetted by Synod and referred to call committee
- Interview process and questions outlined.

St. John's steeple pierces the horizon and points to the light as the season of Epiphany takes us into 2023.





Christmas morning people gathered round the Nativity and Christmas tree to reflect on Christ's birth and to share our own birth stories and how Christ has entered our lives.



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 McTavish, Director
Phone 717-935-2959

St. John's Congregational Council

	<u>Term Expires</u>
Ed Bilich ~ Treasurer	end of 2024
Jim Buchanan	end of 2025
Carol Fultz ~ President	end of 2023
Michele Harshbarger ~ Vice Pres.	end of 2025
Joe Kanagy	end of 2025
Nancy Penepacker ~ Secretary	end of 2024

St. John's Financial Report

Checking account balance 1/12/2023
\$ 5,649.42

January 1 through January 12, 2023
Income \$ 7,287.10 Expense \$ 12,090.18
Net Income - \$ 4,803.08

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 1/12/2023
\$ 38,914.88

January 1 through January 12, 2023
Income \$ 10,302.16 Expense \$ 3,240.31
Net Income \$ 7,061.85

The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 26 following the worship service. Information pertinent to the meeting, will be placed in member mailboxes by Sunday, February 12. Any envelopes remaining after the worship service will be mailed out.

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

Any committees who met this past year, please have your reports to the church office by Sunday, January 29.

Congregational Meeting



Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services

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

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

If bad weather is expected, please check to see if services are being held before leaving the house.

IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

The Social Ministry Committee continues to collect items for the Shelter Service and Mitten Tree through January. Please take note of the requested donations needed.

Mitten Tree

All items are needed for both adults and children
Mittens, gloves, scarves, hats,
Socks, slipper socks and slippers

Shelter Service

the shelter currently has an urgent need for food
(place donations on grey 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.



Jesus said, *For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.* (Luke 22:27 NIV)

As true followers of Jesus, we also must serve. Christlike service grows out of genuine love for the Savior and of love and concern for those whom He gives us opportunities and direction to help, including the church.

Committee sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex. Please prayerfully consider serving.

2023 Committee Council Reps

Cemetery ~ Nancy Penepacker
Christian Ed ~ Michele Harshbarger
Daycare ~ Carol Fultz
Finance ~ Jim Buchanan
Long Range Planning ~ Ed Bilich
Missions ~ Michele Harshbarger
Music and Worship ~ Carol Fultz
Mutual Ministry ~ Nancy Penepacker
Property ~ Joe Kanagy
Safety ~ Carol Fultz
Social Ministry ~ Michele Harshbarger

The following dates are still available to sponsor 2023 altar flowers. Please contact the church office or sign-up in the narthex, if interested.

January 22 and 29
February 5 and 19
June 4, 11, 18 and 25
August 6 and 13
October 1, 15, 22 and 29
December 10

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.



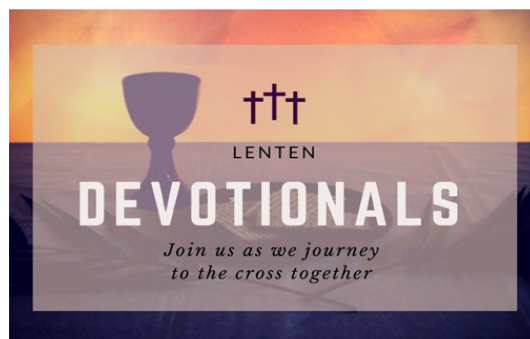
Altar Flowers

The 2023 offering envelopes were placed in member mailboxes last month. Please contact the church office if you did not receive or would like to have one.

We have discovered that the company who supplies our offering envelopes mistakenly ran the first 20 boxes of our 2023 order with the information for another church. If your box is in the **#1-20 range** please throw it away/bring to office. **New envelopes have been placed in your mailbox.**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22. During this time, we pray and reflect on the love Jesus has for us. To receive that love...to share it with others...and to live it, each and every day.

The church is providing the following devotionals ~ *In View of God's Mercy* and *The Joy of Salvation*. They will be available in the narthex on Sunday, February 12. Please contact the church office if you would like to have one mailed to you.



St. John's has Meals on Wheels in February. Please sign-up in the narthex if you can help provide the following desserts.



Tuesday, February 14 ~ 4 cans of cherry pie filling
Thursday, February 16 ~ 5 Angel food cakes (homemade or purchased locally)
Tuesday, February 21 ~ 5 dozen cookies
Thursday, February 23 ~ money to purchase pies
(give to Sue Lynch or church office)

*Thank
you*

*Thank you so much for all the cards, prayers
and any other acts of kindness you have shown to
us the past couple weeks. We appreciate our church
family!* **Jay and Joy**

*During my sickness and stay in the hospital, I
want to thank you all for your prayers, phone calls,
cards and concerns. I'm still recuperating with a
cough and taking therapy.*

Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

*Thank you for the prayers, phone calls and
cards following my recent surgery and continuing
recuperation.*

John and Brenda Boring

*We would like to thank those members of St.
John's who generously donated towards Staff
Appreciation. We are blessed to receive these gifts
and are very grateful for your kindness.*

Susie Yoo, Calvin and Kelly Byler

The volunteers on St. John's prayer chain are always available to pray for you or someone you know. Dorie Remensnyder is the contact person. If you have a request for prayer, please contact her at 935-2508, or if she is not available, the church office (2032). When a request is received it is quickly passed onto others who have expressed a desire to pray for the concerns brought to them.

Due to confidentiality issues, we ask that you PLEASE be sure to have permission from the person or family you are requesting prayer for.

The current list is being updated. If you would like to be included or removed please contact the church office by the end of January.

Pray Always.

Do not lose heart.

*Persistence in our every
encounter with the divine
will be blessed.*



The Central PA World Hunger Association 49th Annual Meat Canning Project is scheduled for February 6 thru 9 at the Chief Logan Fire Co. (formally East Derry Fire Co.), 1801 Glenwood Avenue, Lewistown.

Monetary donations are used to help cover canning costs. The price of meat and other supplies, like so many other things, have all increased. If can help support the project in this way, you may send a check to ~

Central Pa World Hunger Association
P.O. Box 76
Belleville, Pa 17004

St. Johns Property Committee

Task List – Updated after the 12/19/22 Meeting

Members present at the December 19, 2022 Property Committee meeting: Ed Bilich, Jim Buchanan and Joe Kanagy. John Boring, John Chester, Deb French, Mike Harshbarger, Don Smith and Jed Smith were absent.

Items to be addressed in 2022 and beyond

- Radiator at the end of the fellowship hall needs to be anchored to the wall to prevent it from tipping over or it needs to be removed.
 - 2/19 – Jim is going to try to get in touch with the scrap guy on 12/21. If he can't make contact, we will get a few guys together and remove the radiator.
 - 11/21 – Joe mentioned the radiator foot plates on the radiators in the fellowship hall are not under the feet of some of the radiators. We need to have two guys work together to get them positioned properly.
 - 12/19 – Joe and Ed will position the plates the first week in January
- Create a plan for painting the masonry on the back side of the church.
 - 2/21 – John Boring will start plan
 - 4/25 – John Boring will talk to Rubin Reno to get an estimate on him doing this painting as well as other exterior painting
 - 5/16 – Rubin Reno will be giving us a price estimate
 - 6/20 – Estimate received.
 - \$2215 – Steeples at the roof on the front of the church
 - \$1450 – Back wall and trim around the outside entrance doors
 - Property committee voted to accept the back wall estimate and not move forward on the steeples. Jim will tell John Boring to let Rubin know we approved the \$1450
 - 10/20 – Rubin told John Boring he wouldn't be able to do the painting until the spring of 2023.
 - 12/19 – Joe Kanagy said he will do this painting for the same price
- Installation of network cabinet, wiring and equipment
 - 4/25 – Ed has the cabinet installed. It still needs power run to it and the equipment etc. ordered.
 - 9/27 – Electrical work completed by Glick Electric.
 - 9/30 – Ed is working with CentreWISP to purchase and install the network equipment.
 - 11/18 – Ed signed a contract for CentreWISP to purchase and install the equipment necessary to complete the network project. Cost is \$4887 with the church paying half and the daycare paying half (2443.50 each). Project should be completed in December.
 - 12/14 – CentreWISP started running wiring on 11/30 and continued the work on 12/16. Wiring is all pulled, Access Points are installed and equipment is installed in the network cabinet.
 - Fiber is not run from their box behind the church to the cabinet yet
 - Wiring other than the Access Points has not been terminated yet
 - They have not said when they will be back but all work is expected to be completed by year end
- We need to discuss if there is a need to have our electric breaker boxes reviewed and, if yes, does Penelec offer a service like that or do we get an electrician to do it.
 - Are there any issues with any of the boxes
 - Mike Harshbarger knows of a breaker in the box outside the downstairs kitchen that kicks a breaker when he replaces some tubes in the lights in that room

- 11/21 – Reviewed the lights in the last room on the right near the double doors and decided to have the light replaced if that is what is required to correct the issue
- Ed thinks we should have a diagram of our building with the rooms identified. It would be good to have a sign on the door with the room or area name on it.
 - We could also include the following on the diagram
 - Windows and doors
 - Elevator
 - Breaker boxes, electrical outlets, light switches
 - Emergency lighting and exits
 - Ethernet cabinet, wall jacks and Access Points
 - Furnace, radiators and thermostats
 - Other items not thought about above
 - 4/25 – Decided to make this a fall/winter project
- 6/9 – Council has asked the property committee to get costs for installing screens for the fellowship hall exterior doors at both sides of the stage area. The desired screens should split in the middle to allow a person to walk through them and have magnets that allow the screens to join back together again.
 - 11/21 – Mike will check pricing on Amazon
- 9/19 – Council has asked us to have the flooring in the upstairs kitchen replaced.
 - 11/21 – Fike is scheduled to install
- 9/19 – It takes a long time for the hot water to get to the upstairs kitchen sink. Council has asked us to come up with a resolution.
 - 10/17 – Todd Wyland is in the process of installing a small water heater under the sink.
 - 11/13 – Ed checked and the hot water heater doesn't appear to be installed completely. It looks like the electric to the heater is not run yet. We need to contact Todd to get an update.
 - 12/19 – Todd contacted Adam Glick to install the electric for the heater. If it isn't completed by the 1st week in January, Ed will contact Adam.
- 10/13 – Josh Randolph is selling his business and won't be able to trim the shrubs needing trimmed now and won't be doing the cemetery mowing after this year. Council is asking us to get the shrubs trimmed and find a mowing contractor to mow the cemetery going forward.
 - 10/20 – John Chester is in the process of selecting a contractor to mow the cemetery in 2023.
 - 12/19 – Ed reported that John said he had someone who would do the mowing and charge the same amount we were paying in 2022.
- 12/11 – At the December congregation meeting the property committee was tasked with getting at least three estimates for mini-split installation in the sanctuary
 - 12/17 – Ed emailed Kish Valley Electric and Greg Peachey to see if they wanted to quote on this project. Greg Peachey said he will quote. Jim talked to Joe Hostetler and he said he wants to quote.
 - 12/19 – Joe Hostetler came to the Property Committee meeting. We took him up to the sanctuary and he took measurements and talked about where the units would be placed etc. He said we would have a quote in early January. Joe Kanagy is going to contact Lyle Yoder to see if he is interested in quoting.
 - 12/20 – Adam Peachey emailed Ed. He would like to quote on this job and will do it early January.
- 12/19 – The emergency light fixture outside the choir room either needs a new light bulb or needs repaired. Jim purchased a new bulb but it doesn't light up. The plan is to take a bulb from one of the other fixtures to see if it lights up. If it doesn't, we will get the fixture repaired or replaced.

The next Property Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 16 @ 6:30 pm

First Annual Belleville Family Christmas Celebration

The Belleville Lions lead a local group consisting of the Lions Club, Civic Club, Village Pride organization, many of the area churches and other interested community members in the planning and execution of a kickoff event to the Christmas season in Big Valley. The event titled *"The Belleville Family Christmas Celebration"* was held at the VFW located along Main Street in the center of town. The event took place on Friday, December 9th from 6:00 to 8:30 pm and was completely free for all who attended.

Activities included at this 1st annual event were:

- Carriage rides via Dayze Gone Bye of Allensville
- Live Nativity display with animals and a petting area
- Kids' games outside and crafts inside
- Face painting
- Story time with Mrs. Claus
- Photos with Santa as well as other photo opportunities
- Live music entertainment (Christmas music)
- Tree lighting
- Food – cookies, hot chocolate, hot dogs and kettle corn
- Community Christmas card signing station
 - 181 cards were sent to soldiers away from home during the holiday

The St. John's Daycare gave out gift bags to the kids.

The event was a huge success with at least 300 people in attendance.

The Lord also blessed the planners of the event by giving them great weather during the days of setup as well as the day of the event.



Picture from across the street



Front view of the Belleville VFW

First Annual Belleville Family Christmas Celebration



Entertainment on the porch



Live Nativity



Petting area



One of the kids games



Crafts



Face painting



Story time with Mrs. Claus



Santa photo op



Other photo ops



Food tent



Christmas card signing



List of sponsors

JANUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 15

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Ed Bilich

Lay Reader: Ed Bilich

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

January 22

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler

Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy

Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

January 29

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring

Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Brenda Boring

Atar Flower Delivery ~ Brenda Boring

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.

FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

February 5

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Gwen Hornberger

Lay Reader: Gwen Hornberger

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

February 12

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

February 19

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Mike Harshbarger

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

February 26

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Deb French

Lay Reader: Deb French

Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Michele Harshbarger

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Carol Fultz

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
Minutes of the November 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 council met for a council retreat on Thursday, November 10, 2022 from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. The monthly meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church council was held at 7:00 p.m. the same evening with both being held in the blue room.

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 President Carol Fultz.

Devotions: We had devotions before our council retreat, so we did not have devotions before the meeting. Carol Fultz will lead devotions in December.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the October 13, 2022 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Jami Zook 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 St. John's Lutheran Church financial report was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Deb French. Motion carried. The St. John's 2023 Budget was presented for approval of council. A motion to accept the budget was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. 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. St. John's Daycare 2023 budget was presented for approval by council. A motion to accept the daycare budget was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Joy Byler. Motion carried.

Pastor's report:

- WORSHIP
 - November 13, 2022 – All Saint's Day/Communion
 - November 27, December 4, 11, 18 – Advent
 - December 21 – Blue Christmas plans in progress @ West Kish
 - December 24 – Christmas Eve services at both churches (St. John's 7 p.m.; West Kish 11 p.m.)
 - December 25 – Christmas Day service will be held in the narthex with carols and lessons.
 - Prayer songs will be shared in worship.
- OUTREACH
 - Talked about CD's for services and if we had copies of the Kramm funeral. Joy made several copies of the funeral service.

- **MISSION**
 - Support of Immigration Lawyer donations may be made to PCUSA Immigration office.
- **PASTORAL CARE**
 - Visits to shut ins were made
 - Let pastor know if any need for discretionary fund needs. Balance in account \$1,215.04.
- **MEETINGS**
 - The ministerium meeting is planned for December.
- **ORGANIST**
 - Visa update: Updates for the visa application were sent in and the pastor attended meetings for the PCUSA Immigration lawyer via zoom and many emails. The representative from Homeland Security made a visit to the churches on November 3rd to confirm the physical plant and church presence.
- **OFFICE**
 - Would like more large print bulletins to be available.
- **SELF CARE, VACATION, TIME OFF**
 - Continuing Ed – 2 weeks and two Sundays
 - Transitional Ministry – July 16-22 (off Sunday July 17)
 - Wee Kirk Conference October 10 – 12 – 2.5 days off
 - Denominational Service – 1 week off Sunday July 24
 - Vacation: 1 week vacation in February; 2 weeks July 30 – August 12; 1 week October 27 – November 3.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery - Nancy Penepacker – nothing to report

Long Range - Ed Bilich – nothing to report

Property – Ed Bilich – Met and did maintenance on lighting; the back wall will be painted in 2023 and we have put \$1,400 in the 2023 budget for the project. Ed stated he is waiting for estimates from Greg Peachey for mini-splits in the sanctuary.

Music & Worship – Jami Zook – Jami will compile the list for greeters/lay readers/elevator helpers for 2023 and Carol will compile the list for altar care and flowers for 2023.

Social Ministry – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Day Care – Deb French – 4 new hires. Things going well.

Finance – Joy Byler – Finance committee (Joy Byler & Ed Bilich) met and worked out the 2023 financial budget for approval.

Safety – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Staff Support – Carol Fultz – nothing to report

Mission – nothing to report

Christian Ed – Nancy Penepacker – nothing to report

Old Business:

- Added to the agenda for congregational meeting on December 11th to vote on the council being able to have a spending limit of \$5,000 without congregational approval.
- The new benches have not been looked in to yet.
- So far, there is no interest in any new council nominees
- We discussed having a nominating committee for new council members as it states in the constitution.
- John Chester has received a couple of bids for the mowing of the cemetery for 2023.
- The Lion's Club will be hosting "The First Annual Belleville Family Christmas Celebration" on Friday December 9th at the VFW from 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Deb French and Valerie Stahl (the daycare director) will be participating by handing out gift bags put together by the social ministry committee.

New Business:

- Camp Mount Luther requesting donations – a motion was made by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Ed Bilich to not do anything at this time and instead make a once-a-year donation to the camp.
- There will be a letter sent with the congregational packet explaining the voting process for the pastor's contract.
- Advent Devotionals – Should we continue with this project, as we do not have many people submitting devotionals, or should we fill in with other devotionals? It was decided to move on with the project.
- A motion was made by Jami Zook and seconded by Ed Bilich to send a donation to the Belleville Fire Company for \$50. 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, December 8, 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 Lutheran Church

JANUARY




2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
15 Holy Communion	16 6:30pm Property Committee 	17	18	19 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	9:30am Worship 10:45 Sunday School			

St. John's Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:30am Worship 10:45 Sunday School			1	2 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	3	4
5 Holy Communion	6	7	8	9 6:30pm Council Meeting	10 	11
12	13	14 St. John's has Meals on Wheels  Valentine's Day	15	16 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting) St. John's has Meals on Wheels	17	18
19 Holy Communion Transfiguration of our Lord	20 6:30pm Property Committee  Presidents' Day	21 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	22 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship	23 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	24	25
26 Congregational Meeting	27	28				