

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

**MARCH
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 ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

St. Patrick was famous for teaching faith in the trinity using a three leaf clover as an illustration - three leaves, one clover = three persons- Father, Son and Holy Spirit = One God. What we hear less about is St. Patrick's struggle with his own faith. His words help us to understand what we seek to do during Lent. Expressing his own weakness in faith he says: *"The Lord opened the understanding of my unbelieving heart, so that I should recall my sins."* Acknowledging that we do this so that our lack of self knowledge will not hinder our relationship with God, he adds: *"I only seek in my old age to perfect that which I had not before thoroughly learned in my youth, because my sins were a hindrance to me."*

Do we ever outgrow having to reflect on our weaknesses, unkind words and actions which we may not even be able to admit to ourselves? Lent is a time for soul searching. A time of seeking to see beyond the clouds of our own self image and false beliefs. A time to admit it is perhaps easier to point the finger at others than to accept our own shortcomings and defenses. A time to ask God to help us see and a time to listen to the spirit speak.

As part of our Lenten Journey, our council and congregation continue to be guided by the recommendations of the Synod listening team and guides for the Ministry call process. The Guide for the Ministry Site Profile from the ELCA encourages as many people from the congregation as possible to reflect and offer insight on the future of our church. That means you! The 'MSP Guide' provides inspirational food for thought and questions for reflection to carry us through Lent and into the year. The questions may be answered for yourselves individually and for the church. I include excerpts from the 'Guide' for your own Lenten reflections.

- What is God's hope and dream for you?
- In what ways are you strong and unique?
- Would your neighborhood miss you if you were gone?

Think and pray about your sense of Mission at this time in your history and consider these three things:
[*That first one is a leading question isn't it!*]

- Why do you exist, and for whom? What would someone who observes you (or the church) from the outside conclude about your sense of purpose and mission?
- What are you (or the church) clearly good at? What ministry activities bring out the best in you and seem to be valued by others?
- What does your neighborhood really need right now, and how are you helping to meet those needs?

In God's grace always,
Rev. Ela J. Robertson

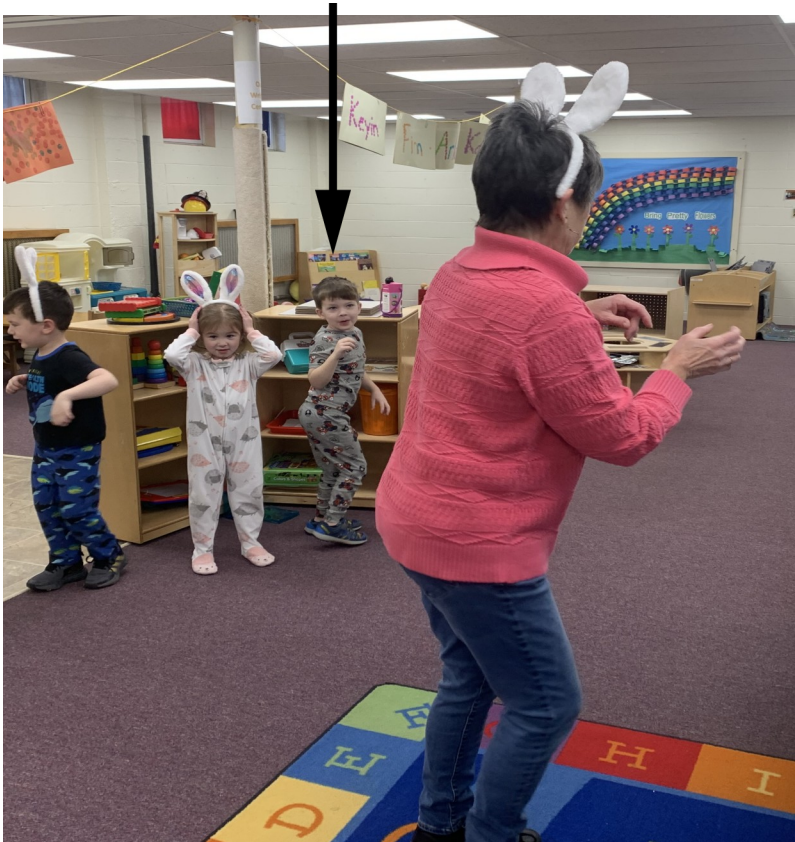
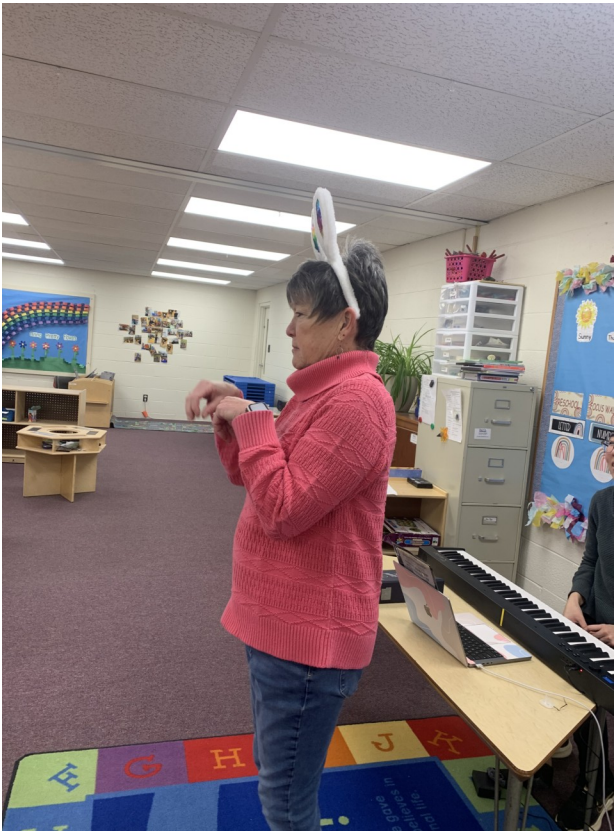
Sources: *A Guide to the MSP - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*
<https://www.brainyquote.com/authors/saint-patrick-quotes>

Jami Zook, Seulki “Susie” Yoo and Pastor Ela practicing Easter songs with some of the preschooler’s.



Jami’s Easter Bunny impression...

Grandson, Merritt Reed copying grandma’s Easter Bunny dance moves!



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 2/28/2023
\$ 14,779.20

February 1 through February 28
Income \$ 32,789.69 Expense \$ 27,497.07
Net Income \$ 5,292.62

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 2/28/2023
\$ 37,603.63

February 1 through February 28, 2023
Income \$ 71,595.09 Expense \$ 68,979.04
Net Income \$ 2,616.05



**Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 12**



Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services

Spring begins this month, and even though we have not experienced too much in the way of winter weather this season, we could still have measurable snow and ice. If bad weather expected, the council and pastor will determine if conditions require cancelling the worship service.

The decision will be made **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 in doubt, please check to see if services are being held before leaving the house.

IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

The annual yard sale will be here in a few months. If you have been doing any cleaning out, we will gladly take whatever you would like to get rid of in good usable condition, with the exception of TV's and clothing.

Several people have already blessed us with their unwanted items! Donations may be placed either in front of, or on the stage. Thank you!!



Reminder ~ We **will not be using** altar flowers during the Lenten season (February 26 through Palm Sunday, April 2).

If you would like to place an arrangement beside the lectern in memory or honor of a loved one during this time, please contact the church office.

Thank you to those persons who signed up to sponsor flowers, all the remaining dates have been filled.



Altar Flowers

The call committee is in the beginning stages of the search process. Members are ~ Jim Buchanan, Joy Byler, Deb French, Carol Fultz, Joy Kanagy and Sue Lynch.

Pray for unity, strength, wisdom and endurance as they meet and make decisions concerning the future leadership of St. John's.



Open House, Living History Museum & Turkey Dinner

Belleville Mennonite School invites you to an Open House on Friday, March 17, 2023, from 5:00-7:00 PM to explore all the school has to offer. Additionally, a homemade turkey dinner will be served by our Café staff beginning at 5:00 PM. The cost for the meal is \$12 for adults or \$40 for families of 4 or more. Dine-in and carry-out will be available.

Classrooms and hallways across campus will be filled with a showcase of student writing assignments, special class projects, and artwork. 8th grade students will be hosting a Living History Museum in the gym. Tours of the school will be offered throughout the evening and prospective families who sign up for a tour can enjoy a free turkey dinner!

Join us for the Open House, visit our website at www.bmsprek12.org, or call the school office at 717-935-2184 to learn more!

In Loving Memory

St. John's has lost two of our life members in the last few weeks, Gwen Hornberger and Larry Stroup. Both faithfully served this church with their time and talents in many, many ways throughout the years. They were more than just church members. Living in a small town, our lives were closely intertwined with each of them and their families. We thank God for their presence in our lives and the life of this church.

While both families have chosen to have private services, you can still extend your condolences. Cards and other expressions of sympathy can be sent to Carol Stroup at P.O. Box 813, Belleville. A Celebration of Life to honor Gwen Hornberger is being held in the barn at Brookmere, on Friday, March 31 from 3-6pm. You are invited to attend. Please keep their families in your prayers.

St. John's 2023 Committees

Listed are our current committees along with those persons who have “signed-up” to serve on them. Several meet on a monthly basis, while others meet several times a year, or only when needed. If you would like to serve, or have questions/concerns please contact one the committee members or council representative.

Cemetery

John Chester **Council Rep** - Nancy Penepacker

Christian Education / Youth

Carol Fultz, Rosalie Smith **Council Rep** - Michele Harshbarger

Day Care

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

Finance / Investment

Joy Byler, Ed Bilich **Council Rep** - Jim Buchanan

Long Range Planning

Council Rep - Ed Bilich **No volunteers signed up to serve**

Missions

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

Mutual Ministry

Council Rep - Nancy Penepacker **Volunteers are needed**

Property

Jim Buchanan, Mike Harshbarger, Ed Bilich **Council Rep** - Joe Kanagy

Social Ministry

Brenda Boring, Jane Fultz, Joy Byler, Carol Fultz, Sue Lynch **Council Rep** - Michele Harshbarger

Worship and Music

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

MARCH 8-9, 2023: RAISE THE REGION

Camp Mount Luther is participating in The First Community Foundation Partnership of PA's “Raise the Region” on March 8-9, 2023. It is a 30-hour fundraising event starting at 6:00 p.m. and ending the next day at 11:59 p.m. Money donated by the Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships will help stretch donations made to organizations that day. Additional monetary prizes and incentives will be awarded, too. Proceeds raised for Mount Luther these days to the camp's Annual Fund unless a donor gets in touch with the camp office to designate it for another camp cause. To be part of Raise the Region, visit www.raisetheregion.org during the event and make an online donation to camp. Running totals will be shown throughout the day at the Raise the Region website. Camp Mount Luther has participated in Raise the Region for ten years and has garnered about \$179,000 in donations during this event.

The camp hopes you will help us to have another successful year!



MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

MARCH 5

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

MARCH 12

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Chelsea Reed

Lay Reader: Chelsea Reed

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

MARCH 19

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeter: Edna Chester

Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

MARCH 26

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy

Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Brenda Boring

Altar Flower Delivery ~ No flower delivery until Easter Sunday

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.

Minutes of the Jan. 11, Council meeting

Present: Pastor Ela, Jim Buchanan, Joe Kanagy, Ed Bilich, Carol Fultz, Michele Harshbarger, and Nancy Penepacker.

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Fultz

Devotions: Ed Bilich shared a reading from The Upper Room
Michele will have devotions in Feb.

Approval of minutes: The minutes from the Dec. 8, 2022 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Ed and seconded by Nancy. Motion carried

Financial Reports: The Financial Reports were presented by Ed. A motion to accept was made by Joe and seconded by Michele. Motion carried
A motion to accept the Day Care Financial Report was made by Nancy and seconded by Michele. Motion carried

Pastor's report: Pastor Ela talked about her function as our transitional minister. Discussion was held about how a call committee will be formed, Carol will send a letter to the congregation asking for volunteers. Ed made a motion we accept Rosemary Meyer as a new member, Jim seconded it, motion carried

Council signed up for committees and we updated emails and phone numbers

Cemetery - Nancy, a caretaker is in the works

Long Range - Ed, nothing to report

Property - Joe, we have 2 bids for the mini splits and we're waiting for a third

Music and Worship - Carol, nothing to report

Social Ministry - Michele, nothing to report

Day Care - Carol, nothing to report

Finance - Ed and Jim, nothing to report

Safety - Carol, nothing to report

Mission - Michele, nothing to report

Christian Ed - Michele, new S.S. books have arrived and the class will start 1-15

Mutual Ministry - Nancy, nothing to report

Old Business: No news on the benches

Discussion was held about how to make an important vote in future congregational meetings clearer.

New Business:

Annie Harshbarger - ? new name asked to use the Fellowship hall for field hockey practice. Ed made a motion that if Brad Hermon states that it is okay with a signed waiver that we allow it. Joe seconded the motion, motion carried.

Day Care will be asked to work after 12 if they have to work on a Sunday.

~~meeting ended with a prayer.~~

The Emergency Account is inactive so Ed made a motion to deposit \$ 10 on

a quarterly basis so we don't get Fined. Joe seconded and motion carried.

Michele made a motion to donate \$50 towards getting a painted goose in Belleville. Nancy seconded and motion carried.

We got a Flyer from the Keys Connection and it was Forwarded to the Missions Committee

Ed made a motion to adjourn, Nancy seconded, motion carried

The meeting ended with prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Penepacker, Secretary



There is no set price, anyone wishing to place a flower(s), is asked to make a donation and a variety will be purchased to decorate the church.

An insert with the names of the persons placing them, along with those they are in honor/memory of will be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 9th.

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

**Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Sunday, April 2**

St. John's Lutheran Church

MARCH

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Looking Ahead April 6 ~ 7pm Maundy Thursday Service SJ April 7 ~ 7pm Good Friday Worship at WK April 9 ~ Easter worship 9:30am at St. John's and 11:00am at West Kish			1	2 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	3	4
5 Holy Communion	6	7	8	9 6:30pm Council Meeting	10	11 Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday set clocks ahead 1 hour
12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  BEGINS	13	14	15	16 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	17 	18
19 Holy Communion	20 6:30pm Property Committee 	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 3-6pm <i>Celebration of Life</i> for Gwen Hornberger in the barn at Brookmere	9:30am Worship 10:45 Sunday School