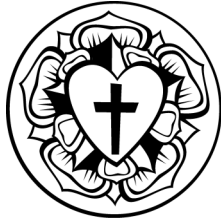


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

APRIL 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

Sharing Tears with Christ

Recently, I met a young woman in her early twenties who shared that when she attended Catholic school she loved walking the 'Stations of the Cross' during Holy Week each year. It surprised her that the last few stations especially, she said haltingly, made her weep. Even as a Quaker, this has had a profound effect upon her faith journey. Have you wept or felt like crying during this 2023 Lenten Journey? Do you know why? Is it in deep thanksgiving for the love God shows us? It is in sadness the the world has not changed as much as we would have hoped since Jesus walked the earth?

Jesus sheds tears on three different occasions in the Bible, all close to the end of his life. The poem attached, by Christina Joy Hommes, was given to her pastor to share widely with his congregation and beyond. Simple and personal, it asks why Jesus weeps, in a conversation about what Christ's humanity, God's love, and the promise of forgiveness means to her. May it provide a heartfelt reflection for all as we approach Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday (7PM St. Johns) , Good Friday (7PM West Kish - pictures of the stations of the cross will be displayed) and Easter services this coming week. Plan to attend all as our Lenten journey culminates celebrating the love, sacrifice and the joy of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Ela

Rev. Ela J. Robertson

I asked the Lord to give me love -
His love for souls in sin;
Instead He gave me weeping eyes,
A broken heart within.

I asked Him why He gave me tears,
He took me back in time
To when my Savior lived on earth,
When He was in His prime.

I saw Him go to where His friend
Was lying in a grave;
The sisters and their friends were grieved -
What love to them He gave.

You see my Savior standing there
Was also grieved that day,
He wept great heaving tears with sobs
Till those who saw could say:

"Behold we see now how He loved."
His tears revealed His heart
His love was evident through tears -
I saw God's point in part.

And then He took me to the day
The people hailed their King
While Jesus enters to their cheers
The children run and sing.

But when He saw Jerusalem
Stretched out before His eye,
His soul was moved with grief for them;
It moved His heart to cry.

Oh, as I read those solemn words
I feel that they are sweet
For in them I behold His love
So perfect and complete.

To one more place He took me now,
At midnight I beheld
The Son of God bowed down with grief
In deepest sorrow held.

I heard His weeping, strong and deep,
But through it I discerned
He prayed for me - it melted me,
His love for me I learned.

With tearful joy I thanked the Lord
For answering my prayer,
For giving me His love for souls -
His tears, His heart, His care.

-Christina Joy Hommes

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

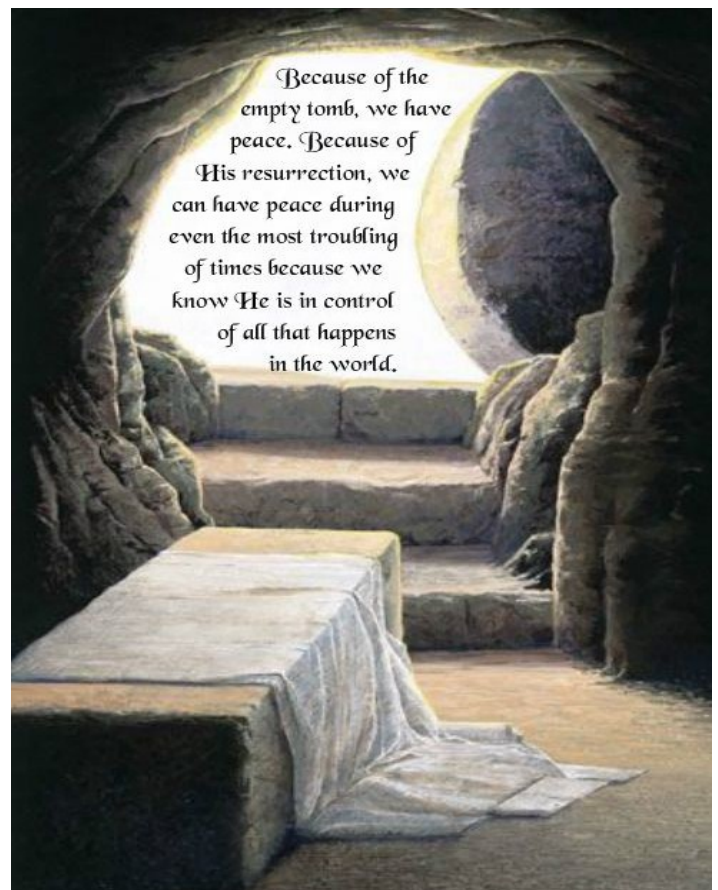
Checking account balance 2/28/2023
\$ 5,974.55

March 1 through March 28
Income \$ 44,135.57 Expense \$ 45,926.75
Net Income -\$ 1,791.18

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 3/28/2023
\$ 34,829.01

March 1 through March 28, 2023
Income \$ 96,420.49 Expense \$ 94,842.31
Net Income \$ 1,578.18



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!!



When the committees were listed in last month's newsletter, Rosemary Meyer was not included under Worship and Music. Our apologies, for this oversight.

Members are ~ Jami Zook, Reba Harmon, Rosalie Smith, Rosemary Meyer, and council rep. Carol Fultz. The committee also includes Pastor Ela and our organist, Seulki Yoo.



The call committee continues to meet and work on moving forward with the call 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.



*When we pray, God hears more than we say,
answers more than we ask, gives more than we
imagine...in His own time & His own way.*

We will begin using altar flowers again on Easter Sunday. Thank you to everyone who signed up this year, all the weeks have been filled.



Altar Flowers

“Spring Fundraiser Dinner to benefit the Central PA Clinic for Special Children and Adults. April 1st at Locust Grove Mennonite Church. Doors open at 5:30pm. At 6pm an Amish wedding-style meal will be served. Call 935-2065 to make reservations.”

The offering for Maundy Thursday service will be directed to St. John's Discretionary Fund.

The Lenten offering envelope found in your boxes for March 12 is being directed to ELCA Disaster Relief and World Hunger.



The church will once again be paying camp fees for any children who would like to attend this summer.

Early Deadline: Register for summer camp at Mount Luther by midnight on April 15, 2023, to get a discount on summer camp registration! Or, if you bring a friend who has never been there, we can get 25% off the registration fee. Program information and registration at www.campmountluther.org.

CML brochures are available in the narthex. Please contact the church office if interested in attending.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



Palm Sunday ~ April 2
Procession with Palms and Holy Communion



April 5, 7:00pm Worship
at St. John's
with Holy Communion and
Stripping of the Altar



Good Friday Tenebrae

7:00pm Worship at West Kish
April 6



Celebrate *Easter*

April 9

St. John's 9:30am

West Kish 11:00am

Echoes of the past...

Picture below is the original sanctuary (1881-1910) and was taken on Easter 1903.



There is no date on these pictures, but faint print across the top also reveals that they were taken for Easter. The women in the photos are holding palm branches.



APRIL SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 2 ~ Palm Sunday

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Erica Hargenrader and Nancy Penepacker

Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

April 6 ~ Maundy Thursday

Greeter: Jami Zook

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

April 9 ~ Easter

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: John and Denise Chester

Lay Reader: John Chester

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

April 16

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Don and Rosalie Smith

Lay Reader: Ed Bilich

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

April 23

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

April 30

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Mike Boring and Jami Zook

Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Joy Byler

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Nancy Wyland ~ resuming Sunday. April 9

Bulletin Delivery ~ Ken and Nancy Wyland

Please remember:

If you are unable to be present
on your scheduled day,
it is your responsibility,
to find a replacement.

Minutes of the Feb. 9 Council Meeting

Present: Pastor Ela Robertson, Michele Harshbarger, Ed Bilich, Joe Kanagy, Nancy Penepacker, and Carol Fultz via zoom.

The meeting was called to order by President Fultz

Devotions: Michele Harshbarger led devotions and Nancy Penepacker will have them in March.

Approval of minutes: The minutes from the Jan. 11 meeting were presented. A motion to accept was made by Ed Bilich and seconded by Michele Harshbarger. Motion carried.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were presented by Ed Bilich. St. John's - A motion to accept St. John's Financial report was made by Jim Buchanan and seconded by Michele Harshbarger. Motion carried. The Day Care Financial Report was presented by Ed Bilich. A motion to accept was made by Michele Harshbarger and seconded by Joe Kanagy. Motion carried. A motion was made by Ed and seconded by Nancy to adjust the fuel oil account to the current checking account in the amount of \$5,742.10 from Day Care. Motion carried.

Committee reports: Cemetery - nothing to report

Day Care - the school age room is ready to be used for meetings.

Long Range - nothing to report

Mutual Ministry - still trying to get a third member.

Safety - nothing to report

Missions - \$100 will be donated to Habitat For Humanity

Christian Ed and Youth - nothing to report

Finance - Nothing to report

Music and Worship - Susie has been granted a work visa for an R1 religious worker. Ash Wednesday service is on Feb. 22.

Property - 3 bids for mini splits have been obtained. The leak in the furnace has been fixed.

Social Ministry - nothing to report

Website - nothing to report

Old Business: The members of the call committee are Carol Fultz, Joy Byler, Deb Evans, Jim Buchanan, Joe Kanagy. The process to call a new minister was discussed. There's nothing to report on the benches.

New Business: The audit report was good. A motion was made by Michele Harshbarger and seconded by Ed Bilich that we use local vendors when available for the altar flowers. Motion carried. Discussion was held about the possible need for a Council laptop, it will be discussed further at March's meeting.

A motion was made by Joe Kanagy and seconded by Ed Bilich to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting concluded with praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy L. 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

APRIL

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Holy Communion 	3 	4	5	6 9:30am Knotting 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	7 DC and Church Office Closed 7:00pm Good Friday Worship at West Kish	1 8
9 	10	11	12	13 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	Looking Ahead Sunday, May 14 ~ Mother's Day Sunday, May 28 ~ Pentecost Monday, May 29 ~ Memorial Day Office/Daycare closed Parade begins at 9:30am					