

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

**MAY 2023**



As we remember and honor those  
who gave their ALL for our freedom,  
let us also remember and honor the ONE,  
who died so that ALL may be free.

***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](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)  
Website ~ [stjohnsbelleville.org](http://stjohnsbelleville.org)



## FROM the PASTOR

**From Lisa Griffith:** “Dear friends, I will be home on May 23rd and if anyone would like to form a small choir to sing a few simple numbers, I would like to start choir practice on Friday, June 2nd at 7:00 pm. It’s probably best to wait until after Memorial Day. In church on May 28th please ask for a show of hands to see how many are interested and also ask if the day and time suits everyone.”

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Please consider being a representative from St. Johns to the Synod Assembly. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet people from other churches in our area with similar concerns. This might be particularly useful for people on our transition and call committee. Workshops and worship services are enlightening and enlivening. You may attend one or both days in person or online. Speak to a council member, Pastor or Kelly if you would like to be our representative.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly will convene on June 16-17, 2023, in Weber Chapel Auditorium (Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove) under the theme “Baptized into Christ: United, Supporting, Serving.” Assembly workshops will focus on leadership and congregation vitality.

Voting members of the Synod Assembly are the rostered leaders of this synod as well as two lay members from each congregation. Once registered, voting members will receive updates via email, and on the synod website and social media pages.

We encourage our smaller congregations to elect voting members to this assembly: We will spend some of our time in discussion about providing for ministry and pastoral care in creative ways that address our current financial and leadership realities.

Meeting with the pastor, members of the Music and Worship Committee, Jami Zook, Reba Harmon and Rosalie Smith, incorporate organist, Susi Yoo and new member Rosemary into the committee as we planned for our Easter services and music and liturgy ideas for the coming year. Missing Carol and Sandy who were unable to attend the morning meeting.



## SYNOD NEWS

FROM BISHOP CRAIG MILLER: APRIL 2023

*Lutherans have often taken a quietist approach to our interactions with government, believing that God calls us to a kingdom apart from the kingdoms of this world. But Martin Luther knew that Christians cannot live in this world without engaging with government. For Luther, both the church and the government fall under God's rule and answer to God for their actions, especially toward the most vulnerable.*

*Congregations in our synod understand that God calls us to care for our neighbors, especially the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the stranger. We organize food and money collections to help these vulnerable people in our communities and around the world. But we can do more. We can address the systems that create and sustain poverty, hunger, and disease by advocating with our governments to enact legislation and policies intended to change these systems.*

*The ELCA office of Advocacy and Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA (LAMPa) provide avenues for our advocacy, connecting us with our sisters and brothers in other congregations throughout the state and the country to amplify our voices. Those who work in these offices build relationships with legislators and policymakers and they alert us to when our voices can help to guide our governments in their work. . .*

Bishop Craig Miller

We look forward to hearing a report from 'Lutheran Day in the Capitol' in our upcoming Synod newsletters.

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation classes in the Synod were either halted during Synod or maintained partially by zoom. Ideas for confirmation classes shared by more than one church also were discussed.

At the Juniata Conference meeting Sunday April 23, I asked about current options for children and grandchildren in our parish. Pastor Rick Adams has started up a two year confirmation class this year. Students may join at any time and he would welcome youth from our area to attend. It is currently a group of about eight 6th - 10th graders. The older students missed the opportunity when they were in 7th and 8th grade due to Covid. The class meets after church at St. Stephens in Licking Creek about 35 minutes from here.

After confirmation students would be eligible to participate as a youth representative at Synod assemblies. There is also a fun-in- the-snow retreat each winter at Camp Mt. Luther for confirmation age youth.

Although there are only one or two students in our area this would apply to right now - keep this in mind as we consider ways to grow the church.

Pastor Ela

### 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](mailto: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 4/27/2023  
\$ 2,287.61

April 1 through April 27, 2023  
Income \$ 52,595.15 Expense \$ 59,577.31  
Net Income \$ -6,982.16

### Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 4/27/2023  
\$ 34,008.94

April 1 through April 27, 2023  
Income \$ 120,493.16 Expense \$ 119,590.07  
Net Income \$ 903.09

The annual Memorial Day parade begins at 9:30am on Monday, May 29. A program will follow at the VFW. Please come and support our Veterans.

St. John's would like to participate in the parade again this year. If you have any ideas and/or would like to help, please contact the pastor or a council member.



St. John's float in the 2017 Memorial Day parade.

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

If you bring a friend who has never been there, we can get 25% off the registration fee. Program and registration information can be found at [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org). CML brochures are also available in the narthex. Please contact the church office if interested in attending.



**"I believe in Christ,  
like I believe in the sun—  
not because I can see it,  
but by it  
I can see  
everything else."**

C.S. LEWIS

## IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

Big Valley is going to be featured on an upcoming PBS “Our Town” series, and will feature stories told by those living in Allensville, Belleville, Milroy, Reedsville and surrounding areas. The first step in this process is the “Kick-off meeting” being held at 7:00pm on Thursday, May 11 at Brookmere. Cole Cullen, (grandson of Dr. Helfrick) will be producing the show, and is looking for support and input from the community. By attending the meeting, you are making no commitments. But, your knowledge of the area and your contacts are a vital part to the success of the program.

The tentative schedule for the Our Town: Big Valley production is ~  
Kick-off Meeting ~ listed above

Community Meeting ~ Wednesday, May 24 at 7:00pm at Brookmere

Interview Day ~ Saturday, June 10 (15 minute appointments) at the Kish Valley Historical Society

Community Preview ~ Late August ~ Time and location (to be determined)

Broadcast Premiere ~ Thursday, September 7

The Crossroads Baby Bottle fundraiser begins Mother’s Day, May 14th and continues through Father’s Day, June 18th. If interested, you can pick up a bottle in the narthex and fill it with your pocket change, cash or a donation by check.

Crossroads Pregnancy Center is a non-profit organization which receives no state or federal funding. Their mission is to reach out to those facing pregnancy decisions know and understand all their options, by offering help, hope, and healing in Jesus’ name.



The annual yard sale will soon be here. 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!!



### ***Belleville Mennonite School 8th Annual Auction May 26 & 27, 2023***

#### **Friday's activities ~**

- ◇ BBQ Chicken Dinners, 4:30-6:30 PM
- ◇ Live Music & Auction Merchandise Preview, 5:00-6:00 PM
- ◇ Children's Auction (bidders must be under the age of 18), 6:00 PM
- ◇ Gift Certificate Auction, 6:30 PM

#### **Saturday activities ~**

- ◇ Breakfast, 7:30-9:00 AM
- ◇ Merchandise Auction, 8:30 AM
- ◇ Outdoor Kids' Carnival, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- ◇ Student Projects, 10:30 AM
- ◇ Special Feature Certificates, 11:00 AM
- ◇ Outdoor Features, 11:30 AM
- ◇ Quilts will be sold at the top of each hour

**A variety of delicious food and drinks will be sold throughout the day!**

Featured this year, is an extensive list of the auction donations. A preview and details of each item can be found on the BMS website, [bmsprek12.org](http://bmsprek12.org).



There will be a Mother/Father Brunch following the worship service on Sunday, June 4. Place settings and beverages are being provided. A sign-up can be found in the narthex for those planning to attend, and to help provide the following ~

breakfast casseroles  
breakfast pastries, donuts, coffee cake  
fruit or monetary donations to purchase a fruit tray  
(if possible, please sign-up by Sunday, May 28)



A few years back, Tootie Stroup came across this poem in papers she was going through, and it may have been included in one of our newsletters.

It is very easy with the busy lives we live for many to think of Memorial Day simply as a day off from work or a long holiday weekend. This poem reminds us that it is important to take time and reflect on the true meaning of the day, and those that served and gave their lives for our freedom. We pray their efforts will never be forgotten. *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."* (John 15:13)

### A Lonely Day in May

We're so glad you came today, and placed a flag upon our graves.  
This makes us feel that since you're here, we needn't worry for another year.

With the passing time from year to year, a day will come when you'll not appear.  
When the flag and flower will disappear, and memories become vague and unclear.

So my buddies and I who sleep so deep, often feel a want to weep.  
We see uncommon and growing neglect, by many of those we died to protect.

Please, blow your bugle and sound your taps, remind the world of those times past.  
When we walk in shadows in the valley of death, where so many of us took that last and final step.

Please look at the crosses and bow to the rows, we are the seeds you planted to grow.  
To make our country viable and alive, to free it from all turmoil and strife.

Then refresh us with your tender tears, dispel our doubts and haunting fears.  
Help wash away all distrust and pain, let us know that our sacrifice was not in vain.

So treat us gentle and treat us kind, and always keep us somewhere in your mind.  
Remember us of those distant times, the life that was taken in youthful prime.

You blew your bugle and sounded your taps, you spoke of us and reviewed our past.  
And since you came and honored us today, we rest in peace, this lonely day in May.  
A special day.

Robert "Earl" Bratton  
1923-1988

The following is a list of St. John's living Veterans, who have served in time of war and in time of peace. Jesus paid the cost for our spiritual freedom, and we are able to freely worship Him because of those who paid the cost for our earthly freedom. Without these men and women and those who have gone before them, especially those who sacrificed their lives, we would not have the *privilege* of freedom and the security we enjoy. So on this Memorial Day 2023, we honor and thank them for their service to our God, and our country.

If you know of a living member not included on this list, please contact the church office.

Dudley T. Baker  
Mark D. Baker  
Robert F. Bratton  
Edward K. Buchanan  
James D. Buchanan  
Albert Carson  
Glenn W. Carson  
Jeremiah Carson  
Ronald W. Carson  
William R. Carson  
Matthew F. Chester  
Michael P. Conner  
Tristan K. Conner  
Mark A. Crownover  
William L. Dancy

Christopher A. Durst  
John K. Durst, III  
Gary R. Fultz  
Robert W. Gardner  
Terry L. Harmon  
H. Ross Harshbarger  
Randall C. Harshbarger  
Sheldon S. Kauffman  
Robert D. Keller, Jr.  
Andrew K. Kramm  
Johnn Marie Kruse  
Ralph W. Murphy  
Daniel L. Narehood  
Frank R. Oburn  
Dirk Remensnyder

Robert W. Romig, Jr.  
Christopher N. Plank  
Paul C. Sitch, Jr.  
Donald L. Smith, Sr.  
Larry F. Smith  
Daniel G. Stroup  
Jackson Stroup  
Jason T. Stroup  
Brian A. Stuter  
Suzette Stuter  
James R. Warner  
Brandon J. Weaver  
Mark S. Winegardner  
John S. Winegardner  
Kenneth C. Wyland

*As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the  
highest appreciation is not to utter words,  
but to live by them.*

*-John F. Kennedy*

**May your Memorial Day be reflective of those who have made  
it possible. Thank you to all military heros, the men, women  
and their families who have, and continue to serve our country.**

# ***MAY SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **May 7**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger

**Greeters:** Ken and Nancy Wyland

**Lay Reader:** Ken Wyland

**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester

**Sound System:** Ed Bilich

## **May 14**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy

**Greeter:** **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

**Lay Reader:** **VOLUNTEER NEEDED**

**Money Counters:** Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy

## **May 21**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger

**Greeter:** Ed Bilich

**Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich

**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

## **May 28**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy

**Greeter:** Carol Fultz

**Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich

**Money Counters:** Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

**Altar Care** ~ Joy Byler

**Altar Flower Delivery** ~ Sue Lynch

**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 Council Meeting  
March 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Fultz. Nancy Penepacker had devotions.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with the addition of Sue Lynch on the Call Committee. Ed Bilich made a motion to accept the minutes and Jim Buchanan seconded it, motion carried.

Ed Bilich presented St. John's Financial report. A motion was made by Joe Kanagy and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried. Ed Bilich then presented St. John's Day Care Financial Report. A motion to accept was made by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Joe Kanagy. Motion carried.

Pastor's report - Holy Week services were discussed - Maundy Thursday service will be held at St. John's and Good Friday service is at West Kish. A motion was made by Ed Bilich to offer an honorarium of \$50.00 for special music and if the travel is farther than 25 miles the person will also receive mileage in the amount the state allows. Jim Buchanan seconded it and the motion carried. Ed Bilich made a motion to pay for any children interested in attending Mount Luther Church camp. Jim Buchanan seconded it, motion carried.

Cemetery Committee - none      Christian Ed - S.S. material is

Day Care - none      a line item now

Long Range - none      Finance - none

Mutual Ministry - none      Music and Worship - none

Safety - none      Property - Joe Hostetler's

Missions - none      been working on the lights

Social Ministry - none

Website - none

Old Business - the Call Committee will meet with Synod on March 23rd. A motion was made by Ed Bilich to inform Synod that we will offer \$40,000 for a parttime minister. Jim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business -

Ed Bilich made a motion and Joe Kanagy seconded it that the Lenten offering will go to Missions. Motion carried. We went over the 2 amendments that were made to our constitution

A motion was made by Joe Kanagy and seconded by Jim Buchanan to adjourn. Motion carried

We closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy L. Penepacker

# St. John's Lutheran Church

## APRIL

### 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>9:30am Worship 10:45am Sunday School</b>	1	2	3	4 9:30am Comfort Knotting	5	6
7 Holy Communion	8	9	10	11 6:30pm Council Meeting	12	13
14 	15 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	16 	17	18 9:30am Knotting 	19	20
21 Holy Communion	22	23	24	25	26 BMS School Sale Daycare closed for mandatory training day	27 BMS School Sale
28 <b>Pentecost</b> 	29 <b>Memorial            Day</b> 9:30am Parade DC/Office Closed	30 	31	<b>Looking Ahead</b>  June 4 ~ Mother/Father Brunch in F.H. June 4 ~ Holy Trinity June 18 ~ Father's Day		