

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

OCTOBER 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



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

Current account balance 9/28/2023
\$ 5,224.19

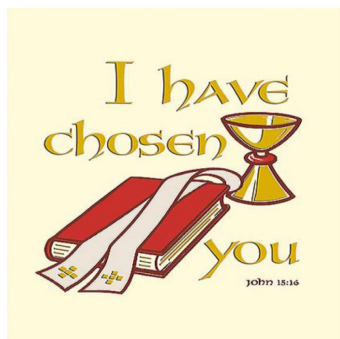
January 1 through September 28, 2023

Income \$ 170,065.87* Expense \$ 178,353.74
Net Income \$ -8,287.87*

* \$5,000.00 was transferred from the Money Market
to help cover monthly expenses.

You are invited to a special service to celebrate
Rev. Ken Longfield's 50th anniversary of Ordination
to Word and Sacrament Ministry, being held next
Sunday, October 8 at Holy Communion Lutheran
Church in Yeagertown, beginning at 10:45am.
Those wishing to carpool, please meet in the church
parking lot following the congregational meeting.

For anyone who cannot attend, cards may be sent
to Ken at PO Box 127, Reedsville 17084.



Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 9/28/2023
\$ 6,254.70

January 1 through September 28, 2023
Income \$ 213,181.32 Expense \$ 232,488.79
*Net Income \$ -19,307.47

* Due to the budget impasse this summer, St. John's
Pre-K Counts preschool program along with schools
and colleges, across PA are still awaiting funding
from the state.

The daycare has been paying the Pre-K salaries and
other expenses until the monies are paid out, which
should be this month according to the last update.
The net income figure will decrease once funding
has been received.

Our constitution states we can have no more than
12 or fewer than 6 council representatives in order to
conduct the business of the church. At this time, we
have 6 members, one whose term expires the end of
December. While we can operate with 6 having 2, 3
or even 4 more would be helpful, especially when
members are unable to attend a meeting.

The December congregational meeting is two
months away. Please take this time to *prayerfully*
consider serving. Council meetings now begin at
6:30pm and are held the 2nd Thursday of each
month with the exception of July and August (no
scheduled meetings during summer), and "normally"
last no longer than 1-1½ hours.

In Our Church and Community

Worship Schedule while Pastor Ela is away ~

Sunday, October 1 ~ Guest speaker Scott Yetter, Director of the Lumina Center Ed Bilich is leading the service and Pastor Rosalie Smith will be assisting with Holy Communion.

Sunday, October 8 ~ **Service begins at 9:00am** with Ed Bilich leading worship. There will be no message. Congregational meeting following (approx. 9:30am) to discuss/vote on possible worship time change.

Sunday, October 15 ~ Joe Kanagy is leading the service, his wife, Rufina will be providing the message, and Pastor Rosalie Smith will be assisting with Holy Communion.

The 2024 birthday calendar will be completed in November. Any member who would like to add/remove persons to/from the calendar is asked to PLEASE contact the church office with the name(s) and birthdate(s) **by Sunday, November 12th**.

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

The Annual Gator Camp Awareness Dinner is scheduled to be held October 28, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Locust Grove Mennonite Church Fellowship Room. A catered dinner will be followed by a short program given by the Cowboys, a boys' group from Gator Camp and Gator Camp updates by Greg Kanagy. An offering will be lifted.

Reservations may be made by calling or contacting Ann Kanagy at 717-437-4946. Please RSVP no later than October 23, 2023.

Blanket Sunday is October 1st. Envelopes were included in the September 24 bulletin and can also be found in the narthex. A selection of comforts they finished this last year will be displayed throughout the church.

Your donation to support this ministry, can be made through Sunday, October 8th.



Needed are full and queen size sheets to be used for comfort backs. Any color or pattern would be appreciated. And, blankets in good, clean, usable condition. They can be packed and shipped along with the comforts. If you can provide any of these, please place them on the counter in the blue room.

Advent 2023

St. John's and West Kish ~ The Themes of Advent

Advent begins on Sunday, December 3 and we are hoping to compile a devotional, with help from West Kish members **IF**, enough people are interested. This year will focus on the four themes of Advent ~ Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Volunteers are needed to write the meditations. A sign-up sheet along with scripture readings can be found in the narthex. **Submissions are needed by Friday, November 10...PLEASE.**

Take time to read the scripture and meditate on its meaning. You can tell a story that relates to the passage and end it with the point you would like to make. A short prayer can also be included. Most importantly, be yourself, and let it reflect what is in your heart.

Booklets will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 26. If you know of others who would enjoy having one to use as part of their daily devotions, please feel free to take for them.



The daycare once again participated in the United Way Day of Caring. This year, fifteen medical residents and one office worker from Geisinger Lewistown Hospital volunteered their time in several of the classrooms playground area and outside of the church.

We are always so grateful for the work they do each year, and all for the price of lunch from the White Hall Store.



Camp Mt. Luther News

Personality Retreat

On Saturday, October 14, CML Associate Director and certified MBTI practitioner Rev. Jim Vitale will offer a **retreat on the intersection between personality and spirituality**. Participants will be invited to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) assessment before the retreat and then gather at Camp Mount Luther to learn more about the true selves God has created them to be. The retreat will begin with refreshments at 9am and close with dinner at 5pm. It will include time for prayer, reflection, rest, and discussion. It is open to *everyone* over the age of 18. The cost of the event is \$85 and includes the price of the MBTI assessment. You can register here at this link: <https://forms.gle/PBUh6jzeW8SvR72t6>

Once you have registered, Jim will send you more information, including an exclusive link to the official MBTI assessment. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Jim at jim@campmountluther.org.

Women's Retreat

Come to Camp Mount Luther for a day of renewal in the beautiful setting it provides. This one-day retreat on October 21, 2023, will include the sessions focusing on the mission of Abby Yorks, an Ambassador for Soles4Souls (S4S), a non-profit organization collecting shoes (new and used) to be distributed to those who are in need. Abby is a native of Juniata County and currently lives in Middleburg. She attends Mifflinburg United Methodist Church. She has collected more than 70,000 pairs of shoes over the past 14 years. Abby says, "none of this would have been possible without God. He has guided me, strengthened me and filled me with knowledge and love."

Light morning refreshments and lunch will also be provided. The fee for the day is \$30.00. The retreat will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. To register, please complete and detach the bottom portion of the registration page (<https://www.campmountluther.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-Womens-Retreat.pdf>) and mail with a check for \$30.00 (made payable to USSWO) by Friday, September 29, 2023, to Deb Hackenberger, 8892 William Penn Hwy, Mifflintown PA 17059. You may also email your registration to dktabb@gmail.com and pay on the day of the event.

Evening at Shade Mountain Winery

On Friday, October 27, 2023, we will have our annual Evening at Shade Mountain Winery. This is a fundraising opportunity to share fellowship, entertainment, and locally produced wine, all to benefit Camp Mount Luther. There will be a limit of 50 people for this year's event, which will run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by Jason P. Yoder, a local acoustic musician. Menu to include heavy appetizers, desserts, and a complementary glass of wine. Make reservations at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. Cost is a donation. If you choose to purchase any bottles of wine that evening, camp receives a portion of the proceeds.



**CAMP MOUNT
LUTHER**
presents
an evening at
**Shade Mountain
Winery & Vineyard**
October 27, 2023 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.
SPACE IS LIMITED
Make your reservation today!
contact: 570-922-1587 or
cml@campmountluther.org
All proceeds benefit Camp Mount Luther

The most enduring symbol of the Lutheran Reformation is the seal that Luther himself designed to represent his theology. By the early 1520s, this seal begins to appear on the title page of Luther's works.

Here is how Luther himself explained its meaning:

First, there is a black cross in a heart that remains its natural color. This is to remind me that it is faith in the Crucified One that saves us. Anyone who believes from the heart will be justified (Romans 10:10). It is a black cross, which mortifies and causes pain, but it leaves the heart its natural color. It doesn't destroy nature, that is to say, it does not kill us but keeps us alive, for the just shall live by faith in the Crucified One (Romans 1:17).

The heart should stand in the middle of a white rose. This is to show that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace—it puts the believer into a white, joyous rose. Faith does not give peace and joy like the world gives (John 14:27). This is why the rose must be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and angels (cf. Matthew 28:3; John 20:12).

This rose should stand in a sky-blue field, symbolizing that a joyful spirit and faith is a beginning of heavenly, future joy, which begins now, but is grasped in hope, not yet fully revealed. Around the field of blue is a golden ring to symbolize that blessedness in heaven lasts forever and has no end. Heavenly blessedness is exquisite, beyond all joy and better than any possessions, just as gold is the most valuable and precious metal. (From: *Letter from Martin Luther to Lazarus Spengler, July 8, 1530 [WA Br 5:445]; tr. P. T. McCain*)

Following are various versions of the seal as it has appeared over time since the Reformation. The first version was used in Luther's writings in the 1520s for the first time, and was in black and white, with Luther's initials.



A colorized rendition of the seal began appearing as printers began to include color images in Luther's works. Each one was laboriously painted by hand.



This version of the seal can be found in St. John's above the outside door leading into the coatroom area and on the fellowship hall floor. Both were painted by Ruth Baker.



OCTOBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

October 1

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Ken and Nancy Wyland

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Jay Byler

October 8

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Bob and Susan Keller

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

October 15

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeter: Erica Hargenrader

Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

October 22

Elevator: Ed Bilich

Greeter: Nancy Penepacker

Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader

Money Counters: Joe Kanagy and Randy Harshbarger

Sound System: Jay Byler

October 29 ~ Reformation

Elevator: Carolyn Conner

Greeter: Jami Zook

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Mike Boring and Jami Zook

Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Carol Fultz

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 Council
Meeting - June 14, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Carol Fultz. Joe Kanagy led devotions.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Ed Bilich made a motion to approve and Michele Harshbarger seconded it, motion carried.

Financial report - Ed Bilich presented St. John's Financial report. Joe Kanagy made a motion to accept and Michele Harshbarger seconded it. Motion carried. Ed then presented St. John's Day Care Financial Report. Nancy Penepacker made a motion to accept and Jim Bechanon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's report -

Ed Bilich made a motion that we have communion on July 9 and 23. Michele seconded the motion, motion carried.

Committee reports -

Cemetery - nothing

Daycare - is fully staffed

Long Range - nothing

Mutual Ministry - Brenda Boring has agreed to be on the committee

Safety - nothing

Missions - nothing

Christian Ed - nothing

Finance - nothing

Music/Worship - nothing

Property - back wall has been painted, upstairs kitchen floor has been replaced, the committee is considering switching garbage companies. Ed made a motion to switch from Parks to McCordles. Joe seconded the motion, motion carried.

Social Ministry - nothing

Website - nothing

Old Business

Changes to the Pastor's contract was discussed. The Church Float in the Memorial Day parade came in third and the money was donated back to the VFW. Kelly does not want paid anything extra for cleaning after the mini split installation.

New Business

Ed made a motion that we pay the fee for a needy family to go to Camp Mt. Luther. Nancy seconded the motion, motion carried.

Next Council meeting will be held on Sept. 14, at 6:30 P

Ed made a motion to adjourn and Jim seconded the motion. Motion Carried

The meeting closed with a prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Penepacker
Secretary



St. John's Lutheran Church

October

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion Blanket Sunday	2	3 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	4	5 St. John's has Meals on Wheels 9:30am Comfort Knotting	6 	7
8 9am Worship Congr. Mtg. 10:45am Ken Longfield 50th Ordination Celebration Yeagertown	9 	10	11	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13	14
15 Holy Communion	16 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	17	18	19 9:30am Comfort Knotting	20	21
22 Reception for pastor following worship	23	24	25	26 	27	28
29 Reformation Sunday 	30	31 	Looking Ahead November 5 ~ All Saints Day Daylight Saving Time Ends November 24 & 25 ~ Holiday Gift Show November 26 ~ Christ the King December 3 ~ First Advent			Worship 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am