

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

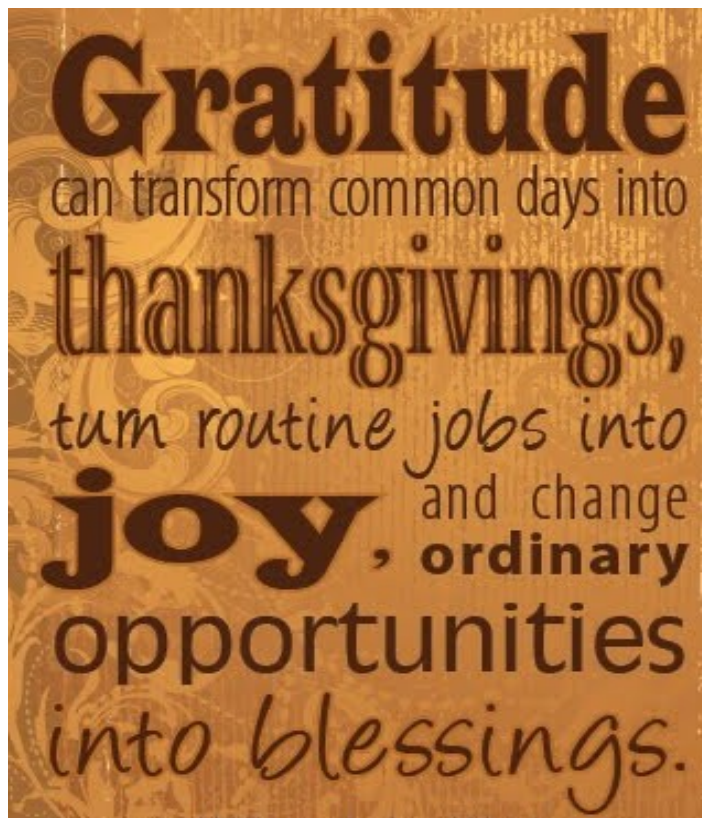
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 2023



Our Mission Statement

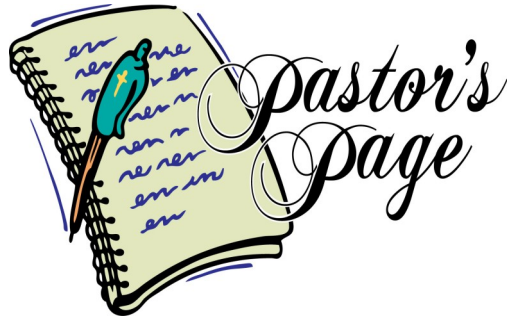
*We, the members of St. John's congregation,
promise to share the good news of Jesus Christ
and to love one another through worship and service
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

St. John's Lutheran Church
3597 West Main Street
P.O. Box 5716
Belleville, PA 17004

9:00am Worship
10:15am 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





Dear St. Johns congregation and friends,

In our October 22 service of farewell, I noted verses from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians that could be revised only slightly to express my own parting thoughts to this community:

I always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in my prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For I know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you.. For the power of the gospel lives in you not in word only, but also in the Holy Spirit. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you in all that you do.

His greeting is one I have adopted to end my own emails and letters.

Grace and peace - what more could we want? How thankful are we for God's grace and how fervently do we pray for peace in these times! How privileged we are to have a space and a place to worship and to receive and encourage this grace and peace among us. We have all grown together spiritually in this.

I have from my first day here experienced at St. Johns your faith, your reverence, your fellowship, your generosity and commitment to children, and to those you may have never met who need the comfort of a quilt and of knowing the love you know through Jesus Christ.

I pray that you will continue to know *God's 'Love that will not let you go.'*

May God watch over you and keep you and guide you with Grace.

Grace and peace, in Christ's love,

Pastor Ela J. Robertson

The following pages contain pictures, which chronicle some of the highlights of Pastor Ela's time here.

2019

Putting up a welcome sign



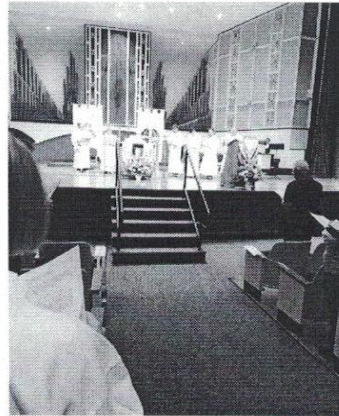
Children, grandkids, children from Day Care baptized



Camp Mt. Luther Presentations at church, camp and Synod



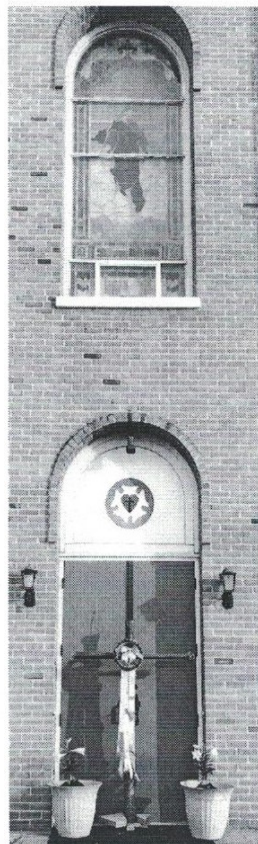
St. Johns and West Kish gather for Advent presentation and crafts





Dark Skies and New Life:

The doors closed for Sunday Service but Christ's Easter message of resurrection was given life in sight and sound with bell ringing, curbside church, the cross, flowers and messages to those shut-in at Valley View.

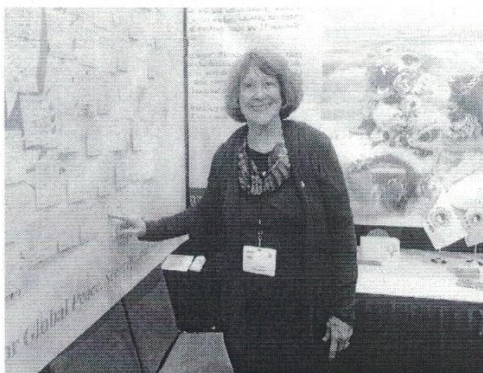
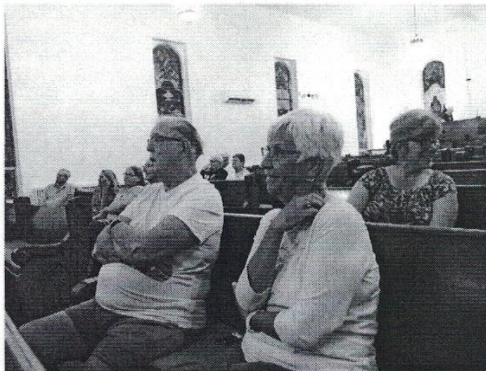


2021-2023

Godwinks come in many forms



Our Town: Big Vally viewing



Pastor Ela at Prayer wall for Parliament of World Religions

Working on Prayer Partner Songs on time-off with Lutheran musicians, Mark



Joe and Rufina offer message and worship at St. Johns and West Kish



Valley View communion and music - 45 attending!

St. John's Lutheran Church

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 10/26/2023
\$ 1,883.73

January 1 through October 26, 2023

Income \$ 198,996.30 Expense \$ 206,060.37
Net Income \$ -7,064.07

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 10/26/2023
\$ 13,757.53

January 1 through October 26, 2023

Income \$ 262,116.90 Expense \$ 283,267.32
*Net Income \$ -21,150.42



Sunday, November 5th
Remember to set your
clocks back!

The December congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday the 10th. Along with approving the 2024 budget and other business, we will also be electing a council representative(s). **Is God asking you to serve St. John's in this way?** Meetings 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.

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



In Our Church and Community



Reminder ~ Effective Sunday, November 5 our worship will begin 1/2 hour earlier at 9:00am. The congregation voted on this time change at the October 8 congregational meeting.

Sunday school will also be held 1/2 hour earlier, following the service at approximately 10:15am.

The 2024 birthday calendar will be completed this month. 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 Social Ministry Committee is collecting items for the Shelter Service. Non-perishables food items (canned and boxed), toiletries for men, women and children, and twin sheets new or gently used.

You may place your donations on the table in the narthex.



The Knotted's group will meet on Thursday, November 2nd and again on the 16th at 9:30am.

Thank you to everyone who supported Blanket Sunday, a total of \$565.00 was received (approx. \$150 more than last year!).

A special thanks to Ed and Marge Buchanan and Edna Chester for making the trip to Lewisburg on a rainy, windy Saturday to deliver boxes containing the 31 comforts and 3 blankets.

The knotted's are looking for sheets in good, clean, useable condition. No stains, tears or holes. Sizes ~ full, queen and king. If you have any to donate, please place them on the counter in the blue room.



Advent 2023 The Themes of Advent

West Kish is not participating in this year's devotional, which leaves seven more dates to be filled. Please consider writing a meditation. A sign-up sheet along with scripture readings can be found in the narthex. **Submissions are due 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.





Pastor Ela will be celebrating communion at Valley View on Saturday, October 28 at 2pm in the Terrace Recreation room. Lisa Griffith will be singing. Come join in the fellowship.



Mark Your Calendar



The second annual Belleville Family Christmas Celebration is being held again at the VFW on Friday, December 8.

There will be a Paint Party fundraiser to benefit next year's event at the Belleville Community Center on Sunday, December 10.

More details will be included in the December newsletter and weekly bulletins.

Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex for anyone who would like to place Altar flowers next year. We will once again refrain from using them during Lent beginning Sunday, February 18 through Palm Sunday, March 24.

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.



Due to continued increasing publication costs, *Living Lutheran* (formerly *The Lutheran Magazine*) will no longer be available in print. The November/December issue is the last. The magazine's online platform LivingLutheran.org will continue to offer audio stories, videos and more for anyone interested.

Several copies of *Living Lutheran* can be found on the coffee table in the narthex.

Veteran's Day is Saturday, November 11. It was designated as a time for the American people to express their appreciation for the many veterans—past and present—who have been willing to put their lives at risk to serve our country and defend our way of life.

Brave citizens have enlisted in the armed services to preserve our God-given rights and freedoms since the Revolutionary War. But the holiday of Veteran's Day was not formally established until 1954. November 11 was chosen as the official day of remembrance because it marks the anniversary of Armistice Day when the fighting stopped on the Western front at the end of the First World War.

Veteran's Day is a holiday of gratitude and reflection. Like Memorial Day, it is a time to pay tribute to American servicemen and servicewomen, but it is not the same. Memorial Day was established to remember the fallen, those who have paid the ultimate price defending America. Veteran's Day focuses on all who have served, not just the fallen. It is important to reflect on the experiences they have gone through and the contributions they have made, as well.

Veteran's Day offers the chance to show public appreciation for our living veterans and those currently serving in the armed forces. Military personnel and their families often make sacrifices, both large and small on a regular basis, and that should not be forgotten.

~ We honor and give thanks to St. John's living Veteran's ~

Dudley T. Baker, Mark D. Baker, Robert F. Bratton, 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, John 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 and Kenneth C. Wyland.

FYI ~ For many years, "Water" Don Smith would faithfully come to the church on Veteran's Day (11/11) and at 11:00am ring the steeple bell in honor of all veterans.

The Mission Committee is collecting items to fill shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. Boxes have been placed in the narthex and restroom areas for anyone who would like to participate. **Monetary donations are also needed to help cover the \$10/box shipping cost.**

You can fill your own shoebox or whatever you choose to donate will be combined with other donations. Below is a list of some of the recommended toys and other items.

Donations will be accepted through Monday, November 6

“WOW” Gift

Doll, Soccer ball (Make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated.)
Stuffed animal, an outfit of clothing to wear, shoes, small musical instrument (such as a harmonica or wood-wind recorder)

Toys

Foam ball, Kickball (Make sure to include a manual air pump so that the ball can be reinflated)
Finger puppets, Slinky, Etch A Sketch, Yo-Yo, Interactive toys that include push buttons, lights, noise (include extra batteries), Jump rope, etc.

Personal Items

Comb, Hairbrush, Toothbrush, Washcloth, Bar soap, Adhesive bandages (Colorful ones can help a child be more willing to wear a bandage. Do not include liquid antibiotic ointment.) Reusable plastic containers: cup, water bottle, plate, bowl, blunt-edged utensils (Consider filling an empty container with non-liquid items such as hair bows, bracelets, sunglasses, or washcloths to maximize the space.) Blanket

Clothing and Accessories

Shoes and socks, Flip-flops, Sunglasses, Tote bag/purse, Hair bows, Jewelry and watches, flashlights (include extra batteries)

Crafts, Activities and School Supplies

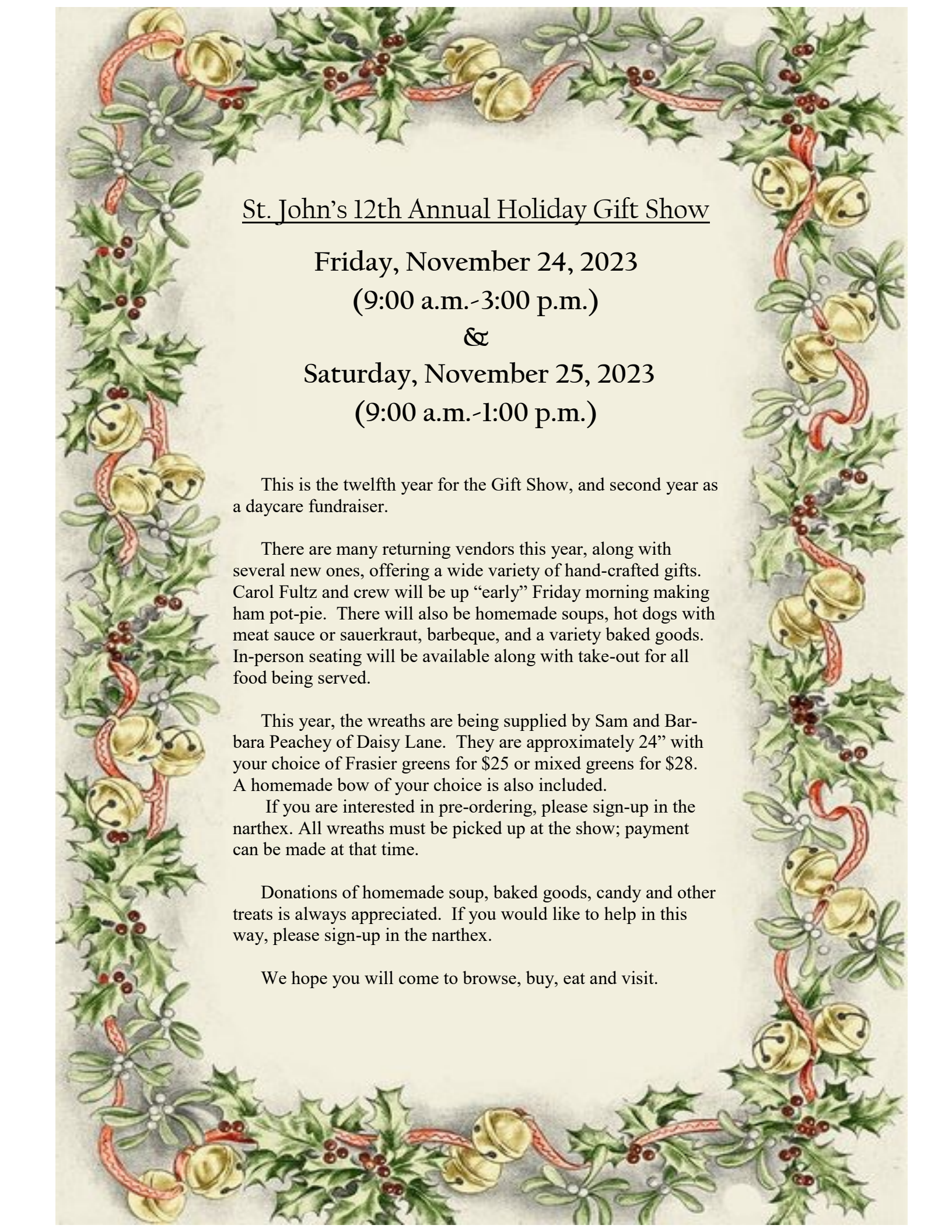
Pencils, Small pencil sharpener, Colored pencils, Pencil case, Crayons, Markers, Pens, Solar calculator, Stickers, Coloring books, Picture book, Notebooks, Glue stick (Do not include liquid glue.)
Small adhesive tape, Watercolor set [Finger paint palette/crayons/markers (non-liquid containers), paint brushes, canvas or paper], Playdough (Consider adding plastic cookie cutters as non-sharp utensils)

DO NOT INCLUDE

Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes (powdered or liquid); liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans.

If you have any questions, please contact Michele Harshbarger (717-250-7647).





St. John's 12th Annual Holiday Gift Show

Friday, November 24, 2023

(9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

&

Saturday, November 25, 2023

(9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

This is the twelfth year for the Gift Show, and second year as a daycare fundraiser.

There are many returning vendors this year, along with several new ones, offering a wide variety of hand-crafted gifts. Carol Fultz and crew will be up "early" Friday morning making ham pot-pie. There will also be homemade soups, hot dogs with meat sauce or sauerkraut, barbeque, and a variety baked goods. In-person seating will be available along with take-out for all food being served.

This year, the wreaths are being supplied by Sam and Barbara Peachey of Daisy Lane. They are approximately 24" with your choice of Frasier greens for \$25 or mixed greens for \$28. A homemade bow of your choice is also included.

If you are interested in pre-ordering, please sign-up in the narthex. All wreaths must be picked up at the show; payment can be made at that time.

Donations of homemade soup, baked goods, candy and other treats is always appreciated. If you would like to help in this way, please sign-up in the narthex.

We hope you will come to browse, buy, eat and visit.

NOVEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 5

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Volunteer Needed

Lay Reader: Volunteer Needed

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

November 12

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Chelsea Reed

Lay Reader: Chelsea Reed

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

November 19

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeter: Ed Bilich

Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

November 26

Elevator: Ed Bilich

Greeter: Joe Kanagy

Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy

Money Counters: Joe Kanagy and Randy Harshbarger

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Joy Byler

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Joy Byler

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

November

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Looking Ahead December 3 ~ First Advent Sunday, December 10 ~ Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 24 ~ 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship			1	2 9:30am Knotting	3	4 Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday Remember to Set Your Clocks Back 1 hour
5 Holy Communion 	6	7  Election Day	8	9 6:30pm Council Meeting	10	11  Veterans Day
12	13 		15	16 9:30am Knotting	17	18
19 Holy Communion	20 6:30pm Property Committee	21 Gift Show set-up in Fellowship Hall	22 Gift Show set-up in Fellowship Hall	23  HAPPY Thanksgiving DAY	24 9am-3pm Holiday Gift Show DC and church office closed	25 9am-1pm Holiday Gift Show
26  CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY	27	28	29	30  GOODBYE NOVEMBER	Worship 9:00am (Note time change) Sunday School 10:15am	

St. John's Lutheran Church Council meeting
on Sept. 14, 2023

Ed Bilich led devotions. President Carol Fultz called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with a correction. Ed Bilich made a motion to accept the minutes and Joe Kanagy seconded it, motion carried.

Pastor's report

hymns are picked through Christmas. Our Town Big Valley was shown at St. Johns and 12 people came for the showing. Pastor Ela will be off Sun. Sept. 24, Oct. 1 and Oct. 8. Pastor Ela informed us she has accepted a call at West Kish Presbyterian in Reedsville which will go into effect Nov. 1.

Stina Schaeffer, assistant to the Bishop spoke with us concerning what happens between now and when the Pastor leaves. Pastor Mike Sigler will be our interim. We need to make sure all of our records are up to date

Financial Reports

Ed Bilich presented St. John's Financial report. Joe Kanagy made a motion to accept and Nancy Penepacker seconded it. Motion carried. Ed then presented St. John's day care Financial report. Nancy Penepacker made a motion to accept and Joe Kanagy seconded it. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Cemetery - nothing

Christian Ed/Youth - S.S. begins Sept. 24

Daycare - nothing

Finance - nothing

Long Range - nothing

Music/Worship - nothing

Mutual Ministry - nothing

Property - maintenance was done on the Furnace

Safety - nothing

Social Ministry - nothing

Missions - nothing

Website - nothing

Old Business

As of now, Kelly is taking the drain covers off when it storms, if they aren't removed flooding occurs.

Property committee will look into this problem.

Our garbage service has been switched to McCordles

New Business

Property committee will take care of cleaning the mini split filters monthly. Congregation will be held on Dec. 10th. A motion was made by Ed Bilich and seconded by Joe Kanagy to allow the Day Care to hold their holiday gift show on Nov. 24 and 25, motion carried. There will be a service of farewell and Godspeed for Pastor Ela on Oct. 31. Susi's position with us was discussed, it is a challenge mostly because of her visa.

A motion was made to adjourn by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Joe Kanagy. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Penepacker
Secretary

