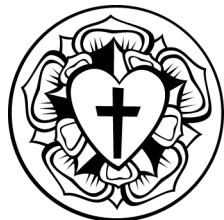


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

DECEMBER 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



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 Stahl, 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 11/29/2023
\$ 3,507.73

January 1 through November 29, 2023

Income \$ 207,007.59 Expense \$ 213,889.57
Net Income \$ -6,881.98

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 11/29/2023
\$ 22,190.03

January 1 through November 29, 2023

Income \$ 307,778.26 Expense \$ 319,949.72
Net Income \$ -11,171.46

The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 10 following an abbreviated service. Information pertinent to the meeting, has been mailed out to those members who did not pick theirs up following worship on November 26

Please contact the church office if you did not receive yours.

Carol Fultz is the only council rep whose term expires the end of this year, and she has agreed to serve another. While council can have no less than 6 members, it would be helpful to have another person or two. Please prayerfully consider serving in this way.



December Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 3 ~ Pastor Harold Sharp
Joe Kanagy leading worship

Sunday, December 10 ~ Congregational Meeting
Ed Bilich leading worship

December 17 ~ Pastor Doug Pierce
Joe Kanagy leading worship

December 24 ~ Pastor Randy Traxler
Joe Kanagy leading worship

Christmas Eve ~ Pastor Doug Pierce
Doug will be leading the service and preside over communion. The ELCA and United Methodist Church are full-communion partners.

Sunday, December 31 ~ Pastor Randy Traxler?

In Our Church and Community

Thank you to *everyone* who supported this year's Gift Show. How blessed we are to have people who were willing to donate items for the raffle, along with making homemade soups, baked goods and other treats. God has once again blessed us, after expenses the daycare made \$4, 900+ . With parents and others supplying almost all of the food and other needed items, there was minimal cost. The daycare will be tithing 10% (\$500) to the church to cover the cost of oil.

A heart-felt thank you to Carol and Jane Fultz for arriving at the Community Hall around 4:30am Friday morning to begin the Pot Pie and the "holy rollers" (Joy Byler, Brenda Boring, Sue Lynch, and Carol's friend, Kathy Weston) for showing up at 5:30am to roll out the dough. Ron Fultz and Jay Byler transported the 75 quart containers, along with 2+ roasters to the church. We sold every last ounce of potpie and soup along with the baked goods. The show would not have been possible without the combined efforts of those persons, who *unselfishly* gave of their time, money and talents, especially over the holiday weekend. God willing, we will do this all again next year!

In December, the Knotter's group will meet only meet once, on Thursday, December 7 at 9:30am.

They are in desperate need of sheets in good, clean, useable condition. No stains, tears or holes. ALL SIZES and patterns and /or large pieces of fabric 60x86 to use for comfort backs.



They also collect blankets, which can be sent with the comforts next fall. If you have anything to donate, please place it on the counter in the blue room.

Located in the narthex are Shelter Service "House Banks" which council is hoping members will take and fill with loose change/bills, and return to the church by Sunday, December 24.

Along with the banks are "12 Months of Giving" booklets which offer suggestions on how our church and individuals can help support the homeless of Mifflin County throughout the year.

Social Ministry continues to collect 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.



Shining Light Through the Darkness annual Christmas light display at Derry Community Park (former Kish Park) begins Friday, December 2 and runs through January 5.

Featured are thousands of lights and displays for young and old to enjoy. There will be free entertainment, carriage rides, food and more. There is no cost and everyone is welcome. The park is most evenings 5-9pm and Saturdays from 9am to 5:00pm.

More information can be found on their website www.kishparkshininglight.org. or Facebook page (link is available on the website).



Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services

Winter is on our doorstep, and along with it, the possibility of bad weather. If there is snow/ice expected, the council president, vice president and pastor will determine if conditions require cancelling the worship service.

This will be completed **no later than 6pm** the day before.

The church secretary will change the answering machine message to include the cancellation information. An email will be sent to all members who have supplied the church with their email address, and will also be posted on the church's website.

If bad weather is being predicted please check to see if services are being held before leaving the house.

There are still dates available to place Altar flowers. Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex. 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.

If you placed flowers this year, and still owe for them, please make sure to submit payment by the end of this month. If you are unsure whether or not you paid, please contact the church office.



The 2024 church birthday calendars will be available in the narthex on Sunday, December 17. **There is no cost, feel free to take one or more.**

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



Advent begins on Sunday, December 3. The devotional booklets written by our members are available in the narthex. 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.

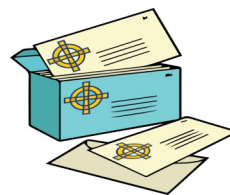


Thank you to those persons who continue to help with the Sunday morning duties. We are in need of a volunteer for the following in December ~

**Christmas Eve 7pm Service
Elevator Operator and Sound System**

Please contact the church office if you can help in this way.

The 2024 offering envelopes will be available in member mailboxes on December 10. Please contact the church office if you did not receive or would like to have one. Feel free to deliver to a member who may not be able to pick theirs up.



Belleville Community Christmas Celebration

The 2nd Annual Belleville Family Christmas Celebration is being held on Saturday, December 8th. St. John's is providing 200 Goodie Bags. **Volunteers are needed to pass the bags out to children attending the event. If you would like to help in this way, please contact the church office.**

Area churches have been helping with the Belleville Family Christmas Celebration scheduled for Friday, December 8. One church is in charge of the crafts and face painting. Another is in charge of the games. St. John's Daycare is handing out gift bags. Last year, Maple Grove church provided the hot chocolate, coffee and cookies. They are doing the same again this year and have asked for some other churches to help provide cookies, if possible. Everything at this event is free of charge and people who attended had many good things to say about it.

If you are able to help provide cookies, please let Kelly know. They can be delivered to the VFW around 5:30 pm on the 8th or, if you need to have them picked up and delivered for you, that can be arranged.



Join Us!



The 2nd Annual

Belleville Family Christmas Celebration

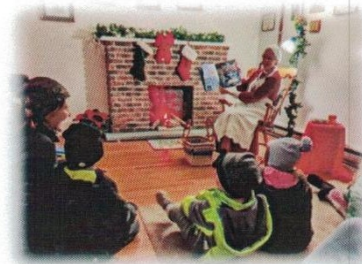
- **Tree lighting**
- **Carriage Rides**
- **Live Nativity with petting area**
- **Live Christmas Music**
- **Kids Games, Crafts, Facepainting**
- **Storytime with Mrs. Claus**
- **Photos with Santa Claus**
- **Cookies, Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Hot Dogs**
- **Christmas card signings for local soldiers away from home this Christmas season**
- **And more**



Friday, December 8, 2023

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Location: VFW





Benefit Painting Party
Wood Snowmen

Monday, December 11, 6pm-8pm

Belleville Community Center, 95 N Penn Street



Benefiting Belleville Lions Club Community Events

Door Prizes. Refreshments Provided.

No Art Skills Needed. All Ages Welcome. Fill a Table

Choice of Colors & Size 7x10 or 7x12. Small \$30, Large \$35

LEARN MORE:



Reserve Your Seats & Pay Before the Party

Call/Text Karen 717-513-8952

or Shane 717-994-5539

www.PaintingPartiesByJudy.com

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 3

Elevator: Carolyn Conner
Greeter: Edna Chester
Lay Reader: Deb French
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Ed Bilich

December 10 ~ Congregational Meeting

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeter: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan
Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan
Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz
Sound System: Joe Kanagy

December 17

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeter: Carol Fultz
Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Jay Byler

December 24

Elevator: Ed Bilich
Greeters: John and Brenda Boring
Lay Reader: John Boring
Money Counters: Joe Kanagy and Randy Harshbarger
Sound System: Jay Byler

December 24 ~ 7pm Christmas Eve

Elevator: **Volunteer Needed**
Greeters: John and Denise Chester
Lay Reader: John Chester
Sound System: **Volunteer Needed**

December 31

Elevator: Carolyn Conner
Greeter: Jami Zook
Lay Reader: Jami Zook
Money Counters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring
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

DECEMBER

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:00am Worship Sunday School following</p>					1	2
<p>3 First Sunday of Advent Holy Communion</p>	4	5	<p>6 6:00pm Daycare Christmas Program in FH</p>	<p>7 9:30am Comfort Knitting</p>	<p>8 6:00-8:30pm Belleville Christmas Celebration at the VFW</p>	9
<p>10 Second Sunday of Advent Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>11 6-8pm Painting Party at Community Center to benefit Lions Club events</p>	12	13	<p>14 6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>15 </p>	
<p>17 Third Sunday of Advent Holy Communion Poinsettia Orders Due</p>	<p>18 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting</p>	19	20	<p>21 </p>	<p>22 Church Office Closed</p>	23
<p>24 Fourth Sunday of Advent 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25 The Nativity of Our Lord</p> 	<p>26 Church Office Closed</p>	27	28	29	<p>30 <hr/>Sunday the 31st New Year's Eve</p>

St. John's Poinsettia Order Form



There is no set price again this year.

*We **will not** be using the poinsettias trees.
A total of **24** will be purchased and
placed in the sanctuary and narthex.*

*Anyone placing poinsettias,
may take theirs home **following**
the Christmas Eve service.*

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

**Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Sunday December 17th.**

St. John's Lutheran Church Council meeting

Oct. 12, 2023

All members were present. President Carol Fultz presided over the meeting and also had devotions.

The minutes were read and approved. Ed Bilich made a motion to accept as long as the day care report was attached. Joe Kanagy seconded it, motion carried.

Pastor's report:

Pastor Ela wasn't present but brought us a written report. Oct. 22 will be the service of Farewell and Oct. 29 is Reformation Sunday. The Presbyterians will not be participating in the Advent devotional this year. The exit interview is planned for Oct. 18 or another time convenient to the conference Dean.

Financial Reports

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

Committee Reports

Cemetery - nothing

Day Care - report attached

Long Range - nothing

Mutual Ministry - nothing

Safety - a discussion was held about the front door being locked during Sunday morning services. This issue will be brought up at the December Congregational meeting.

Missions - Ed made a motion that we participate in the Christmas Shoebox Project. Jim seconded it, motion

carried. Ed made a motion to donate \$100.00 to Keys Connection and Joe seconded it. Motion carried.

Christian Ed/ Youth - new books have been purchased for S.S.

Finance - nothing

Music and Worship - nothing

Property - holes were put in the drain lids to help the water flow. An estimate was received from Glick Electric Inc. to replace 4 Flood lights on the steeple. The estimate is for \$3,720.08. It was suggested that for now the bulbs could just be replaced.

Social Ministry - the committee will be having refreshments on Oct. 22

Website - nothing

Old Business

items in old business were discussed elsewhere.

New Business

the sign for Center Grocery Store on our land was discussed and will be discussed at the December Congregational meeting

the fire company is asking for a \$50.00 contribution. Joe made a motion to do this and Michele seconded it. Motion carried.

A discussion was held about compensating members for leading worship. A motion was made by Michele and seconded by Jim to pay for Rufina Payne's train ticket and for speaking on Oct. 15. Motion carried

A motion was made by Ed and seconded by Nancy to adjourn. Motion carried

Meeting ended with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Penepacker,
Secretary

October Council Report 2023

Enrollment:

46

Tuition Increase:

The tuition increase took effect on 9/4/23.

5% for 1-4 days enrolled

3% increase for before/after school care

Took away the 5th day free for full-time (5 days)

Staff:

12 staff and one on maternity leave

Snacks:

Parents have been providing snacks. We have implemented a new snack system that is more effective. A lot of parents have been letting me know they see a huge difference in their child's behavior at home because of the change I made.

Classroom Supplies:

We could **always** use donations. Some examples: Construction Paper

Glue

Scissors

Paint

Paint brushes

Snacks

Fundraising:

Holiday Gift Show:

Friday Nov 24th 9am-3pm

Saturday Nov 25th 9am-1pm

We are looking for food donations and raffle baskets.

I am adding a few more this year and I will be having a parent helping with this.

*Calendar raffle always makes a really nice profit.

United Way Day of Caring:

Day of Caring was here and raked the mulch, did cleaning around the center, and completed some work in the classrooms.

STARS:

I finished my STARS designation and passed with flying colors.

In January, I would like to do another STARS designation to be bumped up to a level four. We have never been a star four before now due to not having the policies or credentials to achieve a star four. I have been writing new policies for PreK Counts and Stars. Staff have been working hard on obtaining their CDA to reach this goal.

PreK Counts:

We received notification on 10/10/2023 that PreK Counts funds will be released on 10/23. We will be getting our check on 10/24/2023.

PreK Counts funding now owes the daycare at least \$10K+

Grants:

I applied for and received a Health and Wellness grant. Grant money has received will need to be used in a very specific manner to ensure that the money is used productively.

I am working on writing the Stabler Grant. There are a lot of pieces to it that need to be written. I am hoping to meet the January/February deadline.

My focus is on STARS designation and PreK Counts, and DHS first.