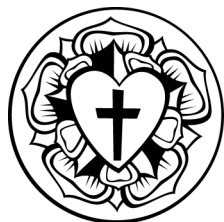


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

JANUARY 2024



*There are two ways of spreading light:
to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it.*

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
10:45am 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



Pastor's Page

Dear Members of St. John's:

This is my first opportunity to express myself to you as the new interim pastor of the congregation and it comes at a time when we have just ended one year and are about to begin a new one. The beginning of a new year used to be, and perhaps still is, a time when people pause in their life to reconsider where they are in life so as to make some new year's resolutions for the forthcoming year. I guess new year's resolutions are fine, up to a point. Personally, the new year's resolutions that I have made in the past were about things that should not have waited until the new year for me to implement! For many people doing more exercising, eating less chocolate, giving up smoking, getting more sleep at night and spending more time with the family are matters that should not be put off! Some things are just too important to delay and often we do so at great risk to ourselves and others.

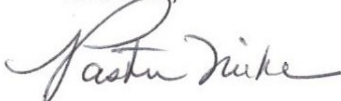
I guess New year's resolutions are fine but for me, it all depends upon what is the basis for our resolutions. If they are based upon Holy Scripture and what it is that GOD wants us to do, then resolve away until you heart is content. Along those lines, the words of the ancient prophet Micah come to mind. Micah, as a word of the Lord, says: "Do justice, walk humbly, and love the Lord your God (Micah 6:8).

In other words, take care of one another, keep your life centered and focused in prayer and devotion to God. Set some time aside every day whereby it is just you and Christ in conversation. Be fed spiritually by a committed reading of scripture. Listen as carefully as you are able to the words that others speak and the feelings that are being expressed behind those words. Pay attention to the pain in another's face, the tone of voice in which they speak, the words perhaps left unsaid that might speak louder than the words that are said. Be mindful that others are watching you, even when you don't think they are. Be aware that others are hoping to see in you a behavior that can be modeled and emulated, not a behavior that causes them to turn away from you.

Do justice, walk humbly in your life, love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind, and love one another as God has so loved you. I can't think of any better new year's resolutions to lift up that these.

I tend to look at each new year as a new chapter. We turn the page from what has been and look forward with anticipation to what is yet to be. You begin a new chapter with a clean slate. Yesterday is past and you cannot go back and relive it no matter how hard you try. We have today to live and the future ahead of us. In the life of St. John's Lutheran Church, you and I are starting a new chapter and I am very much looking forward to it! I am eager to get to know you and share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ here where God calls us to live and work and serve. As we begin this new year, may the Lord be at work in us to accomplish His will and purpose and may Christ our Lord be praised as we seek to be instruments of His peace!

In Christ,



Pastor Mike Sigler

St. John's Lutheran Church

Pastor – Reverend Mike Sigler
Phone ~ 717-437-7007
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 2026
Michele Harshbarger ~ Secretary	end of 2025
Joe Kanagy	end of 2025
Nancy Penepacker ~ Vice Pres	end of 2024

St. John's Financial Report

Checking account balance 12/28/2023
\$ 2,293.98

January 1 through December 28, 2023

Income \$ 219,488.37 Expense \$ 227,107.78
Net Income \$ - 7,619.41

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 12/28/2023
\$ 17,387.69

January 1 through December 28, 2023

Income \$ 335,974.91 Expense \$ 347,318.35
Net Income \$ - 11,343.44

Carol Fultz was the only council member whose term expired the end of 2023, and since there was no interest from anyone within the congregation, she has agreed to serve another three years which was approved at the December meeting. She will be installed during the worship service on January 7 along with recommitment of council members: Ed Bilich, Jim Buchanan, Michele Harshbarger, Joe Kanagy and Nancy Penepacker.



Our congregational meeting will be held in mid-February (tentatively February 11). Any committees who met this past year, **please** have your reports to the church office by Sunday, January 21.

Information packets will be available in member mailboxes/mailed out the end of the month.



Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services

Winter is officially here, and along with it, the possibility of bad weather. If there is snow or ice expected, the council and pastor will determine if conditions require cancelling the worship service. This will be completed **no later than 6pm** the day before.

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

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

IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

The Social Ministry Committee continues to collect items for the Shelter Service and Mitten Tree through January. Please take note of the requested donations needed.

Mitten Tree

All items are needed for both adults and children
Mittens, gloves, scarves, hats,
Socks, slipper socks and slippers

Shelter Service

Any non-perishable foods including:

canned fruit, vegetables and soups,
bottled juices, cereals, pasta, pasta sauces,
boxed pasta meals, peanut butter, jellies,
any other canned or boxed food items,
along with toiletries for men, women
and children, twin sheets new or gently used.

We are preparing to update our church directory. If there are changes or corrections to any of your information such as address or phone number since March of 2022, please contact the church office.

We hope to have an updated directory available in the narthex by the beginning of March.

At the December congregational meeting it discussed and decided to leave the front doors of the church open Sunday mornings. All other doors will remain locked. Council is looking into purchasing a camera that the sound system volunteers can monitor during the service.

St. John's has Meals on Wheels in January/February. Please sign-up in the narthex if you can help provide the following desserts.

Tuesday, January 23 ~ 5 Angel food cakes
(homemade or purchased locally)

Thursday, January 25 ~ 5 dozen cookies

Tuesday, January 30 ~ 4 cans of cherry pie filling

Thursday, February 1 ~ money to purchase pies
(give to Sue Lynch or church office)



Jesus said, *For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.* (Luke 22:27 NIV)

As true followers of Jesus, we also must serve. Christlike service grows out of genuine love for the Savior and of love and concern for those whom He gives us opportunities and direction to help, including the church.

Committee sign-up sheets will be placed in the narthex by Sunday, January 7. Please prayerfully consider serving.

The following dates are still available to sponsor 2024 altar flowers. Please contact the church office or sign-up in the narthex, if interested.

February 11
May 19
June 23
September 29
October 13 and 27

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.



Altar Flowers



Reverend Mike Sigler begins as our interim on January 1. He will have office hours **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's from 10:00am till noon** (subject to change to accommodate meetings, etc.) Feel free to stop in!

One of the things he is excited to begin is a Bible Study, and would like to know what time would be most suitable, along with how many may be interested in participating. Located in the narthex is a sign-up for anyone who would like to attend. Please notate morning/afternoon or either.

*Thank
you* 

We would like to thank those members of St. John's who generously donated towards Staff Appreciation. We are blessed to receive these gifts and are very grateful for your kindness.

Susie Yoo, Calvin and Kelly Byler

Thank you to my church family for their cards and prayers since the death of my husband, Jerry. I miss Belleville and St. John's, but am grateful to be living close to daughter, Jennifer and family.

Molly Hummel

As lovely as the tree and other decorations are, it is time for them to come down until next Christmas. Please see Jami Zook if you can help following the worship service on January 7.

The candles will remain in the sanctuary windows through Epiphany, the *season of light* which ends on Transfiguration Sunday, February 11.

The pastor has expressed a desire for the church to begin holding the monthly Social Hour again. Council will be hosting one on Sunday, January 7 beginning at 8:15am. Please stop in the blue room, meet the pastor and enjoy this time of fellowship before the service.

Volunteers are needed for the rest of this year. Possibly two or three could host it together. Please sign-up in the narthex if you would be willing to help in this way.



With winter just beginning, summer and the annual yard sale seem far away, but it will be here before we know it. Since there is little work outside, many of you may be cleaning out/downsizing or just looking to get rid of things you no longer use or need. We are glad for ANYTHING you may have in clean, usable condition. **No televisions or clothing please!** Donations can be placed on the stage.



The Central PA World Hunger Association 50th Annual Meat Canning Project is scheduled for February 5 thru 8 at the Chief Logan Fire Co. 1801 Glenwood Avenue, Lewistown.

Monetary donations are used to help cover canning costs. The price of meat and other supplies, like so many other things, have all increased. If can help support the project in this way, you may send a check to ~

Central Pa World Hunger Association
P.O. Box 76
Belleville, Pa 17004

The Second Annual Belleville Family Christmas Celebration was held on Friday, December 8 at the VFW. This year's event was attended by 400-500 people. St. John's once again provided 250 "Goodie Bags" with fun gifts and special treats for the children, which some of the daycare staff and parents handed out. Based on the response, we will be increasing that to 300 or possibly more! We thank the Belleville Lions Club for their hard work and willingness to give of their time to provide this evening of fun and fellowship for families in our community, and look forward to the Third Annual Belleville Family Christmas Celebration.

Ed Bilich shared the following photos of the event which were taken by Ann Thompson. You may see some familiar faces!





The Social Ministry Committee has been collecting aluminum tabs for many years, and Carolyn Conner faithfully delivers them to the collection site. She has shared the following information which provides more detail on the program and how it has helped the families with hospitalized children. There is a container on the old organ bench outside the coatroom area for aluminum tab donations.

ALUMINUM TAB COLLECTION PROGRAM

When Everyone "PULLS" Together, You Can Make a Difference!



Ronald McDonald
House Charities
of Central Pennsylvania

You can help support the Ronald McDonald Houses of Central Pennsylvania (RMHC-CP) by saving the tabs you pull from canned beverages and other **aluminum** cans. We can only accept aluminum tabs, so if the tab **does not** stick to a magnet – it's aluminum! *(Please note, we cannot accept tabs from tennis ball cans).* Funds generated help support RMHC-CP programs.

Over \$278,000 has been raised since 1996 by recycling over 629,000 pounds of tabs!

WHY ALUMINUM TABS?

Our partner, Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc., buys the tabs and sends a check to us! They generously donate their pick-up and handling services, bringing in vital funds that help keep families together.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ALUMINUM TAB PROGRAM?

ANYONE! Many schools support this project because it provides a terrific opportunity for children to get involved and make a genuine contribution to their community. Hospitals, service clubs and also participate in this easy program.

WHY NOT THE WHOLE CAN?

ALUMINUM tabs are clean, compact, easy to collect and the high-grade aluminum in the tab has a higher recycling value than the aluminum in the rest of the can.

HOW MUCH IS AN ALUMINUM TAB WORTH?

The price of aluminum changes on a regular basis depending on the supply and demand. On average, we receive .40 cents per pound of aluminum tabs. It takes around 1,400 tabs to equal 1 pound.

DO I NEED TO COLLECT A CERTAIN AMOUNT OR COUNT THE ALUMINUM TABS?

No, although some schools make a math or science project out of collecting a million, we'll take as many as you gather.

DO I NEED TO COLLECT THE ALUMINUM TABS IN A SPECIAL CONTAINER?

We recommend washing and reusing plastic containers with large openings for collecting and storing your tabs. **Please do not use plastic soda bottles or milk jugs because they're hard to empty!** We'd love to give you RMHC-CP tab stickers to put on your container to encourage tab donations. Please email us at officemanager@rmhc-centralpa.org or contact 717.533.4001 x152.

ALUMINUM TAB DROP OFF SITES

Ronald McDonald House Tab Hut in parking lot at any time: 745 West Governor Road; Hershey, PA 17033

Mechanicsburg Middle School:

Monday-Thursday 8AM – 4PM: 1750 South Market Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

At participating Members 1st Federal Credit Union Branch Offices During Lobby Hours Only:

Carlisle – 1166 Walnut Bottom Road, Carlisle PA 17013
Hanover – 1221 Carlisle Street, Hanover PA 17331
Harrisburg – 1021 Briarsdale Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109
Lancaster – 1815 Hempstead Road, Lancaster, PA 17601
Mechanicsburg – 4 Market Plaza Way, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
York – 2145 White Street, York, PA 17404

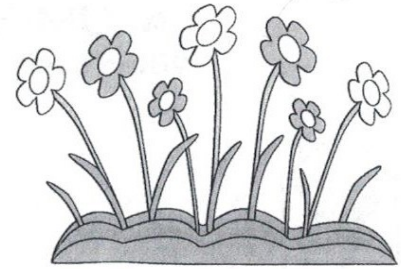
More questions?

**Please visit our website at rmhc-centralpa.org/recycling-programs/
or contact us at (717) 533-4001 x152**



RMHC
of Central Pennsylvania

745 West Governor Road
Hershey, PA 17033
717.533.4001
rmhc-centralpa.org



House TABulations

Name: Ms. Caroline B. Corner

Address: 738 Westfield Drive

Belleville, PA 17004 - 9701

Email: _____

Thank you so much for thinking of us!!

Thank you for collecting aluminum can tabs for the
Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central Pennsylvania!

This fundraiser started quietly, but has grown through the generosity
of many friends beyond what anyone thought possible...

Over \$278,000 has been raised since 1996!

THAT EQUALS:

- **314 tons**
 - **629,000 pounds**
- or**
- **Over 881 Million tabs!**

Because of your support through our recycling programs, we help families stay near their sick
child while receiving treatment at Penn State Children's Hospital.

Thank you for supporting Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Central PA!

Received By: Joyce Hubberd Date: 9-26-23

*Do you have questions or need more information? Please call us at 717-533-4001 EXT 152
or visit our website: rmhc-centralpa.org/recycling-programs/*

JANUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 7

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Mike Harshbarger

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

January 14

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: Carol Fultz and Sue Lynch

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

January 21

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

January 28

Elevator: Ed Bilich

Greeter: Deb French

Lay Reader: Deb French

Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Brenda Boring

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Brenda Boring

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

JANUARY

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	1 New Year's Day	2 	3	4 9:30am Comfort Knitting (weather permitting)	5	6  <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Epiphany day</p>
7 Baptism of our Lord Holy Communion Social Hour 8:15am	8	9	10	11 6:30pm Council Meeting	12	13
14	15 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	16	17	18 9:30am Knitting (weather permitting)	19 	20
21 Holy Communion	22	23 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	24	25 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	26	27
28	29	30 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	31	Looking Ahead ~ Sunday, February 11 ~ Tentative date for Congregational Meeting Wednesday, February 14 ~ 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service		

St. Johns Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
Date: November 9th, 2023

The November Council Meeting of St. Johns Lutheran Church was held on November 9th, 2023 presided by President Carol Fultz

Present

The following Council members were present: Michele Harshbarger, Ed Bilich, And Joe Kanagy

Not present Nancy Pennepacker and Jim Buchanan

Previous Month Minutes

The minutes of the October 12th, 2023 meeting of the Council Meeting were previously sent to the members. There were no changes and were approved. Moved Ed Bilich; Second –Joe Kanagy, Motion Approved

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer Ed Bilich presented the St John's Church financial report
Moved –Joe Kanagy made motion to approve; Second –Michele Harshbarger
Motion Approved

Ed Bilich presented the ST John's Daycare financial report
Michele Harshbarger made motion to approve ;Second- Joe Kanagy
Motion Approved

Committee Reports

Website–nothing to report

Cemetery–nothing to report

Long Range–nothing to report

Safety–nothing to report

Christian ED/Youth– nothing to report

Mission–Christmas Shoeboxes delivered to Locust Grove Church for shipping

Mutual Ministry– Pastor Rick Adams and the Mutual Ministry Committee conducted an exit interview with Pastor Ela Robertson on October 19, 2023. Guide lines for the interview were provided by the Synod.

Social Ministry–List of items for Shelter Services was put in the bulletin. Small houses also for monetary donations to the Shelter are in the Narthex

Finance– St John's Church proposed budget for 2024 and Daycare budget for 2024 was presented by Ed Bilich

Motion– Michele Harshbarger Seconded– Joe Kanagy

Motion Approved

Daycare– Donation is expected from Thrift and Gift to open another infant room

Music/Worship- For December services guest speakers for the sermons, Pastor Rosalie will serve communion and Ed and Joe to lead services

Property- Adam Glick to replace bulbs in steeple lights when Jim Youngs lift available
Bill from electric work done this past year to be paid with funds from the Gladys Malhady Fund. Motion- Ed Bilich : Second- Joe Kanagy Motion Approved

Old Business

Advent Devotionals- 3 dates still available

Call Committee-nothing to report

Sign for Center Grocery Store placement – vote on it at Congregational meeting

New Business

Christmas Eve offering to go to church fuel fund
Motion- Ed Bilich ; Second -Joe Kanagy Motion Approved

Members willing to serve on council- Carol Fultz done ,will stay on council

Congregational meeting agenda mailing goes out 11/20/23

Worship bulletins- back to small folded and using hymnals

Locking front doors during worship- looking into camera for the door, in mean time greeters stays at door till 10 minutes after 9am before locking door

Ed to check on headsets for sound system to be paid for by Memorial Fund
Motion-Ed Bilich ; Second- Michele Harshbarger
Motion Approved

Motion was made by Ed Bilich to adjourn the meeting
Second- Joe Kanagy Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted,
Vice Pres.
Michele Harshbarger