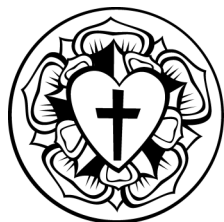


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3597 WEST MAIN STREET  
PO BOX 5716  
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

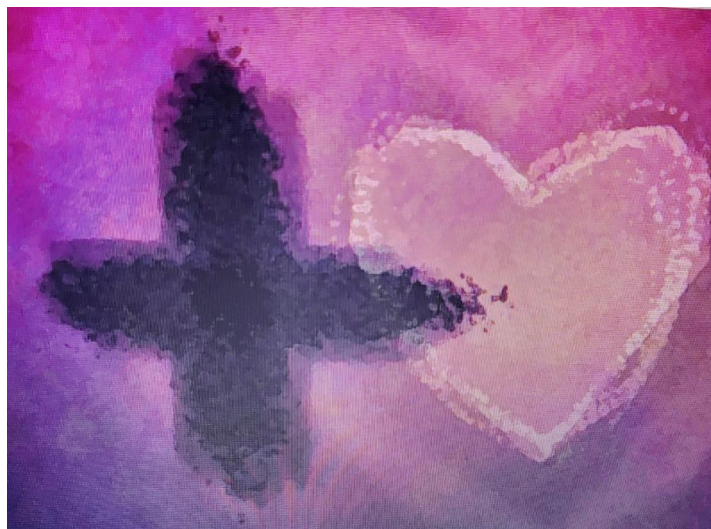
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

## FEBRUARY 2024



*Lent ~ A time for renewing faith,  
hope and love*

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



# Pastor's Page

About a month ago, as I was rearranging a few shelves in my library, I discovered my high school yearbooks that I had put away in the far corner of the room. As I was leafing through them year by year, my eye caught the comment that my high school Latin teacher, Mr. Carl L. Kauffman, wrote in my senior yearbook. "TEMPUS FUGIT" is what he wrote over his picture. "Time flies" in English. He had that right. It seemed like just yesterday that I had two years of Latin in Ninth and Tenth grades and there I was, graduating from high school four years later. If it was true for me that time flies back then, it is even truer for me to say that now.

As this year closes and we begin another new year, it seems like only yesterday that we were starting year 2023. And now, another year has come and gone. My father used to say that the older you are the faster it seems that the years go by.

What are we to make of time and its passage? In the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-13), it eloquently proclaims that there is a time to be born and a time to die, a time for peace and a time for war (I don't like the war part of it!), a time to laugh and a time to cry. Ecclesiastes says that for everything under heaven there is just the right time. But just before all this talk in Ecclesiastes about just the right time, the author says that **ONLY GOD KNOWS WHEN THAT RIGHT TIME IS!**

God has indeed given us a sense of the passage of time, the passage of an old year and the beginning of a new one. One of my seminary professors was fond of saying that "God makes time for us." By that he meant that God is eternal and as the Psalmist says, "A thousand years are but as a moment for God. A thousand years is but the blink of an eye in God's time. The gospel, the good news is that God delights in taking time with us and for us. He cares deeply about the days of our lives, our ups and downs and our sideways. When the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, Jesus Christ to live among us as we are, to know what it means to be a human being and all that that entails. The timing of Christ's birth, however, was peculiar to God's timing.

As we begin this new year, by God's grace there is still **TIME** for us and we are to use our time wisely and not waste it, to serve as Christ has served us, to give ourselves in words and deeds of love as Christ has so loved us. No one of us knows the length and breadth of our days. Just so, as we begin this new year that stands before us and are granted God's gracious gifts, one of which is time, may the journey of our days ahead be filled with praise to God in Christ for the possibilities of service that await us, with God's promise that He also journeys along with us. The time is always right for us to give of ourselves for the sake and needs of others.

May this new year be one that for you is filled with God's richest blessings! Happy New Year!

In Christ,



Pastor Mike

## Pastor's Mailbox

Pastor Sigler has been added to the member mailboxes in the coatroom area, and he will be checking it periodically. If you have anything you would like to share with him, please feel free to place it there or on his desk.

Pastor – Reverend Mike Sigler  
 Office hours ~Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
 10:00am till noon  
 (subject to change to accommodate meetings, etc.)  
 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](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 2026
Michele Harshbarger ~ Secretary	end of 2025
Joe Kanagy	end of 2025
Nancy Penepacker ~ Vice Pres	end of 2024

Meetings are held at 6:30pm, the 2nd Thursday of each month, with the exception of July and August, when there are no scheduled meetings.

**St. John’s Financial Report**

Checking account balance 1/25/2024  
 \$ 4,931.39

January 1 through January 25, 2024

Income \$ 13,488.00\*    Expense \$ 10,596.15  
 Net Income \$ 2,891.85  
*\$5,000 transferred from Money Market*

**Daycare Financial Report**

Checking account balance 1/25/2024  
 \$ 15,423.44

January 1 through January 25, 2024

Income \$ 22,580.84    Expense \$ 13,662.31  
 Net Income \$ 8,718.53



Our congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 11 in the fellowship hall following an abbreviated worship service. Light refreshments will be available. Information has been placed in member mailboxes. Any remaining envelopes will be mailed out on Monday, January 29.

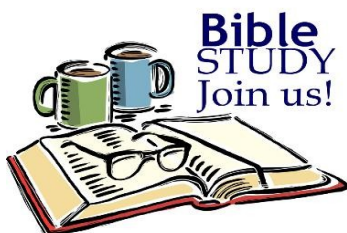


**Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services**

February can be a snowy month, so if there is winter weather expected, council president, vice president and the pastor will determine if conditions may 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 in doubt, please check to see if services are being held before leaving the house.



**Bible  
 STUDY  
 Join us!**

Pastor Sigler is holding an introductory Bible Study meeting at 11:00am on Tuesday, January 30 in the blue room. We will discuss day, time and topic.

**All are welcome!**

## IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

### Our Lenten Journey



Lent is a season of repentance – a great time to reflect on aspects of our lives that are unChrist-like that we would like to change. It is the place for us to begin – to do some reflection on our lives, a time to make a change of direction – from the things that lead us away from God to the things that lead us to God.

We will begin the Lenten season with our Ash Wednesday worship on February 14 at 7:00pm. Please join us as we begin our journey through the 40 days of Lent.

The church is also providing regular and large print devotionals entitled *Gathered into One* from Augsburg Fortress. They will be available in the narthex by Sunday, February 3.

Committee sign-up sheets have been placed in the narthex. Please prayerfully consider serving. We are looking to have our committees become more active again this year.



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 ANY-THING you may have in clean, usable condition. **No televisions or clothing please! Donations can be placed on the stage.**



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 and June 2**

**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

# Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to host the Social Hour which is normally held the first Sunday of the month (approx 8:15 till start of service).

The only food needed is light refreshments, milk and juice (cookies, donuts, fruit or another pastry). Coffee, tea and paper products are provided by the church and will be placed on the counter in the library/blue room.

**Please join us for a time of fellowship and refreshments before our worship begins on Sunday, February 3.**

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to assist some of our members with transportation needs. Offering a ride to and from Sunday morning/other special services, Bible study and if needed, to pick up groceries, prescriptions or appointments. If you would be willing to help in this way, please sign-up in the narthex.

**If you can help serve in either or both of these ways, please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office.**

The following poem was submitted by the adult Sunday school class which meets in the blue room. Food for thought!

## I am a Christian

When I say that "I am a Christian,"  
I am not shouting that "I am clean living."  
I'm whispering  
"I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say "I am a Christian,"  
I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble and  
need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian,"  
I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak and  
need his strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian,"  
I am not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed and  
need God to clean up my mess.

When I say "I'm a Christian,"  
I'm not claiming to be perfect.  
My flaws are far too visible, but  
God believes I am worth it.

When I say "I'm am a Christian,"  
I still feel the sting of pain.  
I have my share of heartaches.  
so I call upon His name.

When I say I'm am a Christian,"  
I'm not holier than thou.  
I'm just a simple sinner who  
received God's good grace, somehow!!!!

# ***FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **February 4**

**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger

**Greeters:** Jami Zook and Mike Boring

**Lay Reader:** Jami Zook

**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester

**Sound System:** Ed Bilich

## **February 11 ~ Congregational meeting in FH**

**Greeters:** Don and Rosalie Smith

**Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich

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

## **February 18**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy

**Greeters:** Bob and Susan Keller

**Lay Reader:** Joe Kanagy

**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

## **February 25**

**Elevator:** Ed Bilich

**Greeter:** Edna Chester

**Lay Reader:** John Chester

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

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

**Altar Care** ~ Susan Keller

**Altar Flower Delivery** ~ Susan Keller (February 3 and 11 ONLY, no altar flowers during Lent)

**Bulletin Delivery** ~ Randy Harshbarger

**Social Hour** ~ Bill Frank

### **Please remember:**

If you are unable to be present  
on your scheduled day,  
**it is your responsibility,**  
to find a replacement.

## St. John's Member Information Update

**If ANY of your contact information has change since the March 2022 directory, please update and return this form. You may place it in one of the offering plates or church office by February 29, please. Thank you!**

Name(s)

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Address (If you have a street address, PLEASE list it in addition to your PO Box)

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Home Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to receive the newsletters by email \_\_\_\_\_






I would like to receive notification of church closings/other information by email \_\_\_\_\_

**If you do not wish to share your cell phone number/email address outside direct contact from the church office/pastor, please notate.**

# St. John's Lutheran Church

## FEBRUARY

### 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School</b></p>	<p><u>Looking Ahead</u>            March 10 ~ Daylight Saving Time begins            March 19 ~ Spring begins            March 28 ~ Maundy Thursday worship            March 29 ~ Good Friday service            March 31 ~ Easter Sunday</p>			<p>1 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting) St. John's has Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>2 <b>FORECASTING PHIL</b> </p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 Holy Communion 8:15am Social Hour in blue room</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 6:30pm Council meeting</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 </p>
<p>11 Transfiguration of our Lord Worship in FH followed by congregational meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 </p>	<p>14 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service </p>	<p>15 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Holy Communion Pastor Sigler away following worship today through March 10</p>	<p>19 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p></p>	



Lewistown - St. John's Council meeting - Dec. 14, 2023

All members were present as well as John Chester.

John addressed Council concerning cemetery issues. We decided to move the PCA and the PA Funds from Thrivent to 2 CDs at Kish Bank. Ed Bilich will talk with John Chester concerning this matter. Nancy Penepacker made a motion to proceed and Jim Buchanan seconded it, motion carried.

Nancy Penepacker had devotions and President Carol Fultz presided over the meeting. Ed Bilich made a motion to accept the minutes of the Nov. 9, 2023 meeting with a minor change, Jim Young from Jim Young. Joe Kanagy seconded and motion carried.

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

#### Committees

Cemetery - reported elsewhere, Christian Ed - nothing to report

Daycare - had a report from Val Finance - nothing to report

Long Range - nothing to report Music and Worship - Pastor Sigler

Mutual Ministry - nothing will meet with the committee.

Safety - we will start to He would like us to start having

let the front door unlocked social time before the service

during services again again. Carol would like to have

Missions - Michele went Feb. congregational meeting in

to a meeting at Mt. Luther the Fellowship hall with light

There will be a meeting refreshments

in the future possibly Property - upcoming projects

at St. John's in Lewistown were discussed

Social Ministry - nothing Website - nothing  
Cemetery letters will be investigated  
Further.

Jami Zook will schedule readers and  
greeters and Michele Harshbarger will schedule  
altar care, altar flower delivery, and elevator operators.

Council officers for 2024 are Carol  
Fultz, president, Nancy Penepacker, vice president,  
Michele Harshbarger, secretary, and Ed Bilich  
treasurer. Ed Bilich made a motion to accept and Jim Buchanan  
seconded it. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ed Bilich  
and seconded by Jim Buchanan that in case funds  
are needed to pay bills for the remainder of the  
year that no more than \$5,000 shall be taken  
from the Gladys Mahady Fund. Motion carried

Michele Harshbarger made a motion  
to limit the number of verses for the middle  
hymn on communion Sundays.

Joe Kanagy made a motion to adjourn  
and Ed Bilich seconded it. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Penepacker  
secretary