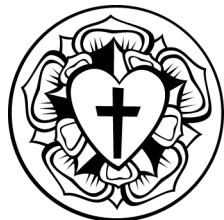


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

MARCH 2024



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



Pastor's Page

We know the story about our Lord's agony in the garden of Gethsemane. His disciples who had gone with him to that place of prayer were asked to do one thing and one thing only; to wait there with him, to watch with their Lord and Master and to pray both with him and for him. What was true for Jesus' disciples can also be true for us.

At any given moment, someone we know might be facing some moment of darkness, be it sickness, death, bereavement, or tragedy in some form or other. People we know and love can face catastrophe or a terrible loss in a heartbeat. They ask us, perhaps silently, to stand with them and to watch with them and to pray with them and for them.

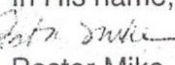
Distance is no object when someone is in great need. They can live near us or far from us. It doesn't matter. In any one day we may be called to kneel in Gethsemane beside someone dying in a hospital in Lewistown or praying for someone who has lost their job in Ohio or someone else who is waiting anxiously for their doctor's report somewhere in California. It is our friends, our neighbors, our family, our colleagues and yes, even our enemies who are themselves vulnerable and need our support, just as the time may come when we need theirs.

The saddest moment for me about our Lord's last week in Jerusalem before his death and resurrection is that his closest friends could not watch with him and wait for him for even one hour. They were too tired, too this and too that. And on his cross, when the Lord looked down upon the crowd who wished for his death, those same disciples were nowhere to be found. St. Mark in his Gospel says that they fled for the hills. They and the women who were also close to Jesus "looked on from a distance." Translate that to mean they wanted no part of Jesus' cross. The saddest part of Calvary for me is that Jesus' disciples and friends abandoned him at the time he needed them most.

When we find the ground giving way beneath our feet, as sooner or later we shall, Gethsemane is the place where we should go. That is where we will find the Lord of all, the one to whom God has given all authority in heaven and on earth. When we feel ourselves to be alone and adrift, and sense the time for the agony of prayer is upon us, we can be assured that Christ stands with us and beside us because he has been there long before us. He knows what it feels like and identifies with all that which causes us grief and worry.

No other faith in the world holds to a God who so identifies with everything that we humans experience such as does the Christian faith. Do you know pain? So does Christ. Do you ever feel alone? So did He. Have you wept at someone who has been taken away from you in death? So did He. He wept at the tomb of his friend, Lazarus. Do you love life and wish for more of it? So did Christ when he prayed that the cup of suffering might pass from His lips.

So our prayer can always be this: O Lord Jesus, in Gethsemane you knew what it is like to be utterly alone, to speak with no one around you to support you. Be with us and everyone in the hour of their great need; be our constant companion, our Lord and Savior, now and always. Amen.

In His name,

Pastor Mike

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

**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 2/29/2024
 \$ 5,144.94

January 1 through February 29, 2024

Income \$ 56,157.47 Expense \$ 53,099.25
 Net Income \$ 3,058.22

**Income/Expense include Kester Fund monies from Thrivent*

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 2/29/2024
 \$ 12,672.80

January 1 through February 29, 2024

Income \$ 59,216.79 Expense \$ 52,811.98
 Net Income \$ 6,404.81



**Daylight Saving Time Begins
 Sunday, March 10**

Holy Week Worship

Maundy Thursday Service
 7:00pm ~ March 28

Good Friday Tenebrae
 7:00pm ~ March 29

Easter Sunday Worship
 9:00am ~ March 31
**Council hosting fellowship time
 in library/blue room**

Bible Study on the book of Galatians will resume on Tuesday, March 12. **All are welcome!**



IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

Council is once again hosting a *Fellowship Time* before and after our worship on Easter Sunday. Please come a little earlier or stay for a little while after the service and enjoy a cup of coffee with a hot cross bun and other refreshments.



Volunteers are still 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 this Sunday, March 3.



The annual yard sale will be here in a few months. If you have been doing any cleaning out, we will gladly take whatever you would like to get rid of in good usable condition, with the exception of TV's and clothing.

Several people have already blessed us with their unwanted items! Donations may be placed either in front of, or on the stage. Thank you!!



You will find a Lenten offering envelope in your box for Sunday, March 3. Council voted to split all donations between Missions and the Discretionary Fund.

instead of
**GIVING UP
SOMETHING**
try
**GIVING TO
SOMETHING**

Reminder ~

We will not be using flowers on the Altar during the Lenten season thru Palm Sunday, March 24.

If you would like to place an arrangement beside the lectern in honor or memory of a loved one during that time, please contact the church office.

RAISE THE REGION

Camp Mount Luther is once again participating in Raise the Region and we need YOUR support! Your donations made through raisetheregion.org will help Camp Mount Luther continue to provide quality spiritual formation, outdoor adventure, intentional community, and leadership development experiences for people of all ages. The more donors and donations we raise the better our chances of receiving incentives, stretch dollars, and awards! Please go to raisetheregion.org between March 13 at 6:00 p.m. through March 14 at 11:59 p.m. to make your contribution. Thank you for your generosity.



We know how boring summer can get.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

is here to help!

Like you, we think summer vacation should be fresh and fun, filled with new friendships and new experiences. Camp Mount Luther offers 400 acres and a host of awesome programs to feed your hunger for adventure.

3 easy steps to your best. summer. ever.

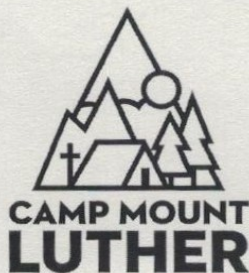
1. Check out our 2024 Summer Camp brochure and pick your program
2. Register (scholarships are available)
3. Pack your bags and come to camp!

Our promise to you:

1. You will be safe
2. You will be welcomed
3. You will be loved
4. You will have fun!



Don't suffer another long, boring summer! Come to camp and create friendships, memories, and faith that will last a lifetime!



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

www.campmountluther.org

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: 570-922-1587 | Fax: 570-922-1118

e-mail: cml@campmountluther.org



The church will once again be paying camp fees for any children who would like to attend this summer.

Program information can be found at www.campmountluther.org.

CML brochures are available in the narthex. Please contact the church office if interested in attending.

MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 3

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeter: Nancy Penepacker
Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Jay Byler

March 10

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeter: Jane Fultz
Lay Reader: Chelsea Reed
Money Counters: Carol Fultz and Sue Lynch
Sound System: Jay Byler

March 17

Elevator: Joe Kanagy
Greeters: Ken and Nancy Wyland
Lay Reader: Ken Wyland
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Joe Kanagy

March 24

Elevator: Ed Bilich
Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger
Lay Reader: Mike Harshbarger
Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy
Sound System: Jay Byler

March 31 ~ Easter

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeters: John and Brenda Boring
Lay Reader: John Boring
Money Counters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring
Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Carol Fultz

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Carol Fultz (March 31 ONLY, no altar flowers during Lent)

Bulletin Delivery ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Social Hour ~ Adult Sunday School Class (Sunday, March 3)

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
Minutes of the January 11, 2024 meeting

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

Vision Statement: To be welcoming people who encourage God's love in our community through our prayers, devotion, benevolence, and deeds.

The monthly meeting of St. John's Lutheran Church council was held on January 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

Present: Pastor Mike Sigler, President Carol Fultz, Ed Bilich, Jim Buchanan, Michele Harshbarger, Joe Kanagy and Nancy Penepacker

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Michele Harshbarger led devotions.

The devotion schedule for 2024 attached

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the 12/14/24 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Michele Harshbarger and seconded by Joe Kanagy. Motion carried.

Financial Reports:

The financial reports were presented by Ed Bilich.

St. John's – A motion to accept the church financial report was made by Joe Kanagy and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried.

St. John's Daycare – A motion to accept the daycare financial report was made by Michele Harshbarger and seconded by Jim Buchanan. Motion carried.

Pastor's report: Copy of Report provided

Committee Reports:

Cemetery – Nancy – nothing to report

Christian Ed/Youth – Michele – Adult Sunday School continues after the 9am service

Day Care – Carol – nothing to report – the director Valarie didn't submit a report

- Make Monthly Newsletter available to Daycare parents. Ask Kelly to make available

Finance – Jim

- Finance committee to meet soon to discuss cemetery investments
- Discretionary Checking was discussed – Ed made a motion to change signature authority to be Paster Mike Sigler, Ed Bilich and Carol Fultz. Nancy seconded the motion. Motion carried

Long Range – Ed – nothing to report

Music & Worship – Carol – Pastor to meet with the committee

Mutual Ministry – Nancy – nothing to report

Property – Joe Kanagy – Mike Harshbarger placed door stoppers at the doors below the stage / wheels need fixed on table carts /next Property Committee clean filters of the mini splits

Safety – Carol Fultz __evaluating the need for camera at the front door/ Carol to talk about options with her son

Social Ministry – Michele – nothing to report

Missions – Michele – Time to discuss Camp Mount Luther Capital Fundraiser for new bath house, next council meeting

Website – Ed – Nothing to report

Old Business: Committee reports for 2023 are needed by Jan. 21

Pastor Sigler's contract now has all required signatures.

New Business:

Payment of Lay Ministry Training for Ed Bilich - \$500 from Memorial Fund
Motioned made by Nancy Penepacker 2nd Jim Buchanan

Updating Directory – info sheet w/be included in Feb newsletter

Social Ministry to have social hour before/after Easter worship 3/31
(If one on Easter, none the following Sunday, April 7)

Worship attendance assistance

Congregational Meeting- Feb. 11 in Fellowship Hall / organist to bring key board

Review church cancellation policy- Approved

Bulletin Delivery volunteer list: Randy Harshbarger – Feb, May, August, November
Jim Buchanan- March, June, Sept., December
John Boring- April, July, October

Motion to end the meeting – Nancy , 2nd Pastor Sigler

With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on February 8th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Harshbarger, Secretary

Daycare January Report

Enrollment:

47

We have increased enrollment again and still have a waiting list.

Tuition

Effective January 1st. All late payments will be charged a late fee.

Staff:

11 staff

We are minimally staffed and do not have extra staff if we don't need them.

Snacks:

Parents have been providing snacks. Even though parents are donating and doing their part we still need to feed the children snacks 2x/day. The daycare still needs to help provide one snack/day to help.

Classroom Supplies:

Parents have helped with supplies from the giving tree and we received various items center-wide and for the classrooms.

Fundraising:

We are looking at doing the calendar raffle for March.

We are also looking into having a spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser.

STARS:

We are getting ready for another review in April.

DHS:

Inspection will be in May. We are always in a state of readiness because she could show up at any time of the year. No concerns with anything at the moment.

PreK Counts:

I have already started our waiting list for the Fall. We are at full capacity for this year.

I have a review coming up next week for PreK Counts.

Grants:

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



There is no set price, anyone wishing to place a flower(s), is asked to make a donation and a variety will be purchased to decorate the church.

An insert with the names of the persons placing them, along with those they are in honor/memory of will be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, March 31.

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

Please return this form along with your donation to the church by Sunday, March 24th.

St. John's Lutheran Church

MARCH

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>10:15am Sunday School</p>					1 Pastor Sigler away through March 10	2
3 Harold Sharp Guest Speaker 8:15am Social hour in blue room	4	5	6	7 9:30am Comfort Knotting	8	9 Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday Turn clocks ahead 1 hour
10 Vaughn Kanagy Guest Speaker 	11	12 11:00am Bible Study	13	14 6:30pm Council Meeting	15	16
17 Holy Communion 	18 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	19 11:00am Bible Study 	20	21 9:30am Comfort Knotting	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26 11:00am Bible Study	27	28 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 DC/Church office closed 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae	30
31 Easter Holy Comm. Council hosting fellowship time						