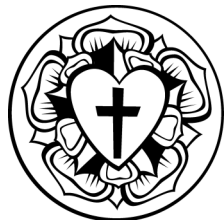


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

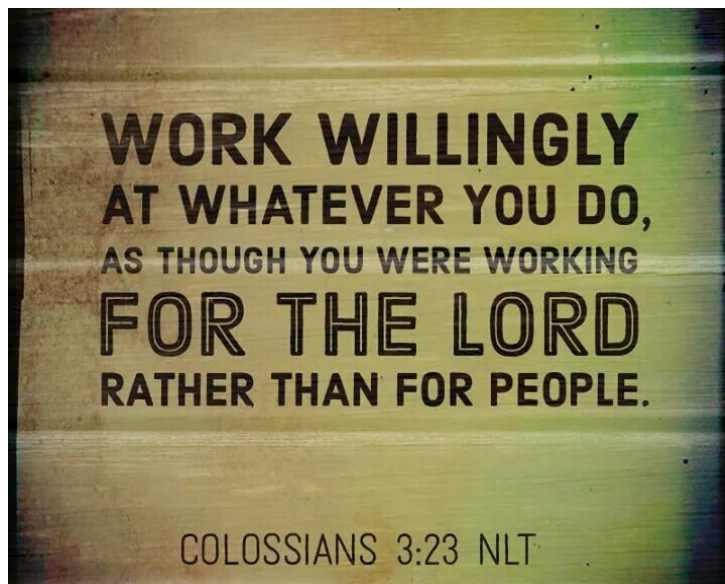
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

SEPTEMBER 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

Earlier this summer I conducted an outdoor wedding for a former member of the congregation in Thompsonstown. Prior to the service as I was standing near the outdoor altar a man approached and asked, "Are you the one conducting the service?" Now, under other circumstances I could well understand his wonderment if I or another was the officiant. But there I stood, wearing a black suit and a clerical collar. So I, in jest, said to him, "No, I'm the electrician in charge of the sound system" The man took me seriously!

What I wanted to say to him but didn't was, "Yes, of course I am! Who else dresses like this?" No electrician or plumber or carpenter or anyone else that I know of dresses completely in black and wears a shirt with a white tab across the front!

I am often asked why pastors and priests wear black clothing and a clerical collar. The reason is because we want people to know that we represent Christ and His church. Many have been the occasion when I have walked into a hospital to make a visit and someone has come up to me asking me to visit their sick loved one in the hospital or asking me to offer a special prayer for them. These are people that I have never met before in my life. They don't know me and I don't know them but none of that matters because they are seeking God's presence of healing and hope for those they love.

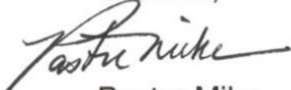
Shortly thereafter I found myself walking through an activity room at Valley View on my way to give Holy Communion to several residents. Wearing my customary black garb and carrying my little black box containing all the things I needed for the sacrament, I passed by a table of four ladies with the most serious commitment to a game of cards I have ever seen. I paused and said to them, "You ladies look like you are deeply committed to winning!"

One quickly responded, "We are!" Fearing that I would earn their wrath if I further interrupted the game I walked on as quietly as I could. I could hear one of the ladies say, "There goes the repairman carrying his repair kit. I wonder what he's going to fix?"

Seriously? How could I possibly be mistaken for a repairman and my home communion kit confused with a box filled with screwdrivers and hammers? Amused, I moved along. But then I got to thinking, perhaps there is a lot of truth in her comment. That Holy Communion kit can and does in fact fix a lot that needs to be repaired in the lives of those who are broken and need of fixing. The body and blood of Christ can mend a broken heart, be a salve for the sin-sick soul, bring healing to those who are ill in body or spirit, and bring forgiveness to the guilt ridden.

Whatever might be broken in any human life, the presence of Christ can right what is wrong no matter who it is that receives His body and blood given and shed for the world. Regardless of person or station or place in life, no matter where we have been or are now, Christ gives himself to us, to abide with us, for our salvation. I think I rather like my Holy Communion kit to be referred to as a fix-it kit, knowing that Christ alone can heal our wounds and mend our souls.

In Christ,



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**

Angela Parko, 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 8/26/2024
 \$ 11,111.16

January 1 through August 26, 2024

Income \$ 148,888.91 Expense \$ 138,364.46
 Net Income \$ 10,524.45

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 8/26/2024
 \$ 6,960.87

January 1 through August 26, 2024

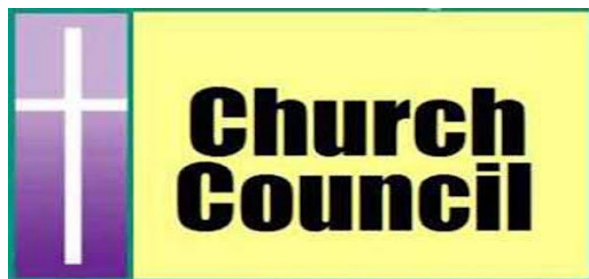
Income \$ 213,180.29 Expense \$ 214,615.26
 Net Income \$ -1,435.97
 *Figures do not contain end of month deposit



After taking a break for the summer, council will resume on Thursday, September 12. **PLEASE NOTE** ~ since they did not meet in July or August, the June minutes have not been reviewed and approved. They will be included in next month’s newsletter.

Please prayerfully consider serving on council. We currently have 6 persons, but a few more would be helpful, especially when one or two members are unable to attend a meeting.

Meetings begin at 6:30pm and are held the 2nd Thursday of each month with the exception of July and August, and “normally” last no longer than 1-1½ hours.



IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

Advent Devotionals

Hard to imagine, but the advent season begins in just three short months, and we are looking to compile another devotional, **IF**, enough people are interested. Volunteers are needed to write the meditations. A sign-up sheet along with scripture readings will be placed in the narthex by the middle of this month.

After taking a summer break, the Knotters will gather together again on Thursday, September 5th and 21st at 9:30am in the blue room.

Blanket Sunday is October 6th. Envelopes will be included in the September 29 bulletin and placed in the narthex. A selection from the comforts they finished this past year will be displayed throughout the church.

The security camera's were recently installed around the exterior of the church. The main monitor will be placed in the former church office/meeting room outside the pastor's office. And, they are also accessible to several property committee members and the daycare through their cell phones.

Unfortunately, the days of living in the safety of a small rural community no longer exists. While we hope they are never needed, it was a wise decision by the congregation to help provide a level of protection for our members, the daycare children and staff.

There is change coming to St. John's in the next few weeks. The church offices are trading places. The pastor's office will once again be located in the office Pastor Kampa used while he was here, and the church office will move to the room the pastor is currently in. The office left vacant will be used by the pastor to meet with small groups/committees.

Volunteers are currently applying a fresh coat of paint and cleaning the carpet before the move. Two new LED light fixtures are also being installed. Thank you to those persons who have helped/will be helping to make this transition possible. A special thanks to Glenn and Anne Peachey for donating a table and chairs along with a desk for use in the pastor's rooms.

We are
moving!

We will be bringing in new members the last Sunday in October, which is also Reformation. If you have been attending St. John's and would like to join, please see the pastor or contact the church office.



Our church directory will also be updated at this time to include our new members. If your address or phone number has changed recently, please contact the church office with the correct information.

Our choir is starting up this month. If you have not already, and would like to share your voice, please sign-up in the narthex. Karen Sigler and Susie will be discussing time and dates for rehearsals, which will be included in the weekly bulletins



The Mifflin County Amish-Mennonite Historical Society's Annual Fall Heritage Day will be held on Saturday, September 14, from 9 AM to 2 PM.

The Heritage Center, on the corner of Main and Walnut Streets in Belleville, as well as the Heritage House next door, will be open for your browsing enjoyment, as well as exhibits and demonstrations on the lawn. Stop by and try some freshly pressed cider with a bag of kettle popped corn as you learn about life in days gone by.

Daycare

The daycare thanks everyone who helped make this year's sale another success. Those who donated baked goods, those who came to browse and buy, and especially for your donations. Your junk and unwanted items are definitely another person's treasure! Our final total was \$1,996.40!!!!

The Daycare is holding a calendar fundraiser to help with the Security Camera expense. Area businesses and individuals have donated cash and gift cards for the daily prizes. The cost to purchase a calendar is \$10. For anyone interested, they are available in the narthex, and payment may be placed in the envelope.

This year's gift show is scheduled for Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30. More information will be included in the October and November newsletters.

Carol Fultz is in need of another "Holy Roller" to help with the potpie dough. If you would like to become a member of this elite group, please see Carol or contact the church office.

Daycare Director, Valerie Stahl recently accepted another job in the child-care field. While she did not want to leave St. John's, the position, salary and benefits offered to her were a wonderful opportunity. We wish her well as she begins a new path in her career, and are grateful for all she has brought to the center these last few years.

Angela Parko is now serving as the Director. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, and has been in the childcare field since 2008. Before coming to St. John's in 2023, Angela worked with Juniata County Children and Youth services. She grew up in Belleville and is the daughter of John and Candy Spickler, and niece of Ed and Cindy Bilich. She resides in Burnham, with her husband and son.

Meals on Wheels

St. John's has Meals on Wheels the first two weeks in September. Thank you to everyone who donated towards our desserts. Please make sure to have your donations at the Community Hall by 9am the day it is needed.

Tuesday, September 3 ~ Cherry Pie Filling

Thursday, September 5 ~ Cookies

Tuesday, September 10 ~ Angel Food cakes

Bible Study resumes on Tuesday, September 3. The weekly sessions begin at 11:00am and are held in the blue room. Pastor Sigler will be continuing the study on 1 Corinthians. Please consider joining in. All are welcome!

Please
join us!

The adult class which meets in the blue room will resume again on September 15. Ed Bilich and Michele Harshbarger take turns leading the weekly study. You are welcome to join in!

Seafarers International House supports the crew members on the containerships who are responsible for transporting 90% of world trade. These "unseen essential workers" are often at sea for extended periods and have little shore leave time. Joe Kanagy provided information on their *Christmas at Sea* program, along with satchels to fill with the small list of items which given to the crew members.

Located in the narthex is more information on the seafarers and this outreach project supported by the ELCA. For those who would like to help, you can purchase some or all of the items listed or make a monetary donation and we will purchase the items for you. Please be sure to notate "seafarers" on your check or envelope. **Donations will be accepted through mid-October.**

The following pages contain information on two projects happening at Camp Mt. Luther. Michelle Harshbarger will be sharing more about this, and how you can help on an upcoming Sunday morning.



60 More Years of Lasting Memories

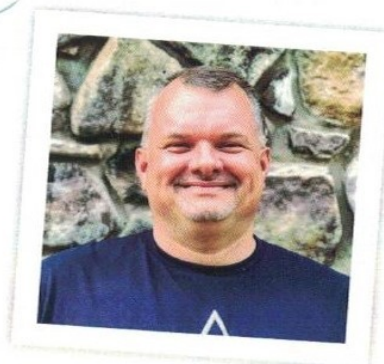
It seems that nearly everyone in Central Pennsylvania has a camp story. Maybe it's spending a week at summer camp, attending a retreat or confirmation weekend here or across the country, people are often sharing their camp stories with me. They confirm what we know to be true: camp creates memories that last.

At Camp Mount Luther, we're committed to providing space for those memories – space for relationships and faith to grow. As all camping ministries respond to increased needs for accessibility and rising camper expectations, CML does so while remaining steadfast in our commitment to intergenerational and interfaith hospitality that welcomes all people.

The impact of CML extends through generations of campers, retreaters, summer staff, and the churches of which they are part. What a privilege to be part of this life-giving ministry!

I hope you'll join in the campaign for Camp Mount Luther as we build **Foundations for the Future**.

Chad Hershberger
Executive Director



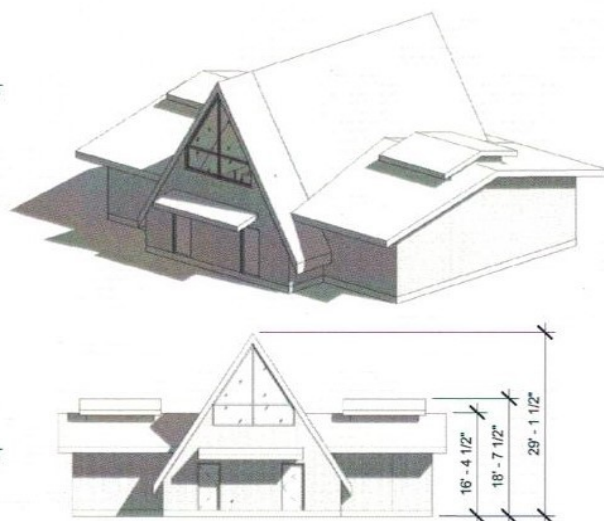
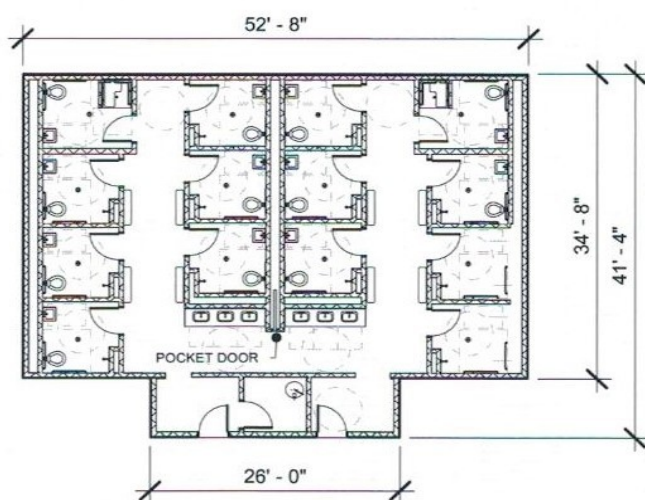
» Campaign Projects: A New Bathhouse and Renovation of Maple Hall

New Bathhouse	\$650,000
Maple Hall Renovation	\$1,100,000

» A New Bathhouse

The current 60-year-old bathhouse has long exceeded its hospitable use. A new bathhouse facility will provide guests separate, private spaces. With guest groups of all ages, accessibility, and genders using this building throughout the year, the new bathhouse is designed with flexibility in mind. A moveable partitioning wall will allow for the building to be segmented for mixed groups and an added sink area outside of the bathroom/shower units will allow increased usability while still maintaining privacy where it is needed most.

This new bathhouse will remove a significant obstacle for people who want to participate in CML's programming but find the current facilities unaccommodating.



“

Camp Mount Luther played a major role in building my foundation. I hope my financial gift will help make a future journey in faith and leadership possible for many more campers to come.

– Anne Gates, Staff Alumni Co-Chair

SEPTEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

September 1

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

September 8

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Ed Bilich

September 15

Elevator: Ed Bilich

Greeters: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

September 22

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeters: Nancy Penepacker and Gabriel

Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader

Money Counters: Joe Kanagy and Randy Harshbarger

Sound System: Jay Byler

September 29

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Jami Zook and Reba Harmon

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring

Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Georgianna Buchanan

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Georgianna Buchanan

Bulletin Delivery ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Social Hour ~ Carol Fultz

Please remember:




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

**Aside from being included in
each newsletter, a copy of the
service schedule for those
fulfilling monthly worship
duties can be found on the
bulletin board in the hallway**

St. John's Lutheran Church

SEPTEMBER

2024

1 Holy Communion	2  Daycare and Office Closed	3 11:00am Bible Study St. John's has Meals on Wheels	4	5 9:30am Comfort Knotting St. John's has Meals on Wheels	6	7	
8	9	10 11:00am Bible Study St. John's has Meals on Wheels	11	12 St. John's has Meals on Wheels	13 	14	
15 Holy Communion Adult SS Class resumes in blue room	16 6:30pm Property Committee	17 11:00am Bible Study	18	19 9:30am Comfort Knotting	20	21	
22 	23	24 11:00am Bible Study	25	26	27	28	
29	30	Looking Ahead October 6 ~ Blanket Sunday October 27 ~ Reformation Sunday Welcoming new members				9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday school	