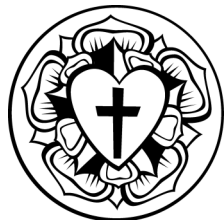


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

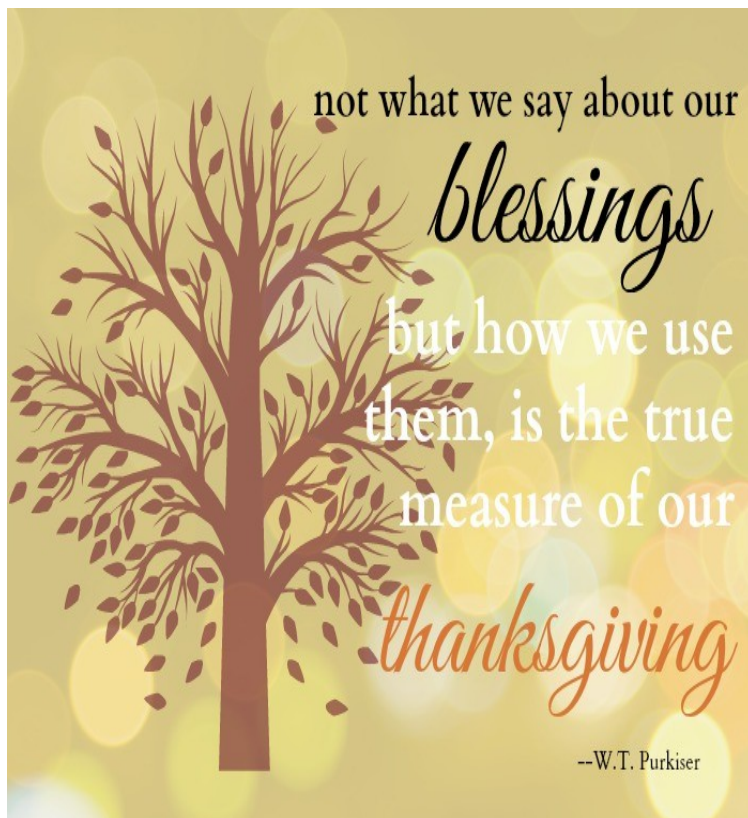
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

NOVEMBER 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

There is a well known story told about Margaret Thatcher during the time when she was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. She was known as the "Iron Lady: and did her very best to live up to that moniker. Margaret Thatcher was visiting a nursing home one day, going from room to room to introduce herself, greeting and shaking hands with the residents. Meeting citizens who had been living there for a very long time, she walked into the room of an old lady who showed absolutely no signs of realizing that she was shaking hands with a world famous politician.

"Do you know who I am?" asked Mrs. Thatcher.

"No dear," replied the elder lady, "But if I were you I would ask one of the nurses here, they usually know the names of everybody!"

It's a strange notion for any one of us to consider; the idea that we don't know who we are; that we have no particular identity by which others know who we are and we whom we know ourselves to be. Walk into any dementia unit in a care facility and you quickly realize that identity problems are everywhere. People who have suffered severe memory loss need to focus their energies on their identity; who they are.

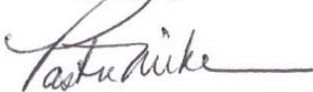
It is what people who have suffered other kinds of losses face. The refugee without a home, country, or family is but one example. We witness this in war when people are bombed out of their homes, forced to leave their homeland, and often lose those who are most precious to them as a result of the ravages of war.

The first Sunday in November is always All Saints Sunday in our Lutheran tradition. It is a time when we chiefly remember those within our congregations who have entered into their eternal rest with the past year. However, we remember not only them, but all the saints who have gone on before us in every time and place.

I like to think of All Saints Sunday as a time when we remember who and whose we are in Christ. Our identity as the children of God in Christ is formed in the waters of our baptism. We have been baptized into Christ. We belong to Him. WE are made children of God through God's gift to us in Jesus Christ. We are always to remember not only who we are but whose we are! Our identity is marked by the name CHRISTIAN. We belong to the One who for our sakes gave His life so that eternal life might be ours in and through Him.

As the great hymn, For All the saints Who from Their Labors rest says it: "For all the saints, who from their labors rest, all who by faith before the world confessed, Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest, Alleluia!"

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 10/24/2024
\$ 7,191.58

January 1 through October 24, 2024

Income \$ 168,527.57 Expense \$ 165,564.76
Net Income \$ 2,962.81

* Does not include end of month income/expense.

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 10/24/2024
\$ 11,876.16

January 1 through October 24, 2024

Income \$ 266,573.55 Expense \$ 263,914.78
Net Income \$ 2,658.77

* Does not include end of month income/expense.



Sunday, November 3rd
Remember to set your
clocks back!

Our congregational meeting is scheduled for December 8 following the service. Information will be available in member mailboxes on Sunday, November 24.

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.



Please Note

Holy Communion will be observed on Sunday, November 3, All Saints and again on November 24, Christ the King Sunday.

IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. Thank you to everyone who signed up to write the meditations for our devotional. **Submissions are due by Friday, November 8...PLEASE**

The booklets will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 24. 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.



Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex for anyone who would like to place Altar flowers next year. We will once again refrain from using them during Lent beginning Sunday, March 9 through Palm Sunday, April 13.

Please remember to notate whether you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered. Deihl's has recently informed us that the cost is not increasing and will remain at \$40.00.



The 2025 church service schedules are being compiled this month. If you would like to help or no longer wish to serve, please contact the church office.

Volunteers are needed to greet, lay read, altar care, deliver weekly bulletins, elevator and help with the sound system.

We are pleased to welcome new members, Joe and Cindy Buchanan, Steve and Pat Cleck, Glenn and Anne Peachey, and Pastor Sigler and Karen to our church family.



May we grow together in faith and be witnesses to the love of God and the peace of Christ.

For quite a few years, there have been containers on the bench outside the coatroom for used postage stamps and soda can tabs. While you may still drop off the soda can tabs which are used by the Ronald McDonald House in Danville, **the postage stamps will no longer be collected.**

Thank you to Carolyn Conner for taking care of these donations.

The comforts lovingly made by our Knotter's were not sent to Lutheran World Relief this year. Instead they traveled along with other community donated essential items collected by the Belleville Fire Company, to help hurricane victims in Erwin, Tennessee. While LWR sends supplies all over the world, the ladies were pleased to know the 33 comforts they completed this last year are going to help warm the hearts and bodies of those in our country.

Thank you to everyone who made a monetary donation to the Blanket Sunday ministry. A total of \$240 will be sent to help LWR offset shipping costs.



The knotters have a need for sheet sets, including pillow cases. Any size, color or pattern would be appreciated. If you are able to provide any, please place them on the counter in the blue room.

Marge Shilling has graciously agreed to be the contact person for our Prayer Chain. If you have a prayer request, please give her a call at 717-935-2228 and she will pass the request on to others who have expressed a desire to pray for the concerns brought to them.

Reminder ~ Due to confidentiality issues, PLEASE be sure to have permission from the person/family you are requesting prayer for.





Mark Your Calendar



The third annual Belleville Family Christmas Celebration is being held again at the VFW on Friday, December 13.

Many of the area churches /businesses help with the food and activities for the families attending. St. John's has been providing "goodie bags" for the children. **Due to the increasing attendance,**

we will be filling 300 bags on Monday, December 9 at 10:00am in the blue room. If you would like to help, please contact the church office.

Due to the new member reception on October 27th, there will not be a Social hour the following Sunday, November 3. **A volunteer(s) is needed to host the this time of fellowship on December 1.** If you can help in this way, please contact the church office.

At their October meeting, council voted to resume opening the side door by the coatroom for Sunday and special services. You may now enter the church through the front and side doors, the back and double doors will still require use of the door code.

The 2025 birthday calendar will be completed this month. Any member who would like to add/remove persons to/from the calendar is asked to PLEASE contact the church office with the name(s) and birthdate(s) **by Sunday, November 10th.**

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



Since the Revolutionary War, more than 41 million Americans have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. However, it's only been in the last 100 years that the United States has officially honored military veterans.

It wasn't until Nov. 11, 1919, the one-year anniversary of end of World War I, that Armistice Day was established to pay tribute to those who fought in the Great War. Seven years later, a congressional resolution made the day an annual observance and in 1938 it became a national holiday.


President Dwight Eisenhower changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day in 1954 after lobbying efforts by various veterans' support organizations that wanted to ensure that the country paid tribute to all of those who served.

Since 1776, the United States has relied on the selfless service of those who have and continue to wear the uniform of the nation, and over the course of the last 248 years, over one and half million military members never made it home.

Many paid the ultimate sacrifice and many others sustained life-altering wounds while serving their fellow citizens in preserving our way of life. We should all pause and reflect upon the many contributions and sacrifices veterans have made to keep our country strong and free.

~ We honor and give thanks to St. John's living Veteran's ~

Dudley T. Baker, Mark D. Baker, Robert F. Bratton, James D. Buchanan, Joseph D. Buchanan, Albert Carson, Glenn W. Carson, Jeremiah Carson, Ronald W. Carson, William R. Carson, Matthew F. Chester, Michael P. Conner, Tristan K. Conner, Mark A. Crownover, William L. Dancy, Christopher A. Durst, John K. Durst, III, Gary R. Fultz, Robert W. Gardner, Terry L. Harmon, H. Ross Harshbarger, Randall C. Harshbarger, Sheldon S. Kauffman, Robert D. Keller, Jr., Andrew K. Kramm, Johnn Marie Kruse, Ralph W. Murphy, Daniel L. Narehood, Frank R. Oburn, Dirk Remensnyder, Robert W. Romig, Jr., Christopher N. Plank, Paul C. Sitch, Jr., Donald L. Smith, Sr., Daniel G. Stroup, Jackson Stroup, Jason T. Stroup, Brian A. Stuter, Suzette Stuter, James R. Warner, Brandon J. Weaver, Mark S. Winegardner, John S. Winegardner and Kenneth C. Wyland.



St. John's 13th Annual Holiday Gift Show

Friday, November 29, 2024

(9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.)

&

Saturday, November 30, 2024

(9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)

It is hard to believe another year has passed and the gift show is a few short weeks away.

We have returning vendors along with five new ones this year, offering a wide variety of hand-crafted gifts. Carol Fultz and the "holy rollers" will be up early Friday morning making ham pot-pie. She still has need for one more volunteer to help roll dough. If interested, please talk with her after worship or contact the church office. There will also be homemade soups, hot dogs with meat sauce or sauerkraut, barbeque, and a variety baked goods. In-person seating will be available along with take-out for all food being served.

The wreaths are once again being supplied by Sam and Barbara Peachey of Daisy Lane. They are approximately 24" with your choice of Frasier greens for \$25 or mixed greens for \$28. A homemade bow of your choice is also included.

If you are interested in pre-ordering, please sign-up in the narthex. All wreaths must be picked up at the show; payment can be made at that time.

Donations of homemade soup, baked goods, candy and other treats is always appreciated. If you would like to help in this way, please sign-up in the narthex.

We hope you will come to browse, buy, eat and visit.

St. John's is collecting items to fill shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse. If you are interested in participating, boxes along with a list of suggested items have been placed in the narthex. **Monetary donations are also needed to help cover the \$10/box shipping cost.**

You can fill your own shoebox or whatever you choose to donate will be combined with other donations.



Operation Christmas Child The Power of a Simple Gift

Churches in more than 100 countries distribute gift-filled shoeboxes to boys and girls during outreach events that focus on Jesus Christ, God's Greatest Gift.

220 = 220
MILLION = MILLION

shoebox gifts
delivered since 1993.

Gospel
opportunities.

11.3
MILLION

shoebox gifts
collected in 2023.

10
MILLION

of these came from
the United States.

118,000+

outreach events led by trained local church leaders.



The Greatest Gift
Gospel story booklet
accompanies
shoebox gifts.

Available in
107
LANGUAGES

More than
100 COUNTRIES

receive shoebox gifts for boys and girls.

11
NATIONS

collected shoeboxes in 2023:
Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland,
Germany, New Zealand,
South Korea, Spain, Switzerland,
United Kingdom, United States.

**"Let the little children come to Me,
and do not forbid them; for of such
is the kingdom of God."**

—Luke 18:16



**"It's the first present that I have
ever received. I'm so excited; tears
started to come down with joy in my
heart. I began feeling care and love."**

—Lim, 12, accepted Christ as Savior





The Greatest Journey Making Disciples

The Greatest Journey, the discipleship program for Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift recipients, teaches boys and girls about following Jesus Christ and telling others about Him.

12
**SCRIPTURE
LESSONS**

in each student workbook:
6 on coming to know Christ;
3 on growing in faith;
3 on sharing with others.

40 MILLION+

boys and girls enrolled since 2009.

1.9 MILLION+

volunteer teachers trained from
local churches worldwide.

20 MILLION+

children reported decisions for Christ since 2009.

**"Go therefore and make
disciples of all the nations."**

—Matthew 28:19



Honduras

**"I started to pray and I asked
God to help me follow in His
footsteps. I love sharing the Bible.
I tell my friends to seek God."**

—Ivanna, 12, decided to
follow Christ

St. John's Member Information Update

**If you have had any changes to your information since 2022,
and HAVE NOT already notified the church office,
please fill out and return by Sunday, November 10. Thank you!**

Name(s)

Address

Home Phone Number _____

*Cell Phone Number(s) _____

*Email address _____

I would like to receive the newsletters 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.**

NOVEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 3

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: John Boring

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

November 10

Elevator: Ed Bilich

Greeters: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Sue Lynch and Carol Fultz

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

November 17

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeters: Nancy Penepacker and Gabe Clarke

Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Jay Byler

November 24

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeter: Jami Zook

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Joe Kanagy and Randy Harshbarger

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Joy Byler

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Joy Byler

Bulletin Delivery ~ Randy Harshbarger

Social Hour ~ There will be NO Social Hour on November 3rd. Volunteer(s) is needed to host this fellowship time on December 1st. If you can help in this way please contact the church office.

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
Minutes of the September 12, 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 September,12, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

Present: Pastor Mike Sigler, President Carol Fultz , Jim Buchanan, Michele Harshbarger, Joe Kanagy and Nancy Penepacker .Ed Bilich not present

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz

Devotions: _Jim Buchanan led devotions.

The devotion schedule for 2024 is:

February –Ed Bilich

March –Jim Buchanan

April –Joe Kanagy

May –Nancy Penepacker

June – Michele Harshbarger

July & August – no meetings

September –Jim Buchanan

October –Ed Bilich

November – Joe Kanagy

December – Nancy Penepacker

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the 01/11/24 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Joe Kanagy. Motion carried.

Financial Reports:

The financial reports were presented

St. John's – A motion to accept the church financial report was made by Pastor Sigler and seconded by Jim Buchanan . Motion carried.

St. John's Daycare – A motion to accept the daycare financial report was made by Pastor Sigler and seconded by Nancy Penepacker . Motion carried.

Pastor's report was presented

Committee Reports:

Cemetery - Nancy –Kelly would like the cemetery map moved to her new office

Christian Ed/Youth – Michele -Sunday School to start this week after church

Day Care – Carol –Daycare September report submitted

Finance – Jim- NTR

Long Range - Ed – NTR

Music & Worship – Carol–Jami Zook provided note from meeting

Mutual Ministry – Nancy-NTR

Property – Joe Kanagy –cement stops were placed by John Boring and Randy H to keep dumpster from hitting steps- ralling next to be fixed. Property was asked to put lock inside

Men's bathroom so female teachers could us it

Safety – Carol Fultz- NTR

Social Ministry – Michele - NTR

Missions – Michele – Asked for approval to have Pastor Collins talk about the Camp Mount Luther building campaign. Would like to do Operation Shoebox again

Website – Ed – Nothing to report

Old Business: Revision of FH contract-approved

Review Pastor/Church employee contracts-(Kelly&Susie) then bring to council

Security cameras-Need for progress chart and payment ? No

Payment from Emergency fund temporary till after fundraiser- need report of money in

Accounts-motion-Pastor Sigler seconded Nancy

Bathroom in basement-discuss at Daycare meeting

Remove part of pew in sanctuary to provide wheelchair access to our service-NTR

Collect Keys from side door-Need to change locks

New Business:

Interest used for missions/discretionary fund- 5th Sundays Sept/Dec. lose offering

Donation to Gideon's-\$100 –Motion-Michele seconded Jim B

Daycare to use library Nov.13 and 14th for school pictures

Advent Devotional-Due November- sign up sheet in narthex

Pamphlets for visitors-looking into it

Council members going off ,looking for new members

Gift Show-November 29-and 30

Ed asking for a credit card to pay church bills-with 2 signatures-motion-Michele
Seconded-Joe
Pastor request the purchase for a laptop the pastor's office Motion-Jim
Seconded- Nancy

With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on October,10 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Harshbarger, Secretary

Daycare September Report

Enrollment:

44

We have had several families enroll in the past month, and have been recently been contacted by three more looking for child-care.

Tuition

Tuition increased again effective Monday, September 2.

Staff:

11 staff ~ 1 staff member along with director, Valerie Stahl, have left the center in the last month to pursue new job opportunities. Daycare employee, Angela Parko is now serving as director. There is another staff member leaving next week. We have hired two staff members in the last few weeks, and are in the process of interviewing.

Snacks:

Parents have been bringing in snacks, but we always welcome donations of fruit, crackers, juice, milk, cereal, eggs, cereal bars, and other food items.

Classroom Supplies:

Yard sale proceeds are being used to purchase badly needed classroom and custodial supplies.

Fundraising:

The yard sale was another success and the final total was \$2,001.40!

Currently holding a calendar fundraiser. When our parents found out about the security cameras, they were eager to help sell calendars to raise money towards the cost.

The Gift Show is scheduled for Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30.

Keystone STARS

We passed our Keystone STARS review and remain at a STAR 3 level. All centers in the program will be receiving a grant this fall to be used towards teacher retention in the form of bonuses and wage increases.

DHS:

We passed our inspection, and are finishing up correcting the few things we were cited for with the help of volunteers from the United Way Day of Caring. On Wednesday, September 18 they will be raking playground mulch along with scraping paint from the outdoor structures and applying stain.

Pre-K Counts:

Pre-K resumed and we have all 10 spots filled.

St. John's Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER

2024

<p>9:00am Worship</p> <p>10:15am Sunday school</p>	<p>Looking Ahead Sunday, December 1 ~ First Advent Sunday, December 8 ~ Congregational Meeting Friday, December 13 ~ Belleville Christmas at VFW Tuesday, December 24 ~ 7pm Christmas Eve Worship Wednesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day</p>				1	2 Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday Remember to Set Your Clocks Back 1 hour
<p>3</p>  <p>All Saints' Day</p> <p>Holy Communion</p>	4	<p>5 11:00am Bible Study</p>  <p>Election Day</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>9:30am Comfort Knotting</p>	8	9
10	<p>11</p>  <p>Veterans Day</p>	<p>12 11:00am Bible Study</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	15	16
17	<p>18 6:30pm Property Committee</p>	<p>19 11:00am Bible Study</p>	20	<p>21 9:30am Comfort Knotting</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>23</p>	
<p>24</p>  <p>Christ the King</p> <p>Holy Communion</p>	25	<p>26 11:00am Bible Study Gift Show set-up in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>27 Gift Show set-up in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>28</p>  <p>HAPPY Thanksgiving DAY</p>	<p>29 9am-3pm Holiday Gift Show DC and church office closed</p>	<p>30 9am-1pm Holiday Gift Show</p>

St. John's Poinsettia Order Form



*There is no set price again this year.
A variety will be purchased
and placed throughout the church.*

*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 15th.**