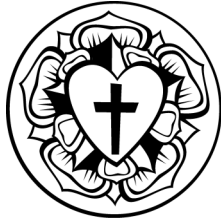


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3597 WEST MAIN STREET  
PO BOX 5716  
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

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



# Pastor's Page

Several years ago our second son was married in Cape May, New Jersey. Prior to the entrance of the bride accompanied by her father, our oldest grandson who was ring bearer for the occasion, entered the congregation wearing a sign around his neck which read: "Uncle Chris, here comes your bride!" The announcement had been made that the bride was about to make her entrance. Having been announced in the way in which the bride was announced, we waited with anticipation for her arrival. We had waited long enough for this moment and now the time had finally come to pass.

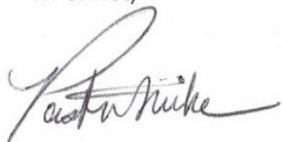
The four weeks before Christmas is marked by the Advent season. Advent is a time of waiting as Christians prepare for the celebration of Christ's FIRST coming to earth, born of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem long centuries ago. While we wait for the arrival of Christmas day however, our hearts and minds are to be directed to Christ's SECOND coming at the end of time. Christians live in-between times. The first coming of Christ's birth was foretold by Israel's great prophets centuries before. This was at a time when Rome ruled the world and on a dark and cold night in Bethlehem two thousand years ago Christ was given to us as God's gift of our salvation. We are to await his final return which is yet to come at a time which no one knows except Almighty God and Him alone.

I suspect that most of us have no difficulty knowing the feeling of anticipation which comes in the month of December when the house needs decorated, gifts need to be purchased, cookies and cakes need baking, and Christmas cards need to be sent to close friends and family. If anything, there is usually the great let down once Christmas day has arrived and we wish we could hold on to that feeling of anticipation, joy and excitement for a longer period of time.

Waiting with great anticipation and excitement in between the time of Christ's birth and His expectant return in the unknown future is more difficult. Perhaps that is why Jesus says: "Therefore keep awake for you know not when the Master of the house will come, in the evening, or midnight, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly" (Mark 13:35-37).

I would hope that this year and always we could hold fast to the same sense of joy and anticipation which I felt when my grandson announced the arrival of my son's bride at the event for which we had waited so patiently for so long. There is a double message to Advent as we find ourselves between the gift of God given to us in this mangled child in Bethlehem long ago and the future fullness of this gift of the Christ at the end of time. In this Advent season of preparation and anticipation and this joyous Christmas season of His birth, may God's blessings be given to you and yours and may the love of Christ find birth in your hearts and homes.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Mike". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the text "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/Pianist – Rick Cole  
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**

Angela Parko, Director  
Phone 717-935-2959

**St. John's Congregational Council**

	<b><u>Term Expires</u></b>
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 11/26/2024  
\$ 7,821.29

January 1 through November 26, 2024

Income \$ 184,832.72 Expense \$ 184,305.01  
Net Income \$ 527.71

**Daycare Financial Report**

Checking account balance 1/26/2024  
\$ 8,047.65

January 1 through November 26, 2024

Income \$ 293,456.19 Expense \$ 290,769.18  
Net Income \$ 2,687.01



The calendar says winter begins on December 21, which is hard to imagine considering the hot summer and warm fall we have had, but anything can happen. And who knows, maybe this will be the year for snow. So, if there is bad weather expected, the council president, vice president and pastor will determine if conditions require cancelling the worship service.

This will be completed **no later than 6pm** the day before, and the answering machine message will be changed to include the cancellation information. An email will be sent to members who have supplied the church with their email address, and will also be posted on the church's website.

If inclement weather is being predicted please check to see if services are being held before leaving the house.

The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 8 following the service. Information pertinent to the meeting, not picked up by members on the 24th has been mailed out.

Please contact the church office if you did not receive yours.

Please prayerfully consider serving on council. We currently have 6 members, with one person going off at the end of this year. Having a few more would be helpful, especially when one or two members are unable to attend a meeting.



## IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. Thank you to those who signed up to write the meditations.

The devotionals are available in the narthex. 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.



The 2025 offering envelopes will be available in member mailboxes on December 8. Please contact the church office if you did not receive or would like to have one. Feel free to deliver to a member who may not be able to pick theirs up.



In December, the Knotter's group will meet on Thursday, December 5 at 9:30am.

They 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.

*Shining Light Through the Darkness* annual Christmas light display at Derry Community Park (former Kish Park) begins Friday, December and runs through January .

Featured are thousands of lights and displays for young and old to enjoy. There will be free entertainment, carriage rides, food and more. There is no cost and everyone is welcome.

The park is most evenings 5-9pm and Saturdays from 9am to 5:00pm.

More information can be found on their website [www.kishparkshininglight.org](http://www.kishparkshininglight.org) or Facebook page (link is available on the website).



### In the Narthex...

**Social Hour sign-up.** Volunteers are needed to host this time of fellowship and light refreshments., which is held in the blue room, the first Sunday of the month before worship.

**Altar flower sign-up.** We will once again refrain from using them during the Lenten season which begins Sunday, March 9 through Palm Sunday, April 13. **Please remember to notate** whether you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered. The cost remains at \$40.00.

**If you placed flowers this year, and still owe for them, please make sure to submit payment by the end of this month. If you are unsure whether or not you paid, please contact the church office.**



The 2025 church birthday calendars will be available on Sunday, December 15. **There is no cost, feel free to take one or more.**

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

### Mitten Tree

All items are needed for both adults and children

Mittens, gloves, scarves, hats,  
Socks, slipper socks and slippers



St. John's has Meals on Wheels the end of December/beginning of January. Please sign-up in the narthex if you can help provide the following ~



Tuesday, December 31 ~ 4 cans of Cherry pie filling

Thursday, January 2 ~ 5 dozen cookies (any kind)

Tuesday, January 7 ~ 5 Angel Food cakes

(Make your own, or purchase homemade from Peight's, WHS or elsewhere)

Thursday, January 9 ~ monetary donations to purchase pies

(see Sue Lynch/church office)

Please make sure you to have your dessert at the Community hall by 9:00am the day it is needed.

Thank you to those persons who continue to help with the Sunday morning duties. We are in need of a volunteer for the following in December ~

**Christmas Eve Service  
Elevator Operator and Sound System**

Please contact the church office if you can help in this way.

Due to the Christmas holiday and the pastor's upcoming vacation weeks, Bible study will only be held on Tuesday, December 3rd and 17th, and will resume again on Tuesday, January 7th.

During the upcoming winter months, please consider joining in on one of the sessions. Everyone is welcome...no special skills needed! The study is held every Tuesday at 11:00am in the blue room.



The Lions Club sponsored *Belleville Family Christmas* celebration is being held on Friday, December 13 at the VFW. St. John's is in charge of the children's goodie bags, and **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED** to fill 300 of them on Monday December 9 at 10:00am in the blue room. **If you can help, please contact the church office.**

We have received notice that Susie Yoo will no longer be serving as our organist. Please remember her in your prayers. We wish her well as she moves forward in her life.

Cards may be sent to ~

Seulki Yoo  
142 Sunrise Terrace  
State College, PA 16801

*All the Best...We Will Miss You!*

**Reminder** ~ all loose offering will be directed to the Discretionary Fund on the months which have a 5th Sunday, which December does this year, on the 29th.



Thank you to *everyone* who supported this year's Gift Show by helping, donating and coming to browse and buy. How blessed we are to have people willing to donate items for the raffle, along with making homemade soups, baked goods and other treats. Since Thanksgiving is the last week in November this newsletter is going out before the show is held. But, it is never too early to express our gratitude for ALL the donations and help we received.

A heart-felt thank you to Carol and Jane Fultz for arriving at the Community Hall around very early Friday morning to begin the Pot Pie and the "holy rollers" (Joy Byler, Nancy Byler, Jami Zook, and Carol's friend, Kathy Weston) for showing up at 5:30am to roll out the dough. And, to Ron Fultz and Jay Byler for transporting the quart containers, along with roasters to the church. This show would not be possible without the combined efforts of so many, who *unselfishly* give of their time, money and talents, especially over the holiday weekend. God willing, we hope to do this all again next year!

# ***DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **December 1**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy

**Greeters:** John and Denise Chester

**Lay Reader:** John Chester

**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester

**Sound System:** Ed Bilich

## **December 8**

**Elevator:** Ed Bilich

**Greeters:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger

**Lay Reader:** Mike Harshbarger

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

**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy

## **December 15**

**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger

**Greeters:** Chelsea and Merritt Reed

**Lay Reader:** Chelsea Reed

**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

## **December 22**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger

**Greeter:** Edna Chester

**Lay Reader:** Joe Kanagy

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

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

## **December 29**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy

**Greeter:** Jami Zook and Mike Boring

**Lay Reader:** Jami Zook

**Money Counters:** Jami Zook and Mike Boring

**Sound System:** Ed Bilich

**Altar Care and Flower Delivery** ~ Carol Fultz

**Bulletin Delivery** ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

**Social Hour** ~ NO SOCIAL HOUR

### **Please remember:**

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

## **December 24 ~ Christmas Eve**

**Elevator:** Volunteer Needed

**Greeter:** Jane Fultz ?????

**Lay Reader:**

**Sound System:** Volunteer Needed

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  
between the offices.





# Join Us!



*The 3rd Annual*

## *Belleville Family Christmas Celebration*

- Tree lighting
- Live Reindeer (Photo Op Available \$)
- Live Nativity with petting area
- Live Christmas Music
- Kids Games, Crafts, Facepainting
- Storytime with Mrs. Claus
- Photos with Santa Claus
- Cookies, Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Hot Dogs
- Christmas card signings for local soldiers away from home this Christmas season
- And more



**Friday, December 13, 2024**

**6:00 PM to 8:00 PM**

**Location: VFW**





## **Belleville Family Christmas Celebration**

### **Event Schedule/Location**

<b>Tree Lighting</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>
<b>Live Nativity- (In front of the fire pit)</b>	<b>6:00 -8:00 Pm</b>
<b>Live Reindeer- Photo ops available \$10</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:00 PM</b>
<b>Live Music: Front Porch</b>	
<b>Kevin Zook- Trumpet Music</b>	<b>6:15 PM</b>
<b>Yoder Family</b>	<b>6:30 PM</b>
<b>Belleville Home Educ outdoor club</b>	<b>6:45 PM</b>
<b>(sign language )</b>	
<b>Mary Kanagy- Guitar-sing</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<b>Scavenger Hunt entries (Tent-Front lawn )</b>	<b>6:00 -6:30PM</b>
<b>(Early entries can be dropped off at the Sharp Shopper)</b>	
<b>Prize Presentation (Front Porch)</b>	<b>7:15 PM</b>
<b>Facepainting/Crafts (Inside the VFW)</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:00 PM</b>
<b>Storytime with Mrs. Claus (Inside the VFW)</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:00 PM</b>
<b>Local military Museum (Upstairs)</b>	<b>6:00 -8:00 PM</b>
<b>Santa Claus (Garage)</b>	<b>6:15 -8:00 PM</b>
<b>Games and activities (Outside)</b>	<b>6:00 -8:00 PM</b>
<b>Card signing station (Tent- Front Yard)</b>	<b>6:00-8:00 PM</b>
<b>Food and drinks (Driveway)</b>	<b>6:00 – 8:00 PM</b>



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## DECEMBER

## 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Advent Holy Communion	2	3 11:00am Bible Study	4	5 9:30am Comfort Knotting	6 	7
8 Second Sunday of Advent Congr. Meeting	9 10:00am Filling Belleville Christmas Goodie Bags in blue room	10 No Bible Study 5:30-7:00pm DC Family Christmas Party in FH	11	12 6:30pm Council Meeting (Tentative change to 19th)	13 6:00-8:00pm Belleville Christmas Celebration at the VFW	14
<b>Pastor away Sunday afternoon December 8 returning Saturday, December 14</b>						
15 Third Sunday of Advent Holy Communion Poinsettia Orders Due	16	17 11:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Property Committee	18	19	20	21 
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent	23	24 Church Office Closed 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship	25 The Nativity of Our Lord	26 Church Office Closed	27	28
<b>Pastor away December 25 through January 2nd</b>						
29 Pastor away Pr Doug Pierce preaching	30	31 New Year's Eve No Bible Study resumes on Jan 7th	January 1 			

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**Minutes of the October 10, 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, October 10, 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:** \_Ed Bilch 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 9/12/24 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Pastor Sigler. 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 Michele Harshbarger and seconded by Joe Kanagy . Motion carried.

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

**Pastor's report was presented**

**Committee Reports:**

**Cemetery** - Nothing to report

**Christian Ed/Youth** – Nothing to report

**Day Care** – Carol- Director provided a report.

**Finance** – Jim- Budget for next council meeting

**Long Range** - Ed – nothing to report parents

**Music & Worship** – Michele –to meet to set hymns

**Mutual Ministry** – Nancy-Nothing to report

**Property- Joe**—outside back steps fixed by John Boring and Randy Harshbarger

Proposal for boiler maintenance – motion made by Ed Bilch and

**2<sup>nd</sup> Nancy Penepacker**

**New grids are needed for air vents on the crawl space**

**Need new lock for side door**

**Investigate daycare bathrooms**

**Social Ministry** – Michele -Carol and Joy Byler to take over for Sue Lynch

**Safety** – Carol Fultz- nothing to report

**Missions** – Michele--\$500 from checking Motion made by Ed and 2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor Sigler

Operation Christmas boxes to be available in Narthex

**Website** – Ed – Nothing to report

#### **Old Business:**

**Security Cameras**—Available to be put on phones

**Signs needed to state there are security cameras**

**Unlocking side door for services**

**Interest used for missions/discretionary fund—to be add at the end of the year**

**Pamphlets for visitors—to be visited in January**

**Council members going off ,looking for new members –Ed and Nancy**

#### **New Business:**

**2025 Service Schedules**—Michele-Alter care, communion and flowers, bulletins

Jami Zook-Lay readers and greeters

**Sound System**—add to the budget, to be checked by previous installer

Glenn and Anne Peachey plaque-not at this time

**New Organist-Susie** unable to continue( need a time frame from Susie)

**Congregational meeting date**—December 8 in Fellowship Hall—propose and approve budget

**Reception for Bishop**-October 13-

With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on November 14,2024 at 6:30 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

**Michele Harshbarger, Secretary**



## **Daycare October Report**

### **Enrollment:**

45

We currently have a waiting list for the infant room and Young Toddler Room. A few of our older toddlers will turn 3 in the next few months, and will transition to preschool. This will allow us to move other children and hopefully fill those spots from the list.

### **Staff:**

8 staff ~ We have interviewed and are planning to hire two individuals, one full-time and the other part-time. Currently waiting on their NSOR (Sex Offender) clearances.

### **Snacks:**

A local church reached out and requested a list of snack items they could help to provide as part of their community outreach.

### **Classroom Supplies:**

Sharp Shopper blessed us with a \$2,500 donation which we are using to purchase some of the more expensive classroom equipment which needs to be replaced.

### **Fundraising:**

The calendar fundraiser brought in just over \$4,000.00, with \$3,000.00 directed to the security camera expense. The Gift Show is scheduled for Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30.

### **Keystone STARS**

All centers in the program will be receiving a grant to be used towards teacher retention in the form of bonuses and wage increases. We were recently informed it will not be paid out until the end of December.

### **DHS:**

United Way Day of Caring was postponed here due to the rainy weather. Since most of the work was outside and included painting, we are looking to reschedule a time for them to come in the spring, before our May DHS inspection.

## ***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

---

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In honor of

---

---

Given by

---

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**Please return this form along with your donation  
to the church by Sunday December 15th.**