

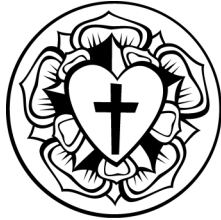
ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



***Walking in faith will never lead
you down the wrong path***

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

JANUARY 2025

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
Website ~ stjohnsbelleville.org



Pastor's Page

Scholars have labored long and hard to discover what Matthew's star over Bethlehem might have been. Haley's Comet appeared in 12-11 B.C. but that would have been years before the birth of Jesus. Or it could have been the explosion of some supernova star that might have blown up light years away. More likely is the fact that the planets Jupiter and Saturn were in conjunction with each other three times in the year 7 B.C. Since Jupiter was considered to be the "royal" or kingly planet and Saturn was sometimes thought to represent the Jews, the conclusion was obvious; a new king of the Jews was about to be born. We cannot be certain if this was why the wise and learned men came from the East. Whatever the mysterious "star" was that lead these men to the manger, they were thoughtful astronomers and astrologers, because in the ancient world the two went together. They noticed the strange events in the heavens.

What Matthew is telling us is that in Jesus, a true king was born and visitors from the East recognized that fact. At the heart of many Biblical prophecies about the coming Messiah there were predictions that his rule would bring God's justice and peace to the whole world (Psalm 72 and Isaiah 11:1-10 to name but two). And Matthew will end his Gospel with Jesus commissioning his disciples to go out and make disciples from every nation. So even when he was a baby, these gentile wise men from the East, foreigners as they were, came to present Jesus with what the Book of Solomon says are gifts fit for a KING; gold, frankincense and myrrh. Matthew is saying that the true king, the finest and best ruler the world has ever known, has been born in our midst. Not Herod, not Caesar, but Jesus is that true king.

The gifts that the three wise men (or seers or sages or Magi or whatever title we wish to give them) brought to the manger in Bethlehem cost them plenty. Gold, frankincense and myrrh were not cheap, but these gifts hardly seemed appropriate for the occasion. Maybe that is all they could think to give to a child they thought had everything. In any case, they set these gifts down onto straw, briefly worshiped the child, and then returned to the East from whence they had come.

It makes me wonder how, for all their great wisdom, they overlooked the one gift which this baby Jesus would have been genuinely pleased to have someday. It is the same gift which he wishes to receive from you and me as well. He does not ask us for gold or expensive jewelry or frankincense or myrrh or anything else that people might wish to give to someone in order to impress them. No, all he has ever asked of us is the gift of ourselves and our concern for one another; that same love wherewith he loves us. As we kneel down before the Christ with adoration and praise in worship, the best gift we can bring to him is the gift of love.

In His name,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Mike".

Pastor Sigler

St. John's Lutheran Church

Pastor ~ Reverend Mike Sigler
Phone ~ 717-437-7007
Organist – Rick Cole
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> |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Jim Buchanan | end of 2025 |
| Carol Fultz | end of 2026 |
| Michele Harshbarger | end of 2025 |
| Joe Kanagy | end of 2025 |
| Sue Lynch | end of 2027 |
| Nancy Penepacker | end of 2027 |

St. John's Financial Report

Checking account balance 12/26/2024
\$ 8,412.85

January 1 through December 26, 2024

Income \$ 202,832.99 Expense \$ 200,142.56
Net Income \$ 2,690.43

*Does not include end of month income/expense.

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 12/26/2024
\$ 5,709.37

January 1 through December 26, 2024

Income \$ 324,952.38 Expense \$ 321,834.91
Net Income \$ 3,117.47

*Does not include end of month income/expense.

Ed Bilich and Nancy Penepacker's council terms expired the end of 2024. We thank Ed for his willingness to serve our Lord and congregation the past 6 years. Nancy has agreed to serve another term, and Sue Lynch was approved at the December meeting. Council installation is being held during worship on January 5. They will meet following the service to reorganize and elect officers.

Council members for 2025 are ~ Jim Buchanan, Carol Fultz, Michele Harshbarger, Joe Kanagy, Sue Lynch and Nancy Penepacker.



Our congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 23 in the fellowship hall. Any committees who met this past year, **please** have your reports to the church office by Sunday, January 26.

Information packets will be available in member mailboxes on Sunday, February 2.



Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services

Winter has arrived. If bad weather is 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.

Please be sure to check if services are being held before leaving the house.

IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY



Our new sound system equipment and installation were paid for through a generous donation from Carolyn Conner and family to the Memorial fund, and was made in loving memory of ~

Ronald P. Conner,
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Conner
and Mr. and Mrs. Clay Boring.

Thank you Carolyn for this wonderful gift. It will be appreciated for years to come, and ensure that all are able to hear the worship service.

Thank you to Steve and Pat Cleck for donating the beautiful mirror inside the side door, and the plates on the wall in the meeting room outside the pastor's office. Both had belonged to Diddy Cleck. Pat graciously took the time to hang them a few weeks ago. The mirror is especially appreciated, as the old one did little in the way of a nice reflection.

We would like to thank those members of St. John's who generously donated towards Staff Appreciation. We are blessed to receive these gifts and are very grateful for your kindness.

Susie Yoo, Calvin and Kelly Byler

As lovely as the tree and other decorations are, it is time for them to come down until next Christmas. Please see Jami Zook if you can help following the worship service on January 10.

The candles will remain in the sanctuary windows through Epiphany, the *season of light* which ends on Transfiguration Sunday, March 2nd.

The Central PA World Hunger 50th annual meat canning project will be held Feb 10-14 at Chief Logan Fire Co. They are planning to can 43,000 lbs. of ground chicken. Last year's total cost for the project was \$85,991.04. MCC does not provide any financial support for this project, all the money comes from donations. If can help support the project in this way, you may send a check to ~

Central Pa World Hunger Association

P.O. Box 76

Belleville, Pa 17004

More information can be found on the bulletin

In the Narthex...

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

The 2025 church birthday calendars, please help yourself

Mitten Tree

All items are needed for both adults and children
Mittens, gloves, scarves, hats,
Socks, slipper socks and slippers

The following dates are still available to sponsor 2025 altar flowers. Please contact the church office or sign-up in the narthex, if interested.

January 26 ~ February 2 and 16

June 1 and 29 ~ July 27

August 3 and 10 ~ October 5

November 16 and 23 ~ December 28



Altar Flowers

Please remember to notate whether you would like to keep one or both flower vases or have them delivered. The cost remains at \$40.00.

St. John's has Meals on Wheels this month. If you signed up to help provide any of the following desserts, please have them at the community hall by 9am the day they are needed.

Tuesday, December 31 ~ 4 cans of cherry pie filling

Thursday, January 2 ~ 5 dozen cookies

Tuesday, January 7 ~ 5 Angel food cakes

Thursday, January 9 ~ monetary donations for pies

Please see Sue Lynch or the church office if you can help in this way.



Thank you to everyone who donated items to fill the Seafarer Bags this past fall. A total of **1,013 Seafarers Bags** were loaded up into two vans to be taken to Seafarers International House in New York City in early November. They were collected by 52 of our synod congregations. Pastor Marsh Drege, executive director, said they will deliver them to seafarers who will not be home with their loved ones for Christmas. Eight synod volunteers helped to pack the bags, collected by synod congregations, into the vans at the synod office.



This year marked the fourteenth year of collection, totaling 8909 bags. More about Christmas-at-Sea: <https://www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea>

Mike and Michele Harshbarger are hosting the Social hour on Sunday, January 5. Please stop in the blue room and enjoy this time of fellowship and light refreshments before the service.

Volunteers are needed for the rest of this year. Possibly two or three could host it together. Please sign-up in the narthex if you would be willing to help in this way.



The Third Annual Belleville Family Christmas Celebration was held on Friday, December 13 at the VFW. Even with the colder weather this year, the event was still well attended. St. John's once again provided the "Goodie Bags" with fun gifts and special treats for the children, which some of the daycare staff and parents handed out. We thank the Belleville Lions Club for their hard work and willingness to give of their time to provide this evening of fun and fellowship for families in our community. The VFW looks beautiful with the lighted trees, train and carolers, and we look forward to next years event!

Ed Bilich shared the photos on the following pages. You may see some familiar faces! The glow sticks and glasses some of the children are wearing were included in their goodie bags.







St. Johns Property Committee Task List

Revised 12/26/24

Members present at the December 17, 2024 Property Committee meeting: Ed Bilich, John Boring, Jim Buchanan, Mike Harshbarger, Joe Kanagy, Pastor Sigler, Don Smith.
Jed Smith was absent.

Items to be addressed in 2024 and beyond

- Monthly meeting test activity
 - Test the emergency backup generator – 12/17
 - Flush the water overflow valve on the boiler – 12/17
 - Clean filters on the mini-splits – 7/16 – Quarterly
 - Adjust the steeple lights timer – 12/10
- We should have a diagram of our building with the rooms identified. It would be good to have a sign on or at each door with the room or area name on it.
 - We could also include the following on the diagram
 - Windows and doors
 - Elevator
 - Breaker boxes, electrical outlets, light switches
 - Emergency lighting and exits
 - Ethernet cabinet, wall jacks and Access Points
 - Furnace, radiators and thermostats
 - Other items not thought about above
 - 3/18/24 – Tabled for a future meeting
- 5/20/24 – John said he asked Sanford to give us an estimate to paint the walls in the fellowship hall from the bottom of the windows to the floor.
 - 12/17/24 – John received a written bid of \$1000 - \$1200 and Council approved it in their October meeting. Sanford has scheduled it for his first job when he comes home from Florida in April.
- 10/16/23 – We need to decide what needs done to repair or replace the doors under the stage.
 - 12/17/24 – This job is not a priority as the hinges seem to be holding okay right now.
- 1/23/24 – We should develop a camera security system for the church.
 - 12/19/24 – Ed emailed login information and the user manual to Jed, Jim, Joe, John, Mike and Pastor Mike on 12/19/24.
- 5/20/24 – Ed said Tom Sharer asked if we ever thought about removing a portion of one of the pews to provide a space for wheel chairs. Pastor Mike encouraged us to move forward on it
 - 12/17/24 – Reviewed where we could take out a portion of a pew and will present it to Council at the January meeting.

St. Johns Property Committee Task List

Revised 12/26/24

- 5/20/24 – Ed asked if it would be possible to put in a bathroom on the 2nd floor. Maybe in the room beside the choir room. A suggestion was made for us to also look at a bathroom in the basement as the only bathrooms in the whole church are the ones outside the blue room.
 - 7/16/24 – Tabled indefinitely
 - 9/17/24 – Ed will set up a contractor meeting to get estimates etc.
 - 10/15/24 – The contractors at the contractor meeting said putting a bathroom beside the choir room would require almost the whole room so the Property Committee decided not to pursue a bathroom near the choir room. A bathroom in the basement was thought to be a project we should get cost estimates on so Andy Eckley will make a print of the proposed basement bathroom. Property Committee will review the print and show it to council. We will eventually put it out for bids to obtain cost estimates.
 - 12/17/24 – Reviewed the prints and will present them to council for their review/revisions at the December council meeting.
- 5/23/24 – The side door beside the coat room was found to be unlocked on several occasions and nobody knows who did it. Kelly said she only has one key for that door. Should we put a new lock on that door to restore our security?
 - 12/17/24 – Joe went to Bossert's to get the side door re-keyed and had 7 keys made. The locksmith just said Merry Christmas – no charge when Joe said it was for the church. It was suggested that we send the locksmith a thank you card. Joe will get the contact information and Pastor Mike will send the card.
- 7/16/24 – Birds have been making nests above the side door near the coat room and in the area under the slab at the end of the Fellowship Hall. We need to install whatever is needed to prevent the birds from building the nests.
 - 12/17/24 – Joe will take over this job. Mike suggested looking into anti-bird strips and showed Joe a sample on his phone.
- 7/16/24 – Because Don Smith mentioned that the front doors were rotting inside, we had a discussion about looking at the cost to replace them. Jim said he would check with Kish Valley Construction, Sunset Construction, Dwight Yoder and Exterior Windows and Doors for estimates.
 - 12/17/24 – Only received one bid so far (Sunset Construction). Jim will talk to Exterior Windows & Doors and Dwight Yoder to see if we can get a bid from them.
- 10/15/24 – Ed will check with OneStop to see what we need to put up to have proper signage for the security cameras
- 12/17/24 – Nothing done yet.
- 12/11/24 – Floor tile in bathroom of toddler room is broken and needs replaced.
 - 12/17/24 – We intended to look at the tile at the end of the meeting and get a replacement piece but we forgot to look at it.
- 12/12/24 – Cold air is coming in at the window in Kelly's office. We should at least install some plastic to cut down on the air coming in.

St. Johns Property Committee Task List

Revised 12/26/24

- 12/17/24 – Jim will measure the windows and get some plastic sealing kits to block out the air coming in.
- 12/15/24 – Sink in the choir room is draining very slowly. Should we purchase a small plunger and keep it at the sink?
 - 12/17/24 – Don checked the drain. The drain pipes are in VERY BAD shape. Don is going to get parts and repair the drain.
- 12/15/24 – Many people in church on Sunday were complaining that the mini-splits were throwing cold air during the service.
 - 12/17/24 – Joe is going to change the mini-split thermostat to 78 during church service.
- 12/8/24 – A church member came in after the elevator operator went upstairs at the start of the service. As a result, the member ended up going home.
 - 12/17/24 – Ed will order a doorbell to be mounted at the elevator outside the blue room and place the wireless ringer at the sound system cabinet.
- 12/17/24 – Front doors of the Church – Pastor Mike said you can see daylight between the front church entry doors and suggested seeing if it could be sealed up. At the end of the meeting the doors were examined and Mike said he would get some felt to seal it up.
- 12/17/24 – Joe suggested getting a new closure for the back door going to the back parking lot as it slams instead of closing slowly. Pictures were taken of the closure purchased for the front door. Mike or Joe will order the closure and Joe will take care of getting it put on.

The next Property Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21st @ 6:30 pm

The following report is normally included after the council minutes. Making use of available space and not wasting paper for a half page report.

Daycare November Report

Enrollment: 44 New family enrolled their child part-time in the young toddler classroom. Infant coming full-time in January/February.

Staff: 8 staff ~ Still waiting on a NSOR (Sex Offender) clearance for a part-time staff member. Pre-K counts is hiring a part-time, and she will be paid strictly from the pre-k grant.

Christmas: Daycare will not have a program this year. Instead there will be a party for the families on Tuesday, December 10 from 5:30-7pm in the F.H. Staff will set-up booths with games, crafts, face painting etc. for the children, along with hotdogs and other goodies.

Fundraising: The Gift Show is scheduled for Friday, November 29 and Saturday, November 30. We make money from the vendor spaces, food and baked goods, wreaths and raffle prizes. Donations of “homemade” soups, baked goods, and other goodies is greatly appreciated!

Keystone STARS ~ Awaiting the teacher retention bonus grant coming in December.

JANUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE

January 5

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeters: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

Lay Reader: Mike Harshbarger

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Ed Bilich

January 12

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: John and Brenda Boring

Lay Reader: Jami Zook

Money Counters: Carol Fultz and Sue Lynch

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

January 19

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Calvin Byler

January 26

Elevator: Ed Bilich

Greeter: Deb French

Lay Reader: Deb French

Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

Altar Care ~ Brenda Boring

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Brenda Boring

Bulletin Delivery ~ Randy Harshbarger

Social Hour ~ Mike and Michele Harshbarger

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 November 14,2024 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 November 14,2024 at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

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

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz

Devotions: Joe Kanagy 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 10/14/24 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Nancy Penepacker , seconded by Pastor Sigler. Motion carried.

Pastor report submitted by Pastor Sigler

Financial Reports:

The financial reports were presented by Ed Bilich.

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 Joe Kanagy and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried.

St John 2025 Proposed Budget was presented to council by Ed Bilch

Employees to be given 2.5% raise

A motion to accept proposed 2025 Budget by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Jim Buchanan

Motion carried

Day Care Proposed Budget 2025 presented by Ed Bilch

A motion was made to accept the Day Care Proposed Budget by Nancy Penepacker and seconded By Pastor Sigler

Committee Reports:

Cemetery -Nancy- nothing to report

Christian Ed/Youth-Michele- nothing to report

Day Care –Carol- Director provided a printed November report

Finance –Jim- nothing to report

Long Range -Ed- nothing to report

Music & Worship – Carol-nothing to report

Mutual Ministry – Nancy-nothing to report

Property – Joe Kanagy –vents on west side of church have been mouse proofed by Ed and Jim

John Boring received a proposed bid from Sanford King to paint Fellowship

Hall from floor to top of windows on 3 walls for \$1000-\$1200 including paint

Proposed starting date April council approved estimate and start date

Still investigating proposed bathroom in basement

Safety – Carol Fultz- nothing to report

Social Ministry – Michele - Nothing to report

Missions – Michele – nothing to report

Website – Ed – Nothing to report

Old Business:

Trying to recruit members for council , getting some positive feedback

Unlocking side door for services

2025 Service Schedules-Jamie Zook-greeters and readers

Michele-Altercare/communion , flowers and bulletin delivery

Ed presented a proposal for a new sound system. Ed made a motion to go with the

Third option for \$1599.99 Pastor Sigler seconded, motion carried

Talk about asking for memorials to pay for sound system

New Business:

**Friday Dec.13 at the VFW Christmas evening. Daycare to hand out 300 goodie bags for
The kids**

Mitten tree is up in Narthex

Daycare-would like to have a live nativity with real animals

**With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed
with the Lord's Prayer.**

Next meeting will be held on December 19, 2024 at 6:30


**Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Kanagy**

Revised 12-22-24

St. John's Lutheran Church

JANUARY

2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|----------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School | | Dec 31 St. John's has Meals on Wheels | 1 New Year's Day | 2 St. John's has Meals on Wheels 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting) | 3  | 4 |
| 5 Holy Communion Council installation | 6  | 7 St. John's has Meals on Wheels 11:00am Bible Study | 8 | 9 St. John's has Meals on Wheels (Council mtg being held one week later) | 10 | 11 Pastor Sigler away |
| 12 Pastor Sigler away Ed Bilich preaching and leading worship | 13 | 14 11:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting | 15 | 16 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting) 6:30pm Council Meeting | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Holy Communion | 20 | 21 11:00am Bible Study | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 11:00am Bible Study | 29 | 30 St. John's has Meals on Wheels | 31  | |