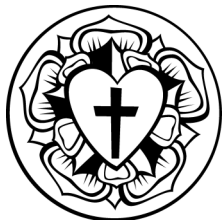


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3597 WEST MAIN STREET  
PO BOX 5716  
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

# The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

## FEBRUARY 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](mailto:secretary@stjohnsbelleville.org)  
Website ~ [stjohnsbelleville.org](http://stjohnsbelleville.org)



# Pastor's Page

The Epistle to the Hebrews, one of Martin Luther's favorite books of the Bible, says that the Word of God is a living and active word, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Not only that, but the book of Hebrews says that before Him (The Lord God Almighty), no creature is hidden, but all are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do (Hebrews 4:12-13).

Those are very powerful words. Hebrews says that God's Word is a very powerful word indeed and when God speaks, we are not to take His words lightly. Whether God's word is a word of judgment or mercy; whether His word is filled with warnings or hope, we are to listen carefully to what is being said to us, because words are always powerful, whether it is the Lord who speaks them or whether we are the ones who speak and hear them.

When I was child and sometimes would get into arguments with my friends over who knows what, and often after some very harsh, unkind, cutting words were hurled back and forth like missiles in a war zone, someone sooner or later would say, "Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." You too, I am sure have heard that said and perhaps you have said those words yourself a time or two in your life.

The implication is that a fist landing at the end of your nose may cause you a great deal of pain, but mean and nasty words thrown in your direction can't hurt you at all. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Words do in fact have enormous power and they can either cut us deeply or bring healing to our souls.

If someone says, "I hate you!" or "You're such a fool!" or "I cannot stand to be around you any longer" that hurts. You may deny the pain of it all, but if we are honest with ourselves we know that deep down we have been deeply wounded. I got into only one physical altercation that I can remember when I was kid and to be honest I cannot remember any physical scars that I came away with from that fight.

But I can still remember words that were hurtful that I said to others and words that were just as hurtful that were said to me. Many of the things I remember best from my childhood are the painful moments in interactions with friends and family.

On the other hand, when someone says to us, "I care about you deeply," or "I Love you and forgive what you have done to me," or "Your life is precious to God and to me," those words bring with them the balm of healing. God's love for us in Christ is a powerful word which says "You are mine. I have created you and I have blessed you and will bless you still. I love you with an eternal love that shall never die.!" Those are very powerful words that all of us need to hear and hear often and never forget them!

In Christ,



Pastor Mike

### 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](mailto: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 ~ Treasurer	end of 2025
Carol Fultz ~ President	end of 2026
Michele Harshbarger ~ Secretary	end of 2025
Joe Kanagy	end of 2025
Sue Lynch	end of 2027
Nancy Penepacker ~ Vice Pres.	end of 2027

Meetings are held at 6:30pm the second Thursday of each month, with the exception of July and August.

### St. John's Financial Report

Checking account balance 1/30/2025  
\$ 8,412.85

January 1 through January 30, 2025

\*Income \$ 19,281.00 Expense \$ 16,363.96  
Net Income \$ 2,917.04

\*No offering for Sunday, Jan 19 due to worship service cancellation. \$10,000 w/d from Thrivent Investments ~ \$3,000 deposited to emergency fund for St. John's portion of \$6,000 used to help pay for the security cameras. Balance of \$7,000 remained in checking to be used toward fuel oil expense.

### Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 1/30/2025  
\$ 8,305.98

January 1 through January 30, 2025

Income \$ 28,212.72 Expense \$ 21,455.71  
Net Income \$ 6,757.01



The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 23 **following our worship service in the sanctuary.** **Members will then gather in the fellowship** where light refreshments will be available.

Information pertinent to the meeting will be placed in member mailboxes by Sunday, February 9. Any remaining envelopes will be mailed out on Monday, February 10.



### Cancelling Sunday/Special Church Services

If bad weather is expected, or current conditions require cancelling the worship service, members will either be personally notified (as on January 19), or if the decision is made the day before, the answering machine message will include closure information. An email may also be sent to members who have supplied the church with their email address, and will 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

At their January meeting council discussed our church committees. They felt at this time, there was no longer a need for Safety, Website and Long Range Planning. Sign-ups for those which they feel are viable can be found in the narthex.

Out of respect for the members who are making a commitment of their time and talent to serve, the goal is to have each one of the following committees become more active this year.

Please give prayerful consideration to serving on the Cemetery, Christian Ed, Finance, Missions, Music and Worship, Property or Social Ministry Committees.

### *Serving God by Serving Others*

**Ask not what your church can do for you,  
but what you can do for your church.**

The Property Committee meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm.

Social Ministry is planning to meet this month to discuss projects/events for the year, and would like to begin by setting a date to prepare and deliver meals for our shut-ins, widows and others.

Meeting dates/times will be included in the weekly bulletins.

Volunteers are 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/or juice (cookies, donuts, fruit or other pastry). Coffee, tea and paper products are provided by the church and will be placed on the counter in the library/blue room. A sign-up can be found in the narthex or contact the church office.

**Please join us for this time of fellowship and refreshments before worship begins on Sunday, February 2.**



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

Summer and the annual yard sale seem far away, but it will be here before we know it. Since there is little work outside, many of you may be cleaning out/downsizing or just looking to get rid of things you no longer use or need. We are glad for ANYTHING you may have in usable and clean condition.

**No televisions or clothing please! Donations can be placed on the stage.**



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

June 1 and 29

July 27

August 3

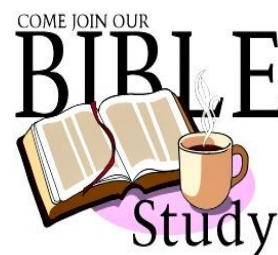
November 23



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.

Pastor Sigler leads the weekly Bible study held Tuesdays at 11:00am. You are welcome and encouraged to attend these inspiring sessions. No skills needed...come, listen and learn.



January 2025

Dear Friends at St. John's,

Thanks to your support, Seafarer's International assisted 19,066 people in need, well over 1,000 more than last year! At Christmas time we rejoiced! Our Port Chaplains were able to bring a ministry of presence, essentials, and transportation to seafarers, and we delivered a record setting 3,507 satchels to seafarers out at sea spreading love around the globe.

Peace,

*Pastor Marsh Luther Drege*

#### MISSION

Seafarers International House (SIH) is the Lutheran response to the urgent needs of vulnerable seafarers and immigrants. SIH offers hospitality, social assistance, and advocacy to a multi-national and multi-faith community in the Ports of Albany, Baltimore, Duluth, New Haven, and New York & New Jersey, and in New York City

#### **2024 Program Impact**

**19,066 immigrants** and seafarers directly benefited from SIH services (up from 18,004).

**2,225 lodging nights** provided to 140 seafarers in Manhattan.

**13,556 seafarers** were visited and counseled on 1,232 ships, receiving essentials they requested.

**1,830 seafarers** were transported to a mall or medical facilities.

**3,507 seafarers**, regardless of faith, received Christmas-at-Sea satchels filled with warm clothing and holiday greetings prepared by volunteers to recognize their sacrifices. Up from 3,216 last year!

**33 asylum seekers** received lodging for a total of 1,508 nights. They hailed from Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras and Mexico.

The Daycare Report is part of the December council meeting minutes.

## **Daycare December Report**

#### **Enrollment:**

43

Infant enrolled, coming full-time in January. Two children un-enrolled, Mother has new job in State College and moved them to daycare close to her work. Two potential preschool children coming for tour on Monday. Need immediate care, may start January 2.

#### **Staff:**

8 staff ~ One member of staff quit. She had ongoing health problems, and was habitually absent and/or late. Two girls very recently expressed interest in working at daycare, one part-time. Waiting on applications to be returned. Pre-K counts hired a part-time classroom aide, and she will be paid strictly from the Pre-k grant.

**Christmas:** Daycare is closing at 1:30 on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

#### **Fundraising:**

The Gift Show went very well. Still waiting on amount made from selling Kish Valley Soaps for Amish who took over the business, but we made approx. \$5,000. Of that 10% (\$500) was tithed to the church towards fuel oil. The girls will each be receiving a small Christmas Bonus and the balance is going to help pay expenses. Custodial, classroom supplies and snacks are becoming more expensive to keep in stock.

#### **Keystone STARS**

Grant received and is being used for teacher retention bonuses, as instructed.

# ***FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **February 2**

**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** John and Denise Chester  
**Lay Reader:** John Chester  
**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester  
**Sound System:** Ed Bilich

## **February 9**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** Don and Rosalie Smith  
**Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich  
**Money Counters:** Carol Fultz and Sue Lynch  
**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy

## **February 16**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy  
**Greeters:** Jim and Georgianna Buchanan  
**Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan  
**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler  
**Sound System:** Calvin Byler

## **February 23**

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

**Altar Care/Flower Delivery** ~ Michele Harshbarger

**Bulletin Delivery** ~ Randy Harshbarger

**Social Hour** ~ Brenda Boring and Carolyn Conner

**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 December 19,2024 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 December 19,2024 at 6:30 pm i

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

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz

**Devotions:** Nancy Penepacker 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 11/14/24 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Nancy and seconded by Ed. 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 Joe Kanagy and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried.

Add Local Mission Account to Balance Sheet

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

**Committee Reports:**

**Cemetery** -Nancy- nothing to report

**Christian Ed/Youth-Michele**- nothing to report

**Day Care** –Carol- Director provided a printed December report

**Finance** –Jim- Nothing to report

**Long Range** -Ed nothing to report

**Music & Worship** – Carol-Pastor would like to meet in New Year to review organist contract  
Organist off Jan. 5 need replacement

**Mutual Ministry** – Nancy-NTR-to meet in January

**Property** – Joe Kanagy –review possibility of bathroom addition in basement

**A lose wire fixed on furnace/check contract to see if this maintenance is covered**

**New lock for side door gifted from Bosserts Hardware**

**Plastic to go on office windows**

**Door bell at elevator to alert the sound person**

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

**Social Ministry** – Michele - Nothing to report

**Missions** – Michele –nothing to report

**Website** – Ed – Nothing to report

**Old Business: Missions**

**Worship duties-Kelly needs lists ASAP to include in January newsletter**

**New Business: Christmas Eve-Offering ½ Discretionary fund ,1/2 to Social Services in Lewistown**

**Motion to accept Michele, seconded Ed**

**Worship duties-Joe sound-Mike elevator-Ed Reader-Jim and Georgianna greeters**

**Council installation-January 5**

**January meeting date moved to the 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Side door keys- Joe, Pastor, Carol, Nancy, Kelly**

**February congregational meeting date-possibly 23<sup>rd</sup>-Fellowship Hall**

**Talk to Joy Byler(Social Ministry) about food and drink**

**Fill Oil Tank- Use Investment –Interest-\$10,000**

**Pastor made a motion and Nancy seconded, motion passed**

**\$3000 to Emergency fund**

**\$7000 to oil fund**

With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on January 16 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Harshbarger, Secretary



# St. John's Lutheran Church

## FEBRUARY

### 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>9:00am</b> <i>Worship</i> <b>10:15am</b> <i>Sunday School</i></p>	<p><u>Looking Ahead</u></p> <p>March 5 ~ Ash Wednesday worship at 7:00pm            March 9 ~ Daylight Saving Time begins            March 20 ~ Spring begins</p>					1
<p>2 Social Hour Holy Communion</p>	3	<p>4 11:00am Bible Study</p>	5	<p>6 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)</p>	7	8
9	10	<p>11 11:00am Bible Study</p>	12	<p>13 6:30pm Council Meeting</p>	14	15
<p>16 Holy Communion</p>		<p>18 11:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting</p>	19	<p>20 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)</p>	21	22
<p>23 Congregational Meeting in F.H. <b>following worship in sanctuary</b></p>	24	<p>25 11:00am Bible Study</p>	26	27		