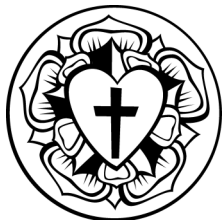


ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
3597 WEST MAIN STREET
PO BOX 5716
BELLEVILLE PA 17004

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Parish Messenger



St. John's Lutheran Church, Belleville, Pennsylvania

MARCH 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

Pastor Vincent Guss, one of my seminary classmates, a distant cousin in fact, has been a hospital chaplain for most of his ministry. He has distinguished himself as a chaplain and director of spiritual care at several hospitals and institutions in Virginia and California and elsewhere. I read an article about him several years ago which I kept in my files. The article prompted me to want to call him and catch up on our lives since it had been several decades since we last talked to one another in person.

About the time I decided to get in contact with him, I sat down with the latest edition of THE LUTHERAN magazine and paged to the obituaries first which is always my practice. It was there that I learned that a few months before, Vincent had died of a heart attack in the city of Prague while preparing to start a vacation. I was stunned to say the least. There have been only a few of my seminary classmates who have died up to this point and Vincent would not have been one that I would have thought to be one who suddenly succumbed to a heart attack.

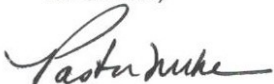
I thought to myself: "Why did you put off calling him? Why did you wait so long to touch base with him when you were thinking about doing this for months?" Now, it was too late! That opportunity will never happen in this life. There is a truism that you often hear: "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today." I would imagine that most of us have heard it and we let those words roll off us like water off a duck's back. We think we always have more time. If it doesn't get done today, no problem, I'll work on it tomorrow or the next day or sometime thereafter.

Then something happens to jolt us into reality which is that we don't have all the time in the world. We don't know what tomorrow will bring and we only fool ourselves into believing that time stretches out ahead of us for miles and miles when in truth our opportunities might be right in front of us and what we need to do, we should not put off.

The first week of March begins the great forty days of our Lenten journey to the cross of Christ and the empty tomb of Easter. In preparation for Ash Wednesday's sermon, I read the appointed epistle lesson for the evening. It is from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians (5:20-6:10) in which Paul quotes from the prophet Isaiah in saying: "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation" (Isaiah 49:8). And then Paul adds his own words of wisdom: "Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

The Holy Spirit works in strange and mysterious ways. An obituary notice of a friend and classmate and a Scripture text for Ash Wednesday combine to lead me to this message to you at the beginning of Lent: please, don't put off the important things you feel you need to do now. Let those you love and care about know it now. Don't delay speaking words of love, care and forgiveness to anyone who needs to hear that message. Now is the time. Tomorrow may be too late and as I am increasingly aware, life is very, very short! Please share the love God has for you in Christ our Lord with those who cross your mind and dwell in your heart! Now is the time! Now is the time!

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 – 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 ~ 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 2/27/25
 \$ 8,063.59

January 1 through February 27, 2025

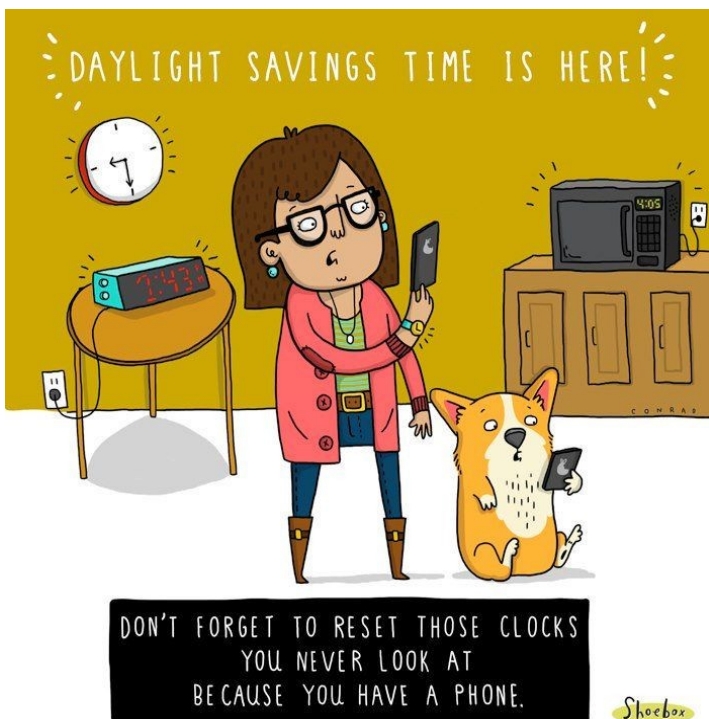
Income \$ 32,974.82 Expense \$ 32,757.04
 Net Income \$ 217.78

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 2/27/25
 \$ 5,680.17

January 1 through February 27, 2025

Income \$ 48,941.26 Expense \$ 45,076.12
 Net Income \$ 3,865.14



**Daylight Saving Time Begins
 Sunday, March 9**



Special Offerings

At their February meeting, Council voted to direct this year’s Lenten offering to the Shelter Service in Lewistown, which is currently struggling to keep its doors open due to a lack of financial resources. An envelope can be found in your box for March 23.

Council voted last year to direct all loose offering on the months which have a 5th Sunday, to the church’s Discretionary Fund. The first one occurs this month on the 30th. If you prefer to give by check or with your weekly offering, please notate “Discretionary Fund” on the memo line or envelope.

IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

We will once again celebrate Ash Wednesday on March 5 with a service beginning at 7:00pm. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice which many people find to be very meaningful. The use of ashes is a sign of repentance, a reminder of our sinfulness and mortality, and of our utter dependence upon the *Grace of God*, and the power of Christ's resurrection. We hope you will take an hour from your day to come, worship, and prepare your heart and mind for the journey of Lent.

The church is providing regular and large print devotionals entitled *Life Renewed* from Augsburg Fortress. They are available in the narthex and by the elevator.



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 ANY-THING you may have in clean, usable condition. **No televisions or clothing please! Donations can be placed on the stage.**



The Tuesday morning Bible Study now begins ½ hour earlier, at 10:30am. The group wanted to spend more time in the informative and engaging sessions. Please consider attending one, you may be surprised at how “addictive” they are!



Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5 and the church is observing “Fat Tuesday/Fasnacht Day” a little early by providing rich, sugary donut holes at the Social Hour on Sunday, March 2.

If you would like to enjoy this tasty treat, please stop in the blue room before or after the service. There will also be hot coffee, tea, milk and juice to help wash them down with. If you don’t have time to stay, please grab some on the way out.

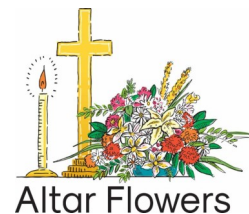


All loose offering on Sunday, March 2 will be directed towards **helping the Juniata Terrace fire victims**. If you cannot attend worship, and would like to donate, please notate “Fire Victims” on your check memo line/envelope, and drop off or mail to the church by Friday, March 7.

July 27 is still available to place altar flowers. Please contact the church office or sign-up in the narthex, if interested.

Reminder ~ We will not be using flowers on the Altar during the Lenten season March 9 thru Palm Sunday, April 13.

If you would like to place an arrangement beside the lectern in honor or memory of a loved one during that time, please contact the church office.



Altar Flowers

*A heartfelt
Thank You* ❤️

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank each and every one of you for your generosity, cards, meals, visits and prayers. We were so humbled, it brought us to tears. Your kindness was welcomed and overwhelming because of the love we felt. Jed is doing better as far as the cancer is concerned, and is taking autoimmune therapy for a year, as a safety measure.

Thank you again!

Jed, Alice and Sarah Smith

Social Ministry Meeting – February 19, 2025

We met in the blue room. In attendance was: Carol Fultz, Brenda Boring, Jane Fultz, Michelle Harshbarger, Joy Byler and Carolyn Conner.

We are going to try and have a monthly meeting. No specific day, we will just plan accordingly.

We would like to get Kelly to give us a list of shut-ins and possibly deliver lunch once a month.

Here are some dates we have set for 2025:

Sunday, February 23, 2025 – Congregational meeting

Refreshments in the social hall following congregational meeting

We will set up on Saturday at 11 a.m.

Carolyn will bring donuts

Nancy Pennepacker will bring beverages (we will make coffee and tea)

Sue Lynch will pick up a fruit tray

Brenda Boring and Jane Fultz will bring a baked item.

Sunday, March 2, 2025 – Sunday before Lent ~ Council in charge of

“Fat Sunday” – social hour with donuts and cookies, beverages

Sunday, June 1, 2025 – Mother/Father Breakfast following worship

Do we want to invite Allensville members to worship and invite to meal

Meal will consist of:

Homemade breakfast casseroles – Joy, Carol, Michelle, Carolyn, Brenda (total 9)

Donuts – Carolyn Conner

Baked item – Jane Fultz

Fruit Salad – Joy Byler

Juice, chocolate milk, milk – Sue Lynch

Sunday, April 20, 2025 – Easter Sunday – Council in charge of refreshments

Sunday, September 7, 2025 – Possible Sunday School kickoff picnic (stay tuned)

Sunday, November 23, 2025 – Thanksgiving potluck

Sunday, December 14, 2025 – Christmas refreshments for social hour – Social Ministry Committee

Committee sign-ups can be found in the narthex. Please prayerfully consider sharing your time and talent by being a part of this or one of our other committees.

I was regretting the past and fearing the future. Suddenly my Lord was speaking: “My name is I AM”. He paused. I waited and He continued, “When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WAS. When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not I WILL BE. When you live in this moment it is not hard. I am here. My name is I AM.” – Helen Mallicoat



MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE

March 2

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeters: Nancy Penepacker and Gabriel Clark
Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Joe Kanagy

March 5 ~ Ash Wednesday

Greeter and Lay Reader: Jami Zook

March 9

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeter: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan
Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan
Money Counters: Carol Fultz and Sue Lynch
Sound System: Calvin Byler

March 16

Elevator: Joe Kanagy
Greeters: Ken and Nancy Wyland
Lay Reader: Ken Wyland
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Calvin Byler

March 23

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

March 30

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeter: Jami Zook
Lay Reader: Jami Zook
Money Counters: Jami Zook and Mike Boring
Sound System: Ed Bilich

Altar Care ~ Michele Harshbarger

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Michele Harshbarger (March 2 ONLY, no altar flowers during Lent)

Bulletin Delivery ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

Social Hour ~ Sunday, March 2, donuts in the blue room before/after the worship service

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 January 11, 2025 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 January 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

Present: Pastor Mike Sigler, President Carol Fultz, , Jim Buchanan, Michele Harshbarger, Joe Kanagy and Nancy Penepacker and Sue Lynch

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz.

Devotions: Michele Harshbarger led devotions.

January-Michele Harshbarger

February-Sue Lynch

March-Jim Buchanan

April-Joe Kanagy

May-Nancy Penepacker

June- Michele Harshbarger

July & August no meeting

September-Jim Buchanan

October-Sue Lynch

November-Joe Kanagy

December-Nancy Penepacker

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the 12/19/24 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by ____Jim Buchanan and seconded by Nancy Penepacker Motion carried.

Financial Reports:

The financial reports were presented by Jim Buchanan

St. John's – A motion to accept the church financial report was made by __Pastor Sigler_ and seconded by __Joe Kanagy_. Motion carried.

St. John's Daycare – A motion to accept the daycare financial report was made by _ Pastor Sigler
And seconded by Joe Kanagy

Pastor's report: Copy of Report provided

Committee Reports:

Cemetery - Nancy -_nothing to report_

Christian Ed/Youth – Michele __Nothing to report

Day Care – Carol __nothing to report -the director supplied report

Finance – Jim –Nothing to report

Long Range - will be discontinued

Music & Worship – Carol - Pastor would like a more active committee and plan for whole year
Bill Frank will be substitute organist

Mutual Ministry – Nancy _To meet in February

Property – Joe Kanagy –Reviewed plans for basement bathrooms Jan. 21

Motion made to pay \$350.00 for plans drawn up of basement bathroom

By Sue Lynch and seconded by Pastor Sigler

Fuses burned out for first floor and replaced bringing in an electrician

Red door fixed to latch

Safety – will be discontinued

Social Ministry – Sue Lynch_-_nothing to report

Missions – Michele –nothing to report

Website –will be discontinued

Old Business:

February 23 congregational meeting –service upstairs and meeting in fellowship hall

**Investment interest w/d of \$10,000- \$3,000 emergency fund w/d to cover church
Portion of security camera expense, \$7,000 to help with fuel oil**

Christmas Eve offering-\$1,285.00

\$345 was designated by individuals for discretionary and \$175 for local missions

\$765 loose money divided between missions and discretionary.

Total discretionary \$728.00 Total local missions \$557.00

New Business:

Committee sign ups (combine or discontinue some committees) Council reps?

**Congregational meeting mailing going out Feb.9 – any committees which met in 2024
Need to have reports to the office by Jan. 26**

Door code for organist

Motion to end the meeting – Pastor Sigler and seconded Michele Harshbarger

With there being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting will be held on February 13th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Harshbarger, Secretary

Daycare January Report

Enrollment:

46

Infant enrolled, coming full-time end January. Two full-time children began beginning of January.

Staff:

8 staff ~ Part-time person interested in coming did not work out. Current job offered her more hours. College student has expressed desire to work during the summer as school-age teacher. Still looking for a part-time/full-time person.

Pre-K Counts ~ One of the new children which enrolled earlier this month was eligible for Pre-K counts, and filled the vacant spot we had from the family who left to attend a center closer to the Mother's new job. The younger sibling will qualify for a Pre-K counts spot in September.

St. John's Lutheran Church

March

2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Holy Communion Social Hour before/after worship in Blue Room	3	4 10:30am Bible Study 	5 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship 	6 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting)	7	1 <hr/> 8 Set clocks ahead 1 hour DST begins Sunday
9 First Sunday in Lent 	10	11 10:30am Bible Study	12	13 5:00pm Council Meeting (note time change)	14	15
16 Second Sunday in Lent Holy Communion	17 	18 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	19	20 9:30am Knotting (weather permitting) 	21	22
23 Third Sunday in Lent	24	25 10:30am Bible Study	26	27	28 	29
30 Fourth Sunday in Lent All loose offering goes to Discretionary Fund	31	Looking Ahead April 17 ~ 7:00pm Maundy Thursday worship April 18 ~ 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae service April 20 ~ Easter Day				Worship 9:00am 10:15am Sunday School



There is no set price, anyone wishing to place a flower(s), is asked to make a donation and a variety will be purchased to decorate the church.

An insert with the names of the persons placing them, along with those they are in honor/memory of will be included in the bulletin on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

Please return this form along with your donation to the church by Sunday, April 13