

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

MAY 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

One of my assigned family chores is to take out the garbage each week and I do that task with a fierce determination. I make sure all the waste cans are emptied into the larger kitchen container and then make sure the garbage bag is tightly tied before putting it out along the edge of our driveway for pickup. I have a routine and woe to those who would upset my routine! However, before I empty the smaller cans into the larger one, I have an eagle eye on what is being thrown away. When our kids were at home it caused no small amount of conflict with every member of the family. "Why are you throwing away a perfectly good three ring binder notebook?", I would ask my kids. "I'll bet those ball point pens still have some ink in them" I would exclaim in exasperation.

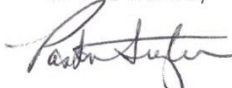
"Never let Dad go through your waste cans" was our sons' motto. I suppose my nagging gave them good reason to feel that way, but life is expensive and I sometimes tend to be rather cheap (frugal) when I think I can save a little here and there. I only want to throw away what is worthless and of no account but never throw away something of value.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, talks about throwing away the garbage (Phil. 3:8), except what he considered worthless most of us would not. Paul tells the Philippians that what he is throwing away are his achievements, the very things that most of us would proudly lift up for others to see. Our achievements are what we brag about to others. Imagine watching someone throw away their college diploma as just garbage. Imagine watching dump a bunch of trophies they have won; just tossing them out with the trash. Useless pieces of metal and nothing more.

That is how Paul looked at his past achievements once Christ had turned his life around. All of what he was and what he had been paled in comparison to knowing Christ and the power of Christ's resurrection. How amazing that Paul could or would regard his achievements as garbage, trash, which is how he says it. He was willing to throw away every bit of human achievement in order that he might follow Christ.

In our world, our achievements are what set us apart from others. Some would say their achievements show them to be better than others. We take a great deal of pride in what we have accomplished. How wonderful to get our picture in the local newspapers for something we have done. Would that we lived in a world such that trophies and awards, prizes and degrees, fame and fortune were put in their proper perspective; that compared to knowing Christ and the power of his resurrection, they mean nothing...absolutely nothing! I believe that in the Kingdom of God, when we stand before the Lord God Almighty, those things will not matter one iota. What will matter is whether or not we have known Christ.

In His name,



Pastor Sigler

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 4/30/25
 \$ 14,701.54

January 1 through April 30, 2025

Income \$ 75,953.21 Expense \$ 68,440.64
 Net Income \$ 7,512.57

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 4/30/25
 \$ 12,185.49

January 1 through April 30, 2025

Income \$ 102,148.81 Expense \$ 91,503.78
 Net Income \$ 10,645.03



There will be congregational meeting following the worship service on Sunday, June 8 to vote on the basement bathroom proposal. More information will be included in the June newsletter and upcoming bulletins.



This year's Synod Assembly is being held on June 13 and 14 at Camp Mt. Luther. Pastor Sigler will be attending along with Joe Kanagy and Nancy Penepacker. The theme is *Living Into the Good News*.

Upper Susquehanna

**SYNOD
 ASSEMBLY**



IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

The Social Ministry committee is hosting a Mother/Father Brunch on Sunday, June 1 immediately following the service. So the Pastor and organist can also attend, St. Paul members have been invited to our worship and the brunch. If you have not already, this is a good opportunity to meet our organist, Rick Cole.

Everything is being provided, and there will be a variety of breakfast casseroles, fruit salad and pastries to enjoy. **Please sign-up in the narthex if you are planning to attend.**



Mother/Father Brunch



The annual yard sale will be here in a few short months. If you have been doing any cleaning out, we will gladly take whatever you would like to get rid of in good usable condition, with the exception of TV's and clothing.

Several people have already blessed us with their unwanted items! Donations may be placed either in front of, or on the stage. Thank you!!



After many years, the Fellowship Hall has received a fresh coat of paint. Sanford King spent the week before Easter working on the project. The cost was \$998.00.

Thank you to the Property Committee for your continuing efforts to ensure our church is kept in good repair.



Thank You...

The Social Ministry Committee recently met to discuss plans and ideas for the upcoming months. Along with hosting the brunch on June 1st they are also going to prepare and deliver meals several times throughout the year to our senior members, shut-ins and those dealing with health concerns. The first of these will be on Saturday, May 17. On the menu is homemade Ham Pot Pie, coleslaw, dessert and rolls. A letter will be sent out to each recipient so they know when to plan for the meal.

Tuesday morning Bible study will take a break for the summer the end of this month. The weekly sessions will resume again on Tuesday, September 2 at 10:30am.



The "Angels from Bigfoot Country" would like to thank you for helping us, help the Juniata Terrace Fire Victims. Your generous donations helped us provide "each family" affected by this tragedy with gift cards to purchase essential household and personal items as they continue to rebuild their lives.

Thank you and God Bless!

St. John's members graciously donated a total of \$1,738.00 to the fire victim fund.

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the extremely kind donation of \$1,915. We are grateful for your kind-heartedness and continued support during this challenging time and appreciate you coming alongside us in an effort to help the homeless, both inside and outside our shelter. Thank you for all you do and contribute. Blessings to you!

CAMP MT LUTHER SUMMER SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

WEEK	DAY CAMP Weekdays 9am-3pm Pick your days	MINI CAMP (Sun-Tues) Drop-off: First day 4pm Pickup: Last day at 4pm	WEEK-LONG CAMP Drop off: Sunday 4pm Pick up: Friday 4pm
WEEK 1 <i>June 15-20</i>		Ages 9-11	Ages 9-11 (Night Owl) Ages 12-14 (Night Owl) Ages 15-17 (X-Teen)
WEEK 2 <i>June 22-27</i>			Ages 9-11 (Tracks) Ages 12-14 (Tracks) Ages 15-17 (Outdoor Quest)
WEEK 3 <i>June 29-July 2</i>	Ages 6-8† (Mon-Wed) Ages 9-11† (Mon-Wed) Ages 12-14† (Mon-Wed)	Family* (ends Wed at noon) Ages 12-14 (Buffalo Gap Adventure) Ages 15-17 (Buffalo Gap Adventure)	
WEEK 4 <i>July 6-11</i>		Ages 9-11	Ages 9-11 (Water Adventure) Ages 12-14 (Water Adventure) Ages 15-17 (SALT)
WEEK 5 <i>July 13-18</i>			
WEEK 6 <i>July 20-25</i>			
WEEK 7 <i>July 27-August 1</i>	Ages 6-8† Ages 9-11†	Ages 6-8 Ages 9-11	Ages 6-8 (Classic Camp) Ages 9-11 (Classic Camp) Ages 12-14 (Classic Camp) Ages 15-17 (SALT)

* Pick your length of stay if you cannot attend the whole program

† Option for one overnight on Tuesday (week 3) or Thursday (week 7)

The church will once again be paying camp fees for any children who would like to attend Camp Mt. Luther this summer. **Brochures are available in the narthex, and** information can also be found at www.campmountluther.org. Please contact the church office if interested in attending.

Daycare April Council Meeting Report

Enrollment: 48

We now have a waiting list, and would like to enroll more children, but cannot until we hire additional staff.

Staff: 8 staff

The candidate we interviewed decided not to take the position, so we are actively looking. We have had 2 persons recently request applications. Waiting to hear back from them.

DHS:

As reported last month, BMS is scheduled to come on the 17th to work on the playground area, so it is ready for our inspection in May.

Day of Caring:

Last year, the United Way Day of Caring here was postponed due to bad weather. So, Marcel Paper in Lewistown is coming back this spring, and will be building a "small" storage shed for us to keep toys, etc. in on the young toddler play area.

MAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

May 4

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger

Greeters: Ken and Nancy Wyland

Lay Reader: Ken Wyland

Money Counters: John and Denise Chester

Sound System: Joe Kanagy

May 11

Elevator: Joe Kanagy

Greeters: Joy and Jay Byler

Lay Reader: Ed Bilich

Money Counters: Carol Fultz and Sue Lynch

Sound System: Ed Bilich

May 18

Elevator: Ed Bilich

Greeter: Joe Kanagy

Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy

Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler

Sound System: Calvin Byler

May 25

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger

Greeters: **VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED**

Lay Reader: John Chester

Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy

Sound System: Jay Byler

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





Altar Care ~ Nancy Penepacker

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Nancy Penepacker

Bulletin Delivery ~ John and Brenda Boring

Social Hour ~ No Social Hour in May, due to Easter reception on the 20th and upcoming Mother Father Bruch on Sunday, June 1st.

St. John's Lutheran Church
May
2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday school	Looking Ahead Sunday, June 1 ~ Pentecost Mother/Father Brunch Sunday, June 8 ~ Congregational meeting June 23 through July 20 ~ Pastor taking vacation time			1 9:30am Comfort Knotting	2	3
4 Holy Communion	5	6 10:30am Bible Study	7	8 6:30pm Council Meeting	9	10
11 	12	13 10:30am Bible Study	14	15 9:30am Comfort Knotting	16	17
18 Holy Communion	19	20 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Property Committee	21	22 6:30pm Daycare Preschool Graduation 	23	24
25 	26 Memorial Day Parade begins at 9:30am DC/Office Closed	27 10:30am Bible Study (if needed)	28	29 	30	31

St. John's Lutheran Church
Minutes of the March 13,2025 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 March 14,2024 at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

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

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz

Devotions: _Jim Buchanan led devotions

The devotion schedule for 2025 is:

- ✓February –Sue Lynch
- ✓March –Jim Buchanan
- ✓April –Joe Kanagy
- May –Nancy Penepacker
- June – Michele Harshbarger
- July & August – no meetings
- September –Jim Buchanan
- October –Sue Lynch
- November – Joe Kanagy
- December – Nancy Penepacker

A review of the church employee job descriptions was done by council

The Sexton job description was amended and a motion to approve by Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Sue Lynch

The organist job description was amended and a motion to approve by Michele Harshbarger and seconded by Jim Buchanan

The secretary job description was amended and a motion to approve by Sue Lynch and seconded by Nancy Penepacker

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the 02/13/25 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Pastor Sigler and seconded by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

Pastor report submitted by Pastor Sigler

Financial Reports:

The financial reports were presented by Jim Buchanan

St. John's – A motion to accept the church financial report was made by Nancy Penepacker 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 Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery -Nancy- nothing to report

Christian Ed/Youth-Michele- nothing to report

Day Care –Carol- Director provided a printed March report

Finance –Jim- nothing to report

Music & Worship –Pastor-still in need of more members

Mutual Ministry – Nancy-nothing to report

Property – Joe Kanagy –no return of bids for basement bathroom yet

Boiler needs drained daily by property committee

Social Ministry – Michele - Mother's and Father's brunch June 1

Missions – Michele – nothing to report

Old Business: council hosting 4/20 Easter fellowship time before and after worship

No April Social hour

New Business: Ash Wednesday offering was \$185 to be directed to Missions

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday offerings will be directed to Missions

Rick Cole (organist) would like to have a meet and greet with church members

Possibly Easter fellowship time

Synod Assembly reps-Joe said he would go. Pastor to ask for one more person

June 20-21 at Camp Mt Luther

13-14

With there being no further discussion, Pastor Sigler made a motion to adjourn the meeting

And was seconded by Sue Lynch. The next meeting will be held April 8,2025 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Harshbarger,Secretary