

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 2026



### ***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

## DOXOLOGY (PRAISE)

As we begin a new year I thought it important to say a few things about our worship, thus the title DOXOLOGY, which means praise. In every one of my previous calls I made it a habit to visit inactive members as soon as was feasible. Why, I wondered, did they drift away from being involved in the life of the congregation? Why did they stop worshipping. What reason(s) did they give for their absence? Often the reason given for why they no longer worshipped was because as they said it, they "no longer got anything out of the service." Usually that tended to mean the sermon but I took it to mean the entire service.

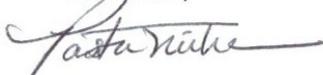
My problem with that sort of reasoning is that worship is primarily intended to be what we BRING to service, not primarily what we get out of it, whatever that might mean. Worship involves our praise and thanksgiving for what God has done for us in Christ. As the Psalmist says, we are to enter his gates with thanksgiving. The hymns which we sing, the prayers which we offer, the Word of God which we hear and the offering of our gifts are all to be a measure of our thanks to God for all His benefits. yes, even the sermon is designed to feed us with God's contemporary word so that we might leave our worship space and reflect God's grace and goodness wherever we go in the following week.

Worship is not to be entertainment. It is not like going to movies to be entertained for a few hours. I would be the first pastor to argue that yes, preaching ought not to be boring and dull. Preachers should have a vital message as God's Word so that we are given correction, hope and encouragement to continue on in our journey of faith. However, that is not of first importance. We are to come GIVING in worship before we expect to GET something. Even if the sermon is bad on a particular day, there are the hymns which praise God, the prayers which are prayed to God's glory with His promise that He will hear every word of our prayers, the sacrament of Holy Communion whereby we are fed with the living presence of our Lord, Jesus Christ. We are the beneficiaries of God's tender mercies. I would love to hear someone say about Sunday morning, "I couldn't wait to get to church this morning to worship. It is that important for me to praise and give thanks each and every week!"

Secondly, in our gathering for worship this is to be a time for us to get our heads and hearts prepared for what we are about that morning. When the prelude music begins, that is a call to worship for the congregation. It is not a a time to talk about which restaurant you ate at on Saturday night or the latest television series you were thrilled to watch on Netflix. Those conversations are better held ether before worship or afterward. Speaking personally, the time before we begin our worship is a moment for me to give thanks that I am ever able to be there in the first place; to be alive for another week so as to glorify God's holy name, to beseech Christ to be forgiving of my sins and to pray that the Holy Spirit all open my heart and yours so that we might embody the love of God, do His will and follow in His ways rather than our own.

On Sunday afternoon, after our worship service had been cancelled due to the weather, I was actually miserable, not being able to be with all of you in worship. I wonder if you felt the same?

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 or 717-310-4444  
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>
Steve Cleck	end of 2028
Jim Buchanan ~ Treasurer	end of 2028
Carol Fultz ~ President	end of 2026
Joe Kanagy ~ Secretary	end of 2028
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 01/27/2026  
\$ 36,557.03

January 1 through January 27, 2026

Income \$ 51,101.32 Expense \$ 24,289.30  
Net Income \$ 26,812.02

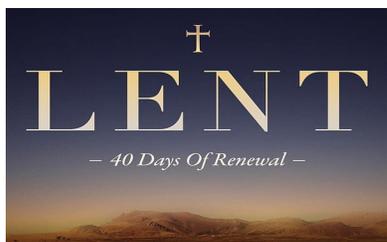
\* Funds were trf from the Thrivent Investments (\$30,141.32) to cover the bathroom expense, and a payment of \$10,000 has been paid to Sunset Constr.

**Daycare Financial Report**

Checking account balance 01/27/2026  
\$ 11,588.98

January 1 through January 27, 2026

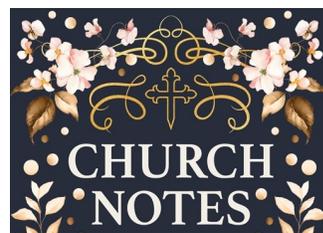
Income \$ 34,008.15 Expense \$ 32,267.43  
Net Income \$ 1,740.72



Lent is a season of repentance – a great time to reflect on aspects of our lives that are unChrist-like that we would like to change. It is the place for us to begin – to do some reflection on our lives, a time to make a change of direction – from the things that lead us away from God to the things that lead us to God.

The Lenten season begins with Ash Wednesday worship on February 18 at 7:00pm, with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.

The church is providing regular and large print devotionals entitled *Love Outpoured* from Augsburg Fortress. They will be available in the narthex by Sunday, February 8.



**Council officers for 2026** ~ Carol Fultz, President; Nancy Penepacker, Vice President; Joe Kanagy, Secretary; Jim Buchanan, Treasurer

The congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 22 **following our worship service in the sanctuary.** Members will then gather in the **fellowship** where refreshments will be available.

Information pertinent to the meeting will be placed in member mailboxes by Sunday, February 8. Any remaining envelopes will be mailed out on Monday, February 9.

## IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

The following report was included with the December council meeting minutes.

### Daycare December Council Meeting Report

#### Enrollment ~ 48

A family with two part-time children un-enrolled as they moved out of the area, but a part-time infant is starting in December and a part-time preschool child began the week of Thanksgiving. A 10 month old child will also be starting 2-3 days per week in January.

#### Staff ~ 11 staff

Looking to hire another part-time person the beginning of the year.

#### Fundraisers

This is the most we have made from the Gift Show since Daphne and Jim Marthouse turned it over to the daycare. \$5,700.00!! We will be tithing 10% (\$570.00) to the church for fuel oil.

#### Pre-K Counts

Pa has finally passed a budget! We only received 2 months of funding the week of Thanksgiving. The balance for the rest of 2025 is supposed to be released by the second week in December.

The Social Ministry Committee is still collecting non-perishable and canned foods along with toilet paper, paper towels, etc. for the Shelter Service. Donations can be placed in the coatroom area beside the narthex.

The *Mitten Tree* is still available in the narthex for your donations of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and slipper socks for children/adults.



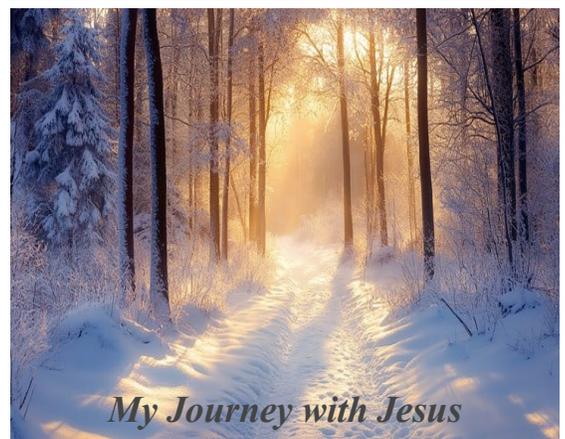
With the cold weather conditions we have been experiencing, the Shelter Service is working hard to provide food, warm clothing and beds for those in need.

Planning to do any cleaning out during the winter months...we will gladly take anything you may have to donate for the yard sale. While summer may seem far off, it will be here before we know it. Please make sure your items are in good, clean and usable condition. **No clothing or televisions PLEASE!** Donations can be placed on the stage. Thank you!!



Advent ended a few short weeks ago, but during these winter months, we will be looking toward this year's season. Even though preparing for the devotional begins in September, it has become challenging to have it completed in time for the first Sunday in Advent. So, why not work on it when most of us are indoors and "hopefully" have the extra time to devote to writing a meditation.

The theme for this year is *My Journey with Jesus*. A sign-up will be placed in the narthex in the next few weeks.



# ***FEBRUARY SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **February 1**

**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger

**Greeters:** John and Denise Chester

**Lay Reader:** John Chester

**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester

**Sound System:** Ed Bilich

**Ushers:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger

## **February 8**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger

**Greeters:** Don and Rosalie Smith

**Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich

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

**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy

**Ushers:** Sue Lynch and Joe Kanagy

## **February 15**

**Elevator:** Jim Buchanan

**Greeters:** Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

**Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan

**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler

**Sound System:** Calvin Byler

**Ushers:** Carol Fultz and Nancy Penepacker

## **February 22**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy

**Greeters:** Jay and Joy Byler

**Lay Reader:** Joe Kanagy

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

**Sound System:** Jay Byler

**Ushers:** Jay and Joy Byler

**Altar Care** ~ Michele Harshbarger

**Altar Flower Delivery** ~ Michele Harshbarger

**Bulletin Delivery** ~ Randy Harshbarger

### **Please remember:**

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

**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.**

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**Minutes of the December 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, November 13,2025 at 6:30 pm in the blue room.

**Present:** Pastor Mike Sigler, President Carol FultzSue Lynch, Jim Buchanan, Michele Harshbarger, Joe Kanagy and Nancy Penepacker.

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz

**Devotions: Nancy Penepacker** led devotions.

The devotion schedule for 2024 is:

February –Sue Lynch

March –Jim Buchanan

April –Joe Kanagy

May –Nancy Penepacker

June – Steve Cleck

July & August – no meetings

September –Jim Buchanan

October –Sue Lynch

November – Joe Kanagy

December – Nancy Penepacker

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the 11/13/25 meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Pastor Sigler and seconded by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports:**

The financial reports were presented

St. John's – A motion to accept the church financial report was made by Pastor and seconded by Joe Kanagy . Motion carried.

St. John's Daycare – A motion to accept the daycare financial report was made by Michele Harshbagerand seconded by Nancy Penepacker . Motion carried.

**Pastor's report was presented**

**Committee Reports:**

**Cemetery** - Nancy-nothing to report

**Christian Ed**– Michele- nothing to report

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

**Finance** – Jim- Nothing to report

**Music & Worship** – Pastor-Sharon Wyland to sing Christmas Eve

Need Usher list to collect offering

Christmas decorating went well

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

Property- Joe—need to check how much oil in tank

Bulb to be replaced on steeple

Need updates on bathroom and front sign for Congregational Meeting

**Social Ministry** – Sue- will do refreshments for Congregational Meeting

**Need to meet to set up next meal delivery**

**Make effort to get a room at a church in Mifflin County for food pantry**

**And clothing. To be discussed at monthly Juniata Conference Jan.26**

**Missions** – Michele-ELCA Ministries will match donation

\$500 will be donated

**Old Business:**

**Church Phone Tree-OOMA-still working on it**

**New Business:**

Christmas Eve offering-to Camp Mt Luther and church to match

Tablet for Security Cameras-Pay Joe Kanagy \$284 for IPAD

Motion to pay Joe by Pastor and seconded Sue Lynch

Council Installation-Jan.4

Ed to present budget for congregation meeting

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 8,2026 at 6:30 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

**Michele Harshbarger**

**Secretary**

# St. John's Lutheran Church

## FEBRUARY

### 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p><b>9:00am</b> <i>Worship</i></p> <p><b>10:15am</b> <i>Sunday school</i></p>	<p><b>Looking Ahead</b></p> <p>March 8 ~ Daylight Saving Time begins            March 20 ~ Spring begins            March 29 ~ Palm Sunday</p>						
1 Holy Communion	2 <b>FORECASTING PHL</b> 	3	4 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Hand bells 7:00pm Choir reh.	5 9:30am Comfort Knotting (weather permitting)	6	7	
8 Congr. meeting information available in member mailboxes	9	10	11 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Hand bells 7:00pm Choir reh.	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13	14 <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 	
15 Transfig. of Our Lord Holy Communion	16 	17 6:30pm Property Committee Meeting	18 10:30am Bible Study 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 9:30am Comfort Knotting (weather permitting)	20	21	
22 First Sunday in Lent Congr Meeting following worship	23	24	25 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Hand bells 7:00pm Choir reh.	26	27	28	