

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 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

Several years ago, HBO developed a television series entitled ROME. Having been an ancient history major in college, I didn't want to miss an episode. I read that the set alone cost somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 million dollars to construct but, after two year run the program was cancelled. For the most part it seemed to reflect accurately the time of Julius Caesar and Augustus who followed him.

I remember in one scene the mother of Augustus (born Octavian), whose name was Atia. In the scene she was looking in what in those days was a mirror. However, in the ancient world they could not perfect the convex curves of a mirror like we can today so that when people saw their reflection in a mirror it was distorted. Lips were more pronounced, as was a nose, and just about everything else on your face that you might want to look at.

I suppose the ancients did the best they could with these distortions. I was struck by the scene the first time I saw it and have thought about it from time to time. I myself do not like looking in a mirror. I don't particularly like what I see. My face is fatter than it was when I was a teenager. My hair color has changed from white when I was a child, to blond, to brown, to grey and now with some white mixed in it. In my life I have covered much of the rainbow! And then there are these unwelcome little annoying cyst-like things that grow wherever they seem to want. My eyes look shady and untrustworthy, although I don't see myself being that way. I don't like to look at myself in the mirror nor am I alone in this. For many people looking in a mirror reveals an ugliness that they would much prefer to ignore or deny.

Moreover, we all know that we could well use a mirror like the ancient Romans possessed, because in a sense, to see ourselves in a mirror is to see how we have become distorted by sin which bends and twists our image in ways that we were not created to be. Sin distorts who we are as children of God. I wonder if this is why so many people opt out of looking themselves in the mirror. Pancake makeup can only cover over so much. What we see is what we know we were not meant to be.

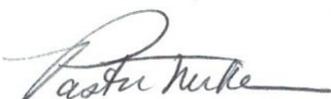
In this Lenten season that is now upon us, I would turn our attention to what the ancient prophet Isaiah said about Him who would in his forgiveness repair our distorted lives. In the 53rd chapter of Isaiah he says this about the Christ we confess as Son of God:

"Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:4-5).

When God looks upon our image, He sees us as those whom he deems worthy of His love. He sees us as being created in His own image, made righteous by the suffering death of His Son, Jesus on the cross at Golgotha. Jesus took upon himself all the sin that so distorts and mars us in our relationship with God and one another. In taking upon himself our sin, he reflects back to us the forgiveness which he came to this earth to bestow upon us.

So the next time you look yourself in the mirror, behind the shadow of our human sinfulness is the image of what God sees in us and that is, that we are declared to be of infinite worth, a priceless treasure in the eyes of God.

In Christ,



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 02/26/2026  
 \$ 34,450.07

January 1 through February 26, 2026

Income \$ 67,013.81 Expense \$ 39,017.64  
 Net Income \$ 27,996.17

\* 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**

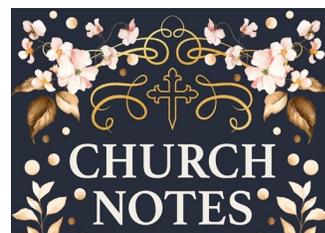
Checking account balance 02/26/2026  
 \$ 11,255.61

January 1 through February 26, 2026

Income \$ 68,324.15 Expense \$ 63,595.04  
 Net Income \$ 4,729.11



Set your clocks ahead one hour  
 Daylight Saving Time Begins  
 Sunday, March 8



March is a five Sunday month, and all loose offering on the 29th will be directed to St. John’s Discretionary Fund. If you prefer to give by check or with your weekly offering, please notate “Discretionary” on the memo line or envelope.

At the February meeting, Council voted to direct this year’s Lenten offering to the Lumina Center in Lewistown. An envelope can be found in your box for Sunday, March 8.

Please note ~ church mailboxes were recently updated and some have been moved in order to remove/add members.

## IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

As many of you may already know, Rosemary Meyer is moving out of the area. Her last Sunday worshipping with us will be March 8. We thank God for the blessing of her presence in our lives and life of this church.

Her new address is ~

911 Vincent Way  
Apt # 106  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

She may also be contacted by phone or text at 412-260-2088.

We pray God's grace and blessing as she begins a new chapter in her life.

♥ YOU WILL ♥  
*be missed*

The Social Ministry Committee is hosting a Ham Pot Pie meal in the F.H. on Friday, March 13 at 5:30pm. **There is a sign-up in the narthex for anyone planning to attend.** Please feel free to bring family your members. An invitation has also been extended to the daycare staff and their families, as well as our daycare families.

Along with the pot pie will be coleslaw, rolls and desserts. There will also be hotdogs and mac and cheese for the children or anyone else who may prefer it.

We hope you will come to enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship.

The Shelter service is offering a paid position to an individual to help them serve the homeless. They are looking for a night support staff member during the hours midnight to 8am. The paid position will be three nights a week at \$14.40 an hour.

If you are aware of anyone who is looking to supplement their income and get paid to minister to the homeless, please pass this along to them. For questions or more information call 717-248-0102.

Thank you for your help.

*Jane E. Neff,*  
Executive Director, Shelter Service, Inc.

**If you are the "last person" in an area/room of the church, please be responsible and turn the lights out.** While this happens periodically, lately it has become **more and more frequent.**

So, if you are the only/last person in the basement, blue room, sanctuary/altar area, narthex, elevator areas, fellowship hall, kitchens, restrooms and hallways, **please take a few seconds to make sure the lights are turned off before leaving.** Thank you!!



Thank you to those persons who have begun bringing us their yard sale items. If you too are cleaning out/downsizing or just looking to get rid of things you no longer use or need, we are glad for ANYTHING in clean, usable condition.

**Reminder ~ No televisions or clothing! Please place donations on the stage. Thank you!!**



***Every day, God grants us  
the precious gift of time.  
Yet every day,  
it is squandered with  
selfish, petty concerns.  
Don't let the pettiness  
of others and life  
prevent you from  
enjoying God's plenty.***



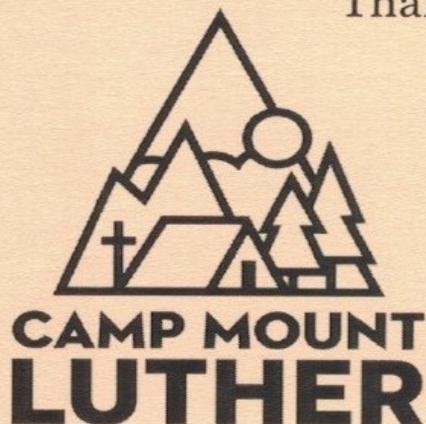
MARCH 11-12, 2026

# CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

is once again participating in Raise the Region and we need YOUR support! Your donations made through [raisetheregion.org](http://raisetheregion.org) will help Camp Mount Luther continue to provide quality spiritual formation, outdoor adventure, intentional community, and leadership development experiences for people of all ages. The more donors and donations we raise the better our chances of receiving incentives, stretch dollars, and awards!

Please go to [raisetheregion.org](http://raisetheregion.org) March 12 at 6pm through March 13 at 11:59pm to make your contribution.

Thank you for your generosity!



[campmountluther.org](http://campmountluther.org)  
355 Mt Luther Ln, Mifflinburg PA 17844  
[cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)  
(570) 922-1587



At the February meeting, Council voted to direct this year's Lenten offering to the Lumina Center. An envelope can be found in your box for March 8.

About the LUMINA Center  
Lewistown United Ministries In Neighborhood Action

LUMINA Center is a Community Center for all; regardless of income, age, religion or culture; whose mission is to serve the needs of the children, youth and families of Mifflin County in the name of Jesus Christ.

We accomplish this mission through partnerships with local community members, churches and organizations, which enable us to offer FREE programming to our local families, providing support in areas of educational academics, emotional and mental health, as well as spiritual growth.

Our programs offer opportunities for service, life skill training, values exploration, leadership development, as well as recreational and social activities.



**16th ANNUAL  
BENEFIT  
AUCTION**

**LUMINA Center**



**MARCH 7, 2026  
AT 8:30 AM**

**PREVIEW AND GIFT BASKET SILENT AUCTION:  
FRI, March 6 from 1-8 PM & SAT, March 7 from 7:30-8:30 AM**

**CALL: 717-242-2888  
C: 717-247-8430**

**Soliciting New and gently used auctionable items.**  
**NO exercise equipment, used cloth-covered furniture,  
used mattresses or older TVs.**

**email: [execdirector@lumina-center.org](mailto:execdirector@lumina-center.org)**

# LUMINA CENTER NEWS

## MARCH support opportunities

CONTACT: 717-247-8430 or [execdirector@lumina-center.org](mailto:execdirector@lumina-center.org)

ADDRESS: PO BOX 1243, 18 E 3rd St, Lewistown, PA 17044

### \*FUNDRAISERS:

\*ANNUAL AUCTION – MARCH 7 at 8:30AM

\*SPAGHETTI DINNER – MARCH 19 from 4-7PM

AT: Milroy White Memorial Church - \$10 donation/adult

\*2025-26 LUMINA RESTAURANT DISCOUNT CARDS

\$10 each – good from Aug 31, 2025 to Aug 31, 2026

### \*MARCH 10:

FREE Coffeehouse 9AM

FREE Community Meal 11AM

### \*IN NEED OF:

DONATIONS FOR AUCTION, MARCH 7, 2026

New and used items of value

Gift baskets for silent auction

Home-made hobby items

Gift cards

### \*PRAYER HIGHLIGHT:

Regular committed financial partners à

Our 501c3 is funded by local community supporters. Our ability to make necessary building upgrades AND grow our programs for Mifflin County children and youth is dependent on the support of our community. Please consider becoming a committed partner.

# ***MARCH SERVICE SCHEDULE***

## **March 1**

**Elevator:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Greeters:** Nancy Penepacker and Gabe Clark  
**Lay Reader:** Erica Hargenrader  
**Money Counters:** John and Denise Chester  
**Sound System:** Ed Bilich  
**Ushers:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger

## **March 8**

**Elevator:** Randy Harshbarger  
**Greeter:** Ed Bilich  
**Lay Reader:** Ed Bilich  
**Money Counters:** Carol Fultz and Sue Lynch  
**Sound System:** Joe Kanagy  
**Ushers:** Sue Lynch and Joe Kanagy

## **March 15**

**Elevator:** Jim Buchanan  
**Greeters:** Ken and Nancy Wyland  
**Lay Reader:** Ken Wyland  
**Money Counters:** Jay and Joy Byler  
**Sound System:** Calvin Byler  
**Ushers:** Carol Fultz and Nancy Penepacker

## **March 22**

**Elevator:** Joe Kanagy  
**Greeters:** Mike and Michele Harshbarger  
**Lay Reader:** Mike Harshbarger  
**Money Counters:** Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy  
**Sound System:** Jay Byler  
**Ushers:** Jay and Joy Byler

## **March 29**

**Elevator:** Ed Bilich  
**Greeter:** Cindy Burk  
**Lay Reader:** Jami Zook  
**Money Counters:** Jami Zook and Mike Boring  
**Sound System:** Calvin Byler  
**Ushers:** Carol Fultz and Nancy Penepacker

**Altar Care** ~ Brenda Boring

**Altar Flower Delivery** ~ No altar flowers during Lent

**Bulletin Delivery** ~ Jim and Georgianna Buchanan

### **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*

## MARCH

### 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion	2 	3 	4 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Hand bells 7:00pm Choir reh.	5 9:30am Comfort Knotting (weather permitting)	6	7 Set clocks ahead 1 hour DST begins Sunday
8 	9	10	11 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Hand bells 7:00pm Choir reh.	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13 5:30pm Ham Pot Pie Dinner in FH	14
15 Holy Communion	16	17 6:30pm Property Comm. Mtg. 	18 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Hand bells 7:00pm Choir reh.	19 9:30am Comfort Knotting (weather permitting)	20 	21
22	23	24	25 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Hand bells 7:00pm Choir reh.	26	27	28
29 Palm Sunday All loose offering directed to Discretionary Fund	30	31	Looking Ahead April 2 ~ 7:00pm Maundy Thursday worship April 3 ~ 7:00pm Good Friday service April 5 ~ Easter Day			<i>Worship</i> <i>9:00am</i> <i>10:15am</i> <i>Sunday School</i>

## St. John`s Lutheran Church

### Minutes of the January 8, 2026 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 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the blue room.

**Present:** Pastor Mike Sigler, President Carol Fultz, Sue Lynch, Jim Buchanan, Joe Kanagy, Nancy Penepacker, Steve Cleck

The meeting was called to order by Carol Fultz

#### **Devotions:**

The devotion schedule for 2026 is

February—Sue Lynch

March—Jim Buchanan

April Joe Kanagy

May—Nancy Penepacker

June—Steve Cleck

September—Jim Buchanan

October—Sue Lynch

November—Joe Kanagy

December—Nancy Penepacker

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from the 12/8/25 meeting was presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Pastor Mike and seconded by Nancy Penepacker. Motion carried.

**Financial Reports:**

**The Financial reports were presented**

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 Nancy Penepacker and seconded by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Cemetery**---Joe Nothing to report

**Christian Ed/Youth:** Nothing to report

**Day Care:** Carol –Director provided a report

**Finance**---Jim

**Music and Worship**—Nancy

**Mutual Ministry**—Nancy: Nothing to report

**Evangelism- Missions**—Steve

**Property**—Joe—The 3 windows have been installed: the drywall in the bathroom downstairs has been hung and taped:

**Daycare Report was presented**

**Old Business:**

New Church Phone Tree-and prayer Chain being worked on

Pickle ball in Fellowship Hall by ED, Releases need to be signed

Hand Bells-Wednesdays 6pm-7pm then Choir 7pm-8pm

**New Business:** Congregational Meeting February 22, 2026 service in sanctuary meeting in FH

**Contract extension for Pastor**—Motion made by Nancy and seconded by Sue

A motion to Pay Effriem \$10,000 for progress work in the bathroom, from the Maintenance and Supply account, was made by Pastor Mike, and seconded by Steve Cleck

A motion to donate \$200 for the Meat Canning project was made by Joe and seconded by Sue

There being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the Lord's prayer. Next meeting will be February 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Kanagy, Secretary

## **Daycare February Council Meeting Report**

### **Enrollment ~ 50**

We currently have 4 of our daycare families expecting another child this year. They have all reserved their spot in the infant room. We have a waiting list of children for the younger classrooms which are full. We are hoping to enroll as children are able to move into older age appropriate classes.

### **Staff ~ 12 staff (one is a part-time college student)**

One of the college students we employed over the summer helped out over the Christmas break, and is planning to return again this summer. Two college students have expressed interest in working during the summer. They will be interviewed for the summer school-age teacher position in the coming months.

### **Fundraisers**

The annual yard sale is scheduled to be held again in August. Donations are being accepted and can be placed on the stage.

### **Faith's House of Hope**

Faith Bollinger was a beautiful Down Syndrome girl who attended our school age summer program. She died at the age of 12 in 2021. Following her death, Faith's House of Hope has been raising funds for local Mifflin County programs that nurture and support child development. St. John's Christian Daycare and Preschool was selected as the 2025 recipient, and awarded \$1,700.00. The funds are to be used to purchase equipment and/or services which will benefit the staff/children.

We recently purchased a set of good walkie-talkies so the staff can communicate with each other whether they are in or outside the building.

### **Pre-K Counts**

The funding increase which was included in the budget amounted to a little over \$5,000.00 and the state strongly encouraged it be used for teacher salaries/benefits, and/or classroom aide salaries to encourage employee retention.

Out of the 22 spots we have available for the 2026-27 school year, there are 16 already filled with returning children, and enrolled children who will qualify for the program. This will leave only 6 spots to fill, which is an excellent start.



*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 5th.*

In memory of

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In honor of

---

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Given by

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**Please return this form along with your donation to the church by Sunday, March 29**