

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 2026



Remembering God's grace in our lives, let us reflect, remember and pray with deep gratitude for all that has been sacrificed for us, by those who laid their lives down for the sake of our freedom.

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

In these Sundays after Easter the Gospel texts for our worship services focus on the resurrection appearances of Christ to his disciples. There is a common theme woven throughout the fabric of every one of these appearances of our Lord. Following his dramatic appearance and the disciples' startled reaction to them, Jesus sends them to go forth in his name. The very purpose of his appearing before them is not to dazzle them but rather to empower them to make disciples in his name, just as they are his disciples.

I hear a great deal of conversation these days about the "successful church." Quite frankly, I still am not sure what that might mean in our results oriented culture. I prefer to speak of the church needing to be "faithful" to her Lord. One thing I am certain of is that being faithful involves us reaching out to others by way of invitation to make them disciples of Christ. That is our calling. Everything that the church does and says ought to be focused around making disciples. That is the very reason for our existence as a church in the first place.

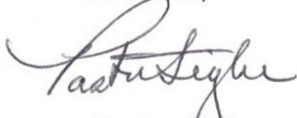
The Christian church is a gift, a visitation from the risen Christ. He is our Lord, who despite any and every obstacle to the contrary, enters into our locked chambers and calls us from behind dark places where we gather, huddled together in fear, and in standing in the very midst of us, says: "Peace be with you!" Then he sends us out into the world; into the streets and neighborhoods and communities where we live so that others may receive the same grace, mercy, and forgiveness that we have received and receive still.

A faithful church will WANT others to receive the blessings we have received. A faithful church will WANT other people to join with us, and us with them in fellowship. A faithful church will be determined in its ministry not to sit back and wait for others to come to us, but rather to take the initiative to be on the move, ever extending ourselves to the farthest reaches so that Christ will be named to one and all.

I am more convinced now than ever before that evangelism should be the number one priority of our congregation and all the Lutheran congregations in the church. Moreover, I believe that where we are faithful in our evangelistic efforts, the other aspects of the church's ministry will be strong and vibrant as well.

There is someone who lives near you, perhaps beside you or just down the street or across the street and a few doors down from where you live who does not have a church home. Invite them to worship with you. There is someone who lives around you or even perhaps is a member of your family who is waiting for an invitation. All people need the love of Christ in their lives, Speak a good word to them about your faith in Christ. We need to trust the Holy Spirit that we will be used by God to proclaim Christ. In that, we are no different than the early disciples and apostles who were sent into every peopled place in the world. After all, offering people the peace of Christ, the gift of the Holy Spirit and the forgiveness and healing which God promises is what it means to be the church! And that involves you!

In Christ,



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 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

**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 04/28/2026
 \$ 28,572.88

January 1 through April 28, 2026

Income \$ 100,877.28 Expense \$ 78,303.64
 Net Income \$ 22,573.64

* 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 04/28/2026
 \$ 13,310.87

January 1 through April 28, 2026

Income \$ 141,692.75 Expense \$ 135,296.94
 Net Income \$ 6,395.81



The Pastor will be away Friday, May 15 through Monday, May 18. There will be NO communion on the 17th. Holy Communion will be held on Sunday, May 3, Pentecost Sunday, May 24 and Holy Trinity Sunday, May 31.

Hand Bell practice is finished for the remainder of spring/summer. It will resume again in the fall. The choir will continue to rehearse at 6:30pm (note time change) on Wednesdays. They will sing on Pentecost Sunday, take a break for the summer, and resume again in September.

The next newsletter will be the summer edition, covering June, July and August. Please make sure any committee or other pertinent information you would like to include is handed in by Tuesday, May 26.

This year’s Synod Assembly is being held on Saturday, June 6 at Camp Mt. Luther. Attending are Michele Harshbarger, Pastor Sigler and Karen. The theme is *Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow*.

IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Valley View Haven is in need of volunteers!

The areas they could most use help with are in-house transportation of residents to and from beauty shop appointments (M-F 8am-4pm) and Sunday chapel services (9:30am). Volunteers do not need to sign-up for an entire day; any amount of time given would be extremely helpful!

There are also opportunities available helping with activities, Café or Memory Lane unit. They currently have a resident in Memory Lane who has her own sewing machine, and would love to have a volunteer assist her with sewing projects.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Wendy Garlock at 717-935-2105 ext 1523 or email her at WGARLOCK@VVRCONLINE.ORG

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!!



With Heartfelt Thanks!

April, 2026

Dear friends,

This is a belated thank you to the members of St. John's. I really appreciated the farewell for me on my last Sunday in March.

Your kindness and well wishes made my day!

It has been exhausting to move again after only 4 1/2 years in Belleville. However, I am happy in my new place.

Thank you for all you did to make me feel welcome. I miss you and think of you often.

Please to all,

Rosemary Meyer

*911 Vincent Way #106
Pittsburgh, PA 15237*

The Social Ministry committee is hosting a Mother/Father Brunch on Sunday, June 14 immediately following the service. Everything is being provided, and there will be a variety of breakfast casseroles, fruit salad and pastries to enjoy. **A sign-up will be available in the narthex on Sunday, May 10 for anyone planning to attend.**



Social Ministry



The committee is preparing/delivering meals once again to our shut-ins and older members on Saturday, May 16. A letter will be mailed ahead of time to those receiving the meals. If you would like to be added the list please contact the church office.

BELLEVILLE LIONS CLUB

— IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE —
PENNS CREEK CHAPTER OF



TROUT STOCKING NOTICE



The **Belleville Lions Club**, in partnership with the **Penns Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited**, has stocked trout in Belleville from the **Route 655 bridge** to the **Walnut Street bridge**.

FISHING RESTRICTIONS
APRIL 4 - JUNE 6

During this period, fishing is permitted only for individuals with disabilities and children ages 12 and under.



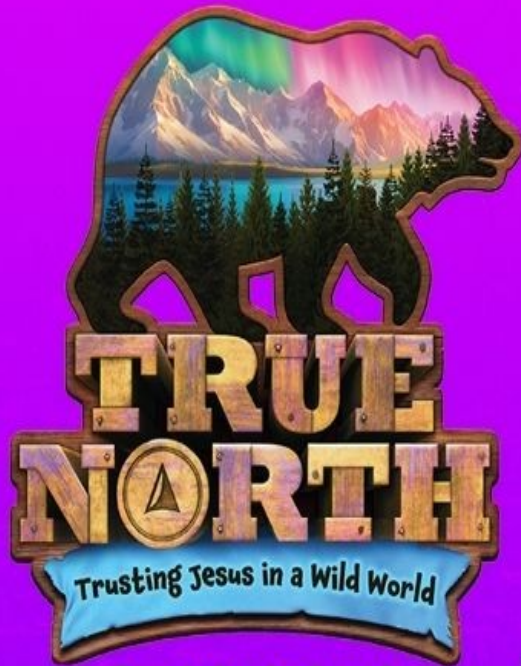
Signs have been posted along the creek banks throughout the designated area.



Council voted to direct our Lenten donations this year to the Lumina Center. A check in the amount of \$995.00 was recently mailed to them.

Other Ways to Help

- ◇ Pray for our ministry, staff, volunteers and students
- ◇ Volunteer time
- ◇ Monthly Ham Sandwich Sale \$4.00/each
- ◇ Restaurant Discount Cards - \$10/each
- ◇ Sponsor a Child for Afterschool Program - \$80/week
- ◇ Sponsor a Child for Summer Camp - \$200/student
- ◇ Annual Benefit Auction in March



Donate by check made payable/mailed to:
LUMINA Center,
PO Box 1243, E 3rd Street
Lewistown 17044
or PayPal <https://bit.ly/LUMINAKids>



PayPal



We believe that every child deserves the experience of Rainbow Summer. Your sponsorship today ensures that can happen.



United Way
of Miller Junction

SPONSOR A CHILD

We aim for 126 students/summer

your gift of

\$200

covers 2 weeks of camp

VBS on steroids



The church will once again pay fees for any child who would like to attend the camp this summer. Flyers can be found in the narthex and more information is available at www.campmountluther.org.

Work Day is Saturday, May 16th beginning at 9am to get camp ready for summer! There will be projects for all ages and abilities. Be sure to register to RSVP for you/your family to be included in the lunch count. For additional information or to sign up call 570-922-1587 or email cml@campmountluther.org.



Annual Work Day

*We need your help!
Together, let's
spruce up camp for
the summer.*

**RSVP by
May 11**



**May 16
9 AM to 1 PM
LUNCH PROVIDED**

Earlier this year, two families in the Belleville/Allensville area lost their homes and belongings to house fires. Our Knotters group reached out to both with the gift of an adult and child's comfort, along with gift cards from our church's discretionary fund. Pictured below is Tyler Whitsel, holding one of the comforts, and the following page is a letter of appreciation for the outpouring of love and help his family received from the community. The other family were Amish, and although a picture could not be taken, they too, expressed how very, very grateful they were for the comforts, gifts cards, and help from within the community.

'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'
Matthew 25:40



I'm not very good with words but here it goes ...Just like every other human I have hit some low points in my life, and I've been praying to the good lord all day that there's a reason he pushed me to my lowest that evening. For those of you who haven't heard, our lives were forever altered in the matter of what seemed like seconds. We were enjoying an evening of birthday celebrations at my Aunt's house, when I heard the most gut wrenching words my grandmothers ever said after receiving a phone call, "Tyler your houses on fire" everything is pretty much a blur from that moment forward but I ran to my truck with so many things running through my mind. Being only a few miles from my home I thought if I hurried i could do something. Shortly after pulling out of my aunts driveway another cousin called me, as soon as I answered he said "what do you want me to pull out of your garage?" I said "don't worry about the garage, open the door and let the dogs out". He said "it's gone man, your house is gone" all I could say was no no no it can't be. I got there seconds later and I could feel the heat before I even pulled into my driveway coming through my truck. I bought my home in 2015, from my grandparents. I loved raising my family there just like they did. I worked tirelessly night after night paycheck to paycheck to remodel almost everything. It wasn't perfect but it was mine. It wasn't just a house it was my pride and joy. I was proud of it and what I had been able to transform it into. Watching it fall and burn to nothing was like watching my right arm burn and helplessly not being able to do anything about it. Along with irreplaceable guns, deer horns, and pictures we lost our four doggies. Angus, Stella, Mitsy and Macie. I feel like every second I think of something else that will now just be a memory.

But with all that anger and disbelief I felt last night, the sun came up today. Immediately the amount of calls, texts, and people stopping by became to much for us to keep up with. We were surrounded by so many family, friends, and neighbors. Everyone doing all they could to help us through the most difficult time of my life. I will forever be grateful to each and every one of you that have reached out, donated, or shared our story. I will never be able to thank you all enough for everything you have done. We have tried to keep up with writing things down to somehow someday thank you all for getting us through. I know we missed some and I hope this message gets to you. Thank you. Thank you to the brave firefighters who did all they could, thank you to the random strangers who stopped by with supplies. Thank you to the countless church's. Thank you to the most amazing family that I'm so blessed to have. Thank you to the friends who have reached out, and thank you to the organizations that see this everyday and devote their time to making things a little easier. Within 24 hours us and our kids have been blessed with enough resources to face another day and move forward towards a restart. I pride myself on being independent and self reliant, but with no other choice you all have made me realize there is amazing people left out there that with no hesitation pull people back onto their feet. Again we will forever be grateful for all of you we are all safe and we are all full because of you all. We love you, and no words I have will be enough to show you that. I wish I could tag you all but I could never get everyone. So I ask one more favor of you, please share this post or pass along our thanks from my family to yours it isn't much and I wish I could thank you more but this is all I know to do right now. Forever grateful to have each and everyone of you.

MAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

May 3

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeters: Ken and Nancy Wyland
Lay Reader: Ken Wyland
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Ed Bilich
Ushers: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

May 10

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeters: Jay and Joy Byler
Lay Reader: Ed Bilich
Money Counters: Carol Fultz and Sue Lynch
Sound System: Joe Kanagy
Ushers: Sue Lynch and Joe Kanagy

May 17

Elevator: Jim Buchanan
Greeter: Joe Kanagy
Lay Reader: Joe Kanagy
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Calvin Byler
Ushers: Carol Fultz and Nancy Penepacker

May 24

Elevator: Joe Kanagy
Greeter: Jami Zook
Lay Reader: Jami Zook
Money Counters: Randy Harshbarger and Joe Kanagy
Sound System: Jay Byler
Ushers: Jay and Joy Byler

May 31

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

Altar Care ~ Nancy Penepacker

Altar Flower Delivery ~ Nancy Penepacker

Bulletin Delivery ~ John and Brenda Boring

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 March 19 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, March 19, 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 Vice President, Nancy Penepacker

Devotions:

Schedule for 2026

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 of the February 19 Meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Pastor Mike and seconded by Jim Buchanan. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report was presented.

Financial Reports:

The Financial reports were presented

St. John's----A motion to accept the church financial report was made by Sue Lynch, and properly seconded by Steve Cleck. Motion carried.

St John's Daycare---A motion to accept the daycare financial report was made by Joe Kanagy, and properly seconded by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery---Joe---Nothing

Christian Ed---Carol---Nothing

Daycare—Carol---Report Presented

Finance—Jim—Audit has been done

Evangelism/Mission—Steve---Nothing

Music/Worship---Nancy—Holy week will b

Mutual Ministry---Nancy—Nothing

Property—Joe—Bathroom done but for
Vanity.

Social Ministry---Sue

Old Business:

New Church Phone Tree and prayer chain still in the works

Pastor wants to get committees up and running

New Business:

Easter Offering--- A motion was made for loose offering to the Lumina Center, in Lewistown,
by

Sue and seconded by Steve. Motion carried

Social Ministry is planning a Ham Pot Pie dinner March 13 in Fellowship Hall for church
members and daycare

Discussion on the Big Valley Ministerium Fund; to close it out, being \$1700 still there, will be
divided between the seven churches. A Motion made by Joe and seconded by Sue. Motion
carried.

Synod Assembly will be attended by Nancy Penepacker and Michel Harshbarger June 6

There being no further discussion, the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Kanagy, Secretary

Daycare April Council Meeting Report

Enrollment ~ 50

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

Fundraisers

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

Pre-K Counts

Advertised and are interviewing qualified candidates for the teacher position in our 10 slot Pre-K Counts
classroom. Current teacher, Alicia Hartzler will be finished in June.





DHS

Our annual inspection will be in May. Working hard to make sure we are ready.

St. John's Lutheran Church

MAY

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday school	Looking Ahead Friday, June 6 ~ Synod Assembly Sunday, June 14 ~ Mother/Father Brunch June 29 through July 7 ~ Pastor taking time off				1	2
3 Holy Communion	4	5	6 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	7 9:30am Comfort Knitting	8	9
10  Mothers Day	11	12	13 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	14 6:30pm Council Meeting 	15 Pastor away through Monday	16 Social Ministry delivering meals
17	18	19 6:30pm Property Committee	20 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir rehearsal	21 9:30am Comfort Knitting	22	23
24 Pentecost Holy Comm. <hr/> 31 Holy Trinity Holy Comm.	25 Memorial Day 9:30~Parade DC/Office Closed	26 	27 10:30am Bible Study	28 6:30pm Daycare Preschool Graduation 	29	30