

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

NOVEMBER 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
Website ~ stjohnsbelleville.org



Pastor's Page

FACES. Faces, like almost everything else, can be looked at and not seen. Going to a baseball game in Philadelphia to watch my team, the Phillies, for instance. There are 45,000 people there at that game, but they might as well be balloons for all that you notice them individually. Here and there one of them might catch your eye, if only for a moment, but in another moment you have forgotten their face. Faces unknown to you are without personalities, without a history with you. There is nothing to remember them by. They are anonymous strangers.

But the odds are that for at least one other person somewhere in the world, each one of them—even the unlikeliest—matters enormously. The boy with pimples, sitting there eating a box of popcorn, the old man over there in a faded baseball cap, or the woman with a Phillies T-shirt who has no teeth, at least as far as you can see, and then there is that blond you keep looking at between innings...if you set your mind to it, there is hardly a one that you can't imagine somebody LOVING them.

What if the heavy set girl was your kid sister, or the old man your grandfather, or the kid with acne who is someone's son, that toothless woman happened to be your first great love in life. Each human face you see has the power to make at least one other person's heart skip a beat or two.

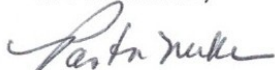
St. Paul, interestingly enough, says to the Corinthians that one day, when all is said and done, we will stand before the Lord God Almighty who created us and, Paul says, we will stand before Him face to face. How interesting it is to me that Paul would use this imagery. We will look at the face of God and God will look upon ours. And on that great day, God will love the face He has given us, and we will be given the unimaginable privilege of beholding what God looks like as well. Face to face.

The first Sunday of November, each and every year, is All Saints Sunday. It is one of my favorite Sundays in the year when we remember all the saints who have gone before us who now rest from their labors; all those who have lived and died in the faith of Christ. They, and one day we also, shall gather around the throne of God to behold the Lord. His promise to us is that He will also know us! Face to face shall we be with the Lord.

The next time you are in a crowd with nothing much to do, look around you and spend a little time looking into the faces of others. Each one is different. Each one unique but if and when you do, remind yourself that God created that face, just as he did yours and all are loved in the same way by the same God.

And let us rejoice that for all the saints of God, who from their labors rest, there awaits that great gathering in the Kingdom of God and the face we most want to see will be Him who for our sakes, died and rose from death so that we might see Him in His glory, as we shall be made also in His likeness. May Jesus Christ be praised!

In His name,



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

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 10/22/2026
 \$ 9,928.85

January 1 through October 22, 2026

Income \$ 176,918.89 Expense \$ 173,181.23
 Net Income \$ 3,737.66

*Does not include end of month income/expenses
 and Sunday 10/25 deposit.

Daycare Financial Report

Checking account balance 10/22/2026
 \$ 7,651.59

January 1 through October 22, 2026

Income \$ 333,820.15 Expense \$ 336,353.96
 Net Income \$ -2,533.81

*Does not include end of month income/expense.



Holy Communion will be observed on All Saints, November 1st and again on Sunday, November 22nd which is Christ the King. There will be no communion on the 15th.

There will be no Bible study, Hand bell or choir rehearsal on Wednesday, November 25th They will resume again on December 2.

Our congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 13 following the worship service. Information will be available in member mailboxes on Sunday, November 29.



Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex for anyone who would like to place Altar flowers next year. We will once again refrain from using them during Lent beginning Sunday, February 14 through Palm Sunday, March 21.

Please remember to notate whether you would like to keep the flowers or have them delivered. At this time, the cost will remain at \$40.00.



The Social Ministry committee is hosting a Thanksgiving meal following the worship service on Sunday, November 22. They are providing the meat, gravy, beverages and paper products. You are asked to bring a hot or cold side dish or dessert to share.

Sign-ups for those planning to attend along with the side dish/dessert can be found in the narthex. Please invite family, friends or neighbors to come enjoy this time of good food and fellowship.

The Knotters group decided to once again donate their comforts to the Shelter Service in Lewistown. Donated were 28 comforts and 23 small lap/baby quilts, with 5 of each kept in reserve for local use. At least 8-10 were given to families in need this past year.

Thank you to John and Brenda Boring for taking them in to the shelter, and Randy Harshbarger for helping to load them.

St. John's members donated a total of \$255.00 to support this mission, which will help LWR with the cost to ship comforts wherever they are needed most.



The 2027 birthday calendar will be completed this month. Any member who would like to add/remove persons to/from the calendar is asked to PLEASE contact the church office with the name(s) and birthdate(s) **by Sunday, November 8.**

Reminder ~ only the names of active members, along with persons they have requested to add will be included on the calendar.

The 2027 church service schedules are being compiled this month. **If you would like to help or no longer wish to serve, please contact the church office by Sunday, November 8.**

Volunteers are needed to greet, lay read, altar care, deliver weekly bulletins, elevator and help with the sound system.



IN OUR CHURCH and COMMUNITY



Advent begins on Sunday, November 29. Thank you to everyone who signed up to write the meditations for our devotional. If you have not already, please drop off or email your submission **by Sunday, November 1...PLEASE!**

The booklets will be available in the narthex on Sunday, November 22. If you know of others who would enjoy having one to use as part of their daily devotions, please feel free to take for them.

The *Mitten Tree* has been placed in the narthex for your donations of hats, mittens, gloves, scarves and slipper socks for children/adults.



St. John's is once again collecting items to fill shoeboxes. If you are interested in participating, boxes along with a list of suggested items can be found in the narthex. **Monetary donations are also needed to help cover the shipping cost.**

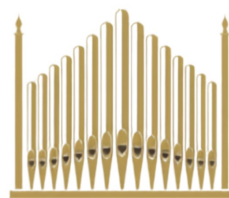
Please place your filled box on the table in the narthex by Saturday, November 14.



The West Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church is holding Community Luncheons on the first Monday of each month, starting at 11:30AM. RSVP required by the Sunday before, call 717-935-2337.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
120 N. Main St. - Lewistown

Handel's Messiah



Sunday, December 6th
3:00 PM

Conducted by Fred Benner
Patty Loudenslager - Organist

Rehearsals

Sundays at 3:00 PM
November 1st • 8th • 15th • 22nd • 29th

INTERESTED SINGERS ARE WELCOME

Please contact Fred Benner at:

drfbenner@gmail.com

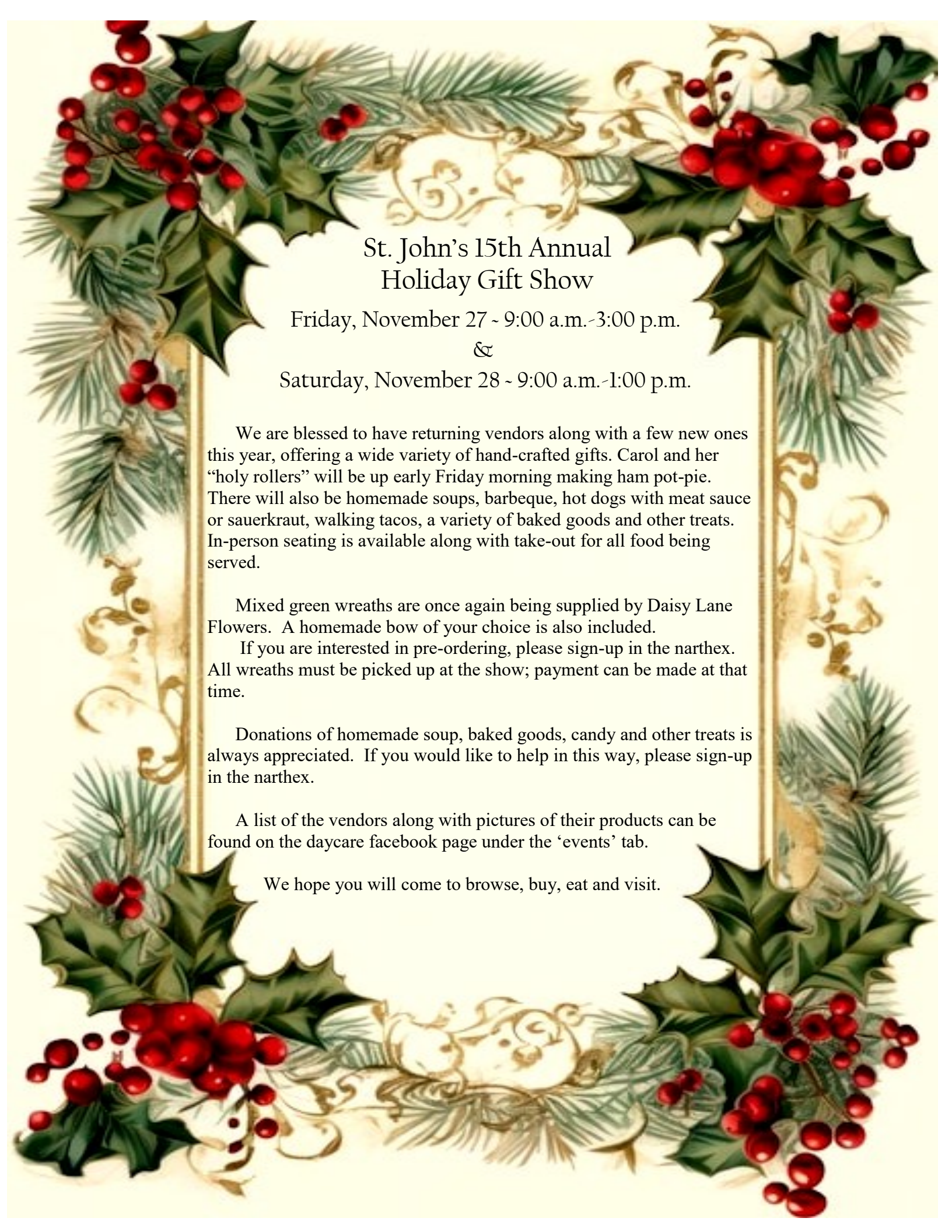
BIBLE STUDY



Let's Dig In together

Bible study is held weekly on Wednesdays in the blue room at 10:30am and 1:30pm. The morning session is finishing up Matthew and will be starting on Romans. The afternoon group is currently studying the book of Acts, and will soon move to the Gospel of John.

They are attended by members of St. John's, St. Paul, Allensville and others within our community. Please consider coming to one or both.



St. John's 15th Annual Holiday Gift Show

Friday, November 27 ~ 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

&

Saturday, November 28 ~ 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

We are blessed to have returning vendors along with a few new ones this year, offering a wide variety of hand-crafted gifts. Carol and her "holy rollers" will be up early Friday morning making ham pot-pie. There will also be homemade soups, barbeque, hot dogs with meat sauce or sauerkraut, walking tacos, a variety of baked goods and other treats. In-person seating is available along with take-out for all food being served.

Mixed green wreaths are once again being supplied by Daisy Lane Flowers. A homemade bow of your choice is also included.

If you are interested in pre-ordering, please sign-up in the narthex. All wreaths must be picked up at the show; payment can be made at that time.

Donations of homemade soup, baked goods, candy and other treats is always appreciated. If you would like to help in this way, please sign-up in the narthex.

A list of the vendors along with pictures of their products can be found on the daycare facebook page under the 'events' tab.

We hope you will come to browse, buy, eat and visit.

Molly Stroup and members of the Stroup family are honoring Susanne “Toot” Stroup this year by providing a home-cooked dinner in the fellowship hall for members of St. John’s and guests on Christmas day at 2:00pm. On the menu is ~

Turkey with filling and gravy
Mashed potatoes
Sweet potatoes
Baked corn
Green bean casserole
Cranberry sauce
Coffee, tea, lemonade and water

If you are alone, away from family or unable to prepare a traditional meal you are encouraged and welcome to come. There is no cost, but you may bring along Christmas cookies, a cake, pie or other dessert to share.

Feel free to invite anyone else who would also enjoy the food and fellowship. If planning to attend, please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office at 935-2032 by Sunday, December 8.



Christmas Dinner

Central Pennsylvania World Hunger Association

PO BOX 76
BELLEVILLE, PA. 17004

“Together we can”

The Central Pa World Hunger Association will be having their 52nd Annual Meat Canning Project at the Chief Logan Fire Company in Lewistown, Pa. (formally East Derry Fire Company) on February 15-19, 2027.

We would like to thank each person, group, church and business who have helped to support our project here in Central PA for the last 51 years. You have helped to produce 841,419 cans of product to date. With your help this 52nd year will again be a blessing to God's people.

We haven't decided on the amount, last year we did 40,000 lbs. of chicken, price of chicken is around \$1.40/lb. All monies come from your donations. We expect the total cost to be around \$94,000.00 again this year. The meat is shipped around the world to feed hungry people in places such as Ethiopia, Ukraine, Haiti and Chad. Up to 10% of the meat stays locally to support our local food pantries in Central PA. We work with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), and use their canner, but we receive no monies from them. Your contribution needs to be sent to our association to support the project.

If you or your group would like to help can the meat and, or label cans for shipping, you must contact Jesse Diem, 717-348-9577, Sylvanus Peachey (coordinator), 717-935-2511 or Jonathan Coldren (President), 717-250-6840, as soon as possible. We need to set an accurate schedule for those groups taking part in the project, a lot of our groups come quite a distance to help. Walk-ins are welcome.

If you, your church, or business would be willing to supply food or snacks to feed the workers, please call Laura Litwiller 717-543-3419, Sylvia Diem 717-543-8784(text please), Elizabeth Peachey 717-935-7433. We appreciate your help to accomplish this important part of the project.

You can help by supporting the project financially. There is always a great need for this meat, both locally and worldwide. Please take this opportunity to help in God's work to feed the needy.

Annual Kickoff Meal and Program is planned for Saturday, November 14, 2026, at the Locust Grove Mennonite Church. Time is set for 6:00 pm. There will be a speaker from MCC will talk about the mission fields and where the meat goes. Please think about attending and please RSVP to Jesse Diem, 717-348-9577, or Sylvanus Peachey 717-935-2511, for a count.

Thank you again for your contributions and prayers.
Donations can be sent to:

Central Pennsylvania World Hunger Association
P.O. Box 76
Belleville, Pa 17004

“Together we can”

Rick Esh ,Canning Secretary
717-667-2643, rickesh@embarqmail.com

NOVEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE

November 1

Elevator: Mike Harshbarger
Greeters: John and Brenda Boring
Lay Reader: Jami Zook
Money Counters: John and Denise Chester
Sound System: Ed Bilich
Ushers: Mike and Michele Harshbarger

November 8

Elevator: Randy Harshbarger
Greeters: Jim and Georgianna Buchanan
Lay Reader: Jim Buchanan
Money Counters: Carol Fultz and Sue Lynch
Sound System: Joe Kanagy
Ushers: Sue Lynch and Joe Kanagy

November 15

Elevator: Jim Buchanan
Greeter: Nancy Penepacker and Gabriel Clarke
Lay Reader: Erica Hargenrader
Money Counters: Jay and Joy Byler
Sound System: Calvin Byler
Ushers: Carol Fultz and Nancy Penepacker

November 22

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

November 29

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

Altar Care/Flower Delivery ~ Joy Byler

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

Minutes of the September 3, 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, September 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the blue room.

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

The meeting was called to order by President, Carol Fultz

Devotions:

October—Sue Lynch

November---Joe Kanagy

December---Nancy Penepacker

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 3 Meeting were presented. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Nancy Penepacker, and seconded by Joe Kanagy. 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 Nancy Penepacker, and properly seconded by Jim Buchanan. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Cemetery---Joe---Nothing

Christian Ed---Carol---Nothing

Daycare—Carol---Report Presented
budget

Finance—Jim—Meeting to get ready for

more person

Mutual Ministry—Replace Rosemary, one
Antiquities-- Susan Keller added

Evangelism/Mission—Steve— Working on church brochure and card

Property—Joe—Bathroom inspected and in use, replace windows in blue room, Seal parking lot

Social Ministry—Meals delivered on 9/19, Thanksgiving Terrine upcoming

Old Business:

New Church Phone Tree and prayer chain still in the works

Pastor has committees set up, congregational meeting 9/19 for sealing of parking lot

A motion was made by Sue Lynch and seconded by Nancy Pennepacker, to seal parking lot.
Motion carried.

New Business:

We sponsored 4 more students from Liberia, at a cost of \$1070, on a motion from Nancy Pennepacker and seconded by Steve Cleck. Motion carried.

Had discussion about replacing the old defibrillator cost: \$1600-2400 buying 2, giving the old one to day care. Placing one upstairs, and one in fellowship hall.

Advent devotionals; once again turned in November 1.

Gift show dates, Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28. Vendor setup Wednesday November 25

Our pest control was switched to Stoner Pest control from Perry Pest control on a motion from Nancy Pennepacker and seconded by Sue Lynch. Motion carried.

There being no further discussion the meeting was properly adjourned and closed with the Lord's prayer.

Next meeting October 8, 2026

Respectfully submitted, Joseph Kanagy, Secretary

Daycare September Council Meeting Report

Enrollment ~ 54

Our enrollment is up due to school being in session again, and several additions to our infant room. We have a waiting list, but cannot bring in anymore children until we can hire more staff.

Staff ~ 11 staff

Our part-time college students have returned to school, and our Pre K counts staff have returned. We are in desperate need of another full-time teacher and classroom aide.

Three of the centers in town have temporarily discontinued their school-age programs because they also cannot hire. We have been receiving calls from parents looking for after school care, but we can only accommodate the children we currently have enrolled.

Keystone STARS: Our yearly re-designation is coming up in October. We are currently a STAR 3 out of 4 and should remain at that level.

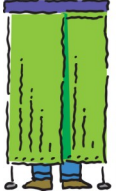
Fundraisers: Another successful yard sale, with \$3,000.00 being made. The Gifts Show is scheduled for Friday, November 27 and Saturday, November 28.

Pre-K Counts: The school year resumed on Monday, August 31. We currently have 20 of our Pre-K Counts slots out of 22 filled. Emilee Henson was hired to replace Alicia Hartzler. She has 10 Pre-K students, and Rosie Peachey has the blended classroom with 17 students (10 Pre-K Counts and 7 daycare children).

St. John's Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Holy Communion Daylight Saving Time Ends	2	3  Election Day	4 10:30am and 1:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Hand Bell practice 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	5 9:30am Comfort Knotting	6	7
8 Hand bells and Choir during worship	9	10 Nov 11 	11 10:30am and 1:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Hand Bell practice 7:00pm Choir rehearsal	12 6:30pm Council Meeting	13 	14
15	16	17 6:30pm Property Committee	18 10:30am and 1:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Hand Bell practice 7:00pm Choir	19 9:30am Comfort Knotting	20	21
22 Christ the King Holy Communion Thanksgiving Meal in F.H.	23	24 Gift Show set-up in Fellowship Hall	25 No Bible Study Bell/Choir rehearsals Gift Show set-up in F.H.	26 <i>Thanksgiving</i> 	27 9am-3pm Holiday Gift Show DC and church office closed	28 9am-1pm Holiday Gift Show
29 First Advent Decorating the church after worship	30	Looking Ahead Friday, December 11 ~ Belleville Christmas at Community Center Sunday, December 13 ~ Congregational Meeting Thursday, December 24 ~ 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Friday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day St. John's has Meals on Wheels ~ December 22, 29, 31				9:00am Worship 10:30am Sunday school

St. John's Poinsettia Order Form



*There is no set price again this year.
A variety will be purchased
and placed throughout the church.*

*Anyone placing poinsettias,
may take theirs home following
the Christmas Eve service.*

In memory of

In honor of

Given by

**Please return this form along with your donation
to the church by Sunday December 13th.**