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Salem (Belleman's) Church  
3540 Belleman's Church Road  
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8910

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



# Bell Notes

## *Salem (Belleman's) Church*

*3540 Belleman's Church Road  
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8910*

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*Church Office: Mon.-Thurs.  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.*

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*Services every Sunday at 7:45 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.*



*Rev. David W. Blitch, Pastor  
Linda Hartman, Director of Music Ministry  
James Fitterling, Administrator  
Church Office: 610-926-0461  
email: [salembellemans@frontiernet.net](mailto:salembellemans@frontiernet.net)  
\*\*Web Site: [www.bellemanschurch.org](http://www.bellemanschurch.org)\*\**



## Pastor's Ponderings

"He's wild you know. Not like a tame lion."  
That's one line in CS Lewis' The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe that I remember well. The Lion in question is Aslan. In the Chronicles of Narnia books, Aslan is the figure of Christ who is sentenced to die, rises again and restores peace, love and beauty to the Kingdom of Narnia. He is the Savior of Narnia.

But no matter how much good Aslan does, he is not tame. Neither do we have a tame savior in Jesus.

Taming something means that we are able to take control of it. We then can make it act in an acceptable way. A tame lion or elephant does tricks for us, a wild one eats or stomps us.

No one can control Jesus, not then and not now. Often Jesus took what was acceptable or expected from him and tossed it away. Whether it was cleansing the temple, working on the Sabbath, eating with sinners, Jesus often did what was wild, what was considered dangerous to the faith of his day. But Jesus combines wildness, with infinite goodness. We try to tame wildness because we are afraid it will harm us.

But with this wild Jesus, be not afraid.

What could be wilder than rising from the dead? What could be better for us than our salvation because he rose? Nothing could control Jesus, even the universal control that comes with death. Death did not tame Jesus, it made him wilder. It made him a savior.

The devil thought by killing Jesus, he could control Jesus. The devil was wrong.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

And as Easter falls on April Fools day, one more message:

As Jim Wallis has said:

On Easter morning, and each day of our lives, we celebrate the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which triumphs over every other reality. In the face of the world and its systems, we proclaim the resurrection, saying, "We have seen the Lord." We see him in the lives of our brothers and sisters. We discover him in the faces of the poor, in the faces of all the victims, and in the faces of our children. We see him in the lives of Christians who have suffered and died because they believed. And we see the

**Pastor Dave's contact info:**  
Phone: 484-663-4911  
Email: revblitch@msn.com

Lord in the bread and the wine. He shows us, as he did his disciples, the evidence of his suffering. He invites us to reach out, take, eat, and drink; he wants us to remember him, to see him, and to know his victory.

His way is life. The world's way is death. We can now stand before the world's false realities and securities, free to deny them, denounce them, and remove ourselves from them. We stand before the reality of the resurrection and confess with the first disciples that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

We stand before the world as fools. We are foolish enough to believe that Jesus' way is stronger and truer than the way of the world. We rest secure in the knowledge that he has, and will, overcome. We are called to be fools for Christ, a people saved by his cross and converted, finally, by his resurrection.

May God convert us to such foolishness.

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## Church Board Highlights February 19, 2018

- Larry Henne noted that the books have been audited for 2016.
- Pastor Dave noted that Epler's is having a community meal on March 20. The suggestion was for some Board members to attend and help to see how it works.
- Pastor Dave suggested that the Board have a retreat to do a little visioning and long term planning. His suggestion was to come up with a location away from the church to hold it. May 19 would probably be the likely date.
- James noted that the SV Food Pantry Donations collected for the Super Bowl were around 360 items, which is almost 100 more than last year.
- James also requested a week of vacation March 12-16. This was approved by the Board.
- Property/Maintenance Committee noted that Larry Miller let them know that there is an oil leak on the zero turn mower. The repair will cost \$500. It was suggested to fix the leak to get more time out of the mower. James noted that the furnaces have all been serviced. The furnace at the Sexton House did need some repairs but all others were cleaned and serviced at the Hall and Church.
- James made some preliminary contacts with Lifetouch to start a new photo directory. It has been 5 years since the last one and now with a new Pastor, it would be a good time to do one. The process is much the same as the last time we did this. It was suggested to look at May to have photo sessions. James will look to arrange this.

- There was a suggestion about putting the handicapped signs back up at the church. This will be done after the ground thaws and the snow plowing season is over.
- Carlene Kissinger brought up about making online giving an option. Vanco has a program for this that they have been advertising. Alyse Mitten also has a way to do this through the website. More information will be gathered about each. It was also noted that Vanco services the Simply Giving program which we use for members to sign up to make regular offerings right from their checking accounts. There are 4 members currently in this program. It was suggested to advertise this again through the newsletter. (Page 12)
- Jim Holcombe noted that Schuylkill Valley would like to borrow 30 hymnals for their musical this year. This was done once before, a few years ago. The unused hymnals from the chapel closets will be lent to them.

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**Belleman's Joint Board**

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,495.98
Income	\$ 37,678.63
Expenses	\$ 32,760.27
Ending Balance	\$ 7,414.34

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**Attendance for February**

|                              | 7:45AM         | 10:15AM   | Offering   |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| February 4                   | 29             | 73        | \$2,109.00 |
| February 11                  | 21             | 153       | \$2,936.00 |
| February 14 Ash Wed.         | 1:00PM-7       | 7:00PM-35 |            |
| February 18                  | No Church Snow |           |            |
| February 21 Lent 7:00PM - 32 |                |           |            |
| February 25                  | 20             | 115       | \$5,675.00 |
| February 28 Lent 7:00PM - 16 |                |           |            |

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**Communion Assistants For March 11**

7:45 a.m. *Altar Assistants:* John Lewis, Melissa Lewis,  
 Connie Mohn

*Cup Stations:* Larry Henne, Linda Henne

7:45 a.m. *Altar Assistants:* James Fitterling, Dawne Clay,  
 Sandy Gring

*Ushers:* Michael Holcombe, Jackie Lynn

*Cup Stations:* Dennis Felix, Sam Stump

**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FUND AS OF 2/18/18**

**Contributions, Projects, Endowment  
 and Dissolved Accounts** \$214,100.03

**Monthly Contributions 2018** \$827.00  
 (Feb. Collection = \$715.00)

**Fundraising Projects**

Organ Restoration	January	\$1,527.50
Chicken BBQ	March	
Easter Candy Sales	March	
Country Music Show	June	
Country Festival Picnic	August	
Mum Sale	September	
		\$1,527.50

**Grocery Gift Cards**

Sold	\$ 143,580.00	
Profit		<u>\$7,341.65</u>
Cash Total		\$223,769.18

**Interest Paid**

Total Fairview Interest Paid	\$6,440.00
Total VIST Interest Paid	\$12,103.80

**Loan Balances**

Fairview Cemetery Company	\$90,000.00
Total Principal Payment made	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
<b>Owed Amount</b>	<b>\$87,000.00</b>
VIST Bank Loan	\$254,500.00
Total Principal Payment made	<u>\$87,571.39</u>
<b>Owed Amount</b>	<b>\$166,928.61</b>
<b>Total Principal Balance Owed</b>	<b>\$253,928.61</b>

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 Donations for the Capital Campaign are always accepted through the mail. Please send your donation to:

**Salem Belleman's Church - Capital Campaign Fund**  
**3540 Belleman's Church Road, Mohrsville, Pa 19541**

The first Sunday of the month collection continues to be a great way to donate to the fund as well.  
 Thank you for your continued support!

**Sights from the Recent Mission trip to Houston, Texas**



**Thank you to the congregation for your continued support of the Mission Team!**

**Just in case it *really* snows...**

Worship services and Sunday School will be called off. Announcement of the cancellation of Sunday activities at the church will be recorded on the church answering service. **Call the church number 610-926-0461** for this information, listen to WEEU, check the WFMZ website or the **Belleman's Facebook** page. The decision on cancellation will be made early enough that you will know well before services are slated to begin.

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**1st Annual Chili Cook off**  
 Sponsored by The Schuylkill Valley Pastor's Association  
**Saturday, April 14, 2018**  
 Proceeds benefit the Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry  
**Time:** 11am-3pm  
**Location:** 102 Apple Street, Leesport  
**Cost:** \$5 per person



Participant Agreement and Information Form available upon request.

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**Youth with a Mission March Meeting**  
**Sunday, March 25 after 10:15 worship**

We will make and eat some delicious pizza, assemble Easter baskets for the Children's Home of Reading, talk about our awesome retreat to **Wildwood New Jersey May 4-6** and make Spring-Summer plans. Oh, and when we have done all that, we will spend the afternoon at **LaserQuest** playing Laser Tag. What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

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**Reading Choral Society** presentation of  
 "A Little Jazz Mass" by Bob Chilcott  
**Sunday April 8, 4 pm**  
 Abe Lincoln Ballroom, Reading  
 Please See Maura Wesner for tickets.

## Calendar of Events

**Sun. 7:45AM Worship Service**  
**3/11 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**  
 Kauffman's Chicken BBQ  
 2-4PM Choir Bowling at Heister's Lanes

Mon. 5:30PM Belleman's Bells  
 3/12 6:30PM Nice 'n Easy Ringers

Tue. 7:00PM Dutch Class  
 3/13

Wed. 5:00PM Kids' MelodyChimes  
 3/14 6:00PM Lenten Soup Supper  
 6:15PM Sr. Choir  
 7:00PM Lenten Worship Service

Sat. 9:00-10:30AM Schuylkill Valley  
 3/17 Food Pantry @ Trinity Leesport

**Sun 7:45AM Worship Service**  
**3/18 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**

Mon. 5:30PM Belleman's Bells  
 3/19 6:30PM Nice 'n Easy Ringers  
 7:00PM Board Meeting

Tue. 7:00PM Dutch Class  
 3/20

Wed. 5:00PM Kids' MelodyChimes  
 3/21 6:00PM Lenten Soup Supper  
 6:15PM Sr. Choir  
 7:00PM Lenten Worship Service

Sat. 1:00PM Cemetery Board Meeting  
 3/24 in the Chapel

**Sun Palm Sunday**  
**3/25 7:45AM Worship Service**  
**9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**  
 Youth Meeting and Laser Tag trip  
 following the 10:15 service

Mon. 5:30PM Belleman's Bells  
 3/26 6:30PM Nice 'n Easy Ringers

Tue. 7:00PM Dutch Class  
 3/27

Wed. NO Kids' MelodyChimes  
 3/28 6:30PM Sr. Choir

**Thu. Maundy Thursday**  
**3/29 7PM at the Lutheran Church of the**  
**Holy Trinity in Leesport**  
 \*\*THIS LOCATION IS DIFFERENT  
 FROM PREVIOUS YEARS\*\*

**Fri. Good Friday**  
**3/30 7PM Service in the Sanctuary**

Sat. 11:15AM Nice 'n Easy Ringers  
 3/31 11:30AM Belleman's Bells/ Angels  
 12 noon Belleman's Bells/Easter  
 Choir/Instrumentalists  
 1:30PM Easter Drama & Egg Hunt  
 at the Fellowship Hall

**Sun. Easter Sunday**  
**4/1 - Holy Communion**  
**6:30AM Sunrise Service at**  
**The Fellowship Hall**  
**7:45AM Worship Service**  
**9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**

Mon. 9:30AM Tot Time  
 4/2 11:30AM Grief Support Lunch at Perry  
 NO BELLS Prize

Tue. 7:00PM Dutch Class  
 4/3

Wed. 5:00PM Kids' MelodyChimes  
 4/4 6:00PM Cantata/Sr. Choir

Fri. 6:00PM Family Fun Night at the  
 4/6 Fellowship Hall

**Sun 7:45AM Worship Service**  
**4/8 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:15AM Worship Service**

Mon. 5:30PM Belleman's Bells  
 4/9 6:30PM Nice 'n Easy Ringers

Tue. 7:00PM Dutch Class  
 4/10

Wed. 9:30AM Music and Worship Meeting  
 4/11 5:00PM Kids' MelodyChimes  
 6:00PM Cantata/Sr. Choir

**Sun 7:45AM Worship Service**  
**4/15 9:00AM Sunday School**  
 9:25AM Cantata Choir  
**10:15AM Worship Service**

Mon. 5:30PM Belleman's Bells  
 4/16 6:30PM Nice 'n Easy Ringers  
 7:00PM Board Meeting  
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### Jingle Offerings for March

March 4, 11 Potato Project  
 March 18, 25 One Great Hour of Sharing

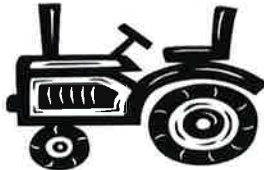
Please remember to use your Redner's Card and bring your receipt to church. We have been asked to NOT highlight the total on the Redner's receipts that can be dropped off in the Narthex. Also, remember to bring the entire receipt, not just a portion of it. Thank You!

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**Farm Family  
Appreciation Celebration**

Saturday, March 17, 2018  
Hamburg Field House



Join friends and families from across the synod at the annual farm family appreciation celebration.

Information and a registration form are available at [www.godslove.org](http://www.godslove.org).

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**Easter Plants for 2018**

If you would like to purchase an **Easter plant** or to place a plant in church for Easter Sunday, in memory of or in honor of loved ones, please call Linda Henne (610-926-4506) or see her in church. There will also be order blanks available in Sunday Bulletins for your convenience.

Plants that are available this year are as follows:

Easter Lilies	\$8.00 each
Hybrid Lillies	\$8.00 each
Mums 6" pot	\$8.00 each
Azaleas 6" pot	\$11.00 each
Martha Washington Geraniums	\$8.00 each
Tulips 6" pot	\$8.00 each
Daffodils 6" pot	\$8.00 each

**All orders No Later Than March 25.**

Make checks payable to Belleman's Capital Campaign Committee.



**Church Directory**

A new edition of the Salem Belleman's Church pictorial directory is happening!

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- A pictorial directory helps put names and faces together, uniting the congregation.
- It can be used as an outreach tool for the church.
- It can be used in the home as a conversation starter and a tool for sharing your church.
- It will be a great aid in making prayer requests more personal.
- It will be a good tool for showing the history of your church at this point in time.
- It tells the story of your church with pictures.
- You'll receive a free 8 x 10 portrait and a directory for participating.

Sign up information will be forthcoming!

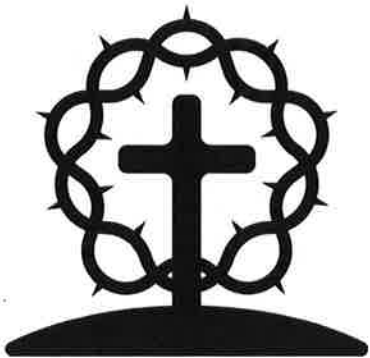
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**These are our Photo Dates:**

**Tuesday, May 8 - Saturday, May 12**

*Weekday Photography Hours - 2:00 - 9:00 PM*  
*Saturday Hours - 10:00 - 4:30 PM*

**See you in the directory!**



### Schedule for Holy Week

**Maundy Thursday, March 29** - service 7:00PM At The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity in Leesport

**Good Friday, March 30** - Service at 7:00PM in the Church.

**Children's Easter Drama and Egg Hunt, March 31** at 1:30PM. At the Fellowship Hall

**Easter, April 1** - Dawn Worship at the Fellowship Hall, 6:30AM, Worship Services at 7:45AM and 10:15AM with Holy Communion offered at both.

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### Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

We want to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation.

**Direct Debit Giving** is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account. You can choose to give weekly, bi-weekly or monthly.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization forms and additional information are available. Please contact Carlene Kissinger at 610-926-3342 if you would like to fill out a form.

### Belleman's Military Members

#### Overseas

Capt. Jeffrey A. Starr  
BDOC, Blue Diamond  
APO AE 09346

#### Back in U.S.A.

SGT Josh Linderman  
Andrew Potts

1LT Bradley P. Hoppes  
SGT Andrew Cichowicz  
Nathan P. Stump  
SGT John R. Wesner  
Jason Kozik  
MAJ James Fluck  
Kevin Mohn  
SGT Phillip Spatz  
Alfred Cross



**Dear Belleman's**, Christ has called us to serve one another in love and faithfulness.

**Thank you** for your generous gift of \$221.00 (Jingle Offering) to the ELCA in support of Missionaries through The Campaign for the ELCA.

**Peace, Andrew Steele**  
Director, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship

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**Kid's Ministry Program**, Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece, If so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words as any friend could say; Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much whatever the part. With so much love and appreciation for your gift of Love. **Thank you! The Kleffels**

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I apologize for the lateness of my response. Please accept our sincere **thank you** for the donation you sent. It was so kind.

**Christie Brown and Family**

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During a time like this we realize how much our friends and relatives really mean to us...Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. The card and Cody's treats did make me smile. The Daffodils are blooming. **God Bless, Carol Burkey**

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**Friends at Belleman's**, You are appreciated more than you know. **Thank you** for the beautiful poinsettia at Christmas. I enjoyed your visit and singing. **Thank you** for the Valentine bag of goodies. I truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. **God's Peace, Marie Dietrich**

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**Dear Social Ministry Committee**, **Thank you** very much for the Valentine's Day gift bag. The word search book will give me many hours of pleasure. **Thanks, Marian Gordon**

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**Belleman's Church Women!** **Thank you** so much for the beautiful floral bouquet. It is greatly appreciated! **Alma Klinger**

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**Social Ministry**, **Thank you so much** for the Valentine bag of goodies. It was very much appreciated. **Sharon King**

## March Birthdays

- 15<sup>th</sup> John David Rausch, Jr.,  
Cassandra Mitten, Jean Haag  
16<sup>th</sup> Dan Gordon, Pete Lukawski  
17<sup>th</sup> Kelly Kauffman,  
George Rubright  
Curtis Eitel  
18<sup>th</sup> Robin Linderman,  
Miriam Mohn  
19<sup>th</sup> Jaclyn Kunkle,  
Carter McRae,  
Joshua Schlottman,  
Lynda Marks, Dylan King  
20<sup>th</sup> Gloria Unger  
21<sup>st</sup> Mildred Stoyer  
22<sup>nd</sup> Kendall Gery,  
John Schlappich  
John Schmauch, Jr.  
23<sup>rd</sup> David Haag  
24<sup>th</sup> Robert Beissel  
Helen Danenhower  
26<sup>th</sup> Kaley Gehris  
27<sup>th</sup> Brenda S. Waits  
29<sup>th</sup> Mackenzie Wicke  
30<sup>th</sup> Melrose Kunkle  
Chris Brian Wesner  
31<sup>st</sup> Chad Fitterling,  
Pastor Bruce Potteiger

## March Anniversaries

- 21<sup>st</sup> Kenneth & Sherry Weist  
24<sup>th</sup> Ruth & Kenneth Borkey, Sr.  
Kelly & Phillip Smith  
25<sup>th</sup> Bernice & Richard Hartman

## April Birthdays

- 1<sup>st</sup> Linette Baer, Sherry Weist  
Cody Wesner  
2<sup>nd</sup> Arlene Gilmer,  
Rowan Gilmer  
Karen Eisenhofer  
3<sup>rd</sup> Teri Frederick,  
Yasmin Loose  
4<sup>th</sup> Mark Eisenhower,  
5<sup>th</sup> John Noecker  
6<sup>th</sup> Diane Driesbach,  
7<sup>th</sup> Kelsey Jean Patrick  
8<sup>th</sup> Brian Folk  
9<sup>th</sup> James Holcombe,  
Tanner McRae,  
Dennis Wayne  
10<sup>th</sup> Linda Kirkhoff,  
11<sup>th</sup> Lynn Fenstermacher,  
Karen Harle, Tara Stiefel  
12<sup>th</sup> Dylan Beerman  
13<sup>th</sup> Kevin Jroski,  
Janet Kemp, James Weber  
14<sup>th</sup> Maynard Hook, Daryl Bohn,  
Eric Weyandt  
15<sup>th</sup> Amara Mohn

## April Anniversaries

- 5<sup>th</sup> Harold and Sandy Sunday  
14<sup>th</sup> Gene & Diane Driesbach



Okay, so you're not a bowler..

**WATCHING** can be just as much fun!!!

**Lanes are reserved...NO COST TO YOU...**

**and what happens at the bowling alley**

**STAYS at the bowling alley!!!** (MAYBE!)

**Sunday, March 11**

**2:00-4:00 p.m. • HIESTER LANES**

**801 Hiesters Lane, Reading, PA 19605**

**Let's set 'em up and knock 'em down (or clean the gutters)...**

**Come, Join the Fun!!!**

**What You Are Is God's Gift to You;  
What You Do with Yourself Is Your Gift to God.**

**DANISH PROVERB**

**There's still time for you to be part of the  
Cantata Choir for May 13! Don't Delay...Join Today!!!  
Wednesday rehearsals begin April 4 at 6 p.m. and  
Sunday mornings in the Music Room at 9:20 a.m.**