

Salem (Belleman's) Church
3540 Belleman's Church Road
Mohrsville, PA 19541-8916

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FEBRUARY

Bell Notes

Salem (Belleman's) Church

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

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

*Sunday School every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.*



*Rev. Dr. Patricia Horst, Interim Pastor
Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry
James Fitterling, Administrator
Church Office: 610-926-0461
email: salembellemans@frontiernet.net
Web Site: www.bellemanschurch.org*



A Day to Honor Love

February 14 is a day we set aside to celebrate Valentine's Day. Did you know that February 14, 2024 is also designated as an additional day of commemoration? Ash Wednesday falls on the same date as Valentine's Day this year. What will we do with this?

The season of Lent begins 40 days (excluding Sundays) before Easter. Easter is not celebrated on a fixed date like other holidays. A simplified explanation is: Easter falls on the first Sunday after the Full Moon date, based on mathematical calculations, that falls on or after March 21. If the Full Moon is on a Sunday, Easter is celebrated on the following Sunday. (How is Easter Determined? article – WaveBrowser) This calculation corresponds to the Jewish celebration of Passover as indicated in the Scriptures and with the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. Many sources can be found to learn more about this.

But my question is – what do we do with the sacredness of Ash Wednesday as well as the romantic aspects of Valentine's Day? Do we begin to solemnly reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross as we examine our lives and seek God's forgiveness for our sins? Or do we joyfully celebrate romantic love? Or both?

Well – God has provided both. Both are part of our journey on this earth. Sometimes we don't have a "romantic valentine" but we are able to celebrate the love we have for others, children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, our church family, friends... or, perhaps, someone who doesn't feel loved.

So how will we celebrate February 14 this year? May we honor the day with love, love for our Lord who first loved us so much that He went to the cross for us. AND let us deeply love the people He has given us to love.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and Only Son....John 3:16

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

With Christ's love,
Pastor Pat

Pastor Pat's contact info:
Cell Phone: 717-926-2181
Email: phorst105@gmail.com
Pastor Pat's weekly office day is currently Wednesday.

Church Board Highlights

January 15, 2024

Bernice Hartman was present on behalf of the Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus to request to have their Christmas Concert at Belleman's once again in 2024. The Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus expressed their gratitude to Belleman's for hosting their concert and presented a check in the amount of \$100 for 2023. The 2024 date is December 1 and the concert time is once again 2 p.m. This was approved.

December meeting minutes, Treasurer Report, Pastor Report and Administrator Report were all approved.

Larry Henne reported that the Fellowship Hall roof has been completed as of the date of this meeting.

James Fitterling reported that plans are set for the mission trip February 4-10. Plans are to work with the Fuller Center in Kentucky, but there is a chance they will have a new site in Tennessee which they might be moving us to. It is still about the same distance of travel. There will be 4-5 people attending this trip.

The Community Outreach Committee has plans to have a hoedown event in April, the 100th church anniversary on June 8, a movie night in August and possibly an evening old church service in the fall. In order to fund the committee events, it was suggested that the group help out and taking on the Easter candy project. Easter Candy profits for 2024 were approved for the Community Outreach Committee.

James reviewed the cost estimate from SolveIT for the wiring needs for the networking upgrades for the church. Total quoted price for this is \$11,807.00 to include wiring and all of the previously quoted hardware. The question was about where the money would come from and after some brainstorming/discussion since the last meeting it was suggested to use some of the remaining Ray Bauder bequest money. James reported that there is a bit over \$33,000 left from those bequest monies. The Board approved the SolveIT quote for \$11,807 to be paid from the Ray Bauder bequest. This will be included for approval at the congregational meeting on January 28.

James reported that he and John Rausch had a meeting with a local insurance broker to review our current policy and to begin quoting it out from some other insurance companies. Due to the time constraints involved with getting a new policy in place it was discussed about paying for a few months of our current policy and buy some time to review our options. This was discussed with Larry Henne as well.

Board Highlights Continued...

Louise Elliott was appointed to the vacant 2 year position on the Lutheran Council.

Lastly, Church Board Nominations for 2024 were presented and approved: Eric Weyandt (President), Diane Rothenberger (Vice President), James Fitterling (Recording Secretary), Larry Henne (Treasurer), Carla Rozsitch (Assistant Treasurer), Carlene Kissinger (Financial Secretary), John Rausch (Special Funds Director), Linda Henne (Fellowship Hall Coordinator).

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**Belleman's Joint Board - Month of December 2023**

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$34,732.21 |
| Income            | \$23,096.47 |
| Expenses          | \$40,293.10 |
| Ending Balance    | \$17,535.57 |

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Attendance/Offering

Worship Attendance		Offering
Jan. 7	n/a- snow (Sanctuary), 233 (Facebook)	\$1,198.00
Jan. 14	68 (Sanctuary), 215(Facebook)	\$4,008.00
Jan. 21	50 (Sanctuary), 212 (Facebook)	\$1,992.00
Jan. 28	70 (Sanctuary), 82(Facebook)	\$2,577.00

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**In the case of inclement weather**, 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**, check Facebook or the WFMZ website for this information . The decision on cancellation will be made early enough that you will know well before services are slated to begin.

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Reminder from the Cemetery Board:

Please remove Christmas decorations by March 1. The cemetery will be cleared by March 15.

Thank You!

Holy Communion will be celebrated February 11

Altar Assistants: Linda Henne, Maura Wesner
Dawne Clay
Cup Stations: Jaclyn Kunkle, Kim Smyre
Ushers: Lee Henne, Larry Henne

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**The February Jingle Offerings go to Bethany Children's Home**

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The Easter Candy Sale is here!

An order sheet for Easter candy is included with this newsletter. Deadline to order will be February 25. Profits from this year's sale will go toward Community Outreach events. Thank you!

Candy making helpers are welcome, contact James for info.

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**Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®**

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available can help support Belleman's. Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.

*Direct Your*

**THRIVENT**

**CHOICE DOLLARS**

*today!*



## Lenten Worship Series 2024

*Presented by the Schuylkill Valley Pastors Association*

This coming Lenten Season we will once again be worshipping alongside the churches of the Schuylkill Valley Pastors Association. Here is the schedule of the coming Worship Services:

### Ash Wednesday

We begin the season of Lent on "Ash Wednesday" with a **worship service on February 14 at 7:00 p.m.** This service will be at **Gernant's Church (13 Gernant's Church Road, Leesport Pa 19533)**. The service includes an opportunity to receive ashes on your forehead. Ashes are a sign of both our penitence and our mortality, allowing us to begin our Lenten journey in a spirit of humility.



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### Lenten Wednesday Services

During the season of Lent, there will be weekly Lenten worship services **every Wednesday at 12 noon**. Lunch will be served first and will be followed by a brief worship. Services should be over by 1 for anyone planning to attend during their lunchtime. We look forward to embarking on this Lenten journey with the SV Churches as we head toward Easter Sunday! Lenten Service locations are as follows:

**February 21: Epler's UCC**  
(1151 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)

**February 28: Bern UCC**  
(3196 Bernville Road, Leesport PA 19533)

**March 6: Belleman's Church Hall**  
(3730 Belleman's Church Rd, Mohrsville PA 19533)

**March 13: Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity**  
(102 Apple Street, Leesport PA 19533)

**March 20: Bern Lutheran**  
(820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)

## Maundy Thursday

This years Maundy Thursday Worship on **March 28** will be hosted by **Bethany EC Church (308 Main St, Leesport, PA 19533)** as we commemorate Jesus's Last Supper . The service will be in the **sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.**



### Good Friday

The Good Friday Worship Service on **March 29** will be hosted by **Belleman's Church (3540 Belleman's Church Rd, Mohrsville Pa 19533)**. The service will be in the **sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.** as we observe the commemoration of the Crucifixion of Jesus.



### Easter

The season is capped off on **Easter Sunday, March 31** as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from death. The day begins with the Easter Dawn Service at Mohrsville Church of the Brethren at **6:30 a.m.**



The day continues with Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. followed by Easter Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

**We hope you will join us in this years journey to the cross!**





## Calendar of Events

Sat. 2/3 - Sat. 2/10 Mission Trip to Kentucky/Tennessee  
(Office Closed)

**Sun. Scout Sunday**  
**2/4 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:00AM Worship Service**

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
2/7 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Sun. Holy Communion**  
**2/11 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:00AM Worship Service**  
*Endowment Committee Meeting after Worship*

Wed. 10:00AM Prayer Time with Pastor Pat  
2/14 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
7:00PM Ash Wednesday Worship **At Gernant's Church**  
**(13 Gernant's Church Road, Leesport Pa 19533)**

Sat. (2/17) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**2/18 10:00AM Worship Service**

Mon. (2/19) 7:00PM Board Meeting

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Epler's UCC**  
2/21 **(1151 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)**  
5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thu. (2/22) Sandwich Sale Orders due to Karen Harle

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**2/25 10:00AM Worship Service**

Wed. 10:00AM Prayer Time with Pastor Pat  
2/28 **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Bern UCC**  
**(3196 Bernville Road, Leesport PA 19533)**  
5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thu. 2:00-6:00PM Sandwich Sale Pickup at the Fellowship Hall  
2/29 (Helpers needed around 9 a.m.)

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**3/3 10:00AM Worship Service**  
*Soup and Pie Sunday*

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Belleman's Hall**  
3/6 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**3/10 10:00AM Worship Service**

Wed. 10:00AM Prayer Time with Pastor Pat  
3/13 **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Trinity Lutheran**  
**(102 Apple Street, Leesport PA 19533)**  
5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sat. (3/16) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**3/17 10:00AM Worship Service**

Mon. (3/18) 7:00PM Board Meeting

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Bern Lutheran**  
3/20 **(820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)**  
5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sat. (3/23) 1:00PM Cemetery Board Meeting in the Chapel

**Sun. Palm Sunday**  
**3/24 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:00AM Worship Service**

Wed. 10:00AM Prayer Time with Pastor Pat  
3/27 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Thu. (3/28) Maundy Thursday - 7PM Service at Bethany Church**  
**(308 Main St, Leesport, PA 19533) Pa 19533)**

**Fri. (3/29) Good Friday - 7PM Service here at Belleman's**

Sat. (3/30) 1:00PM Egg Hunt at the Fellowship Hall

**Sun. Easter Sunday - Holy Communion**  
**3/31 6:30AM Sunrise Service**  
**at Mohrsville Church of the Brethren**  
**9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:00AM Worship Service**

# RELAY FOR LIFE OF Kutztown

## Relay for Life of Kutztown and Eastern Berks

**Event Date: May 18, 2024, 12 p.m. till 9 p.m.**  
At Bower's Park, Lyons

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American Cancer Society Daffodil Days are here!

Bunch of fresh-cut daffodils.....	\$12
Daffodils vase.....	\$5
Pot of mini daffodils.....	\$15
Bunch of gorgeous tulips.....	\$15
Tulips vase.....	\$10
Gifts of Hope... (Delivered to local hospitals).....	\$25

Must order by 2/13/2024

Delivery week will be 3/18/2024

Please Sign-up on the sheet in the narthex
or call/email Ann Stump
(484-824-7799 or mstarduster@aol.com)



100th Anniversary Celebration!



As reported in last newsletter, plans are underway for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of our current church building this June!

After the decision was made to build a new church and the donation of the land acquired, there were many trials and tribulations.

Once the foundation was laid, the next step was the brick-laying. The original bricklayers began the project at 80c per hour, but soon demanded an increase of 25c an hour, which was rejected by the Building Committee, so a new contractor was brought in. That resulted in a cost of \$1.15/hr, with 95c/hr for assistants. It was soon evident that the first contractor had performed sub-par work, and a good portion of the wall had to be taken down and rebuilt. In addition to that issue, Glen Gery Company was unable to provide enough bricks, so bricks were brought in from the Schuylkill Haven Brick company. Many of those bricks were found to be inferior, so they had to be returned.

It was reported that the architects for the building, Hugh and High Architects, seldom showed up for the many meetings needed as the project progressed, which caused much frustration.

Another issue occurred when the fundraisers and personal donations were not enough to cover the ongoing expenses of the build. On August 25, 1922, the Building Committee reported a deficit of \$1,007. A bank loan was made, with the monies due in 10 days which was achieved. Throughout the project, loans had to be made through Leesport, Shoemakersville and Bernville banks.

When the inside arched ceiling of the sanctuary was being constructed, it was discovered that the arches required reinforcement with one-inch tie rod bars across the base of the arch. This was not aesthetically pleasing to the design, and while initially installed, they were later removed. And since the ceiling and arch is still intact, it seems like that extra support was not needed!



Despite all the roadblocks, the church was completed and dedicated on June 8, 1924 at a total cost of \$85,000 which included the inside furnishings. By this date, \$30,000 was still owed in loans, which was paid off by 1939.

It's Sandwich time again!!!

Mark your calendars for our popular **Sandwich Sale** on **Thursday, February 29th** which will go toward mission work locally and afar. The 10" (ham, Italian or turkey) sandwiches are \$8.00 & can be picked up at the Fellowship Hall from 2:00 to 6:00PM. Contact Karen Harle (484-256-5705) to place your orders by 2/22. There is also a sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex.

Help will be needed on the 29th to make the sandwiches. The Mission Team is grateful to all who are able to lend a hand.



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Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus would like to **thank Belleman's Church** for hosting our Christmas concert. We appreciate your support of our community service. **Thank you again.**  
**Bernice Hartman, Treasurer**

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Belleman's Church, I wanted to **thank you** for allowing us to have our memorial service here. We wanted a place to give my friend (Ellen Ingraham) a special sendoff.
Thank you, Diane Wallace

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**Dear members of Belleman's Church**, **Thank you** for your generous donation of \$365 received through the Jingle Offering (October). We are also thankful for donated food leftover from a church social event (community meal). Your donations are most appreciated.  
**Sincerely,**  
**Barbara Werner BSN, MSN Executive Director**  
**Nurse-Family Parenthood**

**The Nice Knitters of Muhlenberg**

For the past 16 plus years The Nice Knitters of Muhlenberg have been meeting to Knit and Crochet items for many Berks County Charities. In 2023 we donated 4,829 items, for a total of 68,267 items given over the years. We make hats, scarves, mittens/gloves, twiddle muffs, blankets, baby sweaters, plus many other items.

For many years The Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, 4201 Stouds Ferry Bridge Rd, Reading PA 19605 (corners with Tuckerton Road), has graciously opened their doors to us so we can get together to socialize while knitting or crocheting the items we donate. We meet every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. If there is enough interest, we will have meetings on a Tuesday evening as well.

We are always looking for new members to join our group. Beginners to experienced fellow yarners are always welcome. If socializing is not your preference, we can supply you with a list of items we make, and what size the items should be, so that you can work at home.

Yarn, magnets, and Monetary Donations are always appreciated. Any yarn donated can be new, or not so new. We use mostly acrylic and baby yarn. Wool yarn donations are accepted; however, wool yarn can only be used on a few of our projects. We use magnets for our butterflies we make and donate to two different charities. Any monetary donations would be used to purchase yarn and the tags we attach to each item before distributing our finished projects.

For more information please contact us by emailing us at: [NiceKnittersOfM.@gmail.com](mailto:NiceKnittersOfM.@gmail.com), or by calling LeeAnn Underkoffler at 610-334-7897, Faye Noecker at 610-926-4559, or Betti Bjorken at 610-375-6229.

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Soup and Pie Sunday is March 3

On Sunday, March 3 after worship there will be various food items available for sale. Quarts of Chicken Noodle Soup and Cheeseburger Soup along with pies by Cindy Batdorf including Cottage Cheese pie, will be available.



Thank you for your support!

February Birthdays

- 16th Matthew Schappell
17th Gary Kunkle
19th David Moll
20th Robert Sweigart,
Jacob Moll
Calvin Conrad,
Timothy Hart
21st Patty Ann Kintzer
22nd Christian Hoffman
23rd Kelly Smith
Lyn Bohn
24th Eric Kissinger,
Ryan Weber,
Michael Kozik, Jr.
26th Paige Kozik,
Jennifer Hill, Ken Jacoby,
Terry Schaeffer,
Keara Lynn Patrick,
27th Dennis Dougherty
28th Brenda Eisenhower
Ruth Marko, Bret Edwards,
Jeff Fitterling,
Charlotte Peters

March Birthdays

- 2nd Florence Deisher,
Leslie Feeney
3rd Anna Potteiger, Lincoln Lush
4th Michael Hartman,
Arlene Hoffert
5th Pattie Botscheller,
Karen Strohl
6th MaryAnn Kunkle,
Thomas Rausch,
7th Sallie Polack, Sarah Phillips
8th Nathan Stump
9th Mitchell Burkhardt,
Robert Heister,
Dustin Spatz
10th Stephen Lynn, Roy Moser,
Jennifer Jozwiak,
Cathy Malone
11th Louise Elliott,
13th Jennifer Starkey,
Julie Kunkle, Danielle Moser,
Katrina Lukawski
14th Charlotte Wallace,
Matthew Rozsitch

February Anniversaries

- 21st Alfred & Renee Cross
28th Jamie and Cheryl Krings

March Anniversaries

- 2nd Donald & Sharon Duvall
3rd Jackie & Stephen Lynn
11th Donna & Dennis Kunkle

Belleman's Military Members

CWO2 Josh Linderman
Andrew Potts
1LT Bradley P. Hoppes
SGT Andrew Cichowicz
Nathan P. Stump
SGT John R. Wesner

MAJ James Fluck
MSgt Kevin Mohn
GYSgt Phillip Spatz
Alfred Cross
Cydney Lawrence
Dustin Spatz

Music News

Spring is in the air...almost!

Well, maybe not quite yet, but if you're anything like me, I can't wait for warmer weather, green grass, beautiful gardens, and the end to shoveling snow...even though we've been pretty lucky this year...so far! In short, it's pretty obvious that I'm ready for spring!

But, I've discovered that my anticipation has made it hard for me to focus on appreciating today. Spring will be here eventually, but if I worry about getting to spring, soon I'll worry about getting to summer, and then fall, before longing for spring weather again.

Luckily, there is a cure for this, or any other worry, and it's music. Music is the ultimate medicine, that works in any language and in any situation.

So, if you're worrying about spring, or anything else, listen to some music! During our next church service, close your eyes during the prelude, one of the hymns, or the choir anthem and let the music reach not only your ears, but also your heart. It's the perfect way to forget about whatever may be worrying you!

Musically,

Oliver