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

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



*Rev. Kevin E. Fruchtl, Pastor  
Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry  
James Fitterling, Administrator  
Church Office: 610-926-0461  
Church email: [salembellemans@frontiernet.net](mailto:salembellemans@frontiernet.net)  
Web Site: [bellemanschurch.org](http://bellemanschurch.org)*



**Pastor Kevin's contact info:**  
 Cell Phone: 610-334-5130  
 Email: kevin24@ptd.net

**From the Pastor**

Last month I shared in my newsletter article that “God is doing a new thing.” But its February, and there is snow on the ground with the threat of more coming. It is cold, and the days are short, and even the groundhog is against us.

February is a month I would rather just skip. But even in the cold and the snow and the yeeech, God is doing new things. In the dormancy all of nature is preparing to explode in a cacophony of sound and brilliant colors. Even in the down time we can see the working of our creator God. In fact, the down time is essential. Without the winter, there is no spring.

As we journey together as Belleman’s Church, let us prepare for a time of renewal and growth as God blesses us and uses us to build the kingdom. God IS doing new things, right here. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,  
 Pastor Kevin

Please know that not all hospitals notify the church when a member has been admitted. Please make the office or Pastor Kevin aware if any of our Belleman’s family has been hospitalized. Thank you!

**Church Board Highlights**

January 27, 2025

First, Church Board Nominations for 2025 were presented and approved: Diane Rothenberger (President), Ken Borkey (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).

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

It was reported that the 2024 Benevolence has been paid with \$4,015.25 going to the Lutheran Synod and \$4,015.25 going to the UCC Conference.

It was reported that the Fundraising Committee will be meeting on February 11 to plan the Fundraising Events. Also, they are planning a soup/pie sale for February 16 after church.

Larry Henne reported that he had a meeting to begin the LED lighting upgrade and to review layout. Also, that the extra heating unit in the hall basement is getting installed as of this meeting. Lastly, there was a question about the status of the new door on the east side of the church building. James reported that he received a call that they intend to install the new door on Wednesday, January 29.

James Fitterling reported that the Mission Team just had a meeting to finalize plans for the March 8-15, 2025 mission trip to Ashville, North Carolina. It looks like there will be at least 13 participants on this trip. Also, the group was approached with an opportunity to donate a tractor trailer load of hay to farmers in the affected area that we will be working in. A contact of Sam Stumps has delivered some hay previously and is looking for donors to send more down. The trucking is donated separately and the Mission Team would be donating the cost of the hay itself. It is estimated to be about \$3,000. The Mission Team plans to make this donation for a load of hay in the early spring of 2025.

The Community Outreach committee met recently and is making plans for the following events in early 2025; February 28 – Family Game Night at the Fellowship Hall, April 5 – Trip to the Pines Dinner Theatre and May 17 – Hoedown.

James reported that a bunch of time was spent in the last month seeking out a new church insurance policy for the church and after meetings and discussions with two brokers, a policy quote was received two hours before this meeting. Some highlights of the policy

**Board Highlights Continued...**

were discussed. The new yearly premium for this policy through the Insurance Board is \$20,000, which is slightly higher than what it had been previously with Church Mutual. Deductibles are comparable with the latest Church Mutual policy and this new policy includes many more Liability coverages for the church along with a more practical way of insuring the property. The Board approved this new policy and it will be set to take effect as of our February 5 renewal date. Lastly, Pastor Kevin wanted to thank James Fitterling, Larry Henne, Ken Borkey and John Rausch for working on this in the last month.

The Blue Mountain Heritage Chorus is requesting to have their Christmas Concert at Belleman's once again in 2025. The 2025 date is November 30 and the concert time is once again 2 p.m. There also will be a dress rehearsal scheduled in the Sanctuary on the morning of November 29, 2025. This was approved.

Since the last meeting we received a \$1,000 donation in the mail to go toward old church organ repairs as well as some donation designations from the passing of Florence Deisher. All together, these donations total \$1,555. As of now these donations will be tracked as part of the Building Fund account.

Lastly, James reported that there is still \$878 remaining to be designated from the 2024 Heffner Tithe. To utilize these funds, there was a suggestion to give \$500 through the Lutheran Disaster Response toward US Wildfire recovery and a donation of \$378 locally to the Central Berks Fire Company. This was approved.

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**Belleman's Joint Board - Month of December 2024**

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$32,986.57 |
| Income            | \$40,068.03 |
| Expenses          | \$42,765.44 |
| Ending Balance    | \$30,289.16 |

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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.

**Attendance/Offering**

	<b>Worship Attendance</b>	<b>Offering</b>
Jan. 5	79 (Sanctuary), 25 (Facebook)	\$4,393.00
Jan. 12	90 (Sanctuary), 65 (Facebook)	\$2,676.00
Jan. 19	46 (Sanctuary), 52 (Facebook)	\$2,208.00
Jan. 26	90 (Sanctuary), 46 (Facebook)	\$3,555.00

\* Facebook views convey the number of viewers who watched for at least one minute.

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**Upcoming Holy Communion Assistants**

**February 9**

*Altar Assistants:* Carla Rozsitch, Maura Wesner  
Dawne Clay  
*Cup Stations:* Eric Weyandt, Kim Smyre  
*Ushers:* Allen Loeb, Larry Henne

**March 9 (Pew Communion)**

*Ushers:* Kim Smyre, Roxanne McMurtry  
Maura Wesner, Diane Rothenberger

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

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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!**



## Happening in February...

### Soup and Pie Sunday is February 16

On **Sunday, February 16** after church you need to save your appetite for our Presidents' Day event. Featured will be George Washington Cherry Pies, Martha Washington Cake, Lemon Sponge, Chocolate Cake with Peanut Butter Icing and Coconut Cake. Also, warm up with hearty Chili and Cheeseburger Soup. All for sale after worship. See you there!



### SOUPer BOWL

Tickets on sale now!

Schuylkill Valley High School Cafeteria  
February 22, 2025  
(snowdate: February 23, 2025)

11-1 p.m.

\*Take Out Only\*



#### Tickets

**\$22 EACH**

\*Includes\*

Handmade ceramic bowl  
2 pints of soup

Contact Jess Harle to  
purchase (610-451-4418)

Please donate soup for a  
great cause!

Sponsored by SV Art Club  
and the Conner Kleffel  
Memorial

Proceeds benefit sponsoring  
organizations

Bake Sale Items Available

### It's Sandwich time again!!!

Mark your calendars for our popular **Sandwich Sale** on **Thursday, February 27th** 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 2/20. There will also be a sign-up sheet posted in the Narthex.



Help will be needed on the 27th to make the sandwiches. The Mission Team is grateful to all who are able to lend a hand.

### Belleman's Family STEAM Night

**Friday, February 28, 2025**

6:30-7:30pm at the Belleman's Fellowship Hall

Throughout the year we will be offering the opportunity to come together with families in your Belleman's community and beyond. We will be incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics into a fun, interactive evening of learning together! So, bring your family, friends and your neighbor's family, and come on out to see what it's all about!

Please RSVP by 2/23/2025 to Kim Smyre 484-256-3719  
to save your spot!

(Unless noted otherwise - there will not be refreshments provided.)

Join us for Belleman's Family  
STEAM Nights presented by the  
Community Outreach  
Committee!



## Calendar of Events

**Sun. Holy Communion**  
**2/9 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**10:00AM Worship Service**  
*Community Outreach Meeting*

Tue. (2/11) 6:30PM Fundraising Committee Meeting

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
 2/12 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal

Sat. (2/15) 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**2/16 10:00AM Worship Service**  
*Soup and Pie Sunday (Info on page 6)*  
*Endowment Committee Meeting after worship*

Mon. 9:30AM Music and Worship Meeting  
 2/17 6:45PM Board Meeting

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
 2/19 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal

Thu. (2/20) Sandwich Sale Orders due to Karen Harle

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**2/23 10:00AM Worship Service**

Wed. 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
 2/26 6:30PM Choir Rehearsal

Thu. 2:00-6:00PM Sandwich Sale Pickup at the Fellowship Hall  
 2/27 (Helpers needed around 9 a.m.)

Fri. 6:30PM Belleman's Family STEAM Night  
 2/28 at the Fellowship Hall (Please see page 7 for more info)

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**3/2 10:00AM Worship Service**

Wed. 1:00PM Ash Wednesday Worship **At Belleman's**  
 3/5 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
 7:00PM Ash Wednesday Worship **At Epler's UCC**  
 (1151 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)

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

Sun. 3/9 - Sat. 3/15 Mission Trip to Ashville, North Carolina  
 (Office Closed)

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Lutheran Church of**  
**3/12 the Holy Trinity (102 Apple Street, Leesport PA 19533)**  
 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sat. 8:00AM–Noon SV Food Pantry @Trinity Leesport  
 3/15 (Belleman's Month to serve)

**Sun. 9:00AM Sunday School**  
**3/16 10:00AM Worship Service**

Mon. (3/17) 7:00PM Board Meeting

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Bern Lutheran**  
**3/19 (820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)**  
 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal  
 6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

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**SV Food Pantry needs your help...mark your calendars!**

**Belleman's** is the sponsoring church for the **March 15, 2025** distribution. **That means that we need your help at the food pantry that day.** Help will be needed from **8 a.m. till noon.**

There will be a signup sheet in the narthex.  
 Thank you in advance for your assistance!



## Lenten Worship Series 2025

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 - Now Two Worship Opportunities!

We begin the season of Lent on "Ash Wednesday" with two worship services on **March 5**. First, at 1:00 p.m. there will be a worship service at **Belleman's Church (3540 Belleman's Church Rd, Mohrsville Pa 19533)**. Then, at 7:00 p.m. there will be a service at **Epler's UCC (1151 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)**. The services include 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.



### 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:

**March 12: Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity**  
(102 Apple Street, Leesport PA 19533)

**March 19: Bern Lutheran**  
(820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)

**March 26: Belleman's Church Hall**  
(3730 Belleman's Church Rd, Mohrsville PA 19533)

**April 2: Bern UCC**  
(3196 Bernville Road, Leesport PA 19533)

**April 9: Bethany EC Church**  
(308 Main St, Leesport, PA 19533)

## Maundy Thursday



This years Maundy Thursday Worship on **April 17** will be hosted by **Gernant's Church (13 Gernant's Church Road, 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 **April 18** 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 Egg Hunt 2025



This year's egg hunt will take place on **Saturday, April 19**. The egg hunt will start **around 1:00 PM** and will take place in the church grove. We hope to see you there!

In preparation for this, the Primary Department requests **donations of small wrapped candies** for the Egg Hunt. Please drop them off in the Primary department with Brenda Weyandt or with James in the office. Thank You!

## Easter

The season is capped off on **Easter Sunday, April 20** as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from death. The day begins by joining with the Mohrsville Church of the Brethren for the Easter Dawn Service at the Belleman's Grove at **6:30 a.m.** and is followed by a light breakfast in the Fellowship Hall



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

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

## Belleman's Church day at the Pines

**When:** April 5, 2025, dinner at 12:30 p.m., show at 1:30 p.m.

**Where:** Pines Dinner Theatre  
(315 S. Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown PA 18103)

We will plan to organize a car pool for anyone interested.

**Cost:** \$65 per person due to the Church Office

The show presented this day is titled Nonsense.



Contact the Church Office or sign up in the narthex to assure yourself a ticket!

# PINES

DINNER THEATRE

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### The Easter Candy Sale will soon be here!

Keep on the lookout for this years Easter candy fundraiser. Again this year, profits from the sale will go toward Community Outreach events. Thank you!



### Dear Salem Belleman's Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$500 to Lutheran Disaster Response for Hurricane Recovery. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

**In Christ, The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director**

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With the close of another year, and the first distribution already completed for 2025, all of us here at SV Food Pantry wish to express our great appreciation of your continued support, either in monetary donations, food donations or man-hour help. We could not do what we do without the support from Churches like yours. It is a true blessing and allows us to continue to provide food assistance to those in need throughout Leesport and surrounding communities.

**Samuel Reimert, President/Treasurer, SV Food Pantry**

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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!

## February Birthdays

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

## February Anniversaries

- 21<sup>st</sup> Alfred & Renee Cross  
28<sup>th</sup> Jamie and Cheryl Kring

## March Birthdays

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

## March Anniversaries

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Donald & Sharon Duvall  
3<sup>rd</sup> Jackie & Stephen Lynn  
11<sup>th</sup> 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 show...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*