

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**1028 Church Street, PO Box 966**  
**Fogelsville, PA 18051-0966**



www.stjohns-fogelsville.org  
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Pastor  
Church Phone: (610) 395-5535  
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# March 2023

## COMING IN MARCH:

- March 15:** Lenten Musical Reflection
- March 17:** Community Free Dinner
- March 21:** Council Retreat
- March 24:** Pizza Kit Fundraiser (pick-up)
- March 26:** Baptisms



## LOOKING AHEAD...

- 4/2 – Palm Sunday
- 4/6 – Maundy Thursday Service  
with First Communion at 7:00 PM
- 4/7 – Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM
- 4/9 – Easter Sunday Services at 7 & 10:30 AM
- 4/16-18 – Cinnamon Bun Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who completed a “**NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE**”! If you have already selected your preference, great, if not it is not too late – simply let us know if you wish to receive your copy by email, pick up in the narthex, or continue through postal mail.  
*You may change your preference at any time.*



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Dear St. John's Members and Friends,

The Lenten Season is a time to reflect on God in our daily lives. The Lenten forty days is a challenging time in the East Coast of the United States where it is winter.

These forty days in Lent can easily be spent in weather like freezing rain, snow, bitter cold winds, and blizzards. Day Light Savings doesn't take away the dominant darkness of the day or the coldness of the winter season. What are we to do? Move to Florida? Na. No.

The Psalmist offers these words, “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Psalm 118.24 The Psalmist makes no distinction about what kind of day it is but that it is “the day that the Lord has made.”

Each day is the day of the Lord. Each day is a day that we have before us to live. Each day is another day to breathe the breath that God has given us. The Psalmist makes a communal call, “let us rejoice and be glad in it.” Glad because God made this day and we are living in it. So, we are to enjoy the day God has made regardless of the forecast. Daylight or darkness. Rain or shine.

In these forty days in Lent that are set before us we are called by the Psalmist to rejoice one day at a time. When we focus on the forty days we lose what is important -the moment of the day that God gave us to live, breath, and share with the people we are with.

Rejoice! Be glad for day of the Lord!

Blessed Lenten journey,  
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Pastor



## HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND??

Please be assured that pastoral visitation and Home Communion are always available at St. John's. Contact us if you or a family member desires the sacrament or a visit.

### OUR CHURCH HOSPITAL CODE IS: #281

Contact the church office and/or the pastor when you are hospitalized. Thank you to those who have been keeping us updated!



## Mission Statement

We, the members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Fogelsville, desiring to be blessed together with Word and Sacrament and to become more perfectly the Body of Christ in the world, do hereby commit ourselves to a mission which involves: increasingly creative and meaningful worship; developing additional opportunities for Christian Education; intentional witnessing to our congregation and community; Christ-centered social ministries and; promoting a more effective stewardship program which helps people to become better aware of what we have to offer and where we have needs.

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life."  
John 3:16*

REMINDER!!! Church cancellations will be displayed on WFMZ TV (or wfmz.com) on mornings of bad weather.

You can also call the church office and listen to the answering machine, it will relay cancellations.

Facebook Live will still be available if in-person is cancelled.



## Join us for worship!!!

**Important Worship UPDATE:** We are no longer asking for people to sign-in for in-house worship!!! In order to remain in voting status as a member of St. John's we must have record of your communion at least once each year through the completion of a communion card (found in every pew). We ask that you please take a moment to fill out one of these cards if you have not already done so.



**We email readings, prayers, and other resources each Friday so that you may reflect from home. Contact us to be added/removed from this list.**

### Sunday, March 5, 2023 – Second Sunday in Lent

**Genesis 12:1-4a** The blessing of God upon Abram

**Psalm 121** I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
my help comes from the Lord.

**Romans 4:1-5, 13-17** The promise to those who share Abraham's faith

**John 3:1-17** The mission of Christ: to save the world

### Sunday, March 12, 2023 – Third Sunday in Lent

**Exodus 17:1-7** Water from the rock in the wilderness

**Psalm 95** Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Romans 5:1-11** Reconciled to God by Christ's death

**John 4:5-42** Baptismal image: the woman at the well

### Sunday, March 19, 2023 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

**1 Samuel 16:1-13** David is chosen and anointed

**Psalm 23** You anoint my head with oil.

**Ephesians 5:8-14** Awake from sleep, live as children of light

**John 9:1-41** Baptismal image: the man born blind

**Sunday, March 26, 2023 – Fifth Sunday in Lent**

*Holy Baptism*

**Ezekiel 37:1-14** The dry bones of Israel brought to life

**Psalms 130** I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope.

**Romans 8:6-11** Life in the Spirit

**John 11:1-45** Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus



**MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Council Minutes - January 9, 2023, at 7 pm**

Present: Pastor Nelson, Mike Divers, Ken Divers, Neola Geschel, Cindy Graf, Carol Moyer, Donna Kressin, Matthew Kressin, Brad Sell, Curtis White, Jane White

Absent: Carla Malantonio, Lisa Herman, Mike Herman

Mike Divers called the meeting to order.

Pastor opened with prayer.

**Council Meeting Minutes** (November 14, 2022)

Ken made a motion, seconded by Curt, to approve the minutes from the November meeting. The motion carried.

**Treasurer/Finance Report:**

Neola made a motion, seconded by Jane, to accept the treasurer's report from November and December. The motion passed.

**President's Report:**

We welcomed Matthew Kressin, Brad Sell, and Curt White to church council.

**Pastor's Report**

Pastor submitted a report, and it was reviewed by council.

Highlights included homebound visits distributing goodie bags from the Sunday school children. The Joint Catechetical class visited the synagogue Congregation Keneseth Israel in Allentown.

**Committee Reports:**

Finance:

- Council discussed the interest from the Endowment Fund of \$1,524.31. Ken made a motion, seconded by Brad, to recommend the interest be put into the general fund. The motion passed. It will be brought to the congregation at the annual meeting.
- Endowment Fund- Bill Gery comes off, Theresa Muick and Stan Tantsits remain. Bonnie Kline will go on.

Property:

- Discussion of heating issues. Lowering the temperature is helping. Use of heating oil down.
- Check on use of scaffolding to secure ceiling tiles in the sanctuary.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Confirmation resumes Sunday. Sunday school homebound project is coming up.
- Sign in/out is working for Sunday school.

Youth Ministry:

Worship and Music:

Staff Support:

Evangelism:

Stewardship:

- Community Free Dinner scheduled for January 20. Shawn Furman family is hosting. Chili on the menu. Church council has chosen May to host. We will serve sausage sandwiches. Ladies Aid will host in September with chicken pot pie.

Ladies Aid:

Health and Wellness:

### Old Business:

Discussion of Facebook live for Sunday services. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Brad, we decided to suspend it for now and encourage members to attend in person worship. The motion passed.

### New Business:

Committee to work on the constitution and bylaws.

A motion was made by Jane, seconded by Cindy, to close the meeting. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Donna Kressin, council secretary

*All minutes from past meetings are available in the church office.*



## A Few Things to Keep in Mind:

✝ **Food Card Sales:** ½ of the profit from the food card sales will go towards the Restoration Fund, the other ½ will be sent to Second Harvest Food Bank. Thank you for your continued support of this fundraiser. Please see Dave Neimeyer to buy cards at church (Giant, Weis or Renda's), or stop by the office during the week to make a purchase.

✝ **2023 Address Directories are available in the narthex.** You may also request a PDF copy by email.

✝ **Flowers & Bulletins:** Bulletins - \$15.00; Flowers - \$44.50 for two vases. Feel free to contact the office with any questions or special requests.

✝ **2023 Offering Envelopes** - are still available for pick-up. You may pick up a box (with your assigned number) for the year. Please feel free to take them to friends and family. Envelopes have been moved to the church office.

✝ **Weekly Email** - If you would like to be added, please send us a note to: stjohns.lutheran@verizon.net.

✝ **Methods of giving** include offering envelopes, bank bill pay, and through our website with credit/debit card. Info about the different forms of donation is on our website.

✝ In order to remain in **voting status as a member of St. John's** we must have record of your communion at least once each year by home communion or at an in-house service. Please fill out a communion card, found in each pew.

✝ **Cookbooks** - \$10 each, please pick one up in the narthex. The proceeds will benefit St. John's Restoration Fund.

✝ **Redner's Receipts** - We are still participating in the "Sav-A-Tape" program at Redner's Market. Deposit tapes in the narthex.

## Upcoming Events/Opportunities:



Everyone is welcome to attend a special **Lenten Musical Reflection** on Wednesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM. Join us for a quiet selection of musical pieces chosen for the season of Lent, as we contemplate our preparations for Easter.

**Community Free Dinners** – Dinners will continue on the 3rd Friday, every other month (except November: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday). The next dinner will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>. This dinner will be sponsored by Bob & Becky Neumoyer. We still need a sponsor for July – sign up in the narthex. Anyone interested in volunteering please call the church or contact Dave Neimeyer (dave@neimeyer.org or 484-378-2725) or Bob Neumoyer (570-386-3045 or nrch14@ptd.net).

**Ladies Aid Pizza Kit Fundraiser:** Place your orders NOW thru March 8<sup>th</sup> for your pizza kit from Charlie K's Pizza (at the Allentown Fairgrounds)! Each kit costs \$20.00 and includes: 3 pizza crusts, 1 pt. sauce, and cheese packets. Please contact Carol Moyer to place your orders (610-398-0569). Pick up will be Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 3-6 PM or after worship on March 26<sup>th</sup>. *A possible Saturday pick-up may be added.*



**Flowers may now be ordered for Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex for flowers, colors, and prices. The deadline for orders is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

The **Cinnamon Bun Bake Sale** has been scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>. Orders will be taken by Carol Moyer (610-398-0569) March 19<sup>th</sup> thru April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Cost - \$10 each. Help is needed, a sign-up will be placed in the narthex soon. Please support this fundraiser!



**We are looking for anyone willing to help at Holy Week and Easter services** – please sign up online (SignUpGenius) or contact the church office.

## 🌿 Thank You... 🌿

- 🌿 To everyone who contributed towards the \$282 and 45 lbs of food collected for Souper Bowl Sunday. Special thanks to Kayti Demko and Michele Garon for helping with the collection, and to Dave Neimeyer for delivering the food items.
- 🌿 To all our volunteers who continue to help during Sunday in-house services acolyting, welcoming visitors, reading, etc.
- 🌿 To everyone who continues to support St. John's by donating online or on the app, through Simply Giving, or by mailing in your checks/envelopes! Special thanks to those who have designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's Church.
- 🌿 To everyone who is supporting the Restoration Fund and the Food Bank through the purchase of food cards.



- ✝ **Be Our Facebook Friend!!** If you are on Facebook connect to your St. John's friends by searching "St. John's Lutheran Youth/Adult Group" to keep up to date! Send a friend request and we will add you to the group.
- ✝ We are still looking for any youth that may be interested in serving as **bell ringers, acolytes, or crucifers**. You can use SignUp Genius to chose a date to serve. Speak with Pastor Nelson if you are interested or contact the office for more info.
- ✝ **Sunday School is lots of fun!** It is never too late to join us - we have classes for toddlers through adult.
- ✝ **First Communion** will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023. At St. John's, children who are/will be six years of age or older during 2023 will be considered for admission. Please contact Pr. Nelson if you would like to discuss and determine the readiness of your child.
- ✝ **NO EASTER EGG HUNT OR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL in 2023.** We will be re-organizing and planning with the hopes to resume these activities next year.

**Also, check out the "Youth Page" on our website!!!**



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE  
**MIDDLE EAST CRISIS**

**FEBRUARY 2023**

[ELCA.org/disaster](http://ELCA.org/disaster)

On Feb. 6 two powerful earthquakes, one a magnitude 7.8 and the second a magnitude 7.5, hit Türkiye and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The two quakes devastated both countries, killing thousands of people and collapsing thousands of buildings.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to the earthquakes. ACT Alliance

member organizations are providing immediate aid; a comprehensive response will be coordinated as the full extent of the impact becomes clearer.

**Gifts to “Middle East Crisis” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquakes and other disasters in the region. Together we can provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it.**

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Yes, I want to help!

- Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ DDG0010
- Lutheran Disaster Response: Middle East Crisis      \$ \_\_\_\_\_ IDG0038

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Give through your congregation or make your check out to  
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,  
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009 and write “Where needed most” or  
“Middle East Crisis” on your check’s memo line.**



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