

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
Church E-mail: stjohns.lutheran@verizon.net

April 2023

COMING IN APRIL:

April 2: Palm Sunday Service at 10:30 AM

April 6: Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM

April 7: Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM

April 9: Easter Sunday Services at 7 & 10:30 AM

April 16-18: Cinnamon Bun Bake Sale

April 23: Coffee Hour



CHRIST IS RISEN!
ALLELUIA!

LOOKING AHEAD...

5/3 - Mother/Daughter Banquet

5/14 - 3rd Grade Bibles/Mother's Day

5/19 - Community Free Dinner

5/21 - last day of Sunday School

5/28 - Confirmation

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,

Here are some trends of Lutheran churches in Allentown:

- ✠ Paul's Lutheran Church - Closed
- ✠ St. Matthew's Lutheran Church - Closed
- ✠ St. Michael's Lutheran Church - Consolidated with Nativity Lutheran Church
- ✠ St. Stephen's Lutheran Church - Merger with Christ Lutheran Church

In these uncertain times St. John's future seems uncertain. However, we are guided by God's word through Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream.

Joseph explains to pharaoh the meaning of his dream. Joseph reveals that Egypt will have 7 good years of plenty. Then, Egypt will experience 7 bad years of famine. However, Joseph points out to Pharaoh that during the 7 good years of plenty they could save 1/5 of the goods. Then, when the 7 years of famine come, Egypt will be prepared and survive the years ahead.

To this end, the Church Council is exploring efforts to educate itself on the current financial condition at St. John's Church.

People seem to be under the impression that the church has money. The reality is that without breaking our endowments, we don't.

While past established financial accounts moved the church forward, those accounts today are coming to an end.

We are not going to close or merge or consolidate. At this time we need to make a plan for St. John's future ministries.

The generous financial gifts during the pandemic years showed the potential for St. John's to continue doing ministries in our community.

Those 2 challenging years revealed members' financial commitments to see St. John's continue its ministry today. We have the potential to plan for our future and the next generation.

Blessings,
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*



Join us for worship!!!

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.

Holy Week & Easter Services

- 4/2/23: 10:30 AM **Palm Sunday Service** with Communion
- 4/6/23: 7:00 PM **Maundy Thursday Service** with Footwashing & First Holy Communion
- 4/7/23: 7:00 PM **Good Friday Service**
- 4/9/23: 7:00 AM **Easter Dawn Service** with Communion
- 4/9/23: 10:30 AM **Easter Family Service** with Communion

Sunday, April 2, 2023 – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a The servant of the Lord submits to suffering
Psalms 31:9-16 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.
Philippians 2:5-11 Humbled to the point of death on a cross
Matthew 26:14--27:66 The passion of the Lord

Sunday, April 9, 2023 – Resurrection of Our Lord

Acts 10:34-43 God raised Jesus on the third day
Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Colossians 3:1-4 Raised with Christ to seek the higher things
Matthew 28:1-10 Proclaim the resurrection

Sunday, April 16, 2023 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Christ’s resurrection: the fulfillment of God’s promise to David

Psalm 16 In your presence there is fullness of joy.

1 Peter 1:3-9 New birth to a living hope through the resurrection

John 20:19-31 Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ

Sunday, April 23, 2023 – 3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Receiving God’s promise through baptism

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 I will call on the name of the Lord.

1 Peter 1:17-23 Born anew through the living word of God

Luke 24:13-35 Eating with the risen Christ

Sunday, April 30, 2023 – 4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47 The believers’ common life

Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

1 Peter 2:19-25 Follow the shepherd, even in suffering

John 10:1-10 Christ the shepherd



Council Minutes February 13, 2023, at 7 pm

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

Absent: Jane White

Mike Divers called the meeting to order.

Pastor opened with a reading from the Lehigh Mission district newsletter regarding antisemitism, followed by a prayer.

Council Meeting Minutes (January 9, 2023, and January 15, 2023)

Mike made a motion, seconded by Cindy, to approve the minutes from the January 9 meeting. The motion carried. Carla made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 15 meeting, the motion carried. We reviewed the minutes from the congregational meeting on January 29. Neola made a motion to accept all the minutes, seconded by Carol. The motion carried.

Treasurer/Finance Report (January 2023):

Discussion was held regarding the shortfall between monthly needs and contributions. Due to a large donation this month we are fine for now. Lisa said we need to create a plan moving forward to address the issue. Carla made a motion, seconded by Donna, to accept the treasurer’s report from January. The motion passed.

President’s Report:

Mike Divers successfully switched our PPL coverage to save 6 cents per KWH with a fixed rate for 2 years. Thank you, Mike.

A discussion was held about the possibility of changing banks to the local New Tripoli bank. On a motion by Lisa, seconded by Curt, Lisa will investigate the possibility of changing banks.

Pastor’s Report:

Pastor submitted a report, and it was reviewed by council. Highlights included homebound visits distributing Valentine boxes from the Sunday school children.

An anonymous donor made a donation of \$150 to tithe the interest from the Endowment fund. The donation will go to the Lehigh Mission District to support its programs.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- Council discussed ways to inform church members of our ongoing financial reports. Read the back page of the bulletin weekly.

Property:

- Ceiling tile repair in the sanctuary will be coordinated with the scaffolding procurement and volunteers.

- The cameras still need to be installed in the upper and lower hallways as outlined in the Sexual Offender Policy.
- Beth Stottmeister has requested the use of the church for her recital on June 13. On a motion by Neola, seconded by Mike H., the motion passed. She will pay for use.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- We have tabled Bible school for this year. Discussion of how it could look different in the future.
- We have also decided not to have the Easter Egg Hunt. Our new policy would require all volunteers to have clearances, including the volunteers from UCC church. It is too late to coordinate this.

Youth Ministry:

Worship and Music:

- On a motion by Neola, seconded by Cindy, we will dispense with the sign in sheets. We will return to pew cards.

Staff Support:

Evangelism:

- Discussion on how to reach out to the new housing developments in the area.

Stewardship:

- Stewardship Campaign Sunday to be held in October. We need to put together a plan for Consecration Sunday.

Ladies Aid:

- Fundraiser- Charlie K's pizza. Kit for 3 12-inch pizzas for \$20. Orders in by March 8 with delivery on March 24.
- April 17-18 Sticky bun sale. Had to raise the price to \$10 due to cost of ingredients going up. All proceeds to go to ministry at St. John's (current fund)
- May 3- Mother's Day banquet in our church
- June 4- Father's Day brunch following worship

Health and Wellness:

- AED pads need to be replaced but are unavailable at this time. Supply issues.

Old Business:

Constitution and bylaws committee to meet soon.
Coffee hours have resumed.

New Business:

Iron Lakes Advertisement. Pass for now.

Planning a council retreat on Tuesday, March 21 at 6:00 PM. Linda will present on the congregation's finances. On a motion by Mike D., seconded by Mike H., she will receive a stipend of \$75 for time and preparation.

Next Council Meeting March 13, 2023 @ 7:00.

A motion was made by Carla, 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.

✝ **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:

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



Everyone is invited to **coffee hour** after worship on Sunday, April 23rd. Feel free to bring a treat to share!

Mother/Daughter Banquet – will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd at 6:30 PM, HERE at St. John's. Enjoy a fun filled evening for women and their guests. Family and friends are welcome. Dinner will be served buffet style, all you can eat. We can seat approx. 90 people so please make reservations early. See Jeanette Holtzhafer to purchase tickets, on sale NOW. Tickets: \$16 for adults; \$8 for children 4-10; children 3 & under are free.



Community Free Dinners – Dinners will continue on the 3rd Friday, every other month (except November: 2nd Friday).



The next dinner will be held on May 19th, sponsored by Council. We still need a dinner 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).

Sunday School End-of-Year Party: May 21st at 9 AM

Geraniums are on sale now (to be displayed on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th). Cost - \$5.00 each. If you do not want any to take home, please consider buying one to be planted around the outside of the church! Sign-up in the narthex, deadline for orders is May 14th.



Community Memorial Day Service at the Fogelsville Union Cemetery - Monday, May 29th at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome – please join us.

Pines Dinner Theater – We have 25 seats reserved for the dates/shows listed below. Tickets are \$60 each, includes gratuity. Contact Neola Geschel to make reservations.

June 9th – "Route 66" (\$ due by May 21st)

December 9th – "Holly Jolly Christmas" (\$ due by November 19th)

We are looking for a female from the congregation (we already have a male volunteer) **to represent St. John's at these upcoming assemblies:**



Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly
Sunday, May 7 - 4 PM at the Lutheran Center

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly
June 1-3 at Kalahari Resorts in the Poconos

Contact the Church office or speak with Pastor Nelson if you are interested.

🌿 Thank You... 🌿

- 🌿 To everyone who continues to help with the Community Free Dinners – to those who donate items and their time. Special thanks for free-will donations from our dinner visitors, financial support from Keller Funeral Home, and to Thrivent for “seed money” through their Action Team program.
- 🌿 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 End-of-Year Party:** May 21st at 9 AM
- ✚ **NO VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL in 2023.** We will be re-organizing and planning with the hopes to resume next year.

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