

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



[www.stjohns-fogelsville.org](http://www.stjohns-fogelsville.org)  
The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Pastor  
Church Phone: (610) 395-5535  
Church E-mail: [stjohns.lutheran@verizon.net](mailto:stjohns.lutheran@verizon.net)

# May 2024

## COMING IN MAY:

- May 5:** Lehigh Mission District Assembly
- May 8:** Mother/Daughter Banquet
- May 12:** Mother's Day & Bible Presentation
- May 17:** Community Free Dinner
- May 19:** Sunday School End-of-the-year Party,  
Confirmation & Coffee Hour
- May 27:** Memorial Day Service



## LOOKING AHEAD...

- 6/2 – worship time change
- 6/4 – Beth's student piano recital
- 6/8 – Synod Assembly
- 6/9 – honoring our graduates & choir,  
Father's Day Brunch

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,

### **Solar Eclipse 2024**

About two weeks ago I was asked, "Oye, what do you think of the solar eclipse? Dicen que el mundo se va a acabar. They say the world is going to end."

I shared that the last solar eclipse I saw was in 2017 with my son. We took cereal boxes and aluminum foil. We poked a pinhole through the box to see the reflection of the solar eclipse inside the box. I assured this person that we will be here to see another eclipse and that our children will see many more.

Whether it was faith or fear from the combined long week of rain that followed the 4.0 magnitude earthquake felt from New Jersey, some Christians expected that the total solar eclipse was going to usher in an apocalyptic or an eschatological end of the world.

Some Christians, of course, believed that they would be taken up to heaven in the rapture before the end of the world, as if only Christians have a local direct line to God to deliver us from any fate to come.

On the morning of the solar eclipse, I listened to Ismael Rivera's album *Eclipse Total*. There were four eclipses in 1975 - the year the album was released.

As the hour was approaching, I went to the Fellowship Hall where the Ladies Aid and volunteers were baking the annual cinnamon buns at the church.

One church member had set a timer to halt production of the sticky buns so that they could step outside and capture the solar eclipse. It was a bit cloudy, but we got a chance to see God's creation.

We had a fun time watching the eclipse together. We included the Martin Luther statue in the fun by placing a pair of UV glasses on Luther.

Certainly, creation can bring fear and awe at the wonders of the galaxy. In the words of the Psalmist, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” *Psalm 19:1 NIV*

Happy post solar eclipse.

Peace,  
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.

*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!!!

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.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Both in-house services and Facebook Live broadcasts will begin at 10:30 AM on Sunday mornings.**

### **Sunday, May 5, 2024 – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Acts 10:44-48** The Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

**Psalm 98** Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands.

**1 John 5:1-6** The victory of faith

**John 15:9-17** Christ the friend and lover

### **Sunday, May 12, 2024 – Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*3rd Grade Bibles*

**Acts 1:15-17, 21-26** Matthias added to the apostles

**Psalm 1** The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

**1 John 5:9-13** Life in the Son of God

**John 17:6-19** Christ's prayer for his disciples

**Sunday, May 19, 2024 – The Day of Pentecost**

*Confirmation & Reception*

**Acts 2:1-21** Filled with the Spirit to tell God's deeds

**Psalm 104:24-34, 35b** Send forth your Spirit and  
renew the face of the earth.

**Romans 8:22-27** Praying with the Spirit

**John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15** Christ sends the Spirit of truth

**Sunday, May 26, 2024 – The Holy Trinity**

**Isaiah 6:1-8** Isaiah's vision and call

**Psalm 29** Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

**Romans 8:12-17** Living by the Spirit

**John 3:1-17** Entering the reign of God through water  
and the Spirit

**Monday, May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day**

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

at the Fogelsville Union Cemetery

The service will be led by Pr. Nelson and Pr. Denise,  
and assisted by the Breinigsville VFW and Boy Scouts.

Everyone is welcome – please join us.



**REMINDER...worship time will change to 9:30 AM  
beginning June 2nd!!!**

# Council Minutes March 11, 2024, at 7 pm

Present: Mike Divers, Ken Divers, Keri Ann Divers, Stacey Divers, Neola Geschel, Cindy Graf, Lisa Herman , Mike Herman, Donna Kressin, Matthew Kressin, Curtis White.

Absent: Pastor Nelson, Kelsey Herman, Carla Malantonio

Mike Divers called the meeting to order.

Neola led us in prayer.

## **Council Meeting Minutes** from February 12, 2024

Neola made a motion, seconded by KeriAnn, to approve the minutes from the February 12th meeting. The motion carried.

## **Treasurer/Finance Report** (February 2024)

Council reviewed the financial statements.

## **President's Report:**

### **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor would like to schedule a council retreat next month. Date to be determined.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Finance:

- A meeting was held on February 28 to discuss roles, procedures, and plans.
- Members appointed to the committee: Keri Ann Divers (Chair), Stan Tansits (Advisor), Jenna Sell, Stephen Althouse, and Kyle Seyler

### Property:

- Estimates for repairs needed before replacing the gas tank. Possible vendors are Dieter, Superior, and Laudenslager.
- Emergency light in the sanctuary is fixed.
- Toilet repaired in the downstairs ladies room.

### Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Easter egg hunt is to be replaced by participation in Upper Mac's Bunny Hop to be held on April 6, 2024. Egg filling

night is on 3/20 in the multipurpose room. We will have a decorated car with church banner to hand out goodies.

- Vacation Bible school has a date – Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 9-3. Theme, curriculum, and registration TBD.

### Youth Ministry:

### Worship and Music:

- Palm Sunday 3/24/24 at 10:30 am
- Maundy Thursday 3/28/24 at 7pm
- Good Friday 3/29/24 at 7pm
- Easter Sunday 3/31/24 at 7:00 and 10:30 am

### Staff Support:

- Staff reviews coming.

### Evangelism:

### Stewardship:

- Community free dinner sponsor for July is still needed.

### Ladies Aid:

- Pizza kit fundraiser- orders now through 3/6/24 Pick up on 3/22 and 3/24. \$20 for 3 pizzas
- Cinnamon Bun bake sale scheduled for April 7-9, 2024. Volunteers are still needed. Sign up in the narthex. Orders are being taken by Carol Moyer until March 24.
- Mother-daughter banquet is scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM here at St. John's. Make reservations with Jeanette Holtzhafer.

### Constitution & Bylaws report:

### Old Business:

- As website being rebuilt by Enter.Net. Update is coming soon.
- Coffee hour on April 21 will be sponsored by Ladies Aid. Next coffee hour will be at Confirmation .
- Discussed possibilities for our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone and the 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the church. This would take place in the fall.
- Inactive member letter being sent with an Easter invite. Letters are going out.

## New Business:

- Council gave permission for Beth Stottmeister to hold her piano recital on June 4, 2024 in the sanctuary and also use of the multipurpose room afterward for refreshments. They will do their own cleaning.
- We are looking for a male and female delegate to represent St. John's at these upcoming assemblies:
  1. Lehigh Mission District spring Assembly on Sunday, May 5 at 4:00pm at the Lutheran Center
  2. Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 8 at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, PA

Next Council Meeting-April 15 at 7:00 PM (week late due to the bake sale)

A motion was made by Neola, seconded by Curtis, 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 Redner's), or stop by the office during the week to make a purchase.

✝ **2024 Address Directories are available in the narthex.** You may also request a PDF copy by email.

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



✝ **Flowers & Bulletins:** Bulletins - \$15.00; Flowers - \$48.00 for two vases (*note the increased price*). Feel free to contact the office with any questions or special requests.

✝ **2024 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.

✝ **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** – now \$5 each, please pick one up in the narthex or Fellowship Hall. The proceeds will benefit the 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:

**Mother/Daughter Banquet** – will be held on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> 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 family style, all you can eat. We can seat approx. 90 people so please make reservations early - see Jeanette Holtzhafer now thru April 28<sup>th</sup> to save your seats. Cost: \$20 for adults; \$10 for children 5-10; children under 5 are free.



**Geraniums are on sale now** (to be displayed on Pentecost Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>). 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 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Community Free Dinners** – Dinners will continue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, every other month (except November- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday). The next dinner will be held on May 17, 2024 – sponsored by Curtis & Carl White. 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 nrich14@ptd.net). *Cash donations or purchased items will be gladly accepted from donors who possibly would like to help but are unable to attend for prep and serving.*







**Sunday School End-of-Year Party:** May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM



**Community Memorial Day Service** at the Fogelsville Union Cemetery - Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome – please join us.

**Summer Worship Time Change** – Please note that we will be changing to our summer worship schedule (9:30 AM worship June-August, NO Sunday School) on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Thank You...

-  To everyone who helped with and support the Cinnamon Bun Bake Sale. 490 orders were made and sold this year!!
-  To the volunteers who helped out at the UMT Bunny Hop event.
-  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!
-  To everyone who is supporting the Restoration Fund and the Food Bank through the purchase of food cards.
-  To all who have designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's Church.



# Youth Palate

- ✚ **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!
- ✚ 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-the-Year Party:** Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
- ✚ Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School:** Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM. We will be having a one day program this year, we hope you can join us! More information coming soon.

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



## ATTENTION GRADUATES...

Please let us know if you are graduating from high school, college, business or technical school. We would like to honor all our graduates on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Please call the office or email your info (let us know your name, name of the school you are graduating from, and your future plans).

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

