

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



ELCA

www.stjohns-fogelsville.org

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Pastor

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June 2024

COMING IN JUNE:

June 2: worship time change

June 4: Beth's student piano recital

June 8: Synod Assembly

June 9: honoring our graduates & choir,
Father's Day Brunch

June 30-July 7: Pastor on vacation



LOOKING AHEAD...

7/19 – Community Free Dinner

7/20 – Vacation Bible School Day

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,

Faith and Science in Paradox* Part 1

The above title is borrowed from the essay, "Luther on Copernicus and Models for Faith and Science Dialogue" by The Rev. Dr. Roger E. Timm. From his essay, the retired professor of Religion at Muhlenberg College offers Faith and Science in Paradox as an approach to enter into dialogue with science and religion.

Let me begin this dialogue with science. In 2024 there was a total solar eclipse. There were meteor showers and a full lunar eclipse. In addition, there were the Northern Lights and a planetary alignment. Then there is the upcoming Andromeda Galaxy collision with our Milky Way Galaxy. According to astrophysicist Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, the astro collision is to take place in 5 to 6 billion years or after the sun burns out.

By now you may question the obvious: Why worry about this when none of us will be around when this collision takes place? Well, here is the purpose of this conversation between faith and science: How does the fate of the universe compare to our religious understanding of God's creation?

Scientists calculated the exact path of totality of the solar eclipse that covered parts of North America. The next total solar eclipse to be seen in the United States is scheduled for August 23, 2044. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has on its calendar the return of Halley's Comet to pass by the Earth in 2061. These calculations are worked out to a science. Since they don't post a real danger to our belief, we enjoy their continual celestial appearance in our skies.

Keeping in mind these upcoming astro events, science appears to have also calculated the end of the universe as we know it. Scientists' predictions of our evolutionary universe stand in contrast to religious beliefs of God's hands in creation. This particular celestial encounter appears to be the doom of humanity and the universe.

My question: Is the predestination of our solar system an expression of its free will to come to its inevitable end? Here then is Dr. Timm's approach of faith and science in paradox.

The religious belief and understanding of God's creation and that of humanity as we know it will cease to exist. This is quite a paradox to a religious belief in which there is the expectancy of an eternal life. Here then lies faith and science in paradox and the relevancy for the discussion.

In his essay Dr. Timm writes, "there are indeed times when faith and science conflict with each other - or at least, times when differences between religion and science need careful examination."

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones,
Pastor

* "Luther on Copernicus and Models for Faith and Science Dialogue" by The Rev. Dr. Roger E. Timm, May 16, 2016 in Lutheran Alliance for Faith, Science and Technology.

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!



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 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings beginning 6/2. Sunday School will resume in the fall.

Pastor Nelson will be on vacation 6/30-7/7. There will be NO Facebook Live Worship while Pastor Nelson is away.

Sunday, June 2, 2024 – 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 5:12-15 The commandment regarding the sabbath

Psalm 81:1-10 Raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.

2 Corinthians 4:5-12 Treasure in clay jars

Mark 2:23—3:6 Doing the work of God on the sabbath

Sunday, June 9, 2024 – 3rd Sunday after Pentecost

Honoring Choir & Graduates

Genesis 3:8-15 God confronts Adam and Eve in the garden

Psalm 130 Wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love.

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1 Renewed in the inner nature

Mark 3:20-35 Doing the work of God as brothers and sisters of Christ

Sunday, June 16, 2024 – 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Ezekiel 17:22-24 The sign of the cedar, planted on the mountain

Psalms 92:1-4, 12-15 The righteous shall spread abroad
like a cedar of Lebanon.

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17 In Christ, a new creation

Mark 4:26-34 The parable of the mustard seed

Sunday, June 23, 2024 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-11 The creator of earth and sea

Psalms 107:1-3, 23-32 You stilled the storm and silenced the waves

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 Paul's defense of his ministry

Mark 4:35-41 Christ calming the sea

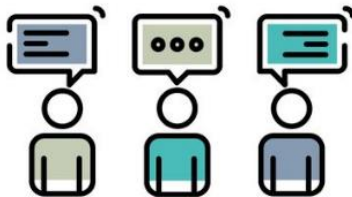
Sunday, June 30, 2024 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33 Great is the Lord's faithfulness

Psalms 30 I will exalt you, O Lord, because you have lifted me up.

2 Corinthians 8:7-15 Excel in generosity, following the Lord Jesus

Mark 5:21-43 Christ healing a woman and Jairus's daughter



Council Minutes April 15, 2024, at 7 pm

Present: Pastor Nelson, Mike Divers, Ken Divers, Keri Ann Divers, Stacey Divers, Neola Geschel, Cindy Graf, Matthew Kressin, Curtis White, Carla Malantonio.

Absent: Kelsey Herman, Lisa Herman, Mike Herman, Donna Kressin

Mike Divers called the meeting to order.

Pastor Nelson led us in prayer.

Council Meeting Minutes from March 11, 2024

Neola made a motion, seconded by Stacey, to approve the minutes from the March 11th meeting. The motion carried.

Special Council Meetings from March 24, 2024

Stacey made a motion, seconded by Curtis, to approve the minutes from March 24 meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer/Finance Report-March 2024

The council reviewed the financial statements.

Paperwork completed for new authorized/account signers for the Laudenslager and Sheppard funds. A motion was made to remove Rob Schmidt, David Neimeyer and Lisa Herman from these accounts. The motion carried. We want to thank Rob, David and Lisa for their many years of assistance and service.

President's Report:

New roof water leak identified in Altar Guild room. Will assist with property committee with identifying solution.

Pastor's Report:

Report reviewed. Council retreat will be combined with next month's meeting.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- A meeting was held on March 18 to continue discussion and make recommendations to council-see Special Council meeting (3/24/2024).
- CD purchases were completed at New Tripoli Bank (Helga Howard Fund) and Morgan Stanley (Sheppard Bequest).

Property:

- Emergency light batteries checked.
- Toilet repaired in the downstairs lady's room.
- Dishwash in church kitchen not working properly and Ladies Aid will sponsor to find out cause.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- 3rd Grade Bible x1 presentation-scheduled for 5/12/2024.
- Spring Project-Food Bank Donations of personal care/toiletry items.
- End of year party-May 19th at 9am.

- Vacation Bible School Day-7/20/2024 (9a-3p). Theme, curriculum, and registration pending.
- Participation completed in Upper Mac's Bunny Hop held on April 6, 2024. The event was successful, and we plan to participate next year.
- Plan meeting with St John's UCC in September 2024 to coordinate activities for next year.

Youth Ministry:

No report.

Worship and Music:

- Pentecost Sunday 5/19/2024-Confirmation
- Memorial Day worship service at Fogelsville Union Cemetery 5/27/2024 at 10am

Staff Support:

- Staff reviews coming.

Evangelism:

Stewardship:

- Community free dinner sponsors are secured for this year.
- Next dinner-5/17/2024-Curtis and Carl White sponsoring.
- Plan to restore brief congregational 'temple talks' quarterly. Carla has volunteered for 4/21/2024 re: "Why I tithe".

Ladies Aid:

- Pizza kit fundraiser successful.
- Cinnamon Bun bake sale -April 7-9, 2024. 492 buns baked.
- Mother-daughter banquet is scheduled for May 8th at 6:30 PM here at St. John's. Make reservations with Jeanette Holtzhafer.

Constitution & Bylaws report.

No report.

Old Business:

- Church website continues to be rebuilt by Enter.Net. Link previewed. Website will be going live soon.
- Coffee hour on April 21 will be sponsored by Ladies Aid. Next coffee hour will be for Confirmation 5/19/2024. June 2024-Father's Day brunch. The council will help plan next year's schedule.
- Health Procedures-list posted in church closet. Tool Bag added.
- Discussed possibilities for our 150th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone and the 190th anniversary of the founding of

the church. Plan for October 27 Reformation Day celebration?
Coffee hour or potluck lunch.

- We are looking for a female delegate to represent St. John's at these upcoming assemblies:
 - Lehigh Mission District Spring Assembly on Sunday, May 5 at 4:00pm at the Lutheran Center
 - Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 8 at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, PA

New Business:

- The council reviewed the inactive member list and recommendations reviewed. A motion was made by Stacey and seconded by Curtis to accept the inactive member list and remove 26/most names. The motion carried.

Next Council Meeting/Retreat-May 6 at 6:30 PM at the Fogelsville Hotel.

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Carla Malantonio

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.

✝ **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:

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

Attention Graduates - please let us know if you are graduating from high school, college, business or technical school. We will be honoring all our graduates on June 9th. Please call/email the office with your info ASAP.



Father's Day Brunch - We would like to invite everyone, especially the fathers (grand-fathers, fathers-in-law...all of you!) to join us after worship on Sunday, June 9th. Sign-up in the narthex for needed items.

St. John's will once again be a drop off point for **Plant-A-Row Lehigh Valley**. Drop off home grown vegetable and fruit donations on Mondays between 8 AM and 6 PM, starting June 10th. There will be a cooler outside the main office door for donations. Donated produce will go to St. Paul's food pantry in Trexlertown. Please direct all questions to Beth Furman at 484-217-2197.



Community Free Dinners – Dinners will continue on the 3rd Friday, every other month (except November- 2nd Friday). The next dinner will be held on July 19, 2024 – sponsored by Jessica Wentz. 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). *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.*

Basket Social – Even though our annual Basket Social is not until October 4th & 5th, it is not too early to start planning! We are also starting to distribute letters for donations - please let us know if you are aware of a business that would be interested in donating, or if you would be willing to spread the word. A sign-up sheet for baskets and needed items is in the narthex. Monetary donations may be handed to Jeanette Holtzhafer or Carol Moyer. Keep watching for more info – help is needed.



Pines Dinner Theater – We have 25 seats reserved for the dates/shows listed below. *Please note the new location: Shops at Cedar Point, 315 S. Cedar Crest Blvd., Allentown* Tickets are \$70 each (includes dinner, show and gratuity). Contact Neola Geschel with any questions or to make reservations.

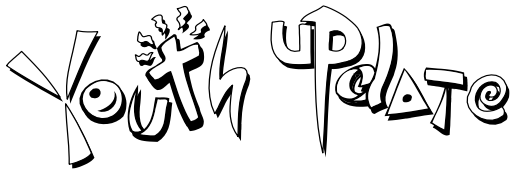
October 11th at 6:30 PM – “Always...Patsy Cline”

December 6th at 6:30 PM – “White Christmas”



Thank You...

- ✿ To the Sunday School teachers, helpers and students for another wonderful year. We hope to see everyone in the fall!
- ✿ To PA Lawn & Landscape for taking care of the garden beds and grass here at the church.
- ✿ To everyone who helps to prepare, cook, pack, and serve the Community Free Dinners. And to those who provide financial support or give offerings when picking up dinners!
- ✿ 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, through Simply Giving, or with 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.



✚ **Be Our Facebook Friend!!** Connect to your St. John's friends by searching "St. John's Lutheran Youth/Adult 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.

✚ Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School**: Saturday, July 20th from 9 AM to 3 PM. We will be having a one day program this year, we hope you can join us! More info coming soon.

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