

**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

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# August 2024

## COMING IN AUGUST:

**August 2, 5 & 21:** Office Closed

**August 6 & 27:** Basket Assembly

**August 11:** Choir Picnic

**August 15:** Vince's Cheesesteak Food Truck



## LOOKING AHEAD...

9/1 – worship times changes to 10:30 AM

9/8 – Outdoor Worship & Picnic

9/15 – Rally Day & Harvest Home

9/20 – Community Free Dinner

9/24 – Basket Assembly

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 Church Lives in God's Hope and Future**

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

As I write this August newsletter, we are 4 months away from Christmas. I know it is too soon to start thinking about the Advent and Christmas seasons of the Church. (Don't tell anyone that my wife is already planning out her Christmas decorations.) I welcome this thought because it will bring cooler weather from the present summer scorching heat.

The church lives in the present hope with an expectation towards the future.

Presently, St. John's church leaders have accomplished a full day of VBS, a Community Free Dinner, and Vince's Cheesesteaks is on its way.

The future holds preparations for the Catechetical and Sunday School lessons, Rally Day, Harvest Home, Halloween Hot Dog Stand (more cooler weather) and many Advent and Christmas activities throughout the season.

In the book of Jeremiah God tells the community the plans he had in store for them - Plans that brings forth prosperity, Plans that do not cause harm, Plans that are filled with hopes, Plans that lead the people moving towards the future.

God's plans for St. John's are full of hope and a future.

Stay safe and cool,  
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!*



## 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.**

**REMINDER: Both in-house services and Facebook Live will return to 10:30 AM on 9/1/24. Sunday School will resume 9/15/24.**

### **Sunday, August 4, 2024 – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15** The Lord gives manna in the wilderness

**Psalms 78:23-29** God rained down manna from heaven;  
so mortals ate the bread of angels.

**Ephesians 4:1-16** Maintain the unity of the faith

**John 6:24-35** Christ the bread of life

**Sunday, August 11, 2024 – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**1 Kings 19:4-8** Elijah given bread for his journey  
**Psalm 34:1-8** Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
**Ephesians 4:25—5:2** Put away evil, live in love  
**John 6:35, 41-51** Christ, the bread of life

**Sunday, August 18, 2024 – 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Proverbs 9:1-6** Invited to dine at wisdom's feast  
**Psalm 34:9-14** Those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.  
**Ephesians 5:15-20** Filled with the Spirit, sing thanks to God  
**John 6:51-58** Christ the true food and drink

**Sunday, August 25, 2024 – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18** Joshua calls all Israel to serve the Lord  
**Psalm 34:15-22** The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous.  
**Ephesians 6:10-20** Put on the armor of God  
**John 6:56-69** The bread of eternal life



**Council Minutes June 10, 2024, at 7:00 pm**

Present: Pastor Nelson, Mike Divers, Ken Divers, Keri Ann Divers, Stacey Divers, Neola Geschel, Cindy Graf, Kelsey Burian-Miller, Lisa Herman, Mike Herman, Donna Kressin, Matthew Kressin, Carla Malantonio, Curtis White

Visitors: Matthew Rosko, Emma Luipersbeck, Ariana DePinto, Guiliana DePinto, Luca DePinto, Jen Rosko, Joe Rosko, Karen Luipersbeck

Mike Divers called the meeting to order.  
Pastor led us in prayer.

### **Confirmand Interviews**

The confirmands were interviewed by the council members. A sampling of some questions included the following:

- What church activity did you volunteer to help with?
- Which learning format did you prefer?
- What was your experience when visiting other church denominations?
- How are you going to continue to participate at St. John's Church?
- What would you change about the catechetical program if you could?

All confirmands answered the questions satisfactorily.

### **Council Meeting Minutes from May 6, 2024**

Stacey made a motion, seconded by Neola, to approve the minutes from the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. The motion carried.

### **Treasurer/Finance Reports (May 2024)**

Cindy made a motion, seconded by Donna, to approve the financial reports. The motion carried.

The synod is planning training for church treasurers in the future.

### **President's Report:**

Propane was delivered.

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

- Synod Assembly recap.
- Vacation dates: off Sundays June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 7<sup>th</sup>. Richard will cover June 30<sup>th</sup> and we will have a hymn sing on July 7<sup>th</sup> led by Neola.
- Pastor participated in Memorial Day service at Fogelsville Union Cemetery with St. John's UCC.

## **Committee Reports:**

### Finance:

### Property:

- Deiter Bros. oil contract has been renewed. Discussion was held about options. Lisa Herman will forward options to us to choose from by July 1.
- Fire extinguishers were inspected on June 5<sup>th</sup>
- The propane was delivered but we need to follow up on requirements for new tank and upgrades needed to come up to code.
- We received a proposal from Machemer Contracting for brick coating: \$14,450

### Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Vacation Bible school has a date – Saturday, July 20, 2024, from 9-3. Theme, curriculum, and registration TBD. Planning meeting is set for June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. There will be a signup for children in the narthex.

### Youth Ministry:

### Worship and Music:

- Rich Ludwig-Dicus will be leading worship on June 30. Neola Geschel will be leading worship/ Hymn Sing on July 7 while Pastor is on vacation.
- Beth Stottmeister will be off June 30 with Cindy Geho supplying.
- No Facebook live on those dates.

### Staff Support:

- Staff reviews coming.

### Evangelism:

- Thank you, Carla, for your temple talk, Looking for another volunteer in August.

### Stewardship:

- Community free dinner sponsorship is complete. Our next dinner is 7/19/24 sponsored by Jessica Wentz.
- A meeting was held on June 2 to discuss procedures and an increase in attendance/traffic control.
- Schedule for coffee hours completed by Neola.

Ladies Aid:

- Basket Social scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. We have letters printed if anyone wants to help solicit local businesses for donations.
- Vincés's food truck will be in the parking lot on August 15. Ladies will be baking pies to sell.

Constitution & Bylaws report:

**Old Business:**

Copier lease paperwork is completed. Will schedule equipment swap for later in the summer.

**New Business:**

- Use of Facilities guidelines and Funeral Checklist were updated. On a motion by Neola, seconded by Kelsey, we voted to adopt the new guidelines and fees. New fees: \$250 for a nonmember to rent the multipurpose room with a \$150 cleaning fee deposit (to be returned if no cleaning is required).

Next Council Meeting-July 8th at 7:00 PM

A motion was made by Stacey, seconded by Kelsey 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:

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, now through the end of the growing season. 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.

**Vince's Cheesesteak Food Truck** will be coming back to our church parking lot! Stop by and support this fundraiser on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 AM – 6:00 PM. \$1 from each sandwich sold will go to St. John's General Fund. We will also have pies and baked goods for sale (sign up in the narthex, if you would like to provide a treat). Share with your friends and family...help us spread the news!

**Worship Time Change** – service returns to 10:30 AM on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

**Outdoor Worship Service/Church Picnic** – On Sunday,



September 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have an outdoor worship service at the Breinigsville Park at 10:30 AM, followed by our annual picnic. This event will again be held together with the congregation of St. John's UCC. Bring your

lawn chairs and a salad/dessert to share, if you are able (please sign-up in the narthex). Come and enjoy worshipping outside in God's creation, followed by good food, fellowship and fun.

**Community Free Dinners** – Dinners will continue on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, every other month (except November- 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday). Dinners begin at 5 PM, while supplies last! The next dinner will be held on September 20, 2024 – sponsored by Ladies Aid. 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.*

**Basket Social** – Even though our annual Basket Social is not until October 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 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. Items DO NOT need to be in a basket/wrapped – we will be happy to assemble them for you!

***Basket Assembly dates have been set:*** Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> (8:30 AM – 12 PM both days); Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> (4 PM- ?). Help is needed!

**Boscov's Friends Helping Friends** shopping passes are now available for Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 8 AM-11 PM (IN-STORE ONLY). Your donation of \$5 to St. John's Ladies Aid will entitle you to receive 25% off most items purchased that day.



This is a great way to begin holiday shopping! See any Ladies Aid member to purchase one.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM – “Always...Patsy Cline”

December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM – “White Christmas”



# Thank You...

- ✿ To the Vacation Bible School teachers, helpers and students for an amazing day of learning, crafts, songs and more on 7/20!
- ✿ 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 Rich Ludwig-Dicus & Neola Geschel for leading worship services while Pastor Nelson was on vacation.
- ✿ 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.



## Youth Plate

- ✠ **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 choose a date to serve. Speak with Pastor Nelson if you are interested or contact the office for more info.
- ✠ **Rally Day is planned for September 15<sup>th</sup>!** Keep watching for details as we prepare to kick off another year.

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