

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

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November 2024

COMING IN NOVEMBER:

All of November: LMD Christmas Ingathering

November 2: Christmas Craft Night

November 8: Community Free Dinner

November 10: Congregational Meeting

November 21-24: Thanksgiving Sides Sale

November 27: Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service
& Coffee Hour (held here)



LOOKING AHEAD...

12/1 - Community Tree Lighting

12/6 - Pines Dinner Theater Show

12/9 - Christmas Party

12/15 - Christmas Program

12/24 - Christmas Eve Services

12/29 - Lessons & Carols

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,

Look to the LORD

It is November 2024. I was thinking of writing something inspirational for this season when families get together to celebrate Thanksgiving.

However, the reality in the United States does not allow me to paint a rosy picture. So the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade image I was going to use will have to wait.

This year's focus has been on the U.S. presidential election. As you read this, the nation is awaiting the ballot results of the presidential election.

Many churches in the mission district have been divided over which presidential candidate to elect- a prosecutor or a convicted felon.

Micah 7:6 reflects our nation's condition: "for the son treats the father with contempt, the daughter rises up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; your enemies are members of your own household."

Corruption happens when enablers allow misinformation to filter into the family causing division amongst the church family.

The conversation at the Thanksgiving dinner table should be an interesting one this year for the family.

Let's hope whichever U.S. Presidential candidate is elected will lead our country and bring unity, not divide.

In the meantime, let Micah's response be ours, "But as for me, I will look to the LORD, I will wait for the God of my salvation; my God will hear me." Micah 7:7

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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!!!

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, November 3, 2024 – All Saints Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9 The banquet of the Lord

Psalms 24 They shall receive blessing from
the God of their salvation.

Revelation 21:1-6a A new heaven and a new earth

John 11:32-44 The raising of Lazarus

Sunday, November 10, 2024 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 17:8-16 God feeds Elijah and the widow at Zarephath

Psalms 146 The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down.

Hebrews 9:24-28 The once for all sacrifice of Christ

Mark 12:38-44 A widow's generosity reveals the hypocrisy
of the scribes

Sunday, November 17, 2024 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Daniel 12:1-3 The deliverance of God's people at the end

Psalm 16 My heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;
my body shall rest in hope.

Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25 The way to God opened through
Christ's death

Mark 13:1-8 The end and the coming of the Son

Sunday, November 24, 2024 – Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 The one coming with the clouds rules over all

Psalm 93 Ever since the world began,
your throne has been established.

Revelation 1:4b-8 Glory to the one who made us a kingdom

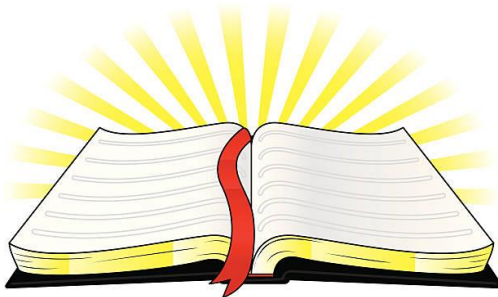
John 18:33-37 The kingdom of Christ

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 – Thanksgiving Eve

Joint Service held here with St. John's UCC at 7:00 PM

(Coffee Hour to follow)

Every gathering for worship has elements of thanksgiving. When we are nourished with God's bounty in holy communion, when we partake of Jesus' word that gives life to the world, and even when two or three of us simply join our hearts in prayer to make our requests known to God, we do so "with thanksgiving." Let us give thanks to God, who is good and whose mercy endures forever.



Council Minutes - September 10, 2024, at 7 pm

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

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

Council Meeting Minutes from August 12, 2024

Cindy made a motion, seconded by Neola, to approve the minutes from the August 12 meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer/Finance Report (August 2024)

Stacey made a motion, seconded by Donna, to approve the financial reports. The motion carried. Final deposit of \$2671.19 was deposited from the Helga Howard estate.

President's Report:

Picnic had a good turnout (87 people). The loose offering of \$108.88 went to the food bank.

Pastor's Report:

- Report included worship services, funerals, meetings, and visits.
- Facebook views of our weekly services range from 108-171.
- A letter was sent out via email to the parents of prospective catechetical students. Projecting 8 students, 7 of which are to be confirmed in June of 2025.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

Property:

- Air conditioning repairs in Fellowship Hall (belt and capacitor)
- Batteries were replaced in the hall cameras. Some bulbs in kitchen lights replaced.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Teacher installation on Rally Day is scheduled September 15, 2024
- Homebound project on October 27th

Youth Ministry:

Worship and Music:

- Choir rehearsals resumed.
- Harvest Home on September 15th- no coffee hour
- Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 27th at our church. We host coffee hour.
- Christmas Children's program being planned for December 15th

Staff Support:

- Staff reviews coming.

Evangelism:

- Halloween Hot Dog Stand- October 25th. Dave Neimeyer coordinating.

Stewardship:

- Community Free Dinner sponsored by Ladies Aid on September- Chicken pot pie
- Community Free Dinner on November 8th sponsored by Bob and Sharon Snyder(Turkey BBQ)

Ladies Aid:

- Vince's food truck and bake sale was a success.
- Basket Social scheduled for October 4th-5th.
- Boscov's Friends Helping Friends on October 22 –booklets on sale \$5

Constitution & Bylaws report:

Other Reports:

- Choir - Thanksgiving Sides Sale in November (prep 21-22, pickup Sat. 23rd & Sun. 24th)

Old Business:

- Budget committee meeting on September 11. (The budget must be approved at the October 14th council meeting before congregation approval in November)
- 150th anniversary Celebration on October 27. Plaque will be added to the statue outside.

New Business:

- Reviewed Pastor's health benefit options for 2025. On a motion by Neola, seconded by Lisa, we selected the Gold coverage, although he will be covered by his wife's insurance and not need it at this time.
- Property insurance- Changes from underwriting that affect our premium. It will go up \$2000 (Church Mutual)
- Snowplow contract was signed for the coming season.
- St John's UCC requested use of our parking lot for their upcoming Basket social. On a motion by Carla, seconded by Stacey, we granted the request.
- Little Tree Childcare requested advertising in our bulletin. Turned down, but will post on bulletin boards.
- Discussion of possible other food trucks in our parking lot, no bake sale. Will investigate this for the future.

A motion was made by Mike D., 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.

✚ **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. New charts for 2025 coming soon!

✝ **2025 Offering Envelopes** - You will again be able to pick up a box (with your assigned number) for the year. Envelopes will be located in the back pews of the church sanctuary beginning 12/1/24.

✝ **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.

✝ **Christmas ornaments are on sale again!** These gold keepsakes have a picture of St. John's Church printed on the front and come packaged in a box. See any Ladies Aid member to purchase one – only \$5 each. There are also some available in the narthex and Fellowship Hall.

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

JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT CHRISTMAS INGATHERING



Collection boxes will be placed around the church sanctuary.

The **Angel Tree** is in the narthex again this year!
Select an “angel” and write your name next to the number you selected on the sign-up sheet. Please bring the gifts wrapped or in gift bags, NO bows, with the angel firmly attached.
Topton Home requested their gifts NOT be wrapped.

We are also responsible for \$50 in cash – see Carla Malantonio.

Sixth Street Shelter:

CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Dish Soap
- Paper Towels
- Floor Cleaner
- Sponges
- Disinfected Wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Mops & Brooms

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

- Bath Towels (NEW)
- Twin Sized Sheets (NEW)
- Pillows (NEW)

PERSONAL PRODUCTS

- Women’s Deodorant
- Women’s Shampoo

BABY ITEMS

- Disposable Diapers Sizes- 2,4,5 & 6
(most needed 5 & 6's)
- Baby Wipes
- Baby Shampoo
- Children’s-Plastic Dishes and Cups

Topton Home:

Small Sand Art Bottles
Colored Sand
Jars of Bubbles
Children's Board Games
Large Gift Bags (non-holiday)
Tissues
Stickers
Colored Construction Paper
Rolls of Large White Paper
(to use for prep lessons)
Crayons (regular/large size)
Paper Plates (to make masks)
Markers & Pens
Gel Pens
Sidewalk Chalk (small packs)
Children Scissors

Glue Sticks
Plain Popsicle Sticks
Children's Books (any theme)
Scotch Tape
Scrapbooking Supplies
Washable Paint
Hand Soap
Clorox Wipes
Hand Wipes
Baby Wipes
Hand Sanitizers
Paper Towels
Small Flowerpots
Flower Seeds
Dirt for Planting Seeds



*Please have all items in church
by November 24th.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!

Upcoming Events/Opportunities:

Christmas Craft Night – Join us on November 2nd at 6 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your friends and family for an evening of craft making. All ages are welcome. Bring your favorite snacks, we will provide the soda/drinks. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who are interested.

All Saints Sunday will be celebrated on November 3rd. We will remember by name those from our congregation who have died since November 5, 2023 and also celebrate the newest members of St. John's who were baptized this past year. If you would like to remember loved ones in either the video or bulletin, please contact the church office ASAP.



Community Free Dinners – The last dinner of 2024 will be held on November 8th (sponsored by Sharon & Bob Snyder) from 5PM - ?, while supplies last. 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 and members who possibly would like to help but are unavailable to attend for preparation and serving.*



A **congregational meeting** will be held on Sunday, November 10th, for budget approval and the election of Council members. Please plan to attend.

Homemade Thanksgiving Sides Sale - Looking to add some St. John's favorites to your meal? Place your orders for the following: 3lbs. potato filling in a conveniently packaged, oven ready aluminum baking pan for \$10.00. (Remove the lid, put the container in the oven, bake, and enjoy!) Homemade applesauce will be available in quarts for \$8.00 each. Bacon dressing is available to order in a pint for \$6.00 or a quart for \$8.00. We are taking orders NOW thru November 3rd, quantities are limited - see Carol Moyer. We can use help to prep/cook/package orders on November 21st & 22nd beginning at 8:00 AM. **PICK UP:** Saturday, November 23rd from 9 AM to 12 PM. Church members may also pick up their orders after worship on Sunday, November 24th.

Join us for a **Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service** on Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 PM, held here with the members of St. John's UCC. A Coffee Hour will follow, feel free to bring a snack to share. All are welcome to attend.

Community Tree Lighting – Sunday, December 1st at 6:00 PM at the Fogelsville Playground. Please join us.




The **Christmas Party**, sponsored by Ladies Aid, will be held on Monday, December 9th at 6:30 PM – everyone is invited! Get into



the holiday spirit by sharing a covered dish dinner, singing carols and enjoying a special visit from St. Nick. Parents are responsible for gifts for their children, marked with the children’s names. We are also inviting everyone to bring a non-perishable item for the Food Bank. Join us for a fun-filled evening.

Pines Dinner Theater – We have 25 seats reserved for December 6th at 6:30 PM – “White Christmas” *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.

Thank You...

-  To everyone who shopped during the Boscov’s Friends Helping Friends fundraiser date on October 22nd. Ladies Aid appreciated your support!
-  To everyone who supported our Basket Social- those who donated baskets/items, volunteers that assembled baskets, those that brought baked goods and food, and to everyone who helped sell tickets and lunch items. Everyone who stepped up to help make the Basket Social run smoothy this year. With so many illnesses among our volunteers, the extra help was greatly appreciated!
-  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.



Thank you for the cards, calls and well wishes following my recent health issues.

~ Carol Moyer



Youth Update

- ✝ 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.
- ✝ **Join us for Sunday School!** Everyone is welcome to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. We have classes for toddlers through adults. Please speak with Pastor Nelson if you need information about the Catechetical Class (7th & 8th grade students).
- ✝ Mark your calendars now for the **Christmas Program** on Sunday, December 15th during 10:30 AM worship. All Sunday School children will be participating. They will be practicing during SS hour and additional rehearsals – watch for dates/times.



OCTOBER 2024

ELCA.org/hurricanes

In late September, Hurricane Helene hit the coast of Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, ravaging communities in the southeast, from Florida to Virginia. As the floodwaters have started to recede, the extreme devastation — especially in North Carolina and Tennessee — has become clearer. Entire towns, roads and bridges have been washed away, and millions are without power and cell service.

Whatever unfolds because of this storm, Lutheran Disaster Response will be there. Lutheran Disaster Response has strong relationships in the region and is already at work on the ground. Working alongside synods and other partners,

Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to provide support throughout the impacted region. We anticipate that our greatest impact will be reaching those in underserved and rural areas.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to those affected by hurricanes and related disasters, such as mudslides, severe storms and flooding. These gifts also empower us to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts to “Hurricane Response” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by hurricanes, until the response is complete.

YES, I WANT TO HELP!

- Lutheran Disaster Response: *Where needed most* \$ _____ DDG0010
- Lutheran Disaster Response: *Hurricane Response* \$ _____ DDG0087

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Scan to
give online



Give through your congregation or make your check out to Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA
22116-8009** and write “*Where needed most*” or “*Hurricane Response*” on your check’s memo line.

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