

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

January 2025

COMING IN JANUARY:

January 17: Community Free Dinner

January 26: Annual Congregational Meeting



LOOKING AHEAD...

2/9 – Souper Bowl Sunday

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,

From our Living Room to a Public Faith

Jesus said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 34–35.

The concerns brought to the December Rostered Ministers' Monthly Zoom Meeting with Bishop Christopher deForest of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod were stressful.

Why were these ministers stressed out and concerned? Because of the possible effects of the recent election.

The tense conversation crept through my zoom screen and into my living room.

People talked about the prospect of mass deportation with the separation of immigrant families and how this will affect the church. Ministers expressed concerns for the emotional mental health for sexual abuse survivors. Others expressed concerns about affordable healthcare.

Our Lutheran churches in the mission district have two positions to take. The first is to do what the church does best in these tense moments and pray. For some, prayers help numb the decisions that led to this outcome. As people of prayer, the second position is for the church to come out of the privacy of our living room and into the public arena.

Jesus calls the church to love their neighbor.

To this end, Bishop deForest presented Eleven Points shared in consultation with other bishops:

- Stay grounded; rest is resistance
- Connect to local networks for bystander training, rapid response, sanctuary
- Reach out to vulnerable populations/members and let them know that they are not alone
form networks of solidarity for action
- Help families that anticipate separation (undocumented parents with citizen children) make a plan
- Connect with others throughout the synod
- Activate community organizing networks
- Make sure that we are not funding the deportation apparatus and that our investments/retirement/endowments are screened for GeoCorp and other private prison corporations that are ramping up
- Share broadly with others helpful authors, books, essays (Bonhoeffer, etc.)
- Resist Christian nationalism at every level of our church
- Focus on discipleship

In addition, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America’s website provides a “Supportive Spaces” group that is a confidential support group for faith leaders to engage in conversation in these transitional times.

It is my hope that we can join together in our public faith for our neighbors in the mission district.

The peace of the Lord be with you,
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!



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, January 5, 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7-14 Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock

Psalm 147:12-20 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion.

Ephesians 1:3-14 The will of God made known in Christ

John 1:[1-9] 10-18 God with us: the incarnation of the Word

Sunday, January 12, 2025 – Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 43:1-7 When you pass through the waters,
do not fear, for I am with you

Psalm 29 The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

Acts 8:14-17 Prayer and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 The baptism of Jesus with the descent
of the Holy Spirit

Sunday, January 19, 2025 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5 As bridegroom and bride rejoice,
so shall God rejoice over you

Psalm 36:5-10 We feast upon the abundance of your house,
O Lord.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit

John 2:1-11 The wedding at Cana

Sunday, January 26, 2025 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Ezra reads the law of Moses

Psalm 19 The teaching of the Lord revives the soul.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a You are the body of Christ

Luke 4:14-21 Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah



REMINDER!!! Church cancellations will be displayed on WFMZ TV (or wfmz.com) on mornings of bad weather. You can also call the church office and listen to the answering machine, it will relay cancellations.

**Congregational Meeting
November 10, 2024 (after worship)**

President Mike Divers declared a quorum (23 were needed) and called the meeting to order. Richard Ludwig-Dicus led us in prayer.

Adoption of budget for 2025:

Mike asked if there were any questions concerning the proposed budget and gave some highlights. Richard Ludwig-Dicus made a motion, seconded by Bonnie Kline to accept the proposed budget. The motion carried. The finance committee

were applauded for their excellent work in preparing the budget.

New council members:

Sara Kleba and Lynn McMillen have agreed to serve. Curtis White made a motion, seconded by Neola Geschel to accept the candidates for church council. The motion carried.

Carla Malantonio made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carol Moyer. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Kressin, Council Secretary



Council Minutes
November 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm

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

Mike Divers called the meeting to order.
Pastor led us in prayer for Veterans’ Day.

Council Meeting Minutes from October 14, 2024
Stacey made a motion, seconded by Cindy, to approve the minutes of the October 14th meeting. The motion carried.

Treasurer/Finance Report (September 2024)
Carla made a motion, seconded by Stacey, to approve the financial reports. The motion carried.

President's Report:

- Council elections- Sara Kleba and Lynn McMillen have been elected to serve on council. The installation will be on November 17.
- Discussion of whether business can be conducted at our annual Christmas party.
- Sara shared how a QR code worked at her former church for church contributions. We will explore that idea.

Pastor's Report:

- Report included worship services, funerals, meetings, and visits.
- Facebook views of our weekly services range from 137-148 weekly.
- Catechetical class visit to the Mosque Open House.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- Employee Tax Credit (ETC)- We are starting to receive some of the money owed to us. On a motion by Ken, seconded by Carla, we will pay back \$7,400 (paid to Paychex) for processing the request to the Restoration Fund first. The finance committee will determine the best use of subsequent funds received. The motion carried.
- Audit committee: The following people have agreed to serve on the auditing committee in January: Lisa Herman, KeriAnn Divers, Cindy Graf, Beth Kressin, and Kelsey Burian-Miller.

Property:

- Light bulbs changed.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- Homebound project on October 27th completed by Sunday School. Made pillows and cards.

- Christmas Program “Signs of Christmas” preparation. December 15th during the church hour. Practice during the Sunday School hour with 2 Thursday rehearsals.
- Ornaments and Advent calendars were ordered for the students.

Youth Ministry:

Worship and Music:

- Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 27th at 7:00p.m. at our church. We will host coffee hour.
- Community tree lighting on Dec. 1 at 6:00 p.m. at Fogelsville playground
- Christmas Children’s program being planned for December 15th
- Christmas Eve services December 24th (4 & 10:30)
- Lessons and Carols on December 29th. No Sunday School that day.

Staff Support:

Evangelism:

- Halloween Hot dog Stand- October 25th went well.

Stewardship:

- Community Free Dinner on November 8th sponsored by Bob and Sharon Snyder (Turkey BBQ) was a success. Served 212 dinners.
- A new Community Free Dinner schedule is now posted in the narthex. The group decided to donate half of the balance in the CFD fund to local food banks (split between St. Paul’s, Lowhill, and Parkland CARES) and use the rest to begin the new year.
- We have a sponsor for January, the Furman family.

Ladies Aid:

- Lehigh Mission district Christmas Ingathering: Angel tree and giving lists for Sixth Street Shelter and Topton Home are in the Narthex. Items are due by Nov. 24th.
- Christmas Party, December 9th at 6:30. A Visit from St. Nick, potluck dinner, and carols. Sign up in the Narthex.

Constitution & Bylaws report:

Other Reports:

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

Old Business:

We have 2 old couches in the library that need to go. Also, a very old piano. We need a plan to accomplish this.

New Business:

- Acolyte gowns need to be washed. Pastor will reach out to parents of Catechetical students.
- A request has been made to replace some of our old heavy/unusable tables for the Multipurpose room. Costco sells a group of 4 -8 ft. tables for \$730. Seems like the best price.

A motion was made by Mike D., seconded by Neola, to close the meeting. The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting: Monday December 16th at HOPS (party)

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. Stop by the office during the week to make a purchase (Giant, Weis or Redner's).

✝ **2025 Address Directories will be printed soon.** Copies will be available in the narthex in early January. 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. Feel free to contact the office with any questions or special requests. New charts for 2025 are posted!

✝ **2025 Offering Envelopes** - You will again be able to pick up a box (with your assigned number) for the year. Envelopes are located in the back pews of the church in December, then they will be 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:

Annual Reports - ALL CHURCH COMMITTEES/GROUPS:






Annual Reports will be out before you know it! Please have all information to the administrative assistant no later than January 5th. Thank you.

Community Free Dinners – The 2025 schedule is set, dinners will continue on the 3rd Friday, every other month (except November- 2nd Friday). The first dinner will be held on January 17, 2025, sponsored by the Furman Family. We are in need of dinner sponsors and volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering please call the church or contact Bob Neumoyer (570-386-3045 or nrnich14@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.*



Please plan to attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2025. Your thoughts and views are important!

Thank You...

-  To everyone who helped decorate the church for Advent and Christmas.
-  To everyone who donated gifts, items and monetary contributions towards the Lehigh Mission District Christmas Ingathering. Special thanks to Carla Malantonio for coordinating and to Karen Smith for help with the Angel Tree.
-  To Sara Kleba, David Begley & Lynn McMillen, the Moyer Family and the Jackovitz Family for lighting the advent wreath.

- ☞ To all our volunteers who continue to help during Sunday in-house services acolyting, welcoming visitors, reading, etc.
- ☞ To everyone who participated in the Christmas season services. Special thanks to Beth Stottmeister for her wonderful direction and time spent preparing.
- ☞ 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 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.
- ✝ **Sunday School is lots of fun!!** It is never too late to join us - we have classes for toddlers through adult. Please speak with Pastor Nelson if you need information about the Catechetical Class.
- ✝ **Souper Bowl of Caring** – Use the bounty exhibited during the football's Super Bowl as a call to action to assist those for whom hunger is an everyday struggle. On Feb. 9th our youth will coordinate collecting \$\$\$ to support local food banks.



COMMUNITY FREE DINNER 2025 SCHEDULE

January 17, 2025

March 21, 2025

May 16, 2025

July 18, 2025

September 19, 2025

November 14, 2025

Free dinners are held on Fridays, beginning at 5 PM.

CURBSIDE PICKUP – *while supplies last*

They will continue on the 3rd Friday, every other month (except November-2nd Friday).

All are welcome...bring your families and your neighbors!!

**St. John's Lutheran Church
1028 Church Street, Fogelsville, PA
www.stjohns-fogelsville.org**



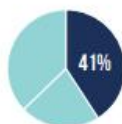
Sponsors are needed – sign up in the narthex!!!



MISSION SUPPORT: A DEEP DIVE

Did you know that ELCA members in more than 8,900 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.7 billion in regular offerings annually to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide? When members give through their congregations, about 5.5% of that money is shared with the local synod, which then shares a portion with the national churchwide office. This unrestricted giving from congregations is called Mission Support. Mission Support gives the ELCA both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world locally, nationally and internationally. Thank you for your faithful support!

YOUR MISSION SUPPORT HELPS FUND THE FOLLOWING CHURCHWIDE MINISTRIES:

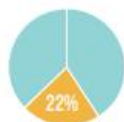


41% OF MISSION SUPPORT GROWS THE ELCA IN THE UNITED STATES:

- **Plant and support** hundreds of new congregations.
- **Enable congregations** to renew their ministries and **reach out** to their surrounding communities.
- **Develop and share** resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.
- **Work together** with our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latino/Latina leaders and members.
- **Invest** in technology and communication.
- **Grow and sustain** financial resources.
- **Engage** in research and strategic planning.

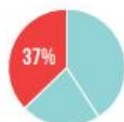


LEARN MORE ONLINE!



22% OF MISSION SUPPORT GROWS THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND ADDRESSES ISSUES AROUND THE WORLD:

- As a member of the Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA is in communion with **147 other churches**.
- ELCA synods relate directly to **65 companion churches** through a total of **127 official relationships**.
- The **ELCA accompanies** new Lutheran churches, **expands** ministries and **trains** leaders and evangelists.
- The **ELCA sends missionaries** — including Young Adults in Global Mission — who are the hands and feet of Jesus around the world.
- The **ELCA addresses social issues** and **works for justice**.



37% OF MISSION SUPPORT HELPS DEVELOP CURRENT AND FUTURE LEADERS IN THE ELCA:

- **Prepare** and **implement** a system for recruitment and assignment of rostered ministers.
- **Identify** and **provide** ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- **Offer events and leadership opportunities** for youth and young adults.
- **Support** the work of **seven ELCA seminaries** and **26 ELCA colleges and universities**.
- Provide **coordination** and **support** for churchwide ministries.
- Provide **governance** and **leadership**.
- Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith** relations.



Thank you for your ongoing support! For additional resources, go to [ELCA.org/SOFIA](https://www.elca.org/SOFIA).

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

[

]