

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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April 2025

COMING IN APRIL:

April 8: Egg Filling Event

April 12: Visit St. John's at the UMT Bunny Hop

April 13: Palm Sunday & Coffee Hour

April 17: Maundy Thursday & First Communion

April 18: Good Friday

April 20: Easter Sunday

April 27-29: Cinnamon Bun Bake Sale



LOOKING AHEAD...

5/7 - Mother/Daughter Banquet

5/11 - 3rd Grade Bibles/Mother's Day

5/16 - Community Free Dinner

5/18 - last day of Sunday School

5/26 - Memorial Day Service

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,

Echoes of a Cry: Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?

Heading to the elevator from a Bible Study, a woman in a wheelchair approached me and said, "Can you stop by and pay a visit to my roommate?"

"She is screaming a lot, and I think you can do that kind-of-sort-of-thing. Well, you know, you're a minister." Sure. What's the room number? I walked over and knocked on the door. I heard the cries.

A nurse pulled the curtain over. The resident was crying in pain. Her eyes wide open, she asked me to pray to take away her pain, so I began to pray.

"Lord, bring..."

"Aaah!"

"this..."

"Aaah!"

"your child Lord..."

"Aaah!"

"you who..."

"Aaah!"

"understand..."

"Aaah!"

"the pain bear by your son."

I began to pray more quickly. "Bring comfort." The resident cried in agony: "The pain! O, the pain! Aaah! The pain!" Twisting and turning on her bed, she looked at me and cried out, "Take it away, take it away! Aaah! Take it away. I wish to die. Aaah!"

In between each cry, she pled with me to take away her pain. I looked at this woman crying in pain. My prayer did nothing. I was

there scared and helpless as she cried. All I could say as I looked into her eyes was to express how sorry I was that she was feeling so much pain.

Hands extended in the air towards me she said with all the breath that she could muster, “Give...me...your...hand! Hold me! Aaah! Give me your hand! Hold me!” I held her hand but to no avail. She cried more.

She asked for my other hand. “Pull me.” I balanced myself and got ahold of her hand and pulled her up a bit. Suddenly, a brief relief showed on her face. She said, “That feels good.” She felt relief for a millisecond. Then she began to cry again.

I asked the attending nurse how long she had been like this. The hospice nurse confirmed that increments of medication were being given and that a dosage was on the way.

The resident released one of my hands and held on to the nurse’s hand. Amidst the cries, the nurse pulled her up as I tugged from another angle to try to ease her pain. Her eyes wide open stared at me. She said, “It is so painful.”

I told her she was in good hands, and the nurse grabbed her other hand. As I said goodbye, I told her that I hoped her pain would go away.

I left down the corridor hearing echoes of her cries as I approached the elevator to leave the floor.

Later in my office in reflection of this event that had occurred, I thought of Jesus’s cry to God from his pain on the cross, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” (Mark 15:34) He, too, didn’t get an answer from God to relieve his pain.

Nor did the Psalmist’s cry appear to have received an answer. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I

cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night but find no rest.”
(Psalm 22:1-2)

Still, the echo of cries bouncing from the past cannot bring relief to the pain of those crying today.

So, I sit in contemplation with these texts that served me as a theological excuse to make me feel better amid the cries of the people in pain and a silent God.

The Rev. Nelson Quiñones, Pastor

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*

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.

Sunday, April 6, 2025 – 5th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 The Lord gives water in the wilderness to the chosen people

Psalms 126 Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

Philippians 3:4b-14 To know Christ and his resurrection, to share in his sufferings

John 12:1-8 Mary anoints Jesus for his burial

Sunday, April 13, 2025 – Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50:4-9a The servant of the Lord submits to suffering

Psalms 31:9-16 Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

Philippians 2:5-11 Humbled to the point of death on a cross

Luke 22:14—23:56 The passion of the Lord

Sunday, April 20, 2025 – Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 God raised Jesus on the third day

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Christ raised from the dead, the first fruits

Luke 24:1-12 The women proclaim the resurrection

Sunday, April 27, 2025 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus

Psalm 118:14-29 You are my God, and I will exalt you.

Revelation 1:4-8 Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, is coming

John 20:19-31 Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ



Holy Week & Easter Services:

4/13/25: 10:30 AM Palm Sunday Service with Communion

4/17/25: 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service with
Footwashing & First Holy Communion

4/18/25: 7:00 PM Good Friday Service

4/20/25: 7:00 AM Easter Dawn Service with Communion

4/20/25: 10:30 AM Easter Family Service with Communion
(NO Sunday School on Easter)

Council Minutes February 10, 2025, at 7:00 pm

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

Absent: Sara Kleba, Lynn McMillen

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

Council Meeting Minutes from January 13, 2025

Carla made a motion, seconded by Stacey, to approve the minutes of the January 10th meeting. The motion carried.

Reviewed the minutes from the congregational meeting on February 2nd.

Treasurer/Finance Report (January 2025)

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

President's Report:

Discussion was held concerning church closures due to bad weather. Decisions were made based on the safety of the parishioners.

Pastor's Report:

- Council Retreat is confirmed- Saturday, March 15th from 8 to 11AM at the Starlite Diner. The first 2 hours are free with a fee of \$125/hr. afterward. Hoping to finish in 2 hours.
- Catechetical class made Valentine goodie bags for the homebound.
- Three students went to the Lowhill Food Pantry to help store food as part of their program.

Committee Reports:

Finance:

- Meeting later this month.

Property:

- Boiler inspection was completed and there were no issues.
- Weather stripping on Sunday school door repaired.

Christian Education/Sunday School:

- We will be participating in the UMT Bunny Hop again this year on April 12th. Sign-ups in the narthex. Egg filling on April 8th at 7:00 pm.

Youth Ministry:

Worship and Music:

- Ash Wednesday- March 5th at 7:00 pm. Discussion of AA Big Book meeting at 7:30 on same night. We will work around them so they can still meet.

Staff Support:

Evangelism:

Stewardship:

- Community Free Dinner on schedule posted. Sponsors are still needed. March 21, 2025 Bob and Becky Neumoyer (ham and string beans)

Ladies Aid:

- Pizza kit fundraiser- orders are due by March 14th. Pick-up on March 28 and 30th.
- Cinnamon bun bake sale scheduled for April 27, 2025

Constitution & Bylaws report:

Other Reports:

Old Business:

- Use of facilities guidelines- changes were made as follows:
 - Required Certificate of insurance must list St. John’s Lutheran Church, 1028 Church St., Fogelsville, PA.
 - Contacts list includes property committee member, council president, council vice president, and sexton. A motion was made by Ken, seconded by Curtis, to make the changes. The motion carried.

New Business:

- Beth Stottmeister requested use of the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on June 10th from 6:30 – 9:30 PM for her annual student recital and reception. Neola made a motion, seconded by Ken, to allow the request. The motion carried.
- Discussion of coffee hour dates.

A motion was made by Neola, seconded by Ken, to close the meeting. The meeting ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next council meeting: Monday, March 10th at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted by,
Donna Kressin, council secretary





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 are available in the narthex.** You may also request a PDF copy by calling the church office.

✝ **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. Charts are posted in the narthex.

✝ **2025 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** – \$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:

Flowers may now be ordered for Easter Sunday, April 20th.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex for flowers, colors, and prices. The deadline for orders is April 6th.

On Saturday, April 12th we will again be participating in the **UMT Bunny Hop** at Grange Park from **10 AM-2 PM**. We are looking for donations of plastic eggs and small goodies to place inside.



Cash donations may be handed to Cindy Graf. Speak with Cindy if you are interested in helping hand out items at the event on the 12th. We could also use your help filling the eggs on Tuesday, April 8th at 7 PM!

Mother/Daughter Banquet – will be held on Wednesday, May 7th 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 as a family-style buffet, all you can eat. We can seat approx. 90 people so please make reservations early - see Jeanette Holtzhafer thru April 27th to save your seats. Prices: 3 & under are free, ages 4-10 are \$8, 11 & older are \$16.

The Cinnamon Bun Bake Sale has been scheduled for April 27th-29th. Orders are being taken by Carol Moyer 3/30-4/13 or until the max number is reached. Cost - \$10 each. Help is needed, sign-up in the narthex. Please support this fundraiser!



Community Free Dinners – Dinners will continue on the 3rd Friday, every other month (except November- 2nd Friday). The next dinner will be held on May 16, 2025 – sponsored by Jessica Wentz. We are still looking for a dinner sponsor for July. Anyone interested in volunteering please call the church or contact 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 unable to attend for prep and serving.*

Thank You...

- ✿ To everyone who continues to help with the Community Free Dinners – to those who coordinate, sponsor, donate items and volunteer their time.
- ✿ To the Divers Families and PA Lawn and Landscape for the snow plowing during the winter season. It is 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 all who have designated their Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. John's Church.



Youth Palate

- ✙ 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.
- ✙ Visit us at the **Upper Macungie Township Bunny Hop** on April 12th from 10 AM - 2 PM at Grange Park. Fun for everyone!!! We are also looking for help filling eggs on April 8th at 7 PM. Volunteers are welcome, speak with Cindy Graf.
- ✙ **Sunday School End-of-the-Year Party:** Sunday, May 18th at 9 AM
- ✙ Mark your calendars for **Vacation Bible School:** Saturday, July 26th 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.

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