

Spring
2024



www.stjohnscol.org

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE HERALD

Holy Week & Easter at St. John's



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH, 24
10:15 AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH, 28
7:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH, 29
7:00 PM

EASTER VIGIL

MARCH, 30
7:00 PM

EASTER DAY

MARCH, 31
10:15 AM

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH: LIVE BY HIS WORD AND SPREAD HIS WORD.

WEEKLY EUCHARIST SERVICES

Wednesday - 10:15 AM; Sunday - 10:15 AM

Worship is both in-person and live stream

ADULT FAITH FORMATION WEDNESDAY & SUNDAY AT 9 AM

E-MAIL: saintjohnscol@gmail.com

OFFICE # 717-684-2763 * Meals On Wheels 717-684-4244

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday 8AM to 3PM

(The Office is closed on Easter Monday)

Call the office to schedule an appointment if you would like to talk with Pr. Whitesel.

Church Staff:

The Rev. Richard Whitesel, Pastor

Michele Lopez, Director of Music

*Theresa Divet, Parish Administrator
& Finance Secretary*

*Angela Gross, Meals on Wheels
Director*

Florence "Sis" Luttman &

Gary Kauffman Sextons

Council officers:

President, Richard Whitesel 799-7217

Vice-President, John Jensen 575-4222

Secretary, Tiffany Nell 736-9483

Treasurer, Doug Halter 475-8976

Volunteer Staff:

Head Usher, Bill Colin 684-5754

Parish Nurse:

Brenda Jensen 575-9827

Church Council members meet on the

2nd Tuesday of each month.

A MESSAGE FROM REV. RICHARD WHITESEL



The secular world very much wants to have “nice” holidays. In mid-winter the world wants to drag evergreen trees inside, put bright lights all around, and throw a party. In the spring they want to like-wise celebrate the end of the coldness and dark by throwing yet another party around the themes of sunshine and spring. This time the icons are bunny rabbits, butterflies, and painted eggs. Christians are impacted by the ebb and flow of the seasons as well. Plus, the truth be told, we like a good party the same as everyone else.

Nonetheless, we followers of Jesus have a particular calendar of our own that aids us in tracking events that are important to us and shape our lives. The Church Year reminds us of highly significant events. It calls our attention to things that matter most. At the time of the darkest day of the year, later December, we remember and honor the incarnation of the Word of God. At the time of the Passover, a spring harvest holiday, we focus our attention on the Passion, death, burial, and resurrection of the Messiah.

Rather than bunny rabbits and flowers, we contemplate the way in which the creator God rectified the fall of humanity and creation into sin, brokenness, and death. We stand in amazement looking upon the way in which Jesus pulled all of the sin and the consequences of sin and the powers behind all that rebellion to himself on the cross, where he defeated their power, judged it, condemned it, carried it to hell and damnation. Jesus won the strategic victory. God the Father bodily raised him to new life.

*Jesus won the
strategic
victory.*

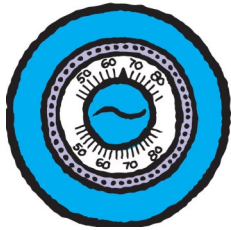
Jesus then spent a short period of time, 40 days according to Luke, to remind his disciples of all that he had previously taught them. He led them to the Mount of Olives, opposite the Temple, where he commissioned them to carry to the world the good news of God’s love and great redemption. Jesus departed from his first disciples with an admonition to remain in Jerusalem until that which the Father had promised came upon them and a promise to return.

A week and a half later, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Church and it was game on.

I say have fun with the little frivolous seasonal parties. Gather with family and friends. Eat, drink, even dance around the May Pole if you feel so inclined. But, keep your eye on what is truly important —Jesus’ decisive victory over those things that separate us from God.

Rick Whitesel

HVAC CAMPAIGN UPDATE



St. John's Lutheran

**HVAC
FUND**

HVAC FUND—

In May of 2022, your church council voted to begin a capital fund with the intention of replacing the church’s HVAC system as needed. Our heating and air conditioning has had problems for a few years. Lack of available parts for the current unit complicates the

repairing of the unit.

The good news is all of the units are currently working. The two main units are holding their own but are not working at full efficiency. HVAC units are subject to wear on all mechanical systems.

Regular giving envelopes can be used if you wish to contribute to this fund. Simply write the amount you wish to give to HVAC FUND on the “special” line. Additional Giving Envelopes can be found on the “Welcome Table” in the Narthex.



Online donations can be made using St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran’s website at stjohnscol.org. The red “Click to Donate” button will take you to the online giving platform. There you will have the option to choose “HVAC Fund”.

We look forward to your donations for 2 reasons: First, to give us an efficient HVAC unit and second, to demonstrate your commitment to St. John’s Lutheran Church.

The estimated cost for the 2 units (6 total) that are having problems is \$50,000 each. The total goal for this capital fund is \$100,000.

As of March 3, 2024 we have received \$11,523.00 in donations!

Thank you for your giving and support!



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



ACTIVITIES & OUTREACH

MARCH 24— 11:15 am Palm Sunday Fruit Pizza will be served after the worship service!

April 28— 11:30 am Columbia Food Bank Donation Competition and brunch! Folks will be handed a colored ticket on Palm Sunday. The two teams will compete to see who can bring the most food.

May 19- 1-5 pm Church Bus Trip to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in Emmitsburg, MD . Everyone can meet in the church parking lot at 12:30 pm.

From the Music Director

Dear congregation:
I'm proud of working with and for this beautiful and welcoming church and I'd like to thank all the choir members for the good work you put in every week. I am grateful to Jan Stein, Doug Halter, Wayne Erdman,

Theresa Divet and Luis Lopez for playing other instruments during worship at St. John's. I invite anybody who loves singing and having a good time to join us on **Thursdays at 7pm** in the choir room every week. We will welcome you with open arms.

Many blessings,
Michele Lopez



SAVE THE DATE!!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 4:00 pm here at St. John's Lutheran.

Music With A Mission! **A Columbia Food Bank Benefit Concert** featuring the Columbia High School Symphonic Band, CHS Concert Choir and students of the Columbia School of Music among other guest musicians!

This concert is spearheaded by Alan Anderson of Windspirit Flute Ensemble.

Details of this concert are still being worked on.

Watch for more information coming soon!

Food donations, cash or checks will 100% benefit the Columbia Food Bank

PARISH NURSE—

CPR CLASS



It has been quite a while since we have had a CPR course and AED review.

Thanks to Dave Ritterpusch, I have contacted Scott Ryan. He is a certified instructor who is willing to give a CPR basic life support class at our church and review the AED-Automatic External Defibrillator.

The class will be about 2 hours long and will take place on a weekday evening.

There is a sign up sheet located in the Narthex. Anyone who is interested should put his or her name on the sheet. It is a very important class to attend because you never know when you may be called upon to perform CPR.

Thanks for your participation in advance! Love and blessings.

Your Parish Nurse, Brenda Jensen

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran's 2024 directory is now available.

This directory includes active members and active friends of the congregation.

Directories will be available in the Narthex from Palm Sunday to Easter Day.

To keep the information secure the directory will not be emailed.

Thank you to everyone who submitted photographs!



G.I.F.T

Growing In Faith Together

A women's creative study group
at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Columbia, Pa

Saturday mornings 9:30 to 11:00 am

BIBLE STUDY

for adults



Lead by

PASTOR RICHARD WHITESEL

Sundays at 9 am

The study is on the lectionary of the day.

Wednesdays at 9am

Beginning on March 27
the study will be on
the Book of Exodus.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
616 Locust St., Columbia, Pa 17512

717-684-2763



Do you have more month than money?

Are you sick and tired of being sick and tired?

Do you work too hard to be living pay check to pay check?

The internationally acclaimed total money make over course begins at **Saint John's on Wednesday April 3, 2024 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm** and going every Wednesday evening for seven weeks until May 15.

Availability is limited to 10 families. Be sure to register.

To register call the office at 717-684-2763. The normal \$80 registration fee is reduced to \$25 per family thanks to a gift to the congregation.

One year of access to all nine video lessons and three months of premium access to the EveryDollar budgeting app is included.

**THE COLUMBIA DREAM
CENTER NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

**Food insecurities in our
community are increasing
at a high rate, causing an
urgent need for a
Food Ministry Van
for food pick-ups &
deliveries**

**Donate today to help us
reach our goal of \$45,0000**



**Supporting the Kids
Summer Food
Program since 2012**

**29,000 lbs. of food
collected each
month, to serve
those in need**

**Please consider a
donation for this very
important cause**

**Donate
[https://columbiahas.org/
give-donate](https://columbiahas.org/give-donate) or mail
check to below address.**

**COLUMBIA DREAM
CENTER**

360 Locust St
Columbia, PA 17512
717-449-0492

Columbiahas.org

columbiadreamcenterhas@
gmail.com

HOME COMMUNION



St. John's Home Communion team of volunteers visit and distribute home communion to the ill or homebound!

It is important to keep them connected to our church family and Christ's presence in word and sacrament. In order to accomplish this goal, it is important the visitation list is up to date and accurate. Please call the church office if you or a family member would like to receive home communion!

717-684-2763

Thank you!



Richard Whitesel, President

John Jensen, Vice-President

Tiffany Nell, Secretary

Douglas Halter, Treasurer

Paula Kleckner

Wayne Kauffman

Theresa Divet

Tiffani Lynn

Harold Abel

ALTAR FLOWER ORDERS



ALTAR FLOWERS— To order Altar flowers for special memorials in 2024 please call the church office to order by Tuesday before the Sunday Worship. You may also email the details of your order to saintjohnscol@gmail.com. Church office phone number is 717-684-2763.

Pricing is as follows:

A set of Carnation altar vases is 39.99 plus tax. This has 6 carnations and baby's breath in each vase.

A set of mixed flower altar vases is 44.99 plus tax. This has 3 carnations and 3 stems of mixed pom pom mums in each vase. When you order please indicate 39.99 or 44.99 beside your name.

Call Theresa in the church office with special requests. Thank you!

Vacation Bible School 2024!



The excitement is building for the annual Vacation Bible School event at St. John's!

START THE PARTY!

Together we will Celebrate the Good News from Monday, June 24 to Thursday, June 27 from 6pm to 8pm! "Eddy Ray" a magician will be coming on Thursday, June 27th at 7pm to dazzle & praise God with us! This magic show is for all ages. This will be a fun high energy environment for kids ages 4-12. They will experience music, cool dance moves, games, crafts, snacks and of course great lessons from the Bible!



For more information check out the VBS Website!

<https://starthepartyvbscolumbia.my.canva.site/>

I hope you will consider joining the volunteer team for "Start The Party"! It takes a team of at least 25-30 volunteers to make this a successful event.

Our first meeting is on April 4 at St. John's in the fellowship hall at 6:00 pm.

Thank you!

Theresa Divet



REGISTRATION FORM

STUDENT'S NAME:

STREET ADDRESS:

CITY: STATE: ZIP:

HOME PHONE:

PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME:

PARENT/GUARDIAN EMAIL:

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER:

ALLERGIES OR SPECIAL NEEDS:

GRADE COMPLETED:

Registration forms can be mailed or dropped off at

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

23 S. 6th St., PO Box 391,
Columbia, Pa 17512

Or

Email a picture to

saintjohnscol@gmail.com

Columbia Meals On Wheels

Angela Gross, Director
Columbia Meals On Wheels
717-684-4244

BINGO!

Benefits Columbia Meals On Wheels



Saturday May 4th, 2024

**A Columbia Meals on Wheels Bingo fundraiser on
May 4th is SOLD OUT! That is good news!**

This charity event is taking place at the Columbia Boro Fire Hall and there are still ways for you to

support Columbia Meals on Wheels!

Angie Gross is looking for donations for the following items:

200 plastic disposable soup bowls

200 7" plastic disposable plates

200 each plastic forks & spoons

500 or more napkins

7 cases of Coke Zero

7 cases of regular Coke

4 cases of Sprite

Individual bags of potato chips, or grocery store gift cards to help defray the cost of food.

Thank you in advance of any donations! *Angie Gross 717-684-4244*



“A BEE’S TEA” PARTY



JOIN ST. JOHN’S EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN’S **BEE-LIEVERS!**

JUNE 9, 2024 AT 2 PM

Proceeds will go to the Columbia Lions Club on behalf of
Veterans. Kevin Kraft will be a speaker.

Tea Tickets are \$5.00 per person, under 12 free

Great tea, great food, door prizes &
a professional bee keeper
will give a presentation on BEES!!



Raffle tickets will be sold at the event

616 Locust Street
Columbia, Pa

St. John's Lutheran Church
Sixth & Locust Streets
P. O. Box 391
Columbia, PA 17512

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage
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DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY



Sunday Worship is streamed live on Facebook

Please click "like" & "follow" on our Facebook page to be notified of live streams.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church; Columbia PA

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnscol/>

YOUTUBE: @saintjohnslutherancolumbiapa

WEBSITE: stjohncol.org



St. John's Website is full of information including links to both the Facebook page AND YouTube channel!

You can give a donation "click to donate" electronically. See what's new AND view a live schedule of events by clicking on the "Calendar" tab!!