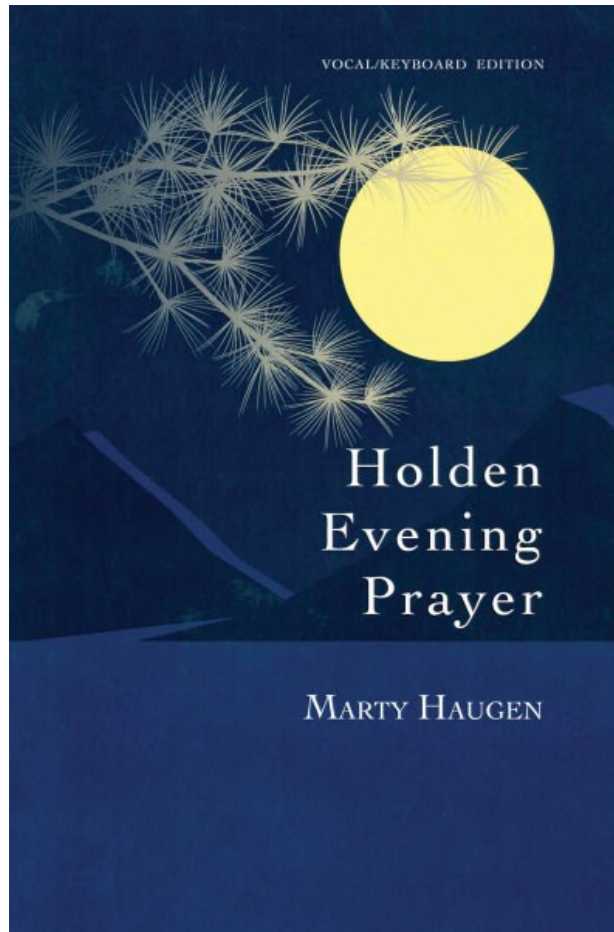


February March April  
2023



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# The Herald



The season of Lent is an important one in the life of Lutherans. It is the six weeks that lead up to Easter, the church's greatest celebration.

We are pleased to again to begin weekly Holden Evening Prayer service.

Everyone is encouraged to join us for this simple service of song and scripture.

Wednesdays of Lent at  
7:30 pm beginning on  
March 1, 2023

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## WEEKLY EUCHARIST SERVICES

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

Worship is both in-person and live stream

ADULT FAITH FORMATION SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS AT 9 AM

[www.stjohnscol.org](http://www.stjohnscol.org)

E-MAIL: [saintjohnscol@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnscol@gmail.com)

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

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

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: Easter Monday, April 10, 2023

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### Staff:

*The Rev. Richard Whitesel, Pastor*  
*Michele Lopez, Director of Music*  
*Theresa Divet, Administrative Assistant*  
*Angela Gross, Meals on Wheels Director*  
*Florence "Sis" Luttmann &*  
*Gary Kauffman Sextons*  
*Kate Keyser, Christian Ed Director*

### Council officers:

<i>President, Richard Whitesel</i>	<i>575-4222</i>
<i>Vice-President, Thomas Swingler</i>	<i>684-8519</i>
<i>Secretary, Tiffany Nell</i>	<i>736-9484</i>
<i>Treasurer, Terry Droege</i>	<i>684-6825</i>
<b>Volunteer Staff:</b>	
<i>Head Usher, Bill Colin</i>	<i>684-5754</i>
<i>Prayer Chain, Gloria Halter</i>	<i>223-216-0585</i>
<b>Parish Nurse:</b>	
<i>Brenda Jensen</i>	<i>575-9827</i>

## FROM PASTOR WHITESEL

Hello,

I hope this newsletter arrives at your home and finds you healthy and walking with our Lord Jesus. I want to make a few comments about three matters that are active in our congregational life at this time.



### 1. The congregation's Outreach Focus for AD 2023: Habitat for Humanity

Every gathering of Christians regardless of size needs to collectively, intentionally, and prayerfully identify and choose activities that demonstrate the love of God for the people in the community in which the disciples live. You will hear your pastor saying things such as, 'Saint John's, bless Columbia!' We take up such a focus in order to win a hearing for Jesus and his kingdom.

There is a great and pernicious lie from Satan that God is angry and vengeful. Nothing could be further from the truth! Our Creator is in fact a loving father who wants to be in a quality relationship with each of his children. Therefore, our parish council has decided that for calendar year 2023 Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church will engage in outreach ministry principally focusing on the new Habitat for Humanity building project in the 200 block of South 5<sup>th</sup> Street right here in Columbia.

Affordable safe housing for everyone is a significant issue for our society. There is now information about Habitat on the bulletin board in the lobby near the coffee, and in this newsletter. Please take a minute to look at that. Tiffani Lynn has agreed to be the Council representative to Habitat.

### 2. The congregation's Evangelism Focus for AD 2023: The Alpha Course

Another primary mission of the church is to actually tell folks who Jesus is, why he came, what he did, and what all of this means to that person personally. We do this in a lot of ways. But, as a congregation, we have decided to take on a big project that makes a clear and complete presentation of the gospel called the Alpha Course. This course began on January 25 and will run throughout Lent, until the Wednesday of Holy Week. We had 31 people come out for the first session. The course addresses key questions about Jesus and the Christian life in a format in which people can ask any questions or concerns they may have about being a follower of our great King. There is a display table in the lobby of the church with handout materials that introduce the course to interested people.

### 3. The congregation's Nurture Focus for AD 2023: Pastoral Care

An important part of congregational life is the care and support of the people of the congregation when they are in need. But what is pastoral care? There is more to it than the name implies. First, "pastoral" is derived from the notion of the care that is provided to the "flock" by shepherds. The image of a flock and shepherd is one used for millennia for leaders of all kinds and their people. The functions of leadership associated with the oversight of a specific group of people include keeping the group together, leading the group to good pasture, protecting the flock from predators, and attending to the general care and welfare of the sheep. Obviously, there is more to be done than one individual can accomplish. The care of the sheep begins with one's parents, and extends to siblings, near relatives, friends, and neighbors. There is a proverb: 'it takes a village to raise a child.' There is truth to this statement. We humans do best in a village-sized group of people who live together and support one another.

A Christian congregation is something like such a village. It is a collection of families and individuals who live together and are committed to each other. Human societies recognize that age often produces wisdom derived from experience. In Christian congregations, a small group of experienced men and women who are faithful disciples of Jesus are called elders. They teach the younger disciples. This has been present in Christian fellowship since the time of Paul.

Over time it became fashionable to identify one specific individual to be the regular teacher and preacher of a congregation. When the economy transformed to the point where money was central this teacher was paid. Then intent was that this individual would drop out of the normal work force in

order to focus on studying, teaching, and preaching the gospel. It was assumed that the person in the community who specialized in the study of scripture and prayer would be available to counsel with anyone in the community with questions or difficult life situations.

But it was never the intent that this pastor become the one person who did everything. We are fortunate that in the Saint John's Lutheran congregation many people are involved in the mutual care of the saints – in the pastoral care of the church body. We have a robust

group who visit the sick and infirm to bring them the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We have many volunteers delivering food to those who cannot easily get groceries or cook for themselves. I want to both applaud all that is going on and further encourage everyone to take the initiative to find even more ways to care for one another: providing rides to doctor appointments, shoveling a neighbor's walk, walking a dog, watching a cat, doing child-care, lingering over a cup of coffee together, and anything that comes alongside of a neighbor and adds value to their life.

If you or a loved one desires to speak with the pastor, please call the church office. We will arrange a place and a time to meet. Candidly, Pastor Whitesel is spending two hours a day just getting to and from the church office. If possible, it would be beneficial to meet at the office.

We have had a couple of questions that seem to be of interest to the whole congregation.

\*An "emergency" is generally defined as an event that threatens a person's life, limbs, or eyesight. Things do not have to be that bad to call. We want to be helpful to you whenever possible.

\*As a general rule, the church does not have either food or cash available to hand out upon request. Saint John's is primarily a worship and Christian education facility. We refer anyone asking for assistance to known and respected helping agencies either in town or in the county. For example, we regularly refer folks asking about assistance to the Water Street Mission in Lancaster city. It is strongly encouraged that Christians support this organization with cash donations and volunteer time.

I hope you have a meaningful Lent. It starts on February 22. We have a communion service with the imposition of Ashes at 7:30 pm. The rest of Lent we will offer Holden Evening Prayer as our Lenten vespers every Wednesday at 7:30 pm. I hope to see you then.

Rick Whitesel, Pastor



## LANCASTER LEBANON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Did you know 4 new homes are being built on South Fifth Street in Columbia Borough?!

Wayne Gongaware, one of LLHFH's board members made a presentation to Pastor Whitesel and St. John's Church Council in January and everyone agreed that St. John's will be in support of this wonderful project happening right in our community. Lancaster Lebanon Habitat for Humanity depends on volunteers to build more homes in Lancaster and Lebanon. With the goal to increase their capacity by 50%, they will need more individuals and groups to roll up their sleeves and come out to the construction site to volunteer their time.

LLHFH has an ongoing Campaign of a \$4 million fundraising goal of which they have already raised \$1 million or more. There are many ways to give and you can find more information at [www.lancasterlebanonhabitat.org](http://www.lancasterlebanonhabitat.org).



Tiffani Lynn is the representative for St. John's Lutheran to aid in fundraising efforts and coordinate volunteer opportunities when the build begins sometime in March of 2023. You can call her with any questions at 717-799-6093. More details will be coming soon!

## From the Parish Nurse—

### THE BENEFITS OF NATURAL FIBERS

I have been a proponent of clothing made from natural materials such as cotton, wool, linen or silk. These materials allow your skin to breathe. When a person wears organic cotton it reduces the number of toxins you breathe and expose your skin to and in addition there are less chemicals released into the water when washing them.

Unfortunately, many items of clothing are made today from plastics like polymer such as found in sneakers. But polyester is even worse as it releases tiny synthetic microfibers into our water supply harming our drinking water and marine life by staying in our landfills for hundreds of years. When given the chance it's best to buy organic cotton which requires less water and doesn't use chemicals or wool which is biodegradable, regrows continually, and can be harvested without any injury to animals. Linen is another good option as it is made from flax. It is also biodegradable, resistant to moths, and more ecofriendly than cotton. Organic hemp is also a

valuable sustainable fiber which produces no chemicals that are toxic and requires very little water.

So, in essence the best choices are made when we buy clothes that are not made from plastic. Shop at secondhand stores for well-made natural fabric clothes and ultimately you will be saving the landfills and being kinder to the planet and to your skin.

Love and blessings,

Brenda Jensen



## HVAC FUND UPDATE

Building Fund envelopes are available in the Narthex for contributions to the HVAC Fund or you can make the notation on your offering envelope. The capital fund campaign started in August of 2022 with a goal of \$100,000. The good news is the HVAC system is still in working order to date!

The total Contributions to the HVAC Fund as of the January 29th is

**\$5053.14**



**HVAC  
FUND**

Thank you for your continuous support!

Your Property Committee Chair, Tom Swingler



**ALTAR FLOWERS**—The 2023 Altar Flower sign up chart is pinned up in the Narthex.

Pricing is as follows:

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

**A set of mixed flower altar vases is 44.99** This has 3 carnations and 3 stems of pom pom mums in each vase. When you sign up please indicate 39.99 or 44.99 beside your name. Call Theresa in the church office with special requests. Thank you!



# MUSIC & CHOIR NEWS

I will *sing* and  
make *music*  
to the LORD.

Psalm 27:6, NIV



Hello friends,  
Spring is coming soon and the worship planning for Lent and Easter is finished.

We hope you notice the small creative music ideas we have been using in the services!

I try to add new hymns to different parts of the worship service to help teach you new music.

The members of the choir are developing new skills and I am

trying to teach creatively. Some stretching exercises have even been used!

Did you enjoy the handbells played by St. John's choir members on Christmas Eve? We were happy to share the handbells with member of St. John's Herr Estate. I hope you saw this featured on the front page of the Merchandiser recently!

Choir members meet Thursday evenings for practice at 7pm. We are looking for people who play other instruments to join us. Please talk to me anytime if you would like join the choir or share a musical talent!

Thank you,

Michele Lopez

## SPECIAL MUSIC GUESTS

### **BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE COLUMBIA FOOD BANK!**

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2**

**AT 4PM**

Featuring Alan Anderson of Windspirit Flute Ensemble, Michele Lopez and Brass musicians.

### **EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

**April 9 AT 10:15AM**

**Easter service with a Brass Ensemble**



## *Welcome,* **New Members**

It gives us great pleasure that the **Reverend & Mrs. Richard Whitesel, Michael Lackey and Carol Clark** have chosen to join us in membership at St. John's Lutheran Church. Their presence in our congregation is truly a blessing, and we look forward to praying, celebrating, and coming together as a community in the eyes of our Lord. As a caring congregation, we look forward to sharing God's love and blessings with you in the years to come.

Let us once again welcome you to St. John's!

May your love for the Lord protect and guide you!

## **ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IS HOSTING 2 NEW MINISTRIES \* WELCOME!**



time for **Bible2school.**

Second grade children from Park Elementary School meet in the Fellowship Hall on Thursdays during their lunch

**Bible2school.com**



On February 21 the **Good News Club** will begin the second 7 week session at St. John's!

This is an after school program for Park Elementary children every Tuesday afterschool and ends at 4:45pm.

<https://www.cefononline.com/ministries/goodnewsclub/>

# OFFERING ENVELOPES

Dear Members,

You will not receive your St. John's offering envelopes until the second quarter mailing in March.

There is a supply of extra envelopes in the Narthex of the church. It's important to note that the DATE on the envelope does not matter. Please put your **name** or envelope number on the envelope OR use old ones you may have around the house!

Even better, if you use the internet, you can donate your tithe on the website, [stjohnscol.org](http://stjohnscol.org). It's easy and if you avoid using a Credit/Debit Card, there is NO transaction fee to use your checking account.

Please read the information that came from "The Church Budget Envelope Company" in the next column. Thank you all for your patience and understanding at this temporary inconvenience!

Thank you! Theresa Divet



STEWARDSHIP



**The Church**

Budget Envelope Company

*"Greetings from The Church-Budget Envelope and Mailing Company,*

*Some of you may be aware of delays in the offering envelope mailings over the past couple months. Due to supply chain and the inability to add employees at the rate necessary has created a slow draw on production and shipping. Recently, both of those issues have been resolved. However, the "catchup" would jeopardize long term delivery.*

*In order to get back to expected levels of timely deliveries, we are forced to suspend the production of the remaining supply of your January envelopes. The offering envelopes will resume and be delivered by the first Sunday in March. Quarterly supply will restart in April.*

*Never in our company's history have we had to skip scheduled mailings and we are doing all we can to make sure this never happens again. We deeply apologize for this necessary course of action and the inconveniences this has caused you and your church family.*

*We appreciate your understanding.*

*The Church – Budget Envelope and Mailing Company Management Team"*

## Troop 35 Pa Dutch Council BSA

**Scout Troop 35** is a great group of youth, parents and adult leaders! We are very blessed to be the Charter Organization for these scouts at St. John's Church!! They meet here every Wednesday evening.

BSA Troop 35 members are so helpful to St. John's and the community! They helped in the Fall to clear some weeds at the church office and they helped to make the produce bags for the annual Lions Club and Sun Snappers Christmas Food Boxes this year!

Troop 35 has had 6 young men become Eagle Scouts since 2020! Aidan Stehman, Andrew Reese, Ethan Schmitt, Carter Johnson, Jarret Schmitt, Zane Bucholtz, Blaise Stehman and Vincent Hernandez.

The rank of Eagle Scout may be earned by a Scout who has been a Life Scout for at least six months, has earned a minimum of 21 merit badges, has demonstrated Scout Spirit, and has demonstrated leadership within their troop, crew or ship.

**Congratulations to you all!!**



### **Special events to put on your calendar!**

Sunday, February 12	11:30 am	<b>Pizza &amp; Trivia with a Valentine theme!</b>
Tuesday, February 14	6:30 pm	Church Council meeting
Wednesday, February 22	7:30 pm	<b>Ash Wednesday service with imposition of ashes</b>
Tuesday, February 28	6:00 pm	Activity Committee meeting
Wednesday, March 1	7:30 pm	<b>Holden Evening prayer begins</b>
Saturday, March 11	9:00 am	<b>Alpha</b> Retreat Day
Sunday, March 12	2:00 am	Daylight savings begins
Tuesday, March 14	6:30 pm	Church Council meeting
Sunday, March 19	11:30 am	<b>St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef &amp; Cabbage meal</b>
Sunday, April 2	11:30 am	<b>Palm Sunday Fruit Pizza in the Narthex!</b>
Sunday, April 2	4:00 pm	<b>Columbia Food Bank Benefit Concert!!</b>
Tuesday, April 11	6:30 pm	Church Council meeting
Sunday, April 30	2:00 pm	<b>Tea Party! "There's No Place Like Home"</b>

**Alpha** attendees meet every Wednesday at 6:00 pm. The last day for **Alpha** is April 5, 2023.



### **TEA PARTY!!**

**"There's No Place Like Home"**

Join us for one of the favorite events of the year!



April 30th at 2:00 pm  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
In the Fellowship Hall



There will be delicious food, tea and wonderful entertainment! Invite your friends and family!

A free will offering will be collected to benefit **Habitat For Humanity!!**



## Whip it up with Angie!

*Recipes from the Meals-On-Wheels Chef & Director*

As we are heading out of this dreary winter into spring we are all looking forward to the weather getting somewhat warmer, even though March & April can be a little chilly.

Here are some recipes that will bring spring to your taste buds using springtime flavors.

### **Creamy Lemon Parmesan Chicken**

#### **Piccata**

#### **Ingredients for the chicken:**

2 large boneless and skinless chicken breasts halved horizontally to make 4.  
2 tablespoons flour  
2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese  
1 teaspoon salt  
Cracked pepper

#### **Ingredients for the sauce:**

1 tablespoon olive oil  
2 teaspoons butter  
2 tablespoons mince garlic  
1 1/4 cup chicken broth  
1/2 cup half and half or heavy cream  
1/3 cup grated parmesan cheese  
2 tablespoons capers  
1 teaspoon cornstarch mixed with 1



tablespoon of water.  
2-3 tablespoons of  
lemon juice  
2 tablespoons fresh  
parsley

#### **Directions**

- 1.** In a shallow bowl, combine the flour and parmesan cheese. Season the chicken with salt & pepper; dredge in the flour mixture; shake off excess and set aside.
- 2.** Heat 1 tablespoon of oil and 2 teaspoons butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat until butter has melted and pan is hot. Fry the chicken until golden on each side and cooked through and no longer pink. Transfer to a warm plate.
- 3.** Add the garlic to the oil in the pan and fry until fragrant. Reduce heat to low-medium heat and add broth and cream.
- 4.** Bring the sauce to a gentle simmer; season with salt & pepper, add in the parmesan cheese and capers. Continue cooking gently for about 2 minutes to thicken.. If it is too runny, add the cornstarch/water mixture and stir fast to



combine into the hot sauce.

**5.** Pour in lemon juice, simmer one more minute. Add the chicken back into the pan, allow to simmer gently about 1 minute.

**6.** Serve over your favorite pasta, steamed vegetable, rice, or zucchini noodles.



### **Yogurt with Blueberries & Honey**

A simple combination of Greek-style yogurt and blueberries gets a touch of sweetness from the honey! It's a great healthy balance of protein and fiber to keep you energized.

Place 1 cup yogurt in a bowl. Top with 1/2 fresh blueberries and drizzle 1 teaspoon of honey on top!  
This is about 196 calories per serving!



The **Columbia Meals on Wheels** program at St. John's is a non-profit organization which serves nutritional meals to the elderly within our community.

Two meals a day may be provided (hot and cold), 3 to 5 days a week and all meals are distributed by community volunteers.

The meals alleviate the elderly from the burden of shopping and preparing their own meals.

This gives many families piece of mind in knowing that their loved ones are being taken care of nutritionally and a comfort in knowing a volunteer is visiting daily to deliver a meal with a smile.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO  
VOLUNTEER CALL ANGIE GROSS  
MEALS ON WHEELS AT **717-684-4244**

Hot Meal & Cold Lunch  
\$7 a day

Hot Meal Only  
\$5 a day

*\*Prices subject to change*

# Christian Education

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Wednesdays at 9am** “*Mere Christianity*” by C.S. Lewis is our current read!

Always great discussions led by Pastor Whitesel. Join us anytime in the library!

## ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Sundays at 9am** Pastor Whitesel leads a bible study & discussions on the lessons for the day.

## CHILDREN’S SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sundays at 9am** Kate Keyser and her helpers Tiffany Nell & Carol Clark lead a faith filled fun class for children every Sunday! Join in on the fun anytime!

**SAVE THE DATES!** Vacation Bible School August 7-11, 2023!! A Camping Theme is planned!

## St. John’s Lutheran Committees

Church Council Members meet on the second Tuesday of every month. If you have any ideas, if you want to be on a committee, or have any concerns you may speak to any member of the Church Council. Church Council meeting notes are always available to read. They are in the binder in the Narthex. Congregational members are welcome to attend.

St. John’s Church Council members are: Rick Whitesel, president; Tom Swingler, vice president; Tiffany Nell, secretary; Terry Droege, treasurer; John Jensen, Paula Kleckner, Wayne Erdman, Doug Halter, Tiffani Lynn, and Jack Abel



**The church IS  
the People!**

- The Choir - Practice every Thursday evening at 7pm
- Finance Committee
- Activity/Social Outreach Committee
- Property Committee
- Christian Ed Committee
- Worship & Music Committee
- Meals on Wheels Committee
- Home Communion Team
- Nominating Committee
- Audit Committee

- Audio/Video team

If you have any interest in being on a committee and sharing your gifts with this congregation, talk to any church council member or call the church office. We will get you connected!

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

You can see St. John’s calendar of events live anytime on our website! Visit [stjohnscol.org](http://stjohnscol.org) and choose the “calendar” tab!



# LENT 2023

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22 at 7:30 pm

## Holden Evening Prayer Service

Wednesdays at 7:30 pm beginning March 1, 2023

## HOLY WEEK

## MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 6 at 7 pm

## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 7 at 7 pm

## VIGIL OF EASTER

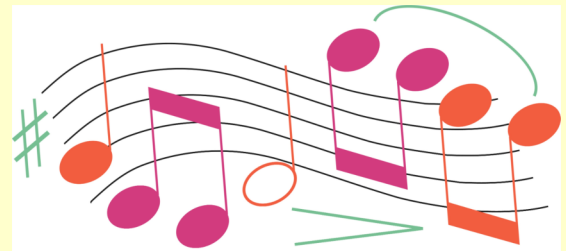
Saturday, April 8 at 7 pm

## EASTER DAY

## RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Sunday, April 9 at 10:15 am with Brass Ensemble!

Services will be *live streamed* on Facebook & will be available to watch on "Saint John's Lutheran Columbia Pa" YouTube Channel after the live event.



**COLUMBIA FOOD BANK**

*Benefit Concert*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023**

**4:00 PM AT**

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN**

Alan Anderson of Windsprite Flute ensemble will join forces with Michele Lopez to present a concert of beautiful music! Bring a free will offering for the Columbia Food bank or non perishable food items!!

## Flower OR Meals-On-Wheels Easter Memorials

To place an order, fill out the following information and return with a check made out to "St. John's Lutheran Church."

The form and check may be placed into the offering plate, brought to the church office, mailed or placed in the order box located on the narthex table.

## Orders Due by Sunday, March 19, 2023

For the flowers, the suggested donations are per pot; please indicate the number of pots on the line beside your selection. You will take your flowers home after worship service on Easter Day.

**Tulips** (6" round pot) \$7.00 # of pots \_\_\_\_\_

**Chrysanthemums** (6 1/2" round pot) \$8.00 # of pots \_\_\_\_\_

**Meals-on-Wheels Memorial** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 978  
Lancaster, PA

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

***DATED MATERIAL — PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY***

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

***Worship With Us  
This Easter***



**Sunday, April 9, 2023**  
**10:15 am**

**WEEKLY EUCHARIST SERVICES**

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

**SERVICIO DE ADORACIÓN**

Domingos a las 10:15 AM  
Miercoles a las 10:15 AM

Worship is both in-person and live stream

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION— SUNDAYS AT 9 AM

**We are on the web!**  
**Stjohnscol.org and find us on**  
**Facebook!**