



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
at *Luther Square*
2222 Peach Street
Erie PA 16502
(814) 456-7596
www.stjohnserie.org

June 4, 2017

We at St. John's are working on developing a new worship gathering for both our folks and for those folks whom we are currently not serving with our existing worship style selections. Not that there is anything wrong with either the traditional worships that we do on Sunday morning or the spoken word worship we gather for on Saturday evenings, we just know that there are more options out there that others desire. But before we get into a tussle about worship styles, allow me to share my take on what worship is and one of its main purposes therein:

Where we gather together is a gas station and our communal worship is the fuel. We come together to fill our tanks so that we can head out into the world to do what we have been called to do as the people of God.

We go to the gas station to fill up; the day you start hanging out there is the day you have lost sight of life. We don't gather here to stay here ó we gather here to fuel up together and launch together to change our surrounding community together as a people of faith.

So what fuels your soul? This is not about being trendy or hip ó this is entirely about what you need so that you can leave this place filled for the week ahead. I view part of the act of community worship as our recharge together where we learn, grow, are fed, and are sent out. If that is what we expect out of worship (no matter what the style), the questions we need to ask have to do with what you need to make that happen. What aspects of worship are most fulfilling to you? What are you most looking for in a worship experience? What factors are important to you in your choosing your worship gathering?

Even though this letter is primarily about worship, I truly understand and believe that worship is only a small part to who we are: **We are first-and-foremost a community of faith with a central mission.** There is so much more to a church than its worship gatherings, yet those worship experiences are an integral part of our expression of our faith. Our worship helps us build that community.

So let's make sure we are doing it right. Let's make sure that we are offering what people need to fill their cup, for it is only when their cups are filled that they have enough to pour out into the cups of others. On the other side of this letter is a simple survey we are hoping you will take time to fill out. We desire your thoughts, wishes, and ideas. We want your honesty and your candor. We endeavor to make this community of faith truly *your* community of faith. Please return the survey to us in person, via mail, or via my personal email.

In God's service and yours,

Rev. Erik Young
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St. John's Lutheran Church Worship Survey 2017

2216 Peach Street, Erie PA 16505 ✉ www.StJohnsErie.org

Your church wants to better understand how you view the worship life of our church. Please take a few moments to answer these questions and then return this survey to the church by Sunday, June 25th. We invite EVERY PERSON in your household (confirmation-age or older) to fill out a copy of this survey. Additional copies can be found in the church narthex (lobby) as well as on our church website under the "Documents and Forms" tab.

Name: _____ Gender: _____

How old are you? 12-18 19-35 36-49 50-64 65+

How many years have you attended worship at St. John's? less than 3 3-10 11 -20 21+

How often do you typically attend worship at St. John's?

Every week 2-3 times each month Once a month Mainly on holidays

Other (member elsewhere, snowbird, etc.): _____

Do you have children living at home? YES NO

If so, do they typically attend worship with you? YES NO Ages: _____

If you could have a worship gathering **DAY AND TIME** that would best suit your needs, when would it happen?

DAY: _____ TIME: _____ AM / PM

Is this the day and time of the worship gathering you primarily attend now? YES NO

Which worship **STYLE** do you most prefer (traditional, spoken, contemporary, blended, etc.)? _____

Is this the style of the worship gathering you primarily attend now? YES NO

Regarding your preferred worship style: What aspects are most fulfilling to you? What are you most looking for?

What factors are most important to you in choosing which worship gathering you would primarily attend?

Other comments you would like to share regarding worship here at St. John's: _____

