



**ST. JOHN'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF THE ERIE LUTHERAN PARISH

*"You belong here."*

# The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter



**#youbelonghere@StJohnsErie**

† ST JOHN'S VISION STATEMENT †  
Loved by God, alive in Christ Jesus, and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. John's unconditionally serves God's people and shares Christian love.

## A CALLING FROM CHRIST

I'd like to boast about my wife. Please forgive me for going on and on and on about her but this will be the only article about her.

As most of you know, my wife, Rachael, is public defender. When we lived in Texas, she was an assistant district attorney and she loved the prosecution side of the law but when we moved up to Pennsylvania, the only legal job she could find was a public defender position in Northumberland County.

When a law student graduates and becomes a licensed attorney, they must take an oath that requires them to, "zealously" promote their client. The client could be the government, the commonwealth, a corporation, or a private individual. Over the years, she gained a reputation of being a hard-working lawyer who "zealously" defends her client in the courtroom. It helps that she wins more cases than not.

Over the years, as I listened to her stories and learn about her legal work, I realized that she IS a really good lawyer! Like upper echelon good lawyer. Johnny Cochran caliber good. So, one day, I asked her why she would work for a county instead of a large law firm where she could make much more money. She responded that her calling in life is to be the voice of the poor, the neglected and those society don't respect or give a thought about. That shut me up.

Christ implores us to be about the "least of these" (Matthew 25) and always be on the lookout to service opportunity in our lives where those who are neglected, forgotten, or tossed aside can get respite from the trauma and maltreatment of society.

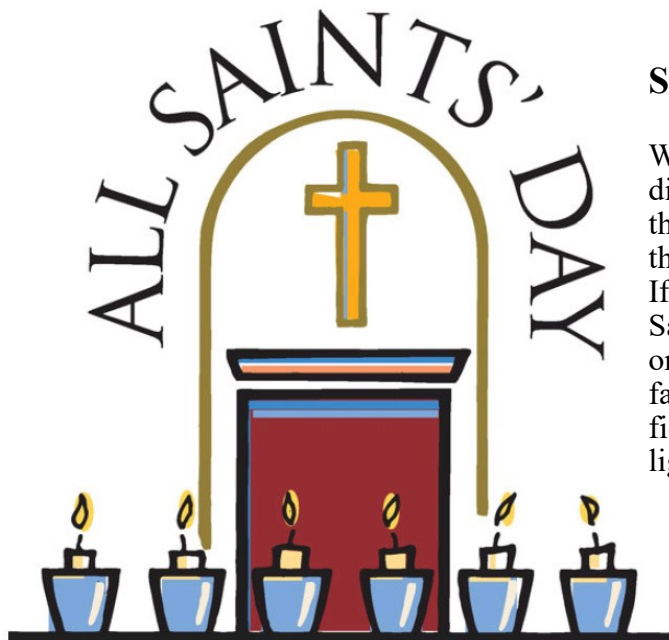
Since that moment, I have realized that there are many days when Rachael does more for the Kingdom of God than I do sitting in a church office. I preach the Gospel but she lives it. She puts me to shame when it comes to how much of her life is spent ministering to those society ignores or are blind to. She does not judge people for their actions but sees their God-given nature and accepts them as that. She lets the judging be done with the jury or the judge. She knows that, often, she is the only person in her client's life that treats them as a human being with any shred of dignity.

Thus, I feel I am lucky to have a Christ-like figure in my life that helps to remind me to love all people and especially those we are called to by Christ to love, the least of these.

I ask that you accept Christ's calling to love "the least of these." You can demonstrate that simple act of love by joining me and others in our congregation and meet us at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant on October 2 to serve those that are the least of these. It is a simple act of love, of kindness and respect.

Let's show these people that Christ loves them by us serving them. Please email me ([pastortom@stjohnserie.org](mailto:pastortom@stjohnserie.org)) of your availability when you clear up your Sunday, October 2 schedule. It starts at 3PM and ends around 6PM. It's only a three-hour commitment. I look forward to serving alongside with you as we become the hands and face of Christ for the "least of these."

I will see you there.  
Pastor Tom



**Sunday (11/6/22) is All Saints' Day**

We remember on that day all those who have died in Christ this past year, knowing that their light still shines bright in this world and the next.

If such a person has passed since last All Saints' Day, whether from our congregation or someone who has been formative in your faith, please get their name to the church office so that we can celebrate them and their light that still shines on.

A couple of reminders...



## Blessing of the Pets

Sunday October 9th

During the 5 p.m. Worship Service

Will be in the large parking lot, weather permitting.

In case of inclement weather, this event will be moved into the gym.

*No slithering pets please*

**Prayer Requests:** Do you have someone or something to pray for? Use the “Prayer Request” link on our church website (<http://stjohnserie.org/prayer-request/>). Enter your request and we will publish it in the Parish Post as well as be able to petition it during the prayers in worship. Prayer Requests/Names will be removed on the 1st of each month unless otherwise requested. If you would like a name on the prayer list, please use the “Prayer Request” link on our church website, email or phone the church office.

**Just a Reminder:** If you would like anything put in the *Parish Post*, please have it submitted to the church office no later than the 20th of the month prior. The office email is: [office@stjohnserie.org](mailto:office@stjohnserie.org) or call the office at (814) 456-7596.

Check in for WORSHIP >

**Check In for Worship:** As you attend worship with us virtually or in person, please remember to check in. Record your attendance through the app on our “Worship With Us” web page. Or you can check in via email, letting us know where you were, who you were with, and what worship you attended, by texting or

emailing that information to [attendance@stjohnserie.org](mailto:attendance@stjohnserie.org).

## God's Work, Our Hands

On Sunday, September 11, several members served lunch to the residents at the Mercy Center for Women. After lunch, we joined the residents in their monthly "Deep Cleaning," scrubbing floors, walls, stairs, railings, windows, and anything else that's washable! We watched children on the playground, and we held babies while their mothers did chores. Thanks are due to those who prepared and donated food (Janet H and others) and to those whose hands held the sponges and mops, among them: Pastor Tom, Diane and Bob B, Marj and Bob Q, Julie Z, Nancy V, Carolyn S. Special thanks to Roger Seman for making balloon animals for the delighted children!



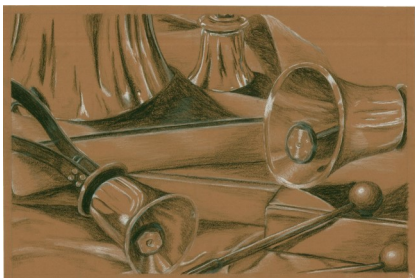
**CROP Walk for Hunger!** Diane and Bob B, Marj and Bob Q, and Carolyn S represented St. John's on Sunday, September 25 in rain and sunshine. Donations to this cause still welcomed!

## St. John's Serving Sunday Supper

On Sunday afternoon, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, St. John's once again will serve a meal to the community that enjoys weekly hospitality at the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. Our cooks will prepare a menu and food in advance, and the serving team will assist the regulars at the host church to serve the families and individuals who share in this food and fellowship event. Our typical menu includes sloppy joes, salad, chips, and dessert.

We'll be recruiting cooks, donors, and servers.

Please contact Diane Bestvina ([dl.bestvina@gmail.com](mailto:dl.bestvina@gmail.com)) or Carolyn Sturtevant ([crstur@aol.com](mailto:crstur@aol.com)) to help.



## Great Deal on Choir Memberships! Free Memberships for Choir Singers and Ringers!

Chancel Choir rehearsals will be at 9:00 AM – 9:45 AM on Sunday mornings. Bell Choir rehearsals will be from 11:15 AM – Noon on Sunday mornings. If you any questions, please contact Kathy Swanson ([organist@stjohnserie.org](mailto:organist@stjohnserie.org)) or call and leave your name at the Church office.



Don't take a chance with your health, plan to get vaccinated.

Available to ages 9 to 99. Convenient locations and no up-front cost for the shot, simply present your primary health insurance card. All insurances are accepted.

For more information, call **(814)844-3293** or visit [dontlettheflubugyou@lecomslc.org](mailto:dontlettheflubugyou@lecomslc.org).

**L|E|C|O|M** HEALTH  
INSTITUTE FOR SUCCESSFUL AGING



**Date**

Thursday  
October 13, 2022

**Time**

10:00 a.m. -  
12:00 p.m.

**Location**

St. John's  
Lutheran Church  
2216 Peach St.  
Erie, PA 16502



## Baby Boomers Intergenerational Group

The Baby Boomers program will implement a program at the Booker T. Washington Center that gives the senior population in the city of Erie aged 60 and over an opportunity to maintain and improve their lives based off of the commonly used “Six Dimensions of Wellness” model, which includes physical, social, intellectual, spiritual, occupational, and emotional wellness, and to provide leadership and guidance to the youth services at the Booker T. Washington Center aged 5-18 through an intergenerational program.

Baby Boomers will be held beginning October 4th

Location: Booker T. Washington Center, 1720 Holland St., Erie, PA 16503

Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays 9am-12pm  
Tuesdays 4pm-7pm

For more information and to join, please contact:  
Carol Troop or Joan Flemings at (814)453-5744

## Julia's Cash Bash

*Proceeds will be used to build Julia Hospice House*



Saturday, October 15th, 2022  
6:00—10:00 pm

St. Francis Usher's Club  
9085 Main St.  
McKean, PA 16426

Silent auction, basket raffle, cash games, food, and more

\$20 per person (must be over 21 yrs. old)

Tickets may be purchased from any Julia Cares Volunteer, St. Francis Church (8880 Main St, McKean), Luther Memorial Church (225 W. 10th St., Erie), or at the door.

For more information, please call Maureen at (814)746-0690.

## October 2022 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>2</b> 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 5PM WORSHIP	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6PM Theo Pub (online) 8PM Confirmation Class (online)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>9</b> 10AM WORSHIP 12PM Brew Crew 5PM WORSHIP- Pet Blessing/ Outdoor Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6PM Theo Pub (online)	<b>12</b> 7PM CONG. COUNCIL	<b>13</b> 10AM LECOM Flu Shot Clinic 11:30AM WELCA	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>16</b> 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 5PM WORSHIP	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6PM Theo Pub (online) 7:00PM Duf- ford Terrace Board 8PM Confir- mation Class (online)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>23</b> 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12PM Worship/ Ministry Meeting 5PM WORSHIP	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6PM Theo Pub (online)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>30</b> 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 5PM WORSHIP	<b>31</b>					

### St. John's Lutheran Church

2216 Peach St., Erie PA 16502

(814) 456-7596 [www.StJohnsErie.org](http://www.StJohnsErie.org)

"You Belong Here!"