



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

"You belong here."

The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter



CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED:

There will be a brief meeting for all those interested in singing in the Chancel Choir or playing in the Bell Choir this year in front of the organ after the 10:00 AM service Sunday, September 11th. If you cannot attend the meeting, please contact Kathy Swanson or call the church office.



*Blessing of
Pets*

Blessing of the Pets

Sunday October 9th

No slithering pets please

**See pages 6 & 7
for
outreach
opportunities**

#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.

Grace and peace to you from our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Over the course of my two decades plus of ministry, I have served in almost every ministry setting an ordained pastor can. I have served as a call pastor in single congregations, multi-congregation settings, rural, urban and suburban, college campus contexts and as well as interim pastor in a handful of churches.

In all these settings, I have worked closely with many congregations going through challenges and great turmoil. I have employed multiple tools to help these congregations overcome their difficulties. However, no matter the issue or difficulty, there is one constant that is present in these congregations. This one constant is the lack of healthy communications.

Most congregations do not operate on a set of agreed-upon-principles of communication. Thus, unhealthy communication lends directly to the unhealthiness within the congregation.

Therefore, in the March council meeting, I presented to our congregation council a communication covenant. It was given to me by the bishop of the SW TX Synod and his staff when I was working as one of the facilitators for the Healthy Congregation workshops while leading the Synod Leadership Commission.

This Covenant proposes a communication process that allows for healthy interactions between congregation members, leadership and staff. If followed, this Covenant will greatly minimize miscommunication and misunderstanding, thus helping to improve the health of the congregation.

At the heart of this Covenant is what I call, "Anonymous speech." Anonymous speech is when a person, trying to give credence to a position, gives an undefined number of people or references an unknown group of people to back up their position. It usually comes in the form of "A lot of people are saying..." or, "There are people telling me this..." or "A person told me..."

Anonymous speech does not do anything to help temper the situation or quell the emotions. It simply breeds more miscommunication and unhealthiness. Anonymity does not give resolution a chance. The reason is that anonymous sources prevent the person at the target of the complaint no effective means to deal with the issue. A name associated with the source of the complaint allows for the person at the center of the complaint a means to go directly to the person or group of people to hear exactly what the problem is. Therefore, anonymity is unhealthy, and it actually breeds more contempt, distrust and unhealthiness.

I am grateful to be working with a great congregation council that recognizes this and adopted the attached Communication Covenant as congregation policy in the June council meeting. We ask that you adopt this as you go about communicating with the congregation members, leadership and staff.

This will be available for your perusal in the office and in this newsletter. Over the course of the next few weeks, we will make it available throughout the church building.

If you would like to engage with anyone in a formal way, following this Covenant will yield healthy results with all parties listening and finding common ground for resolutions.

May God continue to bless St. John's always.
Rev. Thomas M. Glasoe
Interim Pastor

COVENANT OF COMMUNICATION

In order for the congregation and the Church Council to deal effectively with issues, the following guidelines are to be followed:

All members affirm their right to express their opinions about the life and ministry of the congregation.

The congregation encourages members to share their opinions directly with the pastor, Church Council, governance boards, and at congregational meetings.

When members of the congregation express an opinion to a member of the Council, the Council person shall ask, —What would you like me to do with this information?

If the member desires to have the information transmitted to the Council, the member shall be invited to bring the information/opinion to the next Council meeting. The time and date shall be given to the member. and the Pastor or President shall be notified that the member will be present.

If the member does not wish to appear in person, the Council member shall ask the member for permission to use their name in reporting. If permission is not given, the Council member shall say: “I’m sorry but I will not be able to report this to the council since we do not deal with anonymous letters or hearsay comments.”

If permission is given, the Council member shall report the information/opinion to the Council and use the member’s name.

At his/her discretion, a Council member may ask that the member refer this issue to another Council member for presentation.

Each issue shall be placed on the agenda and written in the minutes along with the action taken by the council. Action may include: —received as information, — Pastor and/or President to visit member and report at next meeting, etc.

Members to be present will have their concerns addressed after the meeting is called to order after prayer is completed and before business transpires.

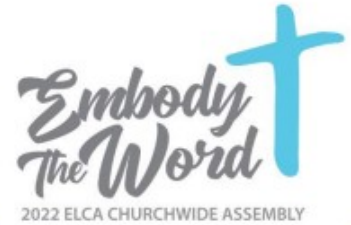
Opinion may be shared in writing with the Council and shall be handled in the above-mentioned manner if the letter or statement is signed.

No Member of the Congregation shall just show up at a Council meeting to voice an opinion, without notifying the Council President or Pastor at least 4 (four) days in advance of the Councils meeting date. Members who show up without this notification will not be heard, and will be asked to leave.

*Approved at ELCA Churchwide Assembly 2009
Adopted by St. John’s Congregation Council – June 2022*



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



2022 Churchwide Assembly Highlights

The sixteenth Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA met August 8-12, 2022, worshipping together in services of Eucharist and lament, experiencing a liturgy rooted in Indigenous traditions, and hearing a public apology in a non-legislative session to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina for harm experienced from actions taken by the Sierra Pacific Synod and this church. The following key actions were taken by the assembly:

- Elected Mr. Imran Siddiqui of the Southeastern Synod as vice president of the ELCA.
- Directed the Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the statements of purpose for each expression of this church, the principles of organizational structure, and our shared commitment to dismantle racism, with findings to be reported to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention; and directed an external audit of the governing documents of this church to consider diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, with findings resulting in recommended changes to the governing documents.
- Authorized revisions to the social statement, *Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust*, and approved exploration of reconsideration of the four stated positions of “bound conscience.”
- Encouraged members, congregations, and synods of this church to educate themselves about Indigenous peoples, calling on the churchwide organization to work with synods and Indigenous partners to identify sources of funding for ministries for Indigenous peoples, and encouraging restorative justice that could include return of land to the appropriate Native nations.
- Referred a proposed study of pay gaps for rostered ministers to the Church Council.
- Mandated a review process of the roster manual and policies related to specialized ministries, On Leave from Call status, and protocols for removal from the rosters, and encouraged bishops and synod councils to use sparingly the process of removal from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons.
- Approved the budget proposal for the triennium, including a spending authorization of \$68,814,000 for 2023 for the current fund, along with a spending authorization of \$22,930,000 for ELCA World Hunger.
- Affirmed limits on the use of non-disclosure agreements by the churchwide organization and urged synods, congregations, and other ministries to apply the same limits.
- Reaffirmed the commitment of this church to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of reducing net greenhouse gas pollution 50% by 2030, with a long-range goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Called for a review of the nomination and elections processes used by synods and the churchwide organization.
- Responded to memorials, including among others those on diversity; nuclear weapons; voting rights and Washington, D.C., statehood; strategies for fortifying urban ministries; a Black migrant strategy; the right to boycott; gun violence; LGBTQIA+ welcome; substance abuse; Roe v. Wade; remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocide; parental and medical family leave; a process for pre-identification of nominees for the office of presiding bishop; revisions to the mission development process; consideration of communion practices related to remote worship; affirmation of the task force created by the Church Council to review the discipline process; and a social message on child abuse and protection.
- Approved or ratified amendments to the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA*, most of which were related to general clarifications and updates; inclusive language; synod-authorized ministry; designation of advisory members by the Church Council; boards of the separately incorporated ministries; and election procedures for officers and the Churchwide Assembly.
- Elected members of the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee, and boards of the Separately Incorporated Ministries [see “*First Common Ballot Results*”].

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Class Update

There are currently 7 students attending Confirmation classes via Zoom with Pastor Young. Within this group of young people, three of the boys will be confirmed when Pastor Young returns from deployment. Those three boys are Chris Boam, Richie Blatt and TJ Powell. The other members of the zoom group are Kaleb Young, Amelia Young, Lacey Powell, and Anthony Thompson. This group has been working with Pastor Young for the past three years bi weekly over zoom exploring different aspects of what it means to be a Lutheran today. There is always room for more students, should your young person decide he or she wants to be confirmed, please reach out to Pastors Young or Glasoe.

A couple of reminders...

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 or call the office at (814) 456-7596.

**As this is my first attempt at the Parish Post, please also let me know if there is anything you would like to see added. ~Rachel*

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.

Check in for WORSHIP >



Holy Trinity Soup/Pasta Kitchen & Food Pantry

The Holy Trinity food ministries will begin resuming the regular schedule of Tuesday evening dinner, and Wednesday and Saturday lunches, beginning September 6th.

Holy Trinity is in need of volunteers to help prepare and serve these meals each week, as well as a persons to act as coordinators/leaders for the different days.

The Tuesday cooking team begins preparing the food between 2:00 and 3:00 pm each week depending on the menu, with dinner being served from 5:10 until 5:45pm, followed by after dinner clean-up.

The Wednesday and Saturday cooking team begins preparing the food at 10:30 am each day, with lunch being served from noon until 12:30 pm, followed by after lunch clean-up.

The Food Pantry distributes food bags each week beginning at 6:00 pm following the Tuesday evening dinners. Food is delivered on Tuesdays from 2nd Harvest Food Bank, sorted, organized and prepared beginning at 4:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to help sort and organize the food and assemble/distribute the food bags, along with persons to sit at a table and sign-in/register those seeking food from the Food Bank.

If you are willing to volunteer your valuable talents to any of these ministries please contact the church office at (814) 452-3518 or email: holytrinityeric@yahoo.com.

Thank you for continued interest and support of these ministries so vital to our Little Italy neighborhood.



God's Work, Our Hands

On the afternoon of Sunday, September 11th, St. John's members will reach out to help at the Mercy Center for Women, 1039 East 27th Street. We will lend our hands to serve a meal for the women, children, and infants who reside there, and to perform various tasks identified by their volunteer coordinator.

There are at least two ways to participate:

- 1) volunteer to be onsite that day, and/or
- 2) donate/prepare food in advance for the meal.

Please contact Diane Bestvina (dl.bestvina@gmail.com) or Carolyn Sturtevant (crstur@aol.com) to participate.

The ELCA website describes God's Work, Our Hands:

This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

CROP Walk for Hunger

Sunday, September 25 is the day that people across our community will walk together in support of those who have food insecurity. As in years past, CROP walkers will take to the trails at Presque Isle State Park for the Sunday afternoon stroll.

WANTED:

- Coordinator: recruit, share info, make sure funds are submitted—Sept and October
- Walkers: sign up, get a packet during office hours or on worship day, collect contributions
- Contributors: Please pledge to donate to one or more CROP Walkers!



CROP WALK T-Shirts (\$10) and Sweatshirts (\$20) may be ordered, yellow with blue lettering. Order forms and checks (Erie CROP Walk) must be at Luther Memorial by Tuesday, September 6.

CROP Walk starting time and location TBA. See Facebook "CROP Hunger Walk of Erie, PA"


St. John's Serving Sunday Supper

On Sunday afternoon, October 2nd, 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) or Carolyn Sturtevant (crstur@aol.com) to help.

September 2022 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
				1	2	3 5PM WORSHIP
4 10AM WORSHIP 12PM BREW-CREW 5PM WORSHIP	5  Office Closed	6 6PM Theo Pub (online) 8PM Confirmation Class (online)	7	8 11:30AM WELCA	9	10 5PM WORSHIP
11 10AM WORSHIP 12PM Brew Crew 5PM WORSHIP	12	13 6PM Theo Pub (online) 7:00PM Duford Terrace Board	14 7PM CONG. COUNCIL	15	16	17 5PM WORSHIP
18 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 5PM WORSHIP	19	20 6PM Theo Pub (online) 8PM Confirmation Class (online)	21	22	23	24 5PM WORSHIP
25 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12PM Worship/Ministry Meeting 5PM WORSHIP	26	27 6PM Theo Pub (online)	28	29	30	

St. John's Lutheran Church

2216 Peach St., Erie PA 16502

(814) 456-7596 www.StJohnsErie.org

"You Belong Here!"