



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

*"You belong here."*

# The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter

April 30, 2023

*"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.  
Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged." -Deuteronomy 31:8*

To the Membership of St. John's Lutheran Church of Erie,

The Old Testament passage above is literally my favorite Bible verse. It gives me hope in all things. I lead off this letter with that statement of faith as a reminder to us all. I write to you with both gratitude and sadness to announce that the end of my time at St. John's Lutheran Church of Erie has come, effective Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>. It is with a heavy heart that I recognize that my last Sunday with you has already come to pass.

As I have said more than once: It is humbling to walk down "Heritage Hall," looking at all of the clergy who have come before me and their service within their allotted time here. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to continue the stewardship of the pulpit and altar in this place with them – the opportunity to be part of the story of this church. Walking that hall and reading of our story in this place is nothing if not a reminder that the Holy Spirit has set a beginning and end time for everything under heaven – my time here included.

This is not a decision that I ever wanted to have to make. Yet the Holy Spirit has made it abundantly clear that I have done as much as is within my power for this congregation and that it is now time for me to move on to where the Spirit is leading next. That "next" for me is thus: I have received and accepted the Call from St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Erie to be their Senior Pastor. I will be taking a few weeks off to properly transition myself between calls.

For 215 years the gospel has been preached and the sacraments have been shared in this congregation's midst. It is my hope and prayer for you all that a Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) sweep through this building and invigorate you toward a transformed calling and a renewed mission, that another 215 years of the Great Commission as directed by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 be done in and through the people and means of St. John's.

In Christ's service and with His peace,

Rev. Erik Young

**#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.



### ATTENTION: HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIANS

The Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival is being conducted June 25- July 23, 2023 for any student in grades 8- 12 during the 2022-23 school year. Programs are being offered in Choir, Orchestra, Band, Musical Theatre, Jazz, and Handbells. It's an exciting comprehensive program offered at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN. Students will be instructed by a nationally renowned faculty and have an amazing pre-college experience. Financial help is available. Brochures are available in the Church Narthex or contact Kathy Swanson.

### ORGAN SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The American Guild of Organists is offering Organ Scholarships for anyone interested in learning to play the pipe organ. There is a growing need for organists in America right now. All expenses will be underwritten by the Erie Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Successful applicants will receive a method book and ten lessons with a local organ teacher. Brochures are available in the Church Narthex or contact Kathy Swanson.

### MUSICIANS WANTED

St. John's is always looking for musicians to contribute to our 10:00 AM Traditional Worship Service. If you would like to sing or play an instrument for the Easter season, Pentecost or over the Summer, please contact Kathy Swanson or call the church office.

### Hello Lutherlyn Family!

We are gearing up for Lutherlyn's 75th summer! Camp is a busy place right now. Our spring work day was a huge success; around 90 volunteers spent a Saturday at camp preparing the grounds for CampBlast and Summer Camp. There are school groups here almost every day for Environmental Education Field Trips. The students at the Equestrian Center are preparing for their horse show later in May.



**We need your help! We still have summer staff positions available. We need several male cabin leaders (counselors), 1 female cabin leader (counselor), 1 lifeguard, and several kitchen staff. Please watch the video below and share to help us hire an AMAZING summer staff!**

Visit [www.lutherlyn.com/summer](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summer) for more information and to register for summer camp. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call our office at (724) 865-2161 or email [registrar@lutherlyn.com](mailto:registrar@lutherlyn.com).

We hope to see you at camp sometime soon!

-Your Friends at Lutherlyn



# Pentecost Garden

As we celebrate Pentecost we remember how the Holy Spirit has moved through our loved ones and friends by decorating our Sanctuary with beautiful red geraniums. You are invited to contribute in honor, memory, or in celebration of individuals you know and love.

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_ ENVELOPE # \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR / MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

**Pentecost Geraniums** *suggested at \$5 ea.* X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed**  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please place this order form in an envelope marked "**Pentecost Garden**" with your check or cash and return it to the church office by **Sunday, May 21**. Your order may also be placed in the offering plate. A maximum of 55 plants will be purchased, with any excess funds being applied to our weekly altar flower costs.

*More dedications on a separate sheet...*

I am willing to help plant geraniums around the church this year

**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:** 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).

Check in for WORSHIP >



*Worship With Us*  
IN-PERSON & ONLINE

Saturday 5pm Spoken Vespers  
Sunday 8am Contemporary  
Sunday 10am Traditional

Worship with us via  
 **YouTube**  
search "StJohnsErie"



**The church office will be closed Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day**

## **Nutritional Guidance to be offered to Project Dignity Clients**

Project Dignity has been offered the expertise of a certified dietician from Second Harvest Food Bank to introduce a nutritional component to our regular distribution of food and personal care items. The gentleman has visited our site twice to introduce the plan to Diane and all the dedicated volunteers. He speaks of sharing healthy recipes based on the food items we offer to clients. We'll share more details in coming months.

## **German group toured St. John's**

In mid-April, Carol Snippert invited her German culture group to hold their meeting at St. John's, where Carolyn Sturtevant shared a bit of church history and led a tour of the main floor. They walked through the Archives Room and viewed vintage photos of our building. The group enjoyed an unplanned treat as they visited the sanctuary, hearing the rehearsal of Janel Anderson on the flute and Kathy on the organ. They also admired the stained-glass windows, and they were fascinated by the presence of a 6-sided star—apparently a Star of David--in the west window.

## **Hagen History includes St. John's in their "Sacred Spaces" tour**

On Saturday, May 13, the Hagen History Center is sponsoring a ticketed "Sacred Spaces" tour of several Erie churches. St. John's will be included, allowing those who know only our Peach Street exterior to see the inside of our historic building. A few St. John's members will welcome guests who drop in from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm for a self-guided tour. Tickets are required, and may be obtained from the Hagen History Center, 814-454-1813.

## **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church resumes monthly community meals**

St. John's is scheduled to take its traditional Sloppy Joe sandwich dinner to guests of the Holy Trinity community on Thursday, July 27. Concerns over safety cancelled the monthly meal ministry from 2020 to 2022. In coming weeks, we will be recruiting St. John's cooks, bakers, and servers to help.



Alleluia! God has gone up with a shout!

# Ascension Eucharist

of the Erie Conference, NWPA Synod

## Luther Memorial Church

Thursday, 18 May at 7:00pm

The Rev. Michael Lozano  
III Bishop, Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA  
Preaching

Fellowship will follow.

By the call of the Spirit and the people affirming,  
*The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell*  
has been called by  
*Luther Memorial Church*

to serve as the fifteenth *Pastor* of the congregation.

Pastor Jay will be installed  
at a service of the Holy Eucharist  
on the *Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Forerunner*  
Saturday, 24 June 2023 at 9:30 in the morning.

*The Rev. Michael Lozano,*  
of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, III Bishop  
will preside at the installation.

*The Rev. Amanda Nesvold* will preach.

Your presence is requested to help celebrate.  
A reception will follow.

Rostered ministers of the ELCA and clergy of all faith traditions are invited to vest and process. While the color of the day is white, Christian clergy are invited to wear their favorite stole of any color.

## May 2023 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 5PM WORSHIP
7 8 AM WORSHIP 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10 7PM CONG. COUNCIL	11 11:30AM WELCA	12	13 5PM WORSHIP
14 8 AM WORSHIP 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12PM Brew Crew	15	16 7:00PM Duf- ford Terrace Board  Election Day	17	18	19	20 5PM WORSHIP
21 8AM WORSHIP 10 AM WORSHIP 11 AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24	25	26	27 5PM WORSHIP
28 8AM WORSHIP 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal  PENTECOST SUNDAY	29  MEMORIAL DAY  Memorial Day Office Closed	30	31			

### St. John's Lutheran Church

2216 Peach St., Erie PA 16502  
 (814) 456-7596 [www.StJohnsErie.org](http://www.StJohnsErie.org)  
 "You Belong Here!"