



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

*"You belong here."*

# The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter

## Marking the Milestones of our Faith Lives

In 1808, a group of Pennsylvania-German settlers in a small village on Lake Erie requested a visit from a Lutheran pastor to baptize their children. With neither church building nor pastor, and with great distances between clusters of villages with European and Christian roots, asking for outside help was the only way to receive pastoral care. A travelling missionary answered the call and baptized about two dozen children and one adult woman on August 18 and 19, 1808, marking the first recorded act of the congregation that we know as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. The record listing the names of the baptized, the dates of their births, and the names of parents and sponsors is said to be the oldest known official record of births in Erie.

Two hundred and fifteen years later, in the absence of a full-time pastor, our congregation feels the same need for pastoral care. We are blessed to be able to reach out to nearby active and supply ministers for such events as:

- Baptisms
- First communion for young children
- Catechism classes and confirmation for teens
- Meeting visitors who worship with us
- Classes for and formal reception of new members
- Visits to those unable to attend worship for any reason, especially hospitalization
- Counseling
- Pre-marital counseling and weddings
- Funerals

Any members experiencing these milestones in their faith lives should call or email our Office Administrator, Rachel Tilburg, or speak to Roger Olsen, Council President, or any Council member, to arrange for appropriate care by a pastor and the congregation.

We also wish to welcome others into the fellowship of St. John's, as visitors and/or as new members. In addition to greeting them personally, please encourage them to sign the Guest Register at the entrance to the sanctuary. By the warmth of our words and actions, we welcome others to the Lord's house, conveying the message "You belong here."

**#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.

## God's Work, Our Hands at Beach 6

Beach bags—visions of towels, snacks, and sunscreen—not this time! Members from five congregations of the Erie Conference of NWPAsynod carried black garbage bags on Sunday, September 10. With gloved hands, eight St. John's members and seven members from other churches spent an hour collecting trash from the parking lot and beach. Bits of snack packaging, the broken end of a purple balloon, and shreds of foam cups pose a threat to the innards of hungry birds and animals. Some discoveries were too disgusting to mention here. After we sanitized our hands, we enjoyed frozen treats brought by Jacque Holmberg of Abiding Hope, funded as a Thrivent Action Team event.

## CROP Walkers Thank Donors

St. John's CROP walkers did not let travel plans interfere with their commitment to take steps against hunger. Unable to join the crowd on Presque Isle State Park on September 24<sup>th</sup>, they scheduled their own walks on alternate dates. They are grateful for the generous support from donors.

## Shelter from the Cold

St. John's will host the "Overflow Shelter," also called "My Neighbors' Place," from Wednesday, January 31st to Wednesday, February 14th. We will provide a warm refuge during wintry weather for guests who have no other shelter. Please stay tuned for more news on how you may donate and/or help us cover the 4-hour shifts from about 7 pm to 7am. Feel free to recruit volunteers among family and friends.

## Support for EmergyCare's EmergyRace

Speed is vital when people need an ambulance and trained medical staff! Both speed and problem-solving skills will win the day on October 15, during the EmergyRace, a fund-raising activity of the EmergyCare service in our neighborhood. Teams start at noon, moving without benefit of wheels, finding challenges along the way between 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Streets and Peach and Cherry Streets. Registration deadline was September 20. St. John's Council voted to donate to the cause as a sponsor, drawing from the Tithe Fund. Proceeds go to Camp EMS, a week-long experience for teens 14-17 who are interested in exploring career options in emergency medical services and the healthcare field.



## **Bible Study with Pastor Gray**

The Psalms are songs of praise, joy, sorrow, fear, and wonder. Pastor Gray opened a 4-week Bible study on Psalms at 10 am on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, with a good group in attendance. Members have been eager for this study and fellowship opportunity, and we are grateful that Pastor Gray has answered this call. The success of this series has the potential to lead to further explorations of Biblical texts.

## **Outreach to Dominican Republic**

While talking with Second Harvest Food Bank dietician who advises our Project Dignity efforts, Diane Bestvina learned that the family of David Godoy will travel to the Dominican Republic in October to help children at a school and hospital. She presented a request to Council, and a strong vote supported a donation from the Tithe Fund to help with travel costs. Missionaries are not just the unknown people sent by ELCA to far-off lands—sometimes they are the people we meet in our own communities!

## **Appreciation for Altar Care, Ushers, Readers, Coffee Hosts, Counters**

Our congregation life is enriched by the participation of its members in many roles. The recent pandemic interrupted corporate worship in the sanctuary, reducing the ranks of certain sets of volunteers. We are blessed to have our members coming forward to take on the roles mentioned in the title and others equally important. Thanks to all for sharing your gifts!

## **October 15 Sunday Supper--“The Poor Should Not Be Treated Poorly!”**

This is the motto of Erie Sunday Suppers, a group that has served a Sunday evening meal every Sunday since July 2014. This food ministry grew out of the overflow shelter “Our Neighbors Place.” First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant hosts the dinners, and many churches, including St. John’s, assist by bringing food and servers at least one Sunday each year. We welcome food donors and volunteers to help when we take over the kitchen and dining room on October 15. The menu is TBA—please stay tuned for more details!

## **October Pulpit Supply Schedule**

10/1/2023	<b>Rev. Ralph Mineo</b>
10/8/2023	<b>Rev. Ralph Mineo</b>
10/15/2023	<b>Rev. Owen Rhodes</b>
10/22/2023	<b>Rev. Ralph Mineo</b>
10/29/2023	<b>Rev. Ralph Mineo</b>



**Website revisions and updates are currently being made. Please take a moment to check out the new site at [www.stjohnserie.org](http://www.stjohnserie.org).**

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## Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. Please check off which service(s) you will likely be attending. (mark all that apply).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

- 10:00am (Regular Service)
- 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service
- 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service
- 11:00pm Christmas Eve Service
- I do not plan on attending any services

Please fill out and place in offering plate or return to [office@stjohnserie.org](mailto:office@stjohnserie.org)

**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).

A red, rounded rectangular button with a white arrow pointing to the right. The text inside the button reads "Check in for WORSHIP" in white, uppercase letters.

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## **Trunk-or-Treat Outreach Event**

Mark your calendars for some *spoooooky* fun during the Youth and Family Trunk-or-Treat event being held at St. John’s Lutheran Church gym. Children can enjoy Halloween theme games and activities. The event will conclude with trick-or-treating around our church parking lot! Hope to see you there!



**When:** Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>  
**Where:** St. John’s gym  
**Time:** 1:00-2:30 pm  
(Trunk-or-Treating will begin at 2:00 pm)



## **Trunk-or-Treat Volunteers Needed**

The Youth and Family Committee is hosting a Trunk-or-Treat Outreach Event on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 pm in the gym. For this event to happen we are in need of candy donations and volunteers to pass out candy from the trunk of their car. Trunk decorations are encouraged! More information and sign-ups will be available as we near the event. Please consider helping with this community outreach event!

## *Music Notes*



### **CHOIRS ARE BACK**

**CHANCEL CHOIR:** The time has returned for St. John's parishioners to make a joyful noise to the Lord in the choir loft. The Chancel Choir will be rehearsing at 9:00 AM Sunday mornings. Rehearsals will only be on Sunday mornings before Church. This time was selected because of concerns about nighttime driving (especially in the bad weather) and it saves an extra night out in everyone's busy schedule. Anthems will be accessible and you do not have to be a trained singer. Come and join the fun and fellowship!

**BELL CHOIR:** Bell choir rehearsals will continue to be after the 10:00 AM Church Service. We continue to look forward to the beautiful music of the bells. New members are welcome!

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** We are always looking for Special Music. If any individual or group would like to share their musical talents during the Sunday, 10:00 AM Service, please contact Kathy Swanson ([kathy@stjohnserie.org](mailto:kathy@stjohnserie.org)) or Rachel in the Church Office ([office@stjohnserie.org](mailto:office@stjohnserie.org)). We look forward to hearing from our talented parishioners.

**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.

**Butterflies and Penguins:**  
*the Ralph and Jo Show*  
**Sunday, October 22, 2023**  
**4:00 p.m.** refreshments follow



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

Please RSVP on the sign up sheet outside the office

St. John's Lutheran Church (2216 Peach St, Erie, PA) will host "Butterflies and Penguins - The Ralph and Jo Show" on Sunday, October 22, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow. "Butterflies and Penguins" is a story-telling event with original music. The program recounts the journey of Pastor Ralph and Jo Mineo, beginning with Ralph's call to ministry, to his ordination as a Roman Catholic priest, followed by their love-story, including their journey into the Lutheran Church. The program includes several songs that Pastor Ralph has written over the years for Jo, including "Butterflies and Penguins" (Jo's signature song) and others such as "Always Remember the Love." The program concludes with all participants singing Pastor Ralph's rendition of Psalm 23. The public is invited to attend. After enjoying the "5th Annual Downtown Fall Fest" in Perry Square, stop over to St. John's for this program!

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10AM WORSHIP	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6 PM GEM CITY BAND CONCERT	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>8</b> 9 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7PM CONG. COUNCIL	<b>12</b> 11:30AM WELCA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>15</b> 9 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 12PM Brew Crew	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7PM Dufford Terrace Board	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>22</b> 9 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10 AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 4 PM Butterflies & Penguins	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>29</b> 9 AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Bell Choir Rehearsal 1 PM TRUNK OR TREAT	<b>30</b>	<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!"