



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

*"You belong here."*

# The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter

## Social Statements

If you, like most people in North America, have a mobile phone, you may be using "apps," or applications, connecting with the world on social media. Some phone users stick to email or simple messages to reach out to a select group of family and friends. Still others share messages, photos, and video clips of their own making, and view the messages, photos, and video clips by others, depicting their families, pets, concerts, sports, political opinions, jokes, and pleas for help in difficult circumstances. All of these could be called our personal "Social Statements," communications with the segments of society that matter to us.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has issued thirteen Social Statements since 1991, expressing ideas on how we as Christians and Lutherans view topics of interest to a healthy society. Caring for Creation, Church in Society, Economic Life, Education, and Peace are among the topics you can find on this website: <https://elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Statements>

At the Bishops Day of Learning held for our Synod at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on May 4<sup>th</sup>, one of the speakers introduced a proposed new ELCA *Social Statement on Civic Life and Faith*. A Task Force began its work in 2020, and now invites church members to read and comment on a draft document. Following Luther's use of a Short Catechism, the task force created a short version of 10 pages and 48 Articles, divided among six sections. Section IV, for example, is "Religion and the First Amendment." The full version treats all 48 Articles in about 40 pages, with a Glossary beginning on page 52. The document and a survey for our feedback can be found online by searching "ELCA Civic Life and Faith." September 30, 2024, is the deadline for comments. The Task Force will continue its work to present the Social Statement for a vote at the 2025 Church Wide Assembly.

The topic of Civic Life and Faith is meaty, and so much more to chew on than a colorful social media photo of the food we order at our favorite restaurant. Quoting from Short Statement Article 1: "Daily we are to pray as Jesus taught: 'Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.' These words teach us that God's will seeks the well-being of creation and all aspects of human life, including civil society." Quite an opening for this Social Statement.

## #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.

**Recruiting for St. John's CROP Walk Team!**

Diane Bestvina and Carolyn Sturtevant represented St. John's at the Erie County CROP Hunger Walk Awards Luncheon on April 30. St. John's is only one of the 45 different churches and groups who walked in September 2023, collecting over \$78,000 to reach out in partnership to poor and hungry people, here and in more than 52 countries around the world. A video showed food ration bags being offered to families who are suffering from both drought and floods in the Tana River Valley of Kenya.

Erie County's CROP Walk ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation for the funds raised. At the luncheon, 23 Local hunger-fighting agencies received grants from the portion of funds (25%) that remain in Erie County. One such agency is the Emmaus Ministries, who daily feed 200 people, including one man who walks 15 blocks to come for a meal and fellowship!

The goal for the Sunday, September 29, 2024 CROP Walk in Erie County is \$80,000. St. John's members can participate as walkers and donors. Let's mark our calendars, lace up our shoes, and get in training for this worthy event! Diane and Carolyn welcome your interest.

**Hooked on Books at Abiding Hope's "Lunch and Listen"**

Dean Baldwin, president of Hooked on Books, will reveal what's between the covers of this 30-year-old program on Wednesday, June 12, when Abiding Hope Lutheran Church invites friends to bring a sandwich at noon. They provide beverages and sweets! Hooked on Books stores its volumes in a basement room under St. John's gym, but they aren't hiding there. The program's mission is to provide brand-new, high-quality books to needy children and youth in Erie County from birth to age 18. Enter the accessible community room from the lower-level parking lot at 2402 West Grandview.

**Training offered for Eucharistic Ministers**

Members of St. John's who are unable to attend services due to illness or mobility issues miss out on the sacrament of the Lord's Supper unless someone visits them. A "Eucharistic Minister" is a person trained and designated to carry the elements of communion to such a member, maintaining a connection of fellowship with one who is absent from our worship services. Active pastors in the Erie Lutheran Conference have volunteered to hold a training session for new or existing Eucharistic Ministers. Marj Quinn, a long-time Eucharistic Minister, can answer your questions about her experiences. Please contact Carolyn Sturtevant to signal your interest so that a training session can be scheduled.

**Seeing Red!**

As a common phrase, this refers to someone feeling anger. Not so in liturgical décor! On Pentecost Sunday, May 19, when we celebrated the wind and flames heralding the coming of the Holy Spirit, the red was in the altar hangings installed by members in the previous week. Red also appeared in the many geranium plants ordered and placed in advance on the sanctuary railings. It was not a miracle, but the quick work of a few volunteer gar-

deners (Leslye, Nolan, Brennen, Nora, Mark, Sue, Janet, Broderick, and Diane) who planted these bright blossoms in the flower beds prepared by a swarm of volunteers in April. Members and volunteers coordinate to observe the seasons of the church calendar, as well as daily tasks. We all owe thanks to our sexton, Joe, for his efforts in keeping our church clean and attractive, and to all who pitch to do what needs to be done. They toil when we aren't watching, but we see and appreciate the results!

### **Congregational Notes**

On Sunday, August 11, Bishop Lozano, head of our NWPA Synod, will preach as Supply Pastor at St. John's, followed by a congregational dinner. Details to follow.

We send our condolences to the families and friends of two from our fellowship who passed away on May 17<sup>th</sup>:

Mace Bowersox was a regular at Saturday night worship.

Earl Pifer was raised at St. John's, participating in choir, playing his trumpet, and serving on Council and other committees before moving with his family to Meadville.

### **Gem City Band Concerts at St. John's**

The Gem City Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble list four musical events at St. John's in 2024. Mark Eller and Bill Kay bring their talents to the group, who rehearse in the Parlor on Tuesday nights. Two musicians from the Gem City Band brightened our Easter Sunday worship with their trumpets, Bruce Schaaf and Corey Spangenberg. We look forward to hosting concerts in the coming months.

- Wednesday, June 26, 7:00 pm, Gem City Concert Band
- Wednesday, July 31, 7:00 pm, Gem City Jazz Ensemble
- Wednesday, September 11, 7:00 pm, Gem City Concert Band
- Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 pm, Gem City Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble

### **Social Ministry Summer Opportunities**

The Social Ministry Committee guides activities that reach out to the community beyond St. John's doors. Meetings are infrequent, but activities are ongoing. In a way, every member of St. John's is part of the Social Ministry Committee, whether helping in every scheduled event, assisting in one or two events each year, or donating food or funds to our shared ministries. Please watch for signup sheets and personal invitations to help with upcoming summer events.

Baking cookies/serving refreshments for Gem City Band Concerts, June 26 and July 31  
Cooking/serving a Sunday Supper on Sunday, July 21st at Church of the Covenant  
Cooking/serving a Sloppy Joe night dinner, Thursday, July 25th at Holy Trinity Church

Baking cookies for Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> Lutheran House tea at Chautauqua

### **Synod Assembly Meets June 14-15**

Butch Karnes and Carolyn Sturtevant are your elected voting representatives at Synod Assembly, meeting in mid-June at Thiel College. Our Northwest Pennsylvania Synod includes 72 congregations, and covers all or parts of 15 counties, as far east as Potter County, and as far south as Westmoreland County. Over the two-day session, we will elect some Synod officers, vote on some resolutions, hear from various affiliated agencies, and remember in a worship service the rostered leaders (pastors) who have passed away since June 2023.

To stay focused on our packed agenda, we will depend on coffee and **COOKIES** provided by our home congregations. To send **COOKIES** to Synod, please contact Carolyn or Butch, whichever one you trust not to eat them on the way to Thiel!

### **Stay Current on NWPA Synod News**

Every two weeks, Bishop Lozano emails his “Bishop’s Note” to anyone who asks to be on the mailing list. To keep in touch with the Synod’s events, you may send your email request to: BPLOZANO@outlook.com

### **Erie Conference Beach Worship Services**

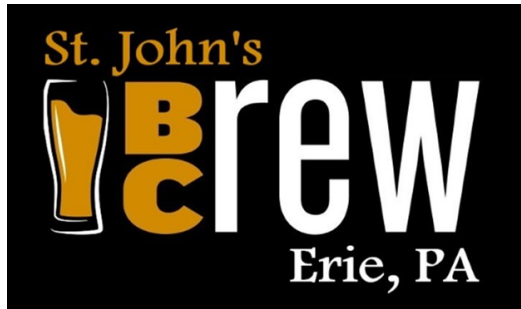
Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> is the date for Evening Vespers. Details will follow.

Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 am, churches are invited to worship at Presque Isle’s Waterworks Cookhouse. Pastor Papson asks that people RSVP, and bring chairs and something to share for the breakfast to follow. (Just a reminder—August 11<sup>th</sup> is the day that St. John’s has invited Bishop Lozano to preach, with a dinner after the service.)

### **What does it mean to be Lutheran in a crucial election year?**

The United Lutheran Seminary (ULS) is the name of the theological body including the historic seminaries in Gettysburg and Philadelphia. Their Kindling Faith program, with the motto “Learning Never Ends,” is offering a series of online sessions by various speakers to help participants learn and ponder timely social teachings of the ELCA. Each event is a live Zoom presentation that will be recorded for later viewing. The cost is \$20 per individual or \$80 per congregation. Sessions are:

June 25	Introduction to Social Teachings
August 27	Corporate Social Responsibility
September 10	Abortion
September 24	Faith, Sexism and Justice
October 8	Earth’s Climate Crisis Study Guide
October 22	Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture



1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month following the 10AM service.  
 Brew a Beer, Bottle a Beer,  
 Drink a Beer.  
 No experience necessary!  
 Contact Tim Durst with questions.



**CANCELLED in June**

Youth each month. welcome to attend. friend and come enjoy with us!

**When:** Sunday, June 2

**Time:** 11:00 am (after the 10:00 church

**Where:** We will meet in the St. John's gym

**Who:** PreK – 8<sup>th</sup> grade (invite a friend!)

Group will be held on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of All children from PreK – 8<sup>th</sup> grade are Lunch will be provided. Bring a some fun, games and fellowship service)



## Music Notes

**THANK YOU:** The Music Ministry of St. John's would like to thank all the singers and instrumentalists who have added to our worship this year. The dedication of the members of the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir has been a real blessing. Choir rehearsals will resume in the Fall with rehearsals on Sunday mornings. We are always looking for additional members so please keep the music of the Church in mind as you plan your Fall schedules.

**HYMN REQUESTS:** If anyone would like to request a favorite hymn for the 10:00 AM Service, please contact Kathy Swanson ([kswanson2@roadrunner.com](mailto:kswanson2@roadrunner.com)) or contact Rachel in the church office ([office@stjohnserie.org](mailto:office@stjohnserie.org)) with the particular hymn. We ask that the hymn be in the red ELW hymnal.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** We are always looking for Special Music in the summer (or anytime really). If any individual or group would like to share their musical talents during the Sunday, 10:00 AM Service, please contact Kathy Swanson ([kswanson2@roadrunner.com](mailto:kswanson2@roadrunner.com)) or let Rachel know 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.





# St. John's Lutheran Church FAMILY PICNIC!

**THURSDAY, JULY 18TH, 2024**

PICNIC GROVE HEADQUARTERS:  
**WEST LAKEVIEW SHELTER**

**REGISTRATION-12:00 PM**  
**DINNER-Starting at 6:00 PM**

-Hot dogs, Chips, Table Setting, & Soda/Water will be provided-  
*~Please bring a dish to share~*

**Discount Combo Pass: Only \$25.00 each!**

(Church subsidizes \$6.00 of discount rate—combo pass regularly priced at \$52.00 ea.)

**\*\*These \$25 combo passes are good ONLY July 18th, additional discounted combo passes to be used at any time during the season may be purchased at \$38 each.\*\***

Combo Passes will be sold at the picnic and in advance after the 10AM service on Sunday, June 30th, July 7th, and July 14th or anytime in the office

**WALDAMEER RIDES: 12:00 TO 9:00 PM**  
**WATER WORLD: 11:00 AM TO 7:00 PM** (*Swimwear Required*)  
*YOU MUST HAVE A COMBO PASS TO ENTER THE GATE AT WATER WORLD!*

**RIDES~FOOD~GAMES~REFRESHMENTS**  
**RAIN OR SHINE**  
**PLENTY OF FUN FOR EVERYONE!**

## June 2024 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>2</b> 10AM WORSHIP 11AM Brew Crew	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>9</b> 10AM WORSHIP	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> CONG. COUNCIL 6PM	<b>13</b> 11:30AM WELCA	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>16</b> 10 AM WORSHIP  Happy Father's Day!	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7PM Dufford Terrace Board	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>23</b> 10AM WORSHIP	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 5PM WORSHIP
<b>30</b> 10AM WORSHIP						

### St. John's Lutheran Church

2216 Peach St., Erie PA 16502

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"You Belong Here!"