



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

"You belong here."

The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter

A Walk in the Park

As a phrase, "A walk in the park" means something that is easy to do. If you have watched any of the Olympics in Paris, you have seen athletes doing difficult things—swimming, diving, jumping, running, flipping, vaulting, swinging, kicking, throwing, and fencing. These men and women set goals years ago, practicing to build the strength and skills first to qualify for the Olympics, and then to compete among the world's best athletes.

Walking is relatively easy until one needs to walk for miles. Ron King, who attended the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans with youngsters from Holy Trinity and other Erie Lutheran churches, remarked that walking from hotels to meeting places to volunteer assignments was challenging, even to the young people. In our city, we're accustomed to travel by car.

For many of the guests who came to the Sunday Supper we served at First Church of the Covenant on July 21st, walking was their only choice. The same is true for the neighbors who came to the dinner we served at Holy Trinity on Thursday, July 25th. Many of our Project Dignity neighbors walk to St. John's to receive food and personal care products, and they walk home, carrying their bags or pulling them in wheeled carts. Hunger and need bring them, one step in front of the other.

The 49th annual CROP Walk for Hunger is, in Erie, literally, a "walk in the park." On Sunday, September 29th, hundreds of walkers will gather at Beach 1 on Presque Isle State Park to stroll for a mile or two to raise funds for food. This year's goal is to raise \$80 thousand dollars! Some of those funds will go to the hungry in parts of the world suffering floods, drought, and conflict. A portion of the money supports Erie County food pantries and feeding centers.

Last year, five walkers from St. John's raised \$530 with the generosity of our congregation and other friends and family. Like the Olympians, we could set our own goals for the CROP Walk in 2024. It would be great to have more folks lacing up their shoes to join the group on Beach 1. If walking isn't your thing, we'd be happy to have the pledges to exceed last year's total. It's not too early to start training for a special "walk in the park."

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.

Michah 6:8

#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 Cold Drink—with a Facial Spritz?

If you are thirsty while in the Parish Center, you can enjoy a drink of cold water at the new water fountain! When installed initially, one part needed to be replaced, and it was coming from an offshore source. Our ship has come in, bringing the replacement part—Thanks, Max! This model features a bottle filler as well as the traditional drinking spout. Did I hear that a surprising spritz splashed a few faces? Sounds like a good way to cool off on a hot day!

Letting our Lights Shine

After years of our congregation's faithful giving to the Steeple Lighting Fund, St. John's has new lights on Peach and 23rd Streets! Edison Lighting installed inconspicuous LED fixtures that illuminate the architectural features of our building and steeple. We've been treated to a photo of the new lights in our announcement slides. Those who drive by or visit after dark will see the new lights for themselves. Council decided that any money remaining in the lighting fund should be used for future maintenance. They suggest that there is no further need for members to contribute through the Steeple Lighting envelope.

Concrete Improvements

St. John's sidewalks have developed a few cracks over the years. Equipment used in placing our exterior lights caused a few additional cracks. The Building and Grounds Committee researched contractors and Council approved funding for repairs. A portion of the cost will be reimbursed by Edison Lighting. In just a few short days, the contractors completed the work. Thanks to all involved!

July Picnic Reports

The Project Dignity crew invited our neighbors to a picnic on Wednesday, July 10th.

Stormy weather prompted us to set up in the gym, instead of the green area and parking lot on 22nd Street. Attendance was modest, but those who came enjoyed the day.

Erie Lutheran Conference churches unpacked their picnic baskets on July 17th for a potluck and evening vespers at the Pine Tree Pavilion near Presque Isle's Beach 9. The theme of the worship was Water, brought through the liturgy on a day with blue skies and a welcome breeze. A lovely sunset above Lake Erie's waves capped the evening.

Perfect Waldameer weather on July 18th redeemed memories of a stormy church picnic in 2023. Counting picnickers in the pavilion is never accurate, with so many youngsters eating fast and bolting to the rides as adults savor their food and conversations, but one count was about 90 in the pavilion. Once again, we owe a big thank-you to the families of John and Barbara Huff (including Burtons and Heberts) for their advance planning, purchasing, and serving of the hot dogs, chips, and drinks. They managed to deliver our picnic meal sandwiched between the Thursday morn-

ing rehearsal and Friday afternoon wedding of Haleigh Huff and Juan Alarcon! It was nice to meet Juan's Florida family and other wedding guests at Waldameer.

Congregational Notes

Congratulations to Haleigh Huff and Juan Alarcon, who became Mr. and Mrs. Alarcon on Friday, July 19th! In addition to family and friends, their guests included five of Haleigh's elementary students and their families who traveled from Florida for the occasion. Best wishes to all!

Gravity has not been kind to Jo Mineo, who has some bumps and bruises due to a fall. We pray for a speedy recovery.

Kathy Swanson is back at the organ console after a mishap made it more comfortable for her to lead service music at the electronic keyboard for a few weeks. Thank you, Kathy, for demonstrating the different sounds of organ, piano, and harpsichord on this recently acquired instrument. We admire your tenacity and talents.

Display Case Clue to a Lacy Mystery

Our office Administrator, Rachel, sometimes hears from people seeking information about relatives who were members of St. John's. One such inquiry was about an altar cloth depicting the Last Supper, done in needlework at least in part by Elizabeth Hoffmann, long a member of the Church Triumphant. Her granddaughter, Heidi, had heard of the altar piece from her father, a former St. John's member. WELCA members who have tended the altar recall the piece, but have been unable to locate it among other altar linens. Was it retired due to damage or wear? Could it have been added to the items placed in the time capsule during the 2008 Bicentennial of St. John's?

Happily, the altar piece appears in a black and white photo in the display case! The photograph captures a long-ago Easter, as shown by the label "Easter Sunday" above the hymn numbers on the wall brackets and lilies decorating the altar rail. The Last Supper piece is visible on the original single altar on the back wall in an area called the "apse." The designs on the wall inside the arch and surrounding the Christ window do not match the Twelve Apostle symbols currently within the arch. It's obvious that this photo is old. The placement of the free-standing altar now in use allows the pastor to face the congregation for communion, but it also obscures views of the original altar.

In the display case photo, the Last Supper piece is so light that it is hard to distinguish any figures around a table. It appears very lacy, done by techniques like tatting or crochet. Scanning the photo and editing it manually to lower the brightness and increase the contrast has allowed Jesus and his followers to emerge from the pale fabric. We've emailed the scans of the original photo and some enhanced images to the granddaughter of the needleworker. We welcome any additional clues that you may have!

Summer Hospitality—Thanks for Past Events

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I'm referring to all those who had anything to do with **Sunday Supper** at Church of the Covenant on July 21st. And by my count, that is 24 people!!! When I was told the number attending had substantially risen, I hoped St. John's could rise to the challenge. And you all did! We had 8 people on site serving in various capacities. We had volunteers to make Cheesy Ham and Potatoes and volunteers to make delicious cupcakes, with some of you doing both. The guests attending, and that was approximately 160, offered their sincere thanks for a delicious meal. So, smile and feel happy as we continue to do God's Work.

Sincerely, *Diane*

Our annual Sloppy Joe dinner at **Holy Trinity** on July 25th was a success, feeding almost 60 people! Thank you to those who brought crock pots and cookies, and who served up trays and trays of food for our guests. Sincerely, Carolyn

Summer Hospitality—Looking to Future Events

The congregation's generosity deserves a team gold medal, but the only award may be the next bag of Gold Medal flour that you buy for yourselves as we ask for MORE COOKIES! We'd love to take your cookies to the **Lutheran House Social Hour at Chautauqua on Tuesday, August 6th**. If you can contribute, please bring cookies to the church by Monday, August 5th. A team of four will share them with welcoming smiles on your behalf.

We will welcome Bishop Lozano to St. John's on **August 11th**, combining the Saturday night and the Sunday morning services as our Bishop leads us in worship. Please plan to attend the potluck meal after the service. There is no requirement to bring food with you, but if you wish to add something to the menu, you may sign up on the sheet outside the office. We hope that everyone will join in this **fellowship meal**.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,
and glorify your Father which is in heaven.
(Matthew 5:16)





... month. All children from PreK – 8th
 grade are invited to attend and come enjoy some fun,
 games and fe...
When: Sunday, August...
Time: 11:00 am (after the 10:00...
Where: We will meet in the St. John's gy...
Who: PreK – 8th grade (invite a friend!)

“What It Means To Be A Lutheran”

**Pastor Ralph will lead the session:
 Sunday, September 15, 2024
 2:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

Congregational Potluck 5:00 p.m.

**We invite anyone interested
 in membership at St. John's.
 Current members are
 invited as a refresher.**

FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE SESSION, PLEASE SIGN UP!



**New members will be
 received during worship:
 Sunday, September 22**

Music Notes



Choirs Are Back -New Choir Season:

First Rehearsal on Sunday, September 8

9:00 AM – Chancel Choir rehearsal

11:15 AM – Bell Choir rehearsal

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. 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 be after the 10:00 AM Church Service at 11:15 AM. We continue to look forward to the beautiful music of the bells. New members are welcome!

Special Music on Sunday, August 11

There will be several special music offerings at the 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, August 11th. Janel Anderson will be playing a flute prelude before the service and the The Stained-Glass Ensemble will be playing the Offertory. The ensemble consists of St. John's members - Carolyn Sturtevant (flute), Janel Anderson (flute), Bill Kay (clarinet) and Mark Eller (clarinet). The instruments will, also, be joined by the pipe organ. On August 11 we will have Bishop Lozano leading us in worship.

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. 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.

Green Corner NWPA Synod Green Team

PLANTS IN YOUR YARD

I was at a store a few days ago and just couldn't resist coming home with a few hostas that were on sale. They're easy to grow, very long lived and easy to live with perennials. Hostas are some of my favorite plants, but it's been hot and sometimes very dry already this summer. How can I keep them alive in this weather?

Last November, the US Department of Agriculture moved about 50% of the USA's hardiness zones five degrees warmer or up a half-zone. Our climate is changing and we may need to change our planting and maintenance techniques to match the growing conditions that we and our plants are dealing with now and in the future. Simply having trees near us lowers temperatures on hot days by at least two to nine degrees. Plan for your future comfort and plant with extra care now or plant this fall and next spring. Concrete walkways and driveways and sun facing south and west walls trap and raise heat levels. To help, you can plant trees far enough for safety from buildings and obstacles like drainage ditches and wires, or plant ground covers, shrubs or vines that are adapted to high heat levels to shade or partially cover these areas, preventing some of that reflected heat. Google appropriate heat and cold tolerant plants for your area.

Consider the conditions your plants need to thrive - take the time to look it up for successful growth. My hostas like shade, as do I on these warmer days. Plant at the proper depth, maybe even a tiny bit deeper than recommended when it's hot. Mulch with something to retain moisture, like grass clippings from an untreated lawn, or wood chips. I put them on fairly thick-at least 2" deep, but not tight up against the stems. Water very thoroughly every time you water and water often, especially when it hasn't rained at least an inch in the last week. Wet leaves invite disease, so it's best to water in the morning if you can. Water new plants more often, at least the first year, understanding there may be times they need extra water in their second year as well. I've been known to wrap a damaged shirt or pants around a tree or plant under the mulch that's growing in a bed, just not out where fabric can raise havoc with a lawnmower, and don't let the fabric touch the plant. It's a way I recycle clothing that's just too worn out to donate and it keeps the moisture where you put it!

Consider grouping plants in clumps according to their water and light level needs, keeping the thirstiest plants together for easy watering. Selecting hardier plants known for drought tolerance helps as does selecting native species adapted to your area.

I have a rain barrel that I love, and I constantly use it. I even collect rainwater in the fall to keep in my basement for my houseplants. That has made a huge difference in what houseplants make it through the long winters.

My hostas are now planted, watered, and mulched in the proper areas for their needs, and I'm ready to do the extra watering needed for them to thrive for the next few decades. Happy gardening!

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation." Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com

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August 2024

August 2024 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
				1	2	3 5PM WORSHIP
4 10AM WORSHIP	5	6	7	8 11:30AM WELCA	9	10 NO SATURDAY WORSHIP
11 10AM WORSHIP Bishop Lozano joining us for Wor- ship	12	13	14 CONG. COUNCIL 6PM	15	16	17 5PM WORSHIP
18 10 AM WORSHIP	19	20 7PM Dufford Terrace Board	21	22	23	24 5PM WORSHIP
25 10AM WORSHIP BLESSING OF THE BACK- PACKS	26	27	28	29	30	31 5PM WORSHIP

St. John's Lutheran Church

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