



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

"You belong here."

The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter

Are We Ready for a Change of Seasons?

Ecclesiastes 3 tells us about times for all things under heaven, among them:

A time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh;

A time to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together.

It's probably not what the author intends, but the literary structure makes it sound like all these times are strictly divided with no overlapping moments. One ends and the next begins. For many seasonal changes, the distinctions aren't as clear. Spring begins in March, but we can have snow in April and even May! It's summer in July, but stores promote their "Back to School" sales. Halloween candy fills the aisles in August. Heat and humidity steam the students as school begins. Wonder when we'll hear the first Christmas carols?

We're wise to think ahead and prepare for changes, even as the birds migrate south and the squirrels scramble for acorns and seedy cones. One group that has been preparing all year for the coming cold weather is EUMA, the Erie United Methodist Alliance. This group organizes shelter for Erie's homeless in the program called "Our Neighbors' Place" (ONP), also referred to as the Overflow Shelter. St. John's is among the many church facilities where about 40 adults have come in from the cold for a week or two during the shelter season in past years.

EUMA has found a permanent place for ONP this winter, a building on East 16th and Wallace, to be called the "Community Resilience Center." It is suitable as a home for ONP with ample space, showers, and laundry facilities. There will be no need to transport cots and other materials from one location to the next from week to week. The lack of proper facilities in a church building will be no barrier to any group willing to take on the role of shelter host for a week or two.

At its August meeting, St. John's Council committed to host "Our Neighbors' Place" for the week of Wednesday, January 29 to Tuesday, February 4, 2025, with a possible second, non-consecutive week to be determined. We may be relying on our air conditioners into September, but cold weather will arrive before too long. Diane Bestvina will be drawing up a schedule and asking for volunteers and donors to help us extend hospitality to those who have no homes. When our ministries of any season identify needs, the people of St. John's faithfully respond:

...a time to volunteer.

#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.

Church Council Meets September 9

St. John's Church Council will meet, Monday, September 9th at 6:00 pm, combining their meeting with the regularly scheduled Finance Committee meeting. A representative from Merrill Lynch will share insights on the St. John's investments. Congregants may attend Council meetings as visitors, bringing topics or questions in consultation.

God's Work Our Hands—GWOH

Faith communities across the country will observe Sunday, September 8th as God's Work Our Hands, offering helping hands where the needs are strong. St. John's project is at Community Shelter Services (CSS), 655 West 16th Street, from 11:30 to 2:30. Tasks may include checking dates on foods, sorting donated items, and cleaning. Diane Bestvina asks that volunteers contact her early in the first week of September so that the CSS staff can match volunteers and tasks.

WELCA at Glenwood Park

St. John's Women of ELCA celebrated summer with a picnic at Glenwood Park on Thursday, August 8th. Weather was wonderful, food delicious, and conversation relaxed. This group meets regularly at lunchtime on the second Thursday of each month, subject to weather concerns. In the past year, WELCA members have created no-sew blankets, collected items for Bethesda, and polished the silver communion ware. There's always room at the Assembly Room table for a one-time visitor or a new member!

Thanks for the Treats!

Does every announcement summary before worship include an appeal for cookies? It probably seems that way. In both June and July, our bakers offered refreshments when the Gem City Band and Jazz Band played. They will play again on Wednesday, September 11th at 7:00. Cookie donations will sweeten the welcome!

On August 6th, four St. John's ladies served homemade cookies to Social Hour guests at the Lutheran House in Chautauqua Institution. Heavy rains delivered an unwelcome carwash going and coming from Chautauqua, but the skies were aqua-free as guests walked by and sampled the goodies. It was pleasant to share stories with so many people from various locations. The guests and Lutheran House hosts appreciated St. John's cookies and servers!

Congregational Potlucks—Skill, not Luck!

The "luck" in potlucks is the variety and balance of dishes on the buffet table. Anyone who fills a plate and finds a seat at a table knows that the tasty food is the output of skillful cooks. Thanks to all who coordinated and cooked and shared a meal with us on August 11th when Bishop Lozano led us in worship and joined us at table. Setup and cleanup crews also deserve our gratitude. We're in good practice for a fine congregational potluck on Sunday, September 15th at 5:00 pm when Pastor Mineo leads his class, "What it means to be a Lutheran."

Sunday Supper, October 6th

On every one of the 52 Sundays of the year, the crew at First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant opens its doors and its generous hearts to the people in their community. Meals and servers from churches in the region provide the food. Every Sunday, the home crew sets the tables, welcomes the guests, celebrates birthdays, and washes the dishes and tableware on which the hot meals are served. St. John's will take this second turn in 2024 to feed the individuals and families who depend on the Sunday Supper for nourishment to body and spirit. Recruitment for cooks and servers will begin in coming weeks. Thank you for volunteering!

Abiding Hope's Lunch and Listen

Wednesday, September 11th, noon to 1:30 pm is the first Lunch and Listen brown bag gathering of the season. Mark Tanenbaum, Executive Director of the Performing Artists Collective Alliance, will speak about this group's activities. The same day, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm, is the final time to view the artworks by the late Milton Sontheimer, who was a member of Abiding Hope, on exhibit at PA-CA, 1505 State Street.

Erie Lutheran Conference Zoomed in August

Our August 22nd Zoom meeting lasted less than an hour, with participants from five of the 18 congregations in the Erie Lutheran Conference (ELC). Unlike the "zoomies" of our pets when they have the freedom of the yard, our ELC moves at a more modest pace. Our major goal is to open communication among our churches and to consider how we may support each other in our current and future faith environment. The Shared Ministry task force of the ELC will begin meeting monthly in September, possibly the last Tuesday of the month at a central location to be determined. Each ELC church is asked to send a representative. Tim Durst has agreed to represent St. John's.

"Caring and Sharing" is always on the ELC agenda. The West County churches, St. John's Girard and St. James Fairview, have a Pickle Ball group that may expand its purpose, possibly cooperating with another local organization to distribute rummage sale surplus in their community. Abiding Hope will host its annual Pumpkin Fest on Saturday, October 19th. Faith Lutheran Church In Harborcreek will celebrate their 75th Anniversary on October 6th. They have held services in their outdoor worship center in summer months, and their colorful playground with bongos and chimes is a treat for the preschool children.

Let's Make it a "Bumper CROP!"

The 49th annual CROP Walk for Hunger is Sunday afternoon, September 29th at Beach 1 on Presque Isle State Park. Erie's walkers hope to reach a goal of \$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.

St. John's walkers hope to exceed last year's contributions of \$530. 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. Carolyn is recruiting!

Youth Group will be held on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month. All children from PreK – 8th grade are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided. Bring a friend and come enjoy some fun, games and fellowship with us! ☺

When: Sunday, September 1st

Time: 11:00 am (after the 10:00 church service)

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

Who: PreK – 8th grade (invite a friend!)

Questions? Contact Leslye Durst 814-323-2134



1st 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.



“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.**

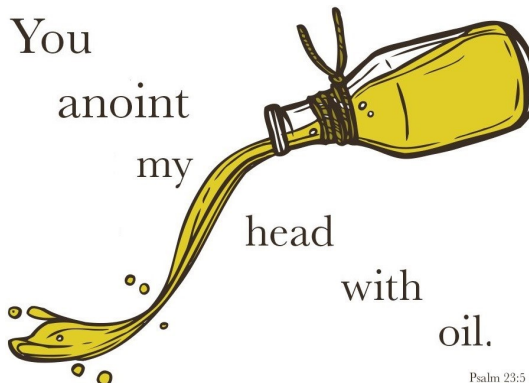
***Current members are
invited as a refresher.***



FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE SESSION, PLEASE SIGN UP!

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

A **Healing Service** will follow worship on **October 5th and 6th**. Worshipers will be invited to receive Laying on of Hands, Prayer for Healing, and Anointing With Oil.



Psalm 23:5

"Lunch and Listen"

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Wednesday, October 9

Noon to 1:30

Bring a Bag Lunch! Coffee and Cookies provided!

Pastor Ralph Mineo tells his life's story including original music he's written along the way. From his call to ministry, to his ordination as a Roman Catholic priest, deciding to change his path to marry his wife, Jo, now celebrating their 46th anniversary, becoming a Lutheran pastor, serving four congregations in Northwestern Ohio, to retiring, and currently serving as a supply pastor in the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod. Songs, which will be abridged, will include his first Prayer-Song, songs written for Jo including "Butterflies and Penguins" (her signature song), songs for worship, and children's songs.

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!

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 NWPAsynod Green Team

Did you know...

...since 1970, the **bird population in the U.S. has decreased by 30%**? *Science*: 19 Sept 2019, Vol. 366, Issue 6461, pp. 120-124 <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aaw1313>

...University of Delaware researchers have **found a way to use plastic trash**, including Styrofoam, to make parts for electronic instruments? UDaily July 18, 2024
https://www.udel.edu/udaily/2024/july/plastic-upcycling-kayser-laure-chemistry-polystyrenepedotps/?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email&utm_placement=newsletter

...US Dept of Agriculture researchers have observed **significant declines in the abundance of bees (62.5%) as well as butterflies (57.6%)** over 2007-2022, based on observations in three relatively undisturbed forested locations in the southeastern United States?
<https://research.fs.usda.gov/treearch/65930>

...the US Energy Information Agency reports (July 2023) that total **greenhouse gas emissions for the United States increased** by 15.4% from 1969-2021, and by 6.9% from 2019-2021?
https://www.eia.gov/environment/emissions/state/pdf/intro_key_concepts.pdf

...a 2022 report from the National Waste and Recycling Association estimated that a 5-cent deposit on all beverage containers would **increase the amount of recycling of PET containers by 100%, of glass containers by 200%, and of aluminum containers by 50%**?
<https://wasterecycling.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Impact-of-beverage-container-deposits-on-recycling-processing-costs-Final.pdf>

...in a January 2022 publication, researchers estimated the cost in 46 of the “least developed countries” to **achieve “full coverage” for the populations of water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management services**? They reported the initial capital costs to range from \$0.24 to 0.40 per capita and the per capita annual operational costs to range from \$0.10 in 2021 to \$0.60 in 2030. *Lancet*: Vol. 10, No. 6, pp. 840-849.
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/vol10no6/PIIS2214-109X\(22\)X0007-7](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/vol10no6/PIIS2214-109X(22)X0007-7)

...the United States **airborne lead level** in 2021 was 12% of the level measured in 2010?
<https://www.epa.gov/air-trends/lead-trends>

...the **global mean sea level rose 3.7 inches during 1993-2023. Based on that data, it is expected to rise another 7.9 inches by 2050, as measured by a series of five satellites?**

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/nasa-analysis-sees-spike-in-2023-global-sea-level-due-to-el-nino>

...the **pounds of solid waste generated per person in the U.S., 1960-2018, increased by 83%?**

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/186348/us-municipal-solid-waste-generated-per-person-since-1960/>

While the references cited appear to be reliable, unstudied/unreported factors could affect the findings.

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

Follow us on Facebook: Northwestern PA Synod Green Team-Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

September 2024

September 2024 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
1 10AM WORSHIP 11AM YOUTH GROUP						7 5PM WORSHIP
8 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR 11:30AM GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS	9 CONG. COUNCIL 6PM	10	11 7PM GEM CITY BAND CONCERT	12 11:30AM WELCA	13	14 5PM WORSHIP
15 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR 2PM "What It Means To Be A Lutheran"	16	17 7PM Dufford Terrace Board	18	19	20	21 5PM WORSHIP
22 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	23	24	25	26	27	28 5PM WORSHIP
29 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	30					

St. John's Lutheran Church
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