



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

"You belong here."

The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter

Resting in Peace

Halloween décor often includes gravestones with the inscription "RIP" for "rest in peace." Perhaps adding reminders of our mortality among the fun of jack-o-lanterns, black cats, candy, and skeletons on our own front yards helps to soften feelings of sadness when we view cemeteries.

Lacking a clear history of the cemetery on the grounds of St. John's Lutheran Church, I have been researching with the goal of documenting what I learn. A brief outline follows.

In 1835, the German Evangelical fathers and mothers of St. John's church had more serious thoughts when they purchased five acres of land from Conrad Braun Sr. for a burial ground and a site for a future church building. It wasn't until 1861 that they dedicated a church on this site, but burials began on the block that is now known as "Luther Square" at least as early as 1836. A stone tablet just north of the Dufford Terrace parking lot contains 30 names with birth and death dates, all the names that Audrey Hettrick and Jim Scott could connect with the St. John's churchyard burial ground. These words appear at the bottom of the tablet "And we honor those also buried here whose names are known only to God." Burial dates on the tablet range from 1836 to 1868. When construction in Luther Square has disturbed human remains, they have been reinterred, but their location is not exact. The vault below the tablet contains the ancient and broken headstones from over 100 years ago.

The Erie Cemetery was developed in 1851. This new cemetery invited several Erie churches to pay a nominal \$1 in exchange for an area where they could move burials from their churchyards for reinterment. It is not clear to what extent the St. John's congregation may have followed this practice, although I have learned recently of one family whose loved one was moved from the St. John's cemetery, most likely to a privately owned site in the Erie Cemetery.

Jim Scott and Carolyn Sturtevant visited the Erie Cemetery Office on Monday, September 23, 2024, and received a map of the cemetery marking five sections granted for St. John's use, along with the names and other information about the 316 people buried here. Burial dates range from 1867 to 2020. These grave plots were not to be sold, only to be assigned by the congregation. No grave plots remain to be used in St. John's five areas within the NN section. Further up the same lane, in Section 15, a tall column and smaller headstones mark the burial sites of the Benze family, including former pastors Rev. Adolph Leopold Benze and Rev. Gustave Adolph Benze.

On All Saints' Day in early November, we remember the loved ones whose earthly remains we have commended to their graves. We are grateful for cemeteries that maintain their final resting places in dignity among beautiful settings. May they rest in eternal peace.

Carolyn Sturtevant

#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.

Congregational Notes

September 21 was a day of celebration of the life of member Sharyn Roberts, who passed away Friday, September 13, 2024. We recall her contributions in Chancel and Handbell Choirs, Sunday School, Preschool, and other ministries of St. John's. We pray for the consolation of Sharyn's family and friends.

Pastor Mineo's interactive session on September 15th, "What it Means to Be a Lutheran," refreshed the 32 attendees with a review of Martin Luther and the Reformation, the Bible, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and ways that believers can live out their Christian faith as members of a Lutheran congregation. Pastor Mineo provided each person a booklet with resources to study matters of faith more deeply. Among the group were seven worshipers who were welcomed as new members of St. John's on Sunday, September 22nd: Joyce Hersperger, Paul and Laura Horstman, Marek Klimczak and Christina Doupé, Mathieu "Matt" Sanders, and Andrea Walker. Please greet these new brothers and sisters to get to know them!

Former member Lita L. (Lander) Barthelmes, who relocated to Yukon, Oklahoma five years ago, passed away Friday, September 6th. We send condolences to her family and friends, near and far.

October Events—Secular and Sacred

Wednesday, October 30, 7:00 pm—Gem City Concert Band performs their not-too-scary Halloween concert featuring these and other favorites: *Autumn Leaves*, the *Ghostbusters Theme*, and *Jeepers Creepers*! Bring your friends for music and refreshments—in costume, if you wish!

Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27—Reformation Sunday. Worship services on these days will commemorate the day of October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther posted a notice on the church door at Wittenberg University, as a challenge to debate 95 theological issues. Sunday's worship service will be brightened by two trumpeters!

Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3—All Saints' Sunday. We will remember loved ones who have entered their eternal rest during the past year. If you wish to add to the list of names we honor on that day, please notify the church office by Tuesday, October 29.

Abiding Hope Presents "My Story, My Songs" by Pastor Mineo

The Wednesday, October 9th "Listen and Learn" series at Abiding Hope will feature a familiar face and voice—Pastor Ralph Mineo! This monthly series is both friendly and free! Guests bring their own sandwiches for the noon luncheon and enjoy coffee and sweet treats provided by Abiding Hope Church. From 12:30 to 1:30 pm, Pastor Mineo and his guitar will enlighten listeners with his music.

Rummage Sale Find—a New Roaster!

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church held a rummage sale on September 20 and 21 to benefit their kitchen. One item caught the eye of a St. John's shopper—a brand new Oster Roaster! When one of the Abiding Hope members learned that it would be useful for the kitchen at St. John's, the crew offered this lovely piece of cooking equipment as a donation—one church to another! St. John's is grateful for this generous gift. (The shopper made a cash donation to the sale.)

God's Work Our Hands—Delicious!

On Sunday, September 8th, nine St. John's members volunteered at Community Shelter Services. CSS offers housing while helping people transition to more permanent situations. Using ingredients at CSS, our members prepared and served a meal of spaghetti and meat sauce, salad, and dessert to about 30 residents who were present. The volunteers stored additional portions for later use by residents. In every kitchen where St. John's serves a meal, cleanup follows. Thanks to our nine members for lending their hands to do God's work!

Support Strong for Sunday Supper!

For the second time in 2024, St. John's members will serve a Sunday Supper on October 6th to the community surrounding the First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. Through the generous donations from St. John's congregation, up to 180 guests will enjoy a dinner of chicken, various sides, and 17 dozen cupcakes! Where the Church of the Covenant hosts the meal every week of the year, St. John's and other congregations take turns helping to nourish individuals and families who need a hot meal. Thanks to all who are donating funds, cupcakes, and time to this worthy effort.

CROP Walk #49 a Success!

Sunday, September 29th was a fine weather day for the 49th Annual CROP Walk for Hunger at Presque Isle State Park—no rain, and not too hot. How lucky we are to have such an attractive location for fundraising walks, with great facilities for organizing the groups and with fine trails to accommodate the hundreds of walkers. Navigating the security perimeter on city streets for the bayfront presidential campaign rally slowed the arrival of many volunteers. In his welcoming pep talk, the CROP Walk coordinator quipped that of all the obstacles the event has faced in the past, never before have they had to do battle with the Secret Service! Our St. John's team of eight walkers represented a great showing, more than in recent years! The tally of your generous donations and the Erie County total will come later. In the meantime, watch media for pictures of the Mayor, Holy Trinity's Sudanese singers, kids on foot and on scooters, and people with dogs of all sizes.

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, October 6th & Sunday, November 3rd

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

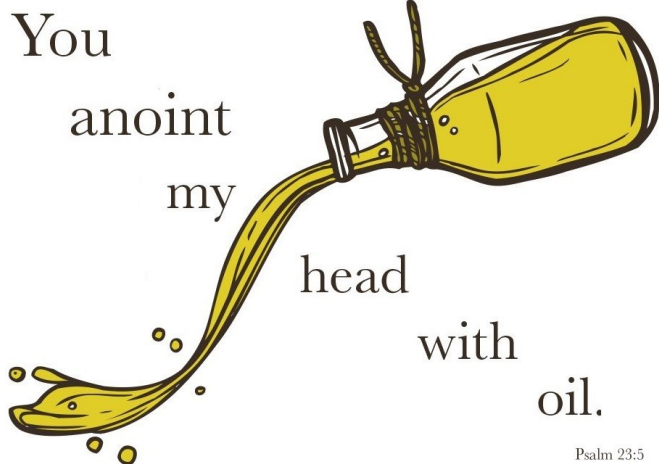
Where: We will meet in the St. John's gym

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.



Psalm 23:5

A **Healing Service** will follow worship on Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6. Worshipers will be invited to receive laying on of hands, a prayer for healing, and anointing with oil.



Blessing of the Animals
at Messiah Lutheran Church
Sunday, October 6th at 2:00 PM in
the parking lot

Upcoming Events at Lutherlyn



October 2024

19, 20 - Woodland Quilters Quilt Show: Enjoy a weekend display of quilts and quilting in the autumn splendor at Lutherlyn. All are welcome to enter a quilt (entry forms due October 1) and no registration to attend is required.

19 - Intro to Blacksmithing Class: Learn the art of Blacksmithing in the Woodland Forge at Lutherlyn. All materials are supplied and classes are taught by master blacksmith, Flavius Brinsfield. (Registration Required)

27 - Family Halloween Fun: Enjoy Halloween fun at camp with games, crafts, s'mores, a Halloween kids Carnival, and trick-or-treating. (Registration Required)

30 - NWPA & SWPA Rostered Leaders Day of Rest & Renewal: A much needed day of rest and renewal for the rostered leaders of the Northwest Pennsylvania and Southwest Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. (More details will be provided as this date approaches.)

November 2024

2 - Saturday Safari: Saturday Safaris are a great way to spend a Saturday morning! They are designed and open for families of all sizes and shapes, youth groups, scout groups, and any interested parties. Dress to be outside. (Registration Required)

19-24 - Crafting Retreat: Come for a weekend designed to provide a stress free opportunity to complete some of those unfinished crafts you want to give as Christmas gifts. (Registration Deadline: November 11)

23 - Intro to Blacksmithing Class: Learn the art of Blacksmithing in the Woodland Forge at Lutherlyn. All materials are supplied and classes are taught by master blacksmith, Flavius Brinsfield. (Registration Required)

December 2024

6-8 - Advent Retreat: Enjoy the start of the holiday season decorating cookies, singing carols and playing games with your family amidst the wonder of winter at Lutherlyn. The Family Advent Festival is included in this great weekend at no additional cost. (Registration Required)

7 - Plunge!: Join us for this great fundraising event! Spectators can stay warm by the fire while enjoying hot chocolate and s'mores - just our "plungers" get wet! (No registration is required.)

Music Notes



Musical Reflection:

“ In the church setting, music paves the ways for the preaching of the Word and prepares persons in the pew to hear it. Music can touch the deepest part of the human heart! Also, we all were created with the ability to sing... And to sing praise to our Lord and Savior! So don't worry about how you sound--JUST MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!”

Quote from Joy Ministries of Idlewild Baptist Church in Tampa, Florida

New Members Welcome in the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir

Rehearsals are on Sundays

9:00 AM – Chancel Choir rehearsal “We Sing! We Serve!”

11:15 AM – Bell Choir rehearsal “We Ring! We Serve!”

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

Sometimes in Our Own Back Yard...

Many times we look high and low for persons, places and things that will teach us about the environment and how to care for our wonderful, God-given earth. And sometimes there is something right in our own back yard which is a precious gem that might get overlooked. This month we want to highlight the **Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC) at Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA.** This state-of-the-art, green-designed facility encourages visitors to experience the unique history and ever-changing, diverse ecosystems of Presque Isle State Park. It is the first building in the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks to earn a LEED silver certification rating.

TREC is an educational center dedicated to teaching visitors about the unique 3,200 acres of Presque Isle and the many different forms of life that inhabit the peninsula. **TREC** also serves as a center for research -- contributing to conservation efforts and promoting environmental awareness, helping to preserve the unparalleled beauty of Presque Isle and Lake Erie, the site of Pennsylvania's only seashore.

While some facilities along the Great Lakes offer environmental education and others do research, only the **TREC** offers research, education, and visitor services in one place, making it a unique destination for learning, wonder and fun. **TREC** is open year-round and offers free admission to its interactive exhibits, glass-enclosed tower and orientation movie. Learn about the history of Presque Isle and how you can contribute to keeping it healthy, pristine and beautiful. Perhaps you can plan a day trip to Erie to enjoy and learn more about this wonderful gift to the community. And be sure to check the movie schedule at the center – they are exciting and very educational!! To learn more about **TREC** go to www.dcnr.pa.gov/stateparks/findapark/PresqueIsleStatePark.


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

October 2024

October 2024 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 5PM WORSHIP
6 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11AM YOUTH GROUP 11AM BREW CREW 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	7	8	9 CONG. COUNCIL 6PM	10 11:30AM WELCA	11	12 5PM WORSHIP
13 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	14 Office Closed	15 7PM Dufford Terrace Board	16	17	18	19 5PM WORSHIP
20 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	21	22	23	24	25	26 5PM WORSHIP
27 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	28	29	30 7PM Gem City Band Concert	31 		

St. John's Lutheran Church

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