



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

"You belong here."

The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter

A Season of Gratitude

November is a season of changes. Daylight Savings Time ends, and the hours of darkness shift and shrink. Cooler winds shake the leaves—now on the ground instead of in the branches above. November is the end of the Liturgical Year for Christians, since December's Advent season begins the church year, one month ahead of the January calendar year. Confusing? Maybe it's best just to focus on gratitude as we approach Thanksgiving.

We can give thanks for God's faithfulness to St. John's as a congregation of people who worship and work together. We have gathered for worship each weekend, in the pews and in front of electronic screens. We celebrated Christmas, marked the solemnity of Lent while we shared soup, took our tureens and tickets to Waldameer, and met around the meeting table to plan and decide how to be good stewards of the time and resources placed in our hands. We have commended beloved members to the Church Triumphant. Pastor Mineo's "What it Means to be a Lutheran" fed our need for greater understanding of our faith tradition, and new members have joined our fellowship!

Throughout the past months, our historic building has been illuminated, and sidewalks have been repaired. Fresh, cool water flows from the fountain in the gym, and we will be warmed in winter by new boilers. Planning has resumed for repairs to the flood damage in the Rec Room. Our facilities provide a roof over our own activities, and those of others: Youth Group, Brew Crew, Project Dignity, AA, Hooked on Books, Gem City Band rehearsals and concerts, Scouts, Social Dancing, school recreation, and countless other community events. We continue our care for Dufford Terrace and its residents.

St. John's is one congregation among many who can celebrate the Lord's faithfulness at Thanksgiving. In our conversations with churches in the Erie Lutheran Conference, we share concerns for our future in the face of declining attendance, and we appreciate the efforts of each community of faith as they minister to others. Bishop Lozano had been hosting a series of 6 weekly online meetings with lay leaders of the NWPA Synod, calling the series "Equipping the Saints."

November begins with the hymn "For All the Saints," honoring those whose lives were marked by their love for the family of God. They passed that legacy to us. As November draws to a close, our hymn will be "Now Thank We All Our God."

#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.

Flags to Honor Veterans

Scout Troop 9 will place US flags along sidewalks around St. John's on Saturday, November 9 in honor of Veteran's Day, observed Monday, November 11. This national holiday commemorates the armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities in Europe in the war we now call World War I. Although the official end of the war came with the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919, opponents agreed to end fighting on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. A plaque near the Peach Street doors lists the names of St. John's men who served in WWI.

Rummage Sale Planned by Scouts

On Saturday, December 7, the Scouts will host a rummage sale in the Parish Center gym. They welcome donations from the congregation, collecting items for the sale later in November. Watch for more details in coming weeks!

Jeweler Speaks at Lunch & Listen

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church invites everyone to their Wednesday, November 13th Lunch & Listen Program, featuring Dan Niebauer, VP of Ralph Miller Jewelers. Bring a sandwich at noon and enjoy coffee and goodies from the AH kitchen. At 12:30, Niebauer will talk about hand-made, original, one-of-a-kind fine jewelry creations, all manufactured in-house.

CROP Walk Total is Terrific!

Thanks to the St. John's walkers and donors, we were able to submit \$981.38 to the Erie CROP Walk for Hunger held in late September. We can be proud that we exceeded the 2023 total of \$530. Our contributions will provide nourishment to hungry people in our own community and in crisis spots in the world.

It's Beginning to Look...

...a lot like Christmas, at least in the big box stores, where inflatable Halloween ghosts and goblins have been mingling with puffy snowmen and brightly-lit Christmas trees. Soon after Thanksgiving, St. John's begins to "Hang the Greens," adding seasonal décor week by week in the sanctuary and throughout the building. Many hands make light work, so volunteers are welcome to help us string the swags, fluff up ribbon bows, and raise the tree. After the holidays, volunteers are needed to help pack away the lights and greens for storage. Together, we celebrate the changing seasons!

Musical Riddle

Where can you find about 100 people, among them Superman, a clown, Cruella De Ville, a monarch butterfly, a child on horseback, two witches, a railroad worker, and King Kong?
Answer: At a Halloween-themed Gem City Jazz Band Concert! It was Bewitching!

Upcoming Events

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. Sunday's music will include a selection by the Bell Choir.

Thursday, November 14, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. WELCA, the Women of the ELCA, meet for lunch (we bring our own sandwiches) and fellowship in the Assembly Room. This group is open to any women who wish to come for a visit or to come each 2nd Thursday of the months when we meet. Leder Darlene Smith can add names to her email list to send reminders and weather-related schedule changes.

Sometime in November—Choosing names to purchase gifts for Bethesda residents. As soon as we receive a list from staff at Bethesda Lutheran Services, congregation members will be invited to choose a student's wish list for Christmas gifts. The deadline for these gift packages generally is early in December.

Wednesday, November 6 and November 20—Project Dignity, 12:30 – 2:00 pm—Following our adjusted schedule of opening our doors on two Wednesdays every odd-numbered month, the team will distribute personal care items and food to neighbors in our community.

Attention All Shoppers!

Project Dignity would love any donation of leftover Halloween candy or purchases you could make of candy right after Halloween at sale prices. We will be making up candy bags to give out at Christmas Time. Please bring them to the office or put them in the Project Dignity Cart by November 20th. Thanks so much!

Sunday Supper at Church of the Covenant – a recap of October 6, 2024

What a success! We served 155 guests once and then allowed seconds on what we had left. A huge thanks to all who participated whether it be the 12 people (and you know who you are) who contributed 18 dozen cupcakes or the 11 people (and we know who we are) who were on site and served. Plus, a thank you to all those who contributed to our goal (which we reached) of \$250 to purchase the yummy chicken from Giant Eagle. In addition, shopping was done for french fries, rolls and bananas. Covenant provided the green beans and beverages. I will add the baked fries were truly enjoyed by all. They were a first for Covenant and I'm sure they are going to have them again as part of their meals. (a big thanks to Pam and Frank) I was happy to lead the organization of this event twice this year and surely hope someone next year will be happy to lead it as well.

Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. (1 Samuel 12:24)

Diane B.

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! ☺

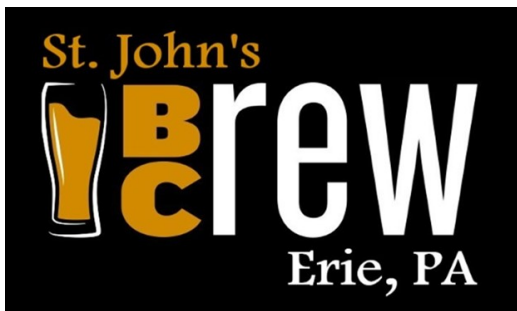
When: Sunday, November 3rd & December 1st

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.

Notes from Pastor Mineo:

Dear Church Family,

Thanks so much for surprising me with the "Pastor Appreciation" announcement, card, gift, and dessert following worship. I was truly surprised and moved by this. As I said during worship, I appreciate YOU! Thank you! To God be the glory!

~Pastor Ralph

You can reach Pastor Ralph by phone and text at:

419-581-1837 and **814-580-5844**

Facebook Page: **ralph.j.mineo**



Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour on Saturday, November 2nd.



Youth and Family Night at the Erie Otters

St. John's youth and their families are invited to attend an Erie Otter's hockey night **on Friday, November 22 at 7:00 pm.** We will be in the east end suite behind the goal. Pizza and drinks will be provided. There is no charge for this event! For those who are interested, there is a sign-up sheet in the church narthex. Hope to see you there!!

Please contact Leslye Durst with any questions: 814-323-2134



Trunk-or-Treat Thank You's!

A huge shout-out to the volunteers who participated in the Jefferson Elementary School Trunk-or-Treat event on October 25. The assistance was well received and very much appreciated! We provided a third of the cars that were there to pass out candy. The St. John's Boy Scout Troop #9 helped to run the games that the Jefferson PTA provided. The church also passed out hot dogs and drinks to attendees, which was something the school was unable to provide in the past. The boy scouts helped with the cooking and serving of the food. The children and their families had a wonderful time. Thank you to all who supported the event!

Reminder:

Odd/Even parking will resume November 1, 2024 on City of Erie streets to allow for safe and efficient snow removal. For 23rd Street, this means no parking on the north (church) side on odd numbered days, and no parking on the south side on even numbered days.



Music Notes



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!”

If you would like to sing in the Chancel Choir for a limited period of time, you are certainly welcome. Perhaps you would like to sing only until Christmas because of your busy schedule. Please consider offering your time to welcome in the Christ Child.

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.





ST. JOHN'S & DUFFORD TERRACE
HOLIDAY PARTY

Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024

Time: 5:00 P.M. (cheese tray)


Location: St. John's Gymnasium

A catered buffet dinner will be served by Sabella's at 5:30 P.M. free of charge, followed by bingo.

Please fill out the reservation form on the office window, or call Rachel in the office at 814-456-7596 by December 1st to ensure we have an accurate count.

We look forward to seeing everyone!

November 2024 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
					1	2 5PM WORSHIP
3 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11AM YOUTH GROUP 11AM BREW CREW 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	4	5	6	7	8	9 5PM WORSHIP
10 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	11	12	13 CONG. COUNCIL 6PM	14 11:30AM WELCA	15	16 5PM WORSHIP
17 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	18	19 7PM Dufford Terrace Board	20	21	22	23 5PM WORSHIP
24 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">Footsteps Weekend</div>	25	26	27	28  Office Closed	29	30 5PM WORSHIP

St. John's Lutheran Church
 2216 Peach St., Erie PA 16502
 (814) 456-7596 www.StJohnsErie.org
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