



#youbelonghere @StJohnsErie

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

2216 Peach Street, Erie PA 16502  
www.StJohnsErie.org 814.456.7596

# The Parish Post

2025 Annual Meeting  
Bulletin of Reports

## About Our 2025 Annual Meeting

2024 was again a year of change. This year's annual meeting will be similar to last year's and will continue to adjust and evolve. We will be holding our annual meeting on the third Sunday of January as per our bylaws, but...

- With the advance of technology and mindful of the health protocols still considered for the sake of our community, **we will again have a virtual option in addition to the in-person Annual Meeting this year.** The Zoom option of our Annual Meeting is only open to voting members in good standing according to the criterion laid out in our congregation's constitution and bylaws. Guests and visitors are not permitted to attend the meeting virtually.

- As the rules and needs dictate, **voting** will be by voice, hand, and electronic poll, as ballots as-we-know-them cannot be done in a virtual meeting. If the need for a ballot vote arises, only those present in-person will have opportunity to vote via ballot. **Quorum needed for the meeting this year is 40.**

- **The 2025 Proposed Budget** is available through our church office the week before the annual meeting. Stop in and pick up a hard copy from our Office Administrator during regular business hours.

- What does it mean to be a "voting member in good standing?" According to our constitution (C8.02.c), a **voting member is a confirmed member.** *"Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws."* Basically, if you are a confirmed member of this congregation and we have records that show that you have attended worship either in person or virtually in 2024 or 2025, and we have records that show that you have given offering at some point in that same timeframe, you are a voting member and have all of the rights and privileges therein.

- **If you have any questions** on any of the reports, agenda, points of order, or the budget, we are asking that you get them to the congregation president ahead of time by emailing them at [president@stjohnserie.org](mailto:president@stjohnserie.org) if at all possible. This will help those in leadership get you the

## Annual Meeting Agenda 2025

### 1) Call to Order

- A) Determination of Quorum
- B) Opening Devotion and Blessing
- C) Dufford Terrace Report
  - i. Nomination of Dufford Board
  - ii. Questions on Dufford Terrace Report
- C) Approval of 2024 Minutes

### 2) Elections

- A) Report of the Nominating Committee
- B) Nominations from the Floor
- C) Casting the Ballot

### 3) Budget

- A) Finance Report
  - i. Endowment Statement
  - ii. Proposed 2025 Budget

### 4) Reports

- A) Questions on other Annual Reports

### 5) Old Business

- A) Quorum

### 6) New Business

- A) Call Process

### 7) Closing

- A) Installation of 2025 Congregation Council
- B) Closing Litany and Prayer

### 8) Announcements / Adjourn

answers you desire, as well as offering all in attendance the chance to process the information together.

**No matter what else changes, the mission of the church is the same as it has ever been** – to make disciples of all nations, to care for "the least of these," and to let our light so shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in heaven. For the People of St. John's Lutheran Church of Erie, these things continue to happen no matter what else in our world is turned upside down.

**2025 PROPOSED BUDGET**  
**AVAILABLE VIA THE CHURCH OFFICE**

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation January 21, 2024 Official Minutes

Call to order at 11:20am. by Roger Olsen, Council President.

A quorum was confirmed with 39 members attending.

Blessings and opening prayer was offered by Pastor Jerry Gray.

### Dufford Terrace Report:

The meeting was turned over to Beth Nagy, President of Dufford Terrace Board to present their Annual Report. Beth thanked the congregation for their attendance at the special meetings in order to have new by-laws passed. Beth shared highlights of the report and noted Dufford Terrace is continuing to upgrade apartments with new carpeting and flooring and walk-in showers.

A motion was made by Sue Carlson, 2nd by Pam Gildersleeve to accept the Minutes from the Annual Congregational Meeting held January 22, 2023. Motion carried.

### Congregational Elections:

- **Church Council:** There are eight open positions. Roger Olsen and Max Matthew Alwens were nominated to serve two of three positions for a three year term; Carolyn Sturtevant, Janet Heubel, and Marj Quinn were each nominated to serve two year terms; and Mark Eller was nominated to serve the one year term position. All nominees were elected by unanimous ballot. Two positions remain open for three year terms.
- **Youth Member of Council:** There were no nominations for this position. Position will remain open until a suitable and willing candidate can be found to fill the position.
- **Dufford Terrace Board:** There are four open positions. Tim Durst, Barb Kulisek, Paul Rapela, and Bob Schlaufman were each nominated for three year terms. All nominees were elected by unanimous ballot.
- **Bahm/Palmer Committee:** There are two open positions for three year term and one open position for a two year term. David Haffley and Shantel Kay were nominated to serve for the three year term and Nancy Durst was nominated for the two year term. All nominees were elected by unanimous ballot.
- **Synod Assembly:** Butch Karnes and Carolyn Sturtevant were nominated to serve as our delegates. Nominees were elected by unanimous ballot.
- **Nominating Committee:** There were no nominations for this committee. Outgoing council members will fill open positions.
- **Audit Committee:** There are three positions open. There were no nominees.

Motion was made by Audrey Boam and 2nd by Julie

Zoumaris to accept the ballot for all positions. Motion carried. Ballots collected. Results recorded above.

### Reports:

**Investment Report:** Tim Durst present the Finance/Treasurers' report. Tim reviewed balances in the accounts, noting that there are dedicated funds in our main checking account (which means they can only be used for specific purposes). Money from these dedicated funds were transferred to a Money Market Account so they will earn interest. Accounts were also set up within the Money Market to record offsets for each. Our unrestricted account only used \$20,000.00; which was actually expenses for 2022. We are in a relatively safe financial position.

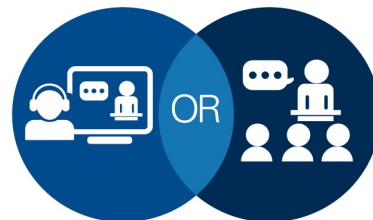
**Questions:** Can Memorial Fund monies be used for general expenses? Answer, Yes, council can determine what it is used for. Lighting Fund, it is a dedicated account..

**Budget:** Tim reviewed some changes to the budget. Income: Investment income increased, due to movement of dedicated funds to Money Market accounts rather than in checking account. Expenses: Salary increases for staff, nothing budgeted for Pastors Salary, Synod benevolence decreased due to anticipated decrease in giving (20% of current envelope). Expense for Waldameer, donated by

### St. John's Lutheran Church of Erie

# ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 11:30am  
(virtual or in-person)



Join us after worship  
or via Zoom (for church members only)

Zoom Meeting ID: 895 2013 7657  
Passcode: 2023

+1 929-205-6099 (New York) or find your local number:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/kJRCnZXQ>

John and Barbara Huff. Thank you, thank you not just for the generosity of the gift but for the tireless work you and your family do every year for this event.

**Questions:** What was Special Projects money used for in 2023? Answer: for an A/C and heat unit for the Chapel. Roger Olsen also noted we need to replace the boilers, discussion followed. A motion was made by Roger Olsen, 2nd by Butch Karnes to move \$20,000.00 from Capital Appeal Fund to replace the boilers. Motion defeated. Discussion: The motion was amended by Roger and 2nd by Butch to move no more than \$25,000.00 from Capital Appeal funds to replace the boilers. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Butch Karnes properly seconded by John Durst to accept the amended budget. Motion carried.

There were no questions on the written reports of the committees. Motion by Scot Zoumaris, 2nd by Carolyn Sturtevant to accept all committee reports.

**Old Business:** From our special meeting on February 26, 2023, Motion to amend our constitution C10.04 to read: Forty (40) percent of the voting members or 30 members, whichever is greater shall constitute a quorum. This motion was voted on and carried, ratification to occur at the next congregational meeting. A vote was taken on the motion to ratify the amendment to the constitution. Motion carried.

**New Business:** Call Process: Discussion of the status of the church and a call process. Sadly even if we were ready to call a Pastor there are few available. There are currently 21 churches in our synod without Pastors, some have a shared Pastor or Deacon, or shared part-time Pastor. Any start to calling a Pastor will have to begin with the Bishop. We are grateful for the Supply Pastors who have kept our congregation worshipping during the past year and look forward to continued support from the congregation as we navigate this next year and perhaps further until a call can be made. We will need to have a transition team with 2 members of council plus other members of the congregation. Beth Nagy volunteered to serve on a Transition Team.

**Installation of Church council members will be on January 28th.**

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Marj Quinn, Secretary*

## Music Director and Organist- 2024

The goal of the music program of St. John's is to glorify God and to enhance the worship experience of the congregation. It is important to have worship music integrated into the total life of the Parish.

Throughout the year, it is my responsibility to select

and play the organ preludes, offertories, hymns, communion music and postludes for all services, Holy Days and extra worship such as during Advent and Lent. In 2024, I played for all the mid-week Lenten services. All music is selected to correspond with the Lutheran liturgical calendar.

The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir have played throughout 2024. They sing and ring for the 10:00 AM services and special Holy Day services beginning in September and ending in June. The choirs practice every Sunday under my direction. Several new members have joined the Chancel Choir. In August, new music was selected and ordered for the Chancel and Bell choirs. Also, postcards were sent to perspective members to help increase participation in the choirs. Members of the Chancel Choir are Carolyn Sturtevant, Marj Quinn, Arline Watson, Janel Anderson, Connie Leretsis, Pam Gildersleeve, Bob Bestvina, Mark Eller and Pastor Mineo. Members of the Bell Choir are Janel Anderson, Carolyn Sturtevant, Bill Kay and Mark Eller. I would like to thank the choir members for their dedication and service to the Lord and St. John's.

One of the duties of my position is to rehearse all cantors, soloists and instrumentalists. Besides the choirs, many special musicians have played in 2024. Among them have been Janel Anderson on the flute, brass instrumentalists from the Gem City Band, alto saxophonist Tim Powell, and Pastor Mineo with the guitar. Nolan Durst has provided music on the piano/keyboard for several of our services. The Stained Glass Ensemble consisting of flutes, clarinets and keyboard/organ played several times in 2024. Members of the Stained Glass Ensemble are Janel Anderson, Carolyn Sturtevant, Bill Kay, and Mark Eller. It is planned to have them return in 2025.

Carolyn Sturtevant has served faithfully as our Cantor every Sunday. I would like to thank Carolyn for her outstanding dedication and service to St. John's.

In coordination with the Pastor, I select hymns for the 10:00 AM services and Holy Days. During the summer months, the congregation enjoys selecting favorite hymns that are included in the 10:00 AM service. For copyright protection, we belong to an organization entitled One License. Choir anthems, prelude and postlude music have to be reported to One License for copyright protection. Any music that has been published within the last 70 years has to be reported to One License. [I have been researching](#) proper copyright procedures and attending virtual copyright workshops to help ensure compliance with the law.

It is my responsibility to maintain all musical instruments and keep the organ and pianos in repair and in tune. This was continued throughout 2024. In addition to the pianos in the Sanctuary, pianos in the Assembly Room, Choir Room and Fellowship Hall (gym) were, also, maintained. [St. John's organ is a valuable and historical instrument.](#) It is important to keep it in good working

condition. Besides the necessary tunings, work was done on the static reservoir to increase the pressure in the instrument. Further specialized maintenance will be done in 2025.

We have increased the use of our keyboard in 2024 and have even used it for entire services. The keyboard is available for use in combination with special soloists and different ensembles for the worship services.

On August 11, St. John's hosted Bishop Lozano. Besides the organ, special music was provided by Janel Anderson on the flute and The Stained Glass Ensemble.

I attend and participate in the Worship and Music Committee meetings once a month. The Worship and Music Committee meetings are an important part of planning and keeping communications lines open within our Church community.

To maintain my professional skills and contacts, I am an active member of the Erie Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and a long-time Board member and Secretary of the local Chapter. I am a member of the Erie Music Teachers' Association, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and the Church Music Institute. These organizations have helped provide valuable information through publications, workshops and webinars that assist in conducting our Church music program. Through my memberships in these various musical organizations and, as part of my continuing education, I have attended several webinars and workshops virtually in 2024:

- January – “New Year’s Resolutions You Can Keep” – American Guild of Organists
- January – “A Life of Song: Strategies to Cultivate and Encourage Singers for a Lifetime” – Association of Lutheran Church Musicians
- February – “Top Ten Things Your Organ Tuner Wants You to Know About the Organ” – Association of Lutheran Church Musicians
- February – “Women Composers” webinar - American Guild of Organists
- February – “Everything Organs: Moving from a Church Achilles Heel to a Magnificent Musical Asset” – Catholic Facility Management
- March – “CMI Online Libraries (Choral and Organ)” – Church Music Institute
- April – “Music for Manuals” – American Guild of Organists
- April - “4 Part Harmonization” – Church Music Institute
- April – “One License : What’s New “ webinar” – American Guild of Organists
- August – “And the Survey Says” webinar – American Guild of Organists
- September – “Jumpstart Your Church Music Year” – Church Music Institute
- October – “Contemporary Music for Traditional Organists” – American Guild of Organists
- October – “Organ Suggestions for the Liturgical Year: Sourcing Digital Scores” - Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

Several goals were achieved during 2024. One was the

increased use of instrumentalists and the keyboard in worship. Also, maintenance work on the pipe organ has begun that will continue into 2025. I have continued to work on is the inventory and organization of the large volume of organ and bell choir music that has accumulated from previous directors. This is important to determine which music is outdated and to determine what new music needs to be purchased. The increase in numbers in the Chancel Choir has, also, been rewarding.

Goals for 2025 would be:

- to increase membership and participation in the both the Chancel and Bell choirs.
- Continue specialized maintenance on the pipe organ to preserve this historical instrument.
- Further work on inventory of choir music (both choral and bell music)

A special thank you needs to be extended to Pastor Mineo for his support and participation in the music program of St. John's. Beside enjoying his music, his willingness to do solos and sing in the choir have been a great example for members in our congregation.

I would, also, like to thank the people of St. John's for their support of the Church's music program. The members of the congregation who participate in the music program deserve the utmost praise for their tireless and selfless efforts in providing music for the glory of God. It is my hope that the St. John's Music Program will continue to glorify God and to enhance the worship experience of the congregation.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kathrine Swanson, Music Director and Organist*

## “Supply-Plus” Pastor’s Report 2024

I invented the term: “Supply-Plus.” It’s not an official pastoral position and (to my knowledge) in any church documents. My official job description is “Supply Pastor,” responsible for preaching and leading the congregation in worship. I retired from fulltime ministry in Ohio in November 2020. When my wife, Jo, and I returned to Pennsylvania to make our home here in May 2021, we had the wonderful experience of worshiping in the pew “like a normal person,” as I like to put it, at Faith Lutheran Church in Erie. My calling as “Supply Pastor” began there on May 1, 2022, followed by supplying at twelve congregations in our synod.

My first weekend here at St. John's was June 4, 2023. That year, I was Supply Pastor here for 15 weekends and Christmas Eve. In the year 2024, I became more regular. I preached and led worship at St. John's for 45 Sundays in 2024, adding Ash Wednesday, the Wednesdays in Lent, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve. I've also led Scout Sunday and the Blessing of Backpacks. I regularly attend our monthly “Worship & Music

Committee” meetings. As a new experience for me, I was introduced to and helped at our Homeless Shelter Ministry, “Our Neighbor’s Place.”

I’ve been blessed to participate in the Music Ministry of St. John’s. I’ve also added regular music to our Saturday worship. It’s a real joy and blessing for me to be invited to share music, including my original compositions, as part of my worship leadership here. I really appreciate and am thankful for these opportunities. We’ve had several conversations in 2024 concerning the development of “Youth Sunday,” where our youth will serve as worship leaders. Our first “Youth Sunday” is scheduled for March 2, 2025.

In January of 2024 I taught a “First Communion Retreat” (which will become the “Affirmation of Communion Retreat” in 2025). In September, I taught a “Membership Class,” which was titled, “What It Means To Be A Lutheran” for prospective members. As I always do, I invite everyone to attend as a refresher. We had a total of 32 in attendance, a record (by far) for my ministry! In 2024, we introduced quarterly Healing Services.

Here is the list of my “Official Pastoral Acts” at St. John’s in 2024:

- Baptism:** Janel Anderson, Yosiah Knight
- Affirmation of Communion:** Charlotte “Charli” Alwens, Lillian “Lily” Alwens, Ella Alwens
- Reception into Confirmed Membership:** Molinda Kearns, Janel Anderson, Joyce Hersperger, Paul and Laura Horstman, Marek Klimczak and Christina Doupé, Mathieu “Matt” Sanders, and Andrea Walker
- Funerals:** Ruth Arkwright, Sharyn Roberts, Audrey Hettrick

St. John’s is my church family, and I thank God for bringing us together in this time and place. To be sure, this is a time of **TRANSITION**. As the congregation explores the direction for the future, and whatever pastoral leadership lies ahead, this time of transition is not a time to sit back and merely wait. We are called in this time, without a fulltime pastor, to step up even more to **BE** the church. I’m blessed and filled with joy when I see this happening, and I see it happening a lot! It’s a blessing and an honor to participate in this part of St. John’s journey.

I close with a verse from the Gospel of our namesake, St. John. This verse is the foundation and reason for everything I’ve written in this report: *“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”*

*In the name of Christ,  
Pastor Ralph Mineo*

## Worship & Music Report 2024

Committee Members: Barbara Kulisek, Sue Eller, Roger Olsen, Diane Bestvina, Kathy Swanson, Butch Karnes, Janet Heubel, and Pastor Mineo

Council Liaison: Barbara Kulisek

Meeting Day/Time: We meet on the last Tuesday of each month in the Assembly Room at 5:30.

In January of 2024 we took down the Christmas decorations. We welcomed new members Janel Anderson & Molinda Kearns with a cake in the Narthex. First Communion was held for Charlotte “Charli” Alwens, Lillian “Lily” Alwens, and Ella Alwens along with a cake reception. Pastor Mineo installed the new Council Members.

We held soup suppers on Wednesday evening during Lent. These were held in the gym prior to the Wednesday services. We had approximately 50 people attend each week, including several Dufford Terrace residents. Six soups were provided each week, along with breads and desserts. Around 40 people attended the Wednesday service each week and a Healing service was held on one of the nights. Palm Fronds, Easter Lilies and Prim Roses were ordered for Palm Sunday and Easter. A Maundy Thursday Service, Palm Sunday, and 2 Good Friday Services were held in addition to the Wednesday night and Easter Services. Cake & juice were provided on Easter following the service.

There was a baptism held on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> for Yosiah Knight; son of John Knight and Asjha Raucci. Mother’s Day flowers were given out to all the moms. Father received a chocolate bar for Father’s Day. A Healing Service was held following the regular service on Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Haleigh Huff and Juan Alacorn were married on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Bishop presided on August 11<sup>th</sup> and a potluck meal was served in the gym with chicken, salad and drinks provided by Worship & Music.

The choir robes were dry cleaned.

Blessing of Back Packs was held on August 25<sup>th</sup>. There were 8 youth and parents in attendance.

“What It Means To Be a Lutheran” was held on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Mineo offered this for current members and for those looking to join St. John’s. There were over 30 people who attended! We had a potluck dinner with chicken, salad and drinks provided by Worship & Music. We welcomed 7 new members; Joyce Hersperger, Paul and Laura Horstman, Marek Klimczak, Christina Doupé, Andrea Walker and Mathieu “Matt” Sanders on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, followed with a cake reception in the Narthex.

We now have Pita Bread instead of the Communion Wafers, while still providing gluten free wafers and white grape juice.

Six pianos have been tuned along with the organ. Some needed repairs and updates have also been completed on the organ.

We are in the process of ordering new Chalice Veils,



Altar Cloths and Liquid Wax Candles for the Chapel. The Church was decorated for the Advent/Christmas Season in December.

The Music Program: The Bell and Chancel Choirs have been providing music every week for the 10:00 am Sunday Service from September to June. Also, there has been special music throughout the year; this includes trumpets, flutes, piano, and instrumental ensembles with flutes, clarinets and keyboard. A special thank you to Pastor Mineo for his contribution to the music program and Carolyn Sturtevant for her talent and dedication as Cantor. Thank you to Nolan Durst for sharing his gift on the piano throughout the year.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara Kulisek*

## Social Ministry Annual Report 2024

The Social Ministry Committee's mandate is to serve the needs of the community. We are grateful to the congregation and to the Magenau Fund for their support of our programs. Our committee has few meetings, and we welcome participation by congregational members in any of our events—one event or every event!

Our activities in brief:

Beginning in May there were planning meetings for all the coordinators hosting the Overflow Shelter, also called "Our Neighbors' Place."

The coordinators did logistics to move the shelter for 2024-2025 to a permanent location at 450 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Street. St. John's coordinators are Diane and Bob Bestvina.

January 31 to February 14, 2024--Hosted the Overflow Shelter at St. John's, providing guests a warm place from 7:30 pm to 7:00 am, with a bed, snacks, hot beverages, showers, and foot care offered by a group of medical professionals

April 30—Attended the annual CROP Walk luncheon, receiving thanks for our participation

July 25—Cooked and served Sloppy Joe sandwiches and sides to more than 40 guests at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church community

August 6—Served homemade cookies and refreshments at the Lutheran House at Chautauqua

September 8—God's Work, Our Hands—We prepared a meal at Community Shelter Services.

September 29—CROP Walk for Hunger to meet the hunger needs of our community: our

walkers raised \$981.38!

July 21 and October 6--Sunday Supper at First Church of the Covenant --served hot meals to 114 guests and 14 volunteers of time and/or cupcakes

December—Generous donors provided 10 gift bags for students at Bethesda Lutheran Services in Meadville, along with items from their generic wish list

June, July, September, October, December—Served cookies and drinks at Gem City Band concerts

Project Dignity's mandate is to distribute personal care items and food (from the Second Harvest Food Bank inventory and supplemented with store shopping) to households within a designated area surrounding St. John's. Beginning in June, we altered our schedule to open the doors only in odd-numbered months, in consultation with Second Harvest Food Bank. Our food neighbors who needed food in months when we were closed were welcome to visit the Glenwood Methodist Food Bank. Our food neighbors continue to choose shelf-safe items, produce, and frozen foods from our shelves that best fit their households' needs. Every household receives personal care and hygiene items. We served 74 different households in 2024. As of the end of December we have required paperwork for 45 households falling within the Second Harvest boundaries to receive food from St. John's. Diane Bestvina, Project Dignity Coordinator and Food Pantry Representative with Second Harvest Food Bank is grateful for all the current volunteers, which include:

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays - Bob Bestvina, Carolyn Sturtevant, Marj and Bob Quinn, Margie Gehrlein, Bill Kay, Mark and Sue Eller  
Head personal care shopper: Cathy Goellner  
Assistant personal care shopper: Diane Bestvina  
Laundry soap shoppers: Marj and Bob Quinn  
Sometimes eggs, spaghetti sauce and crackers shoppers: Diane Bestvina and Cathy Goellner  
Panera Bread volunteers: Bob Quinn, Bill Kay, Bill Watson, Denise Scott, Lynn Schrimper, Carol Snippert, Bonnie (Carol's sister), Alice Adler  
Distribution of Second Harvest turkeys and boxes of sides November 25<sup>th</sup>: Diane Bestvina and Carolyn Sturtevant  
Distribution of Second Harvest lasagna and boxes of sides December 16<sup>th</sup>: Diane Bestvina and Carolyn Sturtevant

July 10<sup>th</sup> our Project Dignity neighbors enjoyed a picnic in the gym, complete with a grilled lunch by Bob Bestvina.

December 11<sup>th</sup> was a special, loved by all in attendance from 29 households, Christmas Party featuring a free tickets auction of 68 items and free giveaways of candy bags, calendars, tote bags, holiday décor, wrapping paper rolls, warm wearables, health items and a pump soap. A delicious meal was provided by Valerio's with dessert donated by our volunteers. Thank you to Janet Heubel, Carl Gehrlein and Brian Bestvina for joining our regular volunteers to help on this very special day.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Carolyn Sturtevant*

## Property Committee Report 2024

I want to thank my committee members for their service this year: Paul, Greg, Dana, Joe, and Jay. Joe has continued this year as our Sexton. Once again we had Valley Snow Removal clearing our sidewalks, entrance walks, and 23rd Street parking lot. LECOM took care of plowing our 22nd Street parking lot. Dufford Terrace hired Turf Management to cut our grass, weed and feed the grass, and do the fall cleanup. Thanks to the members of St. John's and the boy scouts, who participated in the spring cleanup of our grounds. The Steeple Lighting Committee hired Edison Landscape Lighting to light the steeple and the outside of the building. In lighting the steeple they broke some concrete sidewalk, which they paid to replace. Property took the opportunity to also repair some other sections of sidewalk at that time. We replaced the aging boilers in the Parish Center. We also had numerous repairs to the main heating plant.

*Respectfully recorded and submitted,  
Roger Olsen*

## Bahm/Palmer Report 2024

For the members of the congregation who may not be aware, money was left to the church for the financial assistance of the children of St. John's regarding their medical and educational wellbeing. These funds are in the Bahm and Palmer funds. The money was given with stipulations on how the money was to be spent. The funds are managed by the Bahm/Palmer committee which consists of six members of the congregation who are elected by the members of St. John's to serve three-year terms. The committee reviews all applications for financial assistance and distributes the funds accordingly.

This past year, the committee was able to aid several children of the congregation for their medical expenses and provide tuition assistance and reimbursements to others. The committee also provided scholarships to several youths who attended Camp Lutheran.

If you have any questions or know of a child in the congregation who the committee could assist, please let me or one of the other members of the committee know. There are applications available in the church office.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
David Haffley, Committee Chairperson*

## Scout Report 2024

This past year marked the first year of St. John's being the Chartered Organization for both Pack 9 and Troop 9, Scouts B.S.A. Cub Scouts is for youth from Kindergarten to Fifth grade. Scouts B.S.A. is for youth 12-18. The scouts meet in the old 4-year-old pre-school room and will occasionally use the Sanctuary and gym for activities. Troop 9 meets at their "Outpost" during the summer, while the Pack takes the summer off.

The scouts have assisted in several activities around church this past year. First, they helped with the Trunk or Treat, and then with Breakfast with Santa. In February, they worshiped with the congregation in celebration of Scout Sunday. In the springtime, they assisted with Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and the clean up around the church. This past fall, they again assisted with the Trunk or Treat at Jefferson Elementary School.

Along with these activities, Pack 9 also had their Pinewood Derby, campout at Camp Notre Dame and Camp Sherwin. They also attended the French Creek Council Day camp and visited the Belle Valley Fire Department, along with several other activities that helped the children to complete requirements for their merit badges.

Troop 9 also had a busy year. They had several campouts around northwest Pennsylvania along with their weeklong camp at Camp Beaumont in Warren, OH. They also assisted with the Blizzard of Blankets at the Upper Room along with a few fun activities, such as Eerie Abyss and the Wooden Nickel Buffalo Farm corn maze.

The scouts would like to thank the members of the congregation for their support and assistance during their fundraisers and other activities. The scouts have enjoyed being a ministry of this church. If any of the committees need assistance or volunteers, and they think that the scouts may be of assistance, please feel free to contact me and I will let their leadership committees know.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Scout Sunday, February 9.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
David Haffley, Chartered Organization Representative*

## Dufford Terrace Report 2024

To the Congregation of St. John's:

Opening in 1986 as an outreach of St. John's Lutheran Church, Dufford Terrace continues its mission to serve Erie's aging population with quality, affordable apartments for those aged 62 and over. The Dufford Terrace Board of Directors, comprised of members of St. John's, oversees the management of the building, working along side and guiding our Property Managers – Glowacki Management Company.

The Dufford occupancy rate had not fully rebounded since the 2020 pandemic until this year when we renewed our social media efforts, updated our Facebook presence, and made up ground. Our occupancy rates are once again upward of 93%. We continue to rely on Roger Oleson and his work on making upgrades to our apartments. As the apartments open up, Roger completes any kitchen updates that were not recently renewed by adding new cabinets, countertops, and stoves. New flooring and carpeting are added throughout each apartment as needed and we update the bathrooms, adding new bathroom vanity cabinets and replacing any standard bathtubs with new walk-in showers.

A major consideration in 2024 were our elevators - we entertained a total refurbishment and/or replacement for the two Dufford elevators. After reviewing a bid and considering our needs, we moved forward with completing the repairs that initiated our bid considerations, as well as making some basic improvements that will put us in a better place for future refurbishments should we decide to move in that direction.

Dufford Tenant Jim Crosby continues to act as the Dufford Social Director, helping to plan activities, speakers, events, food trucks, and Bingo for the enjoyment of all of our residents. This past year we replaced the picnic tables in the outdoor pavilion and will be installing a new gas grill in the spring of 2025 for our tenants to use and enjoy.

Our annual December Holiday Dinner and Bingo in the St. John's Gym was a success as many of our St. John's members joined the Dufford tenants for an enjoyable evening. Thank you to Barb Kulisek for once again handling all of the arrangements for that event, including her work with Sabella's catering, purchasing the Bingo supplies, and arranging to have cash prizes available for our winners.

As of November 30, 2024, and the writing of this report, Dufford Terrace had a net operating income of \$155,255 and occupancy was at 93%. The responsible management of, Dufford Terrace by the elected board has resulted in a healthy cash reserve and I would like to thank the entire board for all of the good work done this year. We continue to faithfully serve our senior residents and to implement projects that will benefit those for whom the building was meant to serve.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Nagy, Dufford Board President*