



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

"You belong here."

The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter

"Things happen for a reason"

When ending a phone conversation about my broken elbow, a friend commented, "Things happen for a reason." I know this friend in a context where we are of various backgrounds and beliefs, and we are more likely to speak about cause-and-effect rather than any single divine purpose behind earthly happenings. In my case, the cause of my broken elbow was a sudden slip of my boots on an icy driveway. The effects are the discomfort, surgery, and months-long recovery. Happily, medical treatment and time promise healing, if I can just be patient with the inconvenience of living as a right-handed person.

"Things happen for a reason" can lead to the difficult question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" When we look beyond our own worries, we see the struggles of people dealing with floods, fires, tornados, and earthquakes. Our faith generally acknowledges that "he [the Lord] makes his sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust." (Matthew 5:45)

When young Fred Rogers, "Mr. Rogers," saw fearful things on the news, his mother told him to "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." It is comforting and humbling to be helped by prayers, a card of encouragement, a meal, a ride, a phone call in time of need. Could closer relationships with our helpers and a growing sense of gratitude be reasons and lessons coming from certain unfortunate happenings? We have limited control over some events in our lives; we can choose how we respond. Receiving kindness from others, we learn to be kind.

"Things happen for a reason." Scripture readings of the upcoming Holy Week tell us that God was intentional in sending His son as a teacher and as a sacrifice for us. The suffering of one man offers salvation to all. His resurrection gives us a reason to respond in gratitude, love, and joy!

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

We are sorry to hear that Carol Snippert fell and broke her arm, hip, and rib just as she was hoping to return home from the hospital. It is possible that she will recover in LECOM at Elmwood Gardens. Thank you, Nancy Varner and Marj Quinn, for visiting Carol Snippert as eucharistic ministers during her convalescence!

There is good news of bones healing among others wearing casts or splints, Cathy Goellner, Marek Klimczak, and Carolyn Sturtevant.

The Youth Sunday service on March revealed the talents of our younger members and the dedication of Leslye Durst and Pastor Mineo in leading this joyful worship event. Thanks to all who glorified God in their reading, singing, and playing.

Holy week schedule

Palm Sunday Worship:
Saturday, April 12 @ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 13 @ 10:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship:
Thursday, April 17 @ 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Worship:
Friday, April 18 @ Noon
Friday, April 18 @ 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship:
Saturday, April 19 @ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 20 @ 10:00 a.m.

Eucharist Ministry Training

Through connections in the Erie Lutheran Conference (ELC), a training session for veteran and new eucharistic ministers occurred on Sunday, March 23rd. Pastor Kuebler, of Faith Lutheran Church in Harborcreek and Dean of the ELC, led the training session. Six members from St. John's, one member from Immanuel Lutheran Church, and Pastor Mineo reviewed the ways in which a eucharistic minister brings elements of worship and the Lord's Supper to members at home. The St. John's members will be working to prepare a list of our homebound and hospitalized members who might want communion and to establish a schedule to record distribution.

ELC Shared Ministry Retreat

Tim Durst represented St. John's at a March 25th event at Prince of Peace Church, attended by pastors and members from eleven churches of the Erie Lutheran Conference (ELC). Their discussions identified known challenges common to many congregations, namely the increasing age of parishioners, the decrease or lack of young members, and the scar-

city of pastors to fill pulpits as our rostered clergy retire, in some cases, for a second time! Organizers plan to send a survey to each ELC congregation asking them to consider options for the future.

Bahm/Palmer Funds Support Youth

Through the generosity of past members of St. John's, young people in our congregation may receive financial assistance for certain needs. The Bahm/Palmer Committee administers the funds. Recently, several young people received camperships for Camp Lutherlyn by having their families complete a Bahm/Palmer application form that can be obtained from the office. Below are some basics about the two funds.

Guidelines for Bahm and Palmer Trusts Purpose: In accordance with the wills of Marguerite Bahm and Donald Palmer, the funds bequeathed to St. John's will be used to:

1. assist with educational costs of children (Pre-K- thru age 18) who attend tuition-based schools (Palmer)
2. assist with undergraduate educational costs of youth and young adults (ages 18 - 26) who attend tuition-based college/university/technical school (Bahm)
3. assist with medical expenses for children birth to 17 years of age (Palmer)
4. assist with alleviating the need for food, clothing and shelter (Bahm)

Eligibility:

1. The beneficiary must be a member of St. John's for at least one year prior to distribution of funds
2. The beneficiary must be a member in good standing at the time the expense was incurred (attend at least once in current or preceding calendar year)

Raising the Roof for a Church in Tanzania!

As described in the March Parish Post, Bishop Lozano has suggested that churches of the NWPA Synod pledge their Lenten offerings to buy metal roofing for the church buildings that will house new congregations in Tanzania. An average building may need 500 metal panels at \$10 apiece. Following Bishop Lozano's recommendation, Council voted to set a St. John's goal of buying enough sheets to put a roof on one church, a total of \$5000! During Lent, money placed in Lenten envelopes and in plate offerings is going toward this goal. As of March 31, St. John's members have contributed \$2728, or 54.5% of our goal!

Rec Room Progress!

The Property Committee reports that Jackson Plumbing has prepared the floor and walls in a bathroom in the basement Rec Room. Tiles may arrive in a few weeks. There's no date for completion, but there is forward motion toward reclaiming the entire space damaged by the flood! While working on the lower level, the crew is also tackling a large rough patch on a plaster wall in the large room where Project Dignity neighbors gather. Council thanks the congregation for their monthly donations in the Recreation Room Repair envelopes.

1960s Teen Choir Cameo on WQLN Chronicles!

WQLN recently aired an episode about the life of local musician, Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949). His musical opportunities in Erie eventually took him to New York City and European stages as a famous baritone. Pictures of Erie choirs flashed on the screen to illustrate the musical environment of the city of Burleigh's origin. What a surprise to see a photo of a group of red-robed teen girls standing on the steps in St. John's sanctuary! The WQLN Chronicles team had scanned the photo while filming "Houses of Faith." If memory serves, the singers included Nancy Sheldon Durst, Alice Pifer Zimmerly, Wendy Thayer, Emily Askounes, and Carolyn Sturtevant, along with former organist, Dorothy Steward.

A Visual Tour of Presque Isle State Park by Brian Berchtold, Park Ambassador Monday, May 12, 2025, 6:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 E. Lake Rd.

Brian Berchtold is a photographer and an ambassador for Presque Isle State Park. Through his photography and talks, he shares the beauty of the park and educates about its unique geology, history, flora, and fauna. After he retired, Brian says he came out to the park and picked up a camera; it changed his life! For over 15 years, he has been giving presentations on the peninsula and sharing images on his Facebook page, where he has over 2500 followers. This event is free and all are welcome!

Some Upcoming Events

Saturday April 5	Scout Pinewood derby, 12:00 noon
Saturday, April 12	Breakfast with Easter Bunny 9:00 am—12:00 noon
Saturday, May 3	Scout Rummage sale, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm
Monday, May 12	Presque Isle State Park presentation at Faith Lutheran, 6:00 pm
Thursday, May 29	ELC Ascension Service at Luther Memorial, 7:00 pm
Thursday, July 24	Church Picnic at Waldameer
Thursday, July 31	St. John's hosts Sloppy Joe dinner for Holy Trinity community
Tuesday, TBA	St. John's serves homemade cookies, Lutheran House, Chautauqua

Parking Reminder

Odd/Even parking has come to an end as of April 1st. Please be aware of all posted parking regulations should you choose to park along 23rd Street, including not parking on the north side of the street on Tuesdays and not parking on the south side on Thursdays.

Scout News

The scouts would like to thank the congregation for their support with their recent fundraisers. The Pack is beginning to wind down their year and will have a few events coming up. First, they will be having their Pinewood derby in the gym, beginning at noon. Everyone is invited to attend to cheer on the scouts. They have worked hard to build their cars. In May, they will be having their Move-Up ceremony where they will be graduating to their next rank.

The Troop will be having a rummage sale on May 3, in the gym from 8:00-2:00. Anyone wishing to make a donation is more than welcome to and it is greatly appreciated. Items may be left on the stage on Sunday, April 20 and Sunday, April 27. They will also be having another pretzel sandwich sale in June. More information to follow.

The scouts will be assisting with the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at church again this year. If any committee or group is in need of assistance and thinks that scouts could help, please let me know.

Thanks,

Dave Haffley



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.

"Holy Communion Retreat"



for everyone
5th Grade and above,
even if you are already
receiving Communion.

There's a sign-up sheet on the church office window.
Pastor Ralph will contact those who have signed up to set a date.

****Date to be announced soon****

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, April 6th & May 4th

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



"What It Means To Be A Lutheran"



Interested in membership at St. John's?

There's a sign-up sheet on the church office window.

Pastor Ralph will contact those who have signed up to set a date.

Current members are always invited to join us for a refresher.

EASTER GARDEN



As we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we remember loved ones and friends by decorating our Sanctuary with beautiful Lily and Primrose plants. You are invited to contribute in honor or in memory of individuals you know and love. Each child who attends Easter worship is invited to take home a Primrose plant from the cross at the front of the Sanctuary. After the Sunday Traditional service, adults are welcome to take the Lily plants they donated. Volunteers will donate the remaining Lilies to church members and friends who are homebound, hospitalized, or living in assisted care facilities so they too can enjoy a reminder of the Good News of Easter. Though dedications are unlimited, a limited number of Lilies and Primroses will be purchased. Any excess funds will be applied to our Altar Flower and Candle Fund. Please place this order form in an envelope marked "Easter Garden" with your check or cash and return it to the church office by noon on **Sunday, April 6th**. Your order may also be placed in the offering plate during worship.

GIVEN BY _____ PHONE # _____

IN HONOR/IN MEMORY OF

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (suggested donation \$14 per plant)

Cash or Check # _____

 I would like to help with the ministry of delivering flowers

 More dedications on other side of sheet

🎵 Music Notes 🎵

HOLY WEEK: The choirs have worked very hard to prepare for the Holy Week services. Please join us in as many services as you are able.

Palm Sunday (4/13-10:00 AM) - Bell Choir

Maundy Thursday (4/17 - 7:00 PM) – Chancel Choir

Good Friday (4/18 -Noon and 7:00 PM) – Chancel Choir at the 7:00 PM service

Easter (4/20 - 10:00 AM) – Chancel Choir and Trumpets

SPECIAL MUSIC:

We are always looking for Special Music. If any individual or group would like to share their musical talents during the Sunday, 10:00 AM Service, please contact Kathy Swanson (kathy@stjohnserie.org) or Rachel in the Church Office (office@stjohnserie.org). We look forward to hearing from our talented parishioners.

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. Successful applicants will receive a method book and ten lessons with a local organ teacher. The scholarships are available for all age groups. Brochures are available in the Church Narthex or contact Kathy Swanson.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

When: Saturday, April 12

Time: 9:00am – 12:00pm

Where: St. John’s Lutheran Church

2216 Peach Street

Erie, PA 16502

Cost: FREE 😊



All are welcome!

EASTER EGG DONATIONS NEEDED

*Pick up an empty bag of eggs in the Narthex

*Fill eggs with **WRAPPED** candy or small trinkets (please no loose jelly beans 😊)

*Return filled eggs by Sunday, April 6



Thank you in advance for your help!

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY VOLUNTEER SIGN UP

Sign-up sheet in the narthex.



Questions? Contact Leslye Durst at 814-323-2134

April 2025 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
		1	2 6PM LEN-TEN SOUP SUPPER	3	4	5 5PM WORSHIP
6 10AM WORSHIP 11AM BREW CREW 11AM YOUTH GROUP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	7 6PM CONG. COUNCIL	8	9 6PM LEN-TEN SOUP SUPPER	10 11:30AM WELCA	11	12 9AM BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY 5PM WORSHIP
13 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR PALM SUNDAY	14	15 7PM Dufford Terrace Board	16	17 6 PM CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL 7PM MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP	18 6PM BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL NOON & 7PM GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP	19 5PM WORSHIP
20 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP HAPPY EASTER!	21 Office Closed-Easter Monday	22	23	24	25	26 5PM WORSHIP
27 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	28	29	30			

St. John's Lutheran Church

2216 Peach St., Erie PA 16502
 (814) 456-7596 www.StJohnsErie.org
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