



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

"You belong here."

The Parish Post

Monthly Newsletter

"Quem quaeritis in sepulchro, o Christicolae?"

These words came to mind on Easter Sunday, as we heard the story of women finding not the body of Jesus, but active angels at the empty tomb. In college several decades ago, this English major learned that such scenes enacted in church were among the roots of theater. Costumed characters illustrated the Resurrection story to those in early churches who had neither books nor the ability to read.

The question begins, "Whom do you seek, followers of Christ?"

The three Mary's answer, "Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified, O heavenly ones."

The Angels respond, "He is not here, he is risen, just as he foretold. Go, announce that he is risen from the sepulchre."

Ecclesiastical theater has crowded out regularly scheduled television programming for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth and the coronation of her son, King Charles. More recently, we've witnessed the televised funerals of President Jimmy Carter and Pope Francis. Presidential inaugurations command the airwaves. The pre-planned settings, costumes, music, and carefully scripted movements enhance the occasions. Theatrical trappings mark many other events: football and football games, the NFL draft, the Olympics, commencement exercises, weddings, parades, and holiday celebrations.

The main roles of public events are acted out up front, on the stages, playing fields, and in front of the cameras. What is expected of the audience? They are to come in the spirit of the occasion, both on appearance and behavior. In the words of advice colleague Nate received before arriving for his Library of Congress internship, "Show up and look smart." For world leaders at the funeral for the Bishop of Rome, there were a dress code and assigned seats. We hope that their presence signifies that they will honor Pope Francis by following his example of humility and compassion, and by taking to heart his message of peace as they lead their respective countries in challenging times.

Each worship service at St. John's is our own ecclesiastical celebration. "*Quem quaeritis*--Whom do we seek, follow, and announce?" Each of us plays a role in the Resurrection story.

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

Carol Snippert has returned home, where she continues to mend.

We pray for Tom Tell's comfort while recovering from surgery on April 29.

The congregation sends prayers and good wishes to all patients and the medical teams who care for them through hospitalizations, treatments, and rehabilitation. Our weekly bulletin carries names of members and friends for whom we pray. We can offer additional prayers of gratitude for caregivers who give daily assistance, and for all who generously provide occasional cards, calls, rides, food, and words of encouragement.

ELC Every Member Survey

The Erie Lutheran Conference (ELC) has been meeting quarterly in recent years. In addition to opening communications among the 18 congregations in Erie County, we have discussed how to deal with the changing circumstances of our churches in the face of declining membership and scarcity of pastoral candidates. The Shared Ministry Task Force wishes to move the deliberations from mere talk within a committee of delegates to a poll of each member in the ELC.

Members and any non-members who are affiliated with our ELC churches are urged to complete a brief survey by Sunday, June 8. The survey is available electronically or on paper. St. John's will print, distribute, collect, and submit paper copies in coming weeks to anyone who wishes to use paper copies. This is an email link to the survey, intended to be used by one individual. In a household with multiple members, multiple emails should be used: <https://forms.gle/nw9Sr4K6vQ9TMS928>

This survey is a tool to learn how you feel about the next 5 or 10 years of our Lutheran houses of worship as we gather in fellowship as believers in Christ. The results do not dictate actions, but your comments may offer guidance for the future.

Scout news

Scouts will set up the gym on Friday, May, 2nd at 6:30 pm for their long-awaited Rummage Sale, and can accept items even that evening. Doors open to rummage hunters on Saturday, May 3rd from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The Scouts will be in the lobby with their popular Pretzel Sandwiches on Sunday, June 1st. The choices are ham, salami, or turkey. Cash is probably the best currency. Price to be announced at a later date.

Proceeds from both events will support the troop's activities.

Gardens and Gardeners

Our Easter Garden of lilies and primroses brightened our sanctuary and gave a lovely backdrop for family photos! Thanks are due to all who donated in honor of loved ones, to Janet Heubel who ordered the blossoms, and to all who arranged them so beautifully as one more task at the end of a busy Holy Week.

St. John's Pentecost tradition is to create a garden of red geraniums in the sanctuary to signify the tongues of fire that appeared above the gathered believers when the Holy Spirit arrived on the day of Pentecost. Look for the form in this newsletter to contribute to the Pentecost geranium garden. REMINDER: Wear red for Pentecost services on June 7 and 8!

Volunteer gardeners, with help from Scout Troop 9, will replenish the mulch in garden beds around St. John's after the May 18th Sunday service. We will plant the geraniums outside in the flower beds following the June 8th Pentecost Sunday service.

Presque Isle Photo Presentation

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, 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
Sunday, May 18	Cleanup of flower beds, etc. after service
Thursday, May 29	ELC Ascension Day Service at Luther Memorial, 7:00 pm
Sunday, June 1	Scout Pretzel sandwich sale after service
Sunday, June 8	Plant geraniums around the church
Thursday, July 17	Church Picnic at Waldameer (CORRECTED DATE)
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

Tanzania Roof

We've Done it! We have Finished the Roof!

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we've raised **more than the \$5000 needed** to construct a roof for our friends in **Tanzania!**

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ. 

Lay Communion Distributor Training

Dear Erie Conference folks,

I will be offering a training session/refresher class for lay communion distributors in our conference on Sunday, May 18 at 12:30 p.m. at St. Mark's, 930 N. High St, Waterford.

These are individuals from within the congregation who are appointed to serve at the table and distribute pre-consecrated communion elements when an ordained person is not present to lead worship. Synodically-approved training is required to serve in this capacity.

Please reach out with any questions, and please let me know if anyone from your congregation plans to attend. Thanks!

Pastor Jean (the dean)

Rev. Jean N. Kuebler, pastor
Faith Lutheran Church
5414 E. Lake Road, Erie, PA 16511
717-440-3515 (cell)
814-899-9653 (office)
faithlepastor@gmail.com
www.faithlutheranerie.com

National Youth Gathering

Where? Minneapolis, MN

When? June 28, 2027 – July 2, 2027

Who can attend?

Church members AND friends entering 9th grade fall 2027 up to spring 2027 high school graduates.

If interested please contact:

Tim Durst – 814-873-4251

Leslye Durst – 814-323-2134

More information to come!

"Holy Communion Retreat"

Saturday, May 17
10:00 am to 4:00 pm



**5th Grade
and above**

*Affirmation of Communion
 Sunday, May 18 at 10:00 am worship*

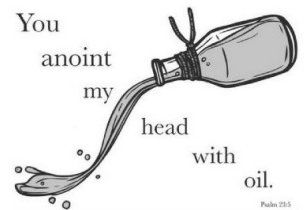
"Healing Service"

Saturday, May 17 5:00 pm
Sunday, May 18 10:00 am

At the end of worship,
 you are invited to receive:

Prayer for Healing

Anointing With Oil

**"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.**



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.

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, May 4th & June 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



Pentecost Garden

As we celebrate Pentecost we remember how the Holy Spirit has moved through our loved ones and friends by decorating our Sanctuary with beautiful red geraniums. You are invited to contribute in honor, memory, or in celebration of individuals you know and love.

GIVEN BY _____ ENVELOPE # _____

IN HONOR / MEMORY OF _____

Pentecost Geraniums suggested at \$4.50 ea. X _____ = \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed ☐ Cash ☐ Check # _____ \$ _____

Please place this order form in an envelope marked "**Pentecost Garden**" with your check or cash and return it to the church office by **Sunday, May 25th**. Your order may also be placed in the offering plate. A maximum of 40 plants will be purchased, with any excess funds going to our Flower and Candle Fund.

- ☐ I am willing to help with planting geraniums around the church
- ☐ More dedications on attached sheet...



♪ Music Notes ♪

THANK YOU: The music program of St. John's would like to thank everyone who helped make our Lenten and Easter services so meaningful. The congregation appreciates your talents and the time you spent in praising God through the gift of music.

SPECIAL MUSIC: As summer approaches, 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 (swanson1910@gmail.com) 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. Brochures are available in the Church Narthex or contact Kathy Swanson.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped out at the Breakfast with the Easter Bunny event and/or donated candy for the Easter eggs. We served almost 70 pancake breakfasts and had a steady flow of visitors throughout the morning. We look forward to providing this event again next year!



May 2025 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
				1	2	3 8AM-2PM SCOUT RUM- MAGE SALE 5PM WORSHIP
4 10AM WORSHIP 11AM BREW CREW 11AM YOUTH GROUP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	5	6	7	8 11:30AM WELCA	9	10 5PM WORSHIP
11 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR HAPPY MOTH- ER'S DAY!	12	13	14 6PM CONG. COUNCIL	15	16	17 10AM COM- MUNION RE- TREAT 5PM WORSHIP HEALING SER- VICE
18 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP HEALING SER- VICE 11:15AM BELL CHOIR CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY	19	20 7PM Dufford Terrace Board	21	22	23	24 5PM WORSHIP
25 9AM CHANCEL CHOIR 10 AM WORSHIP 11:15AM BELL CHOIR	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31 5PM WORSHIP

St. John's Lutheran Church

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