



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

*"You belong here."*

# The Parish Post

**Monthly Newsletter**

## NWPA Synod Assembly Report

Butch Karnes and I had the pleasure of representing St. John's at the recent NWPA Synod Assembly meeting at Thiel College on June 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The main order of business this year was the election of the Synodical Bishop for NWPA. The Assembly meeting officially started Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM where we reviewed and discussed the proposed budget, tested the electronic voting system, and performed the 1<sup>st</sup> ballot which gathered the nominations for the candidacy for Bishop. The first list of nominees was presented, and the meeting was recessed until Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

Five candidates moved forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot – Bishop Michael Lozano, Reverend Brenda Martin, Reverend Kristin Kern-Papson, Reverend Tom Glasoe, and Reverend Tedd Cogar. After hearing profile information from each candidate, the second ballot was held with no election. All five candidates moved forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot. After hearing a 5-to-7-minute presentation by each candidate, the third ballot was held with no election. The top three candidates – Bishop Lozano, Reverend Kern-Papson, and Reverend Martin moved forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. After each candidate answered 3 questions from the election committee, the fourth ballot was held with no election. Bishop Lozano and Reverend Kern-Papson moved forward to the 5<sup>th</sup> and final ballot.

Reverend Kristen Kern-Papson was elected with a vote count of 49 to 45. Her six-year term in office starts September 1, 2025, and her installation as bishop is October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at Good Hope Lutheran Church in Oil City. Please keep Bishop-elect Kern-Papson and her family in your prayers as she begins the transition from the role of pastor to Mt. Calvary and Lamb of God in Erie to bishop of our seventy-one congregations across thirteen counties of northwestern Pennsylvania.

*(continued on page 2)*

**#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.

The ballots, presentations, and the election committee reports were interspersed throughout the day and a half meeting. In between this important work, we heard presentations from several committees and organizations within our synod. Groups such as committee on church vocations, Camp Lutherlyn, Bethesda Lutheran Services, ELCA Foundation Gift Planning, the synod Green Team, and the ELCA churchwide representative shared challenges and milestones with the assembly.

Additionally, we voted on recommendations from the synod council, the budget, and a replacement female representative to the Churchwide Assembly that will meet in Phoenix, Arizona, from July 28th to August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

We worshiped, prayed, and learned together. We recognized anniversaries of rostered leaders and congregations, and we celebrated the mission and ministry of Pastor Harold “Jake” Jacobson as he retires later this summer.

Thank you again for this amazing opportunity to represent St. John’s in this important work of the church.

*Erin Harper and Butch Karnes*

### **Congregational Notes**

On Sunday, June 15th, Pastor installed five Eucharistic Ministers who completed training earlier this year. Sue Carlson, Phyllis Rzodkiewicz, Marj Quinn, Roger Seman, and Nancy Varner will carry communion on behalf of St. John’s to those who are unable to attend services in person. If you or someone you know would like a visit, please notify the church office.

### **Follow-up to the MSP Conversation**

June’s Parish Post summarized a conversation between Council and Pastor Mineo on the topic of a Ministry Site Profile (MSP), a document that describes a church seeking to call a pastor. Because the MSP is developed in consultation with the Bishop, and because the NWPA Synod’s new Bishop will not be installed until the Fall, Council has decided to defer this project until later this year. We are grateful to have Pastor Mineo as our shepherd now, knowing that any new arrangement could take a long time.

### **Thank You Notes**

The Parish Center kitchen is a vital feature for our own members and for those who rent our facilities. From snacks to potlucks to catered meals, we all enjoy food! Thanks to the recent efforts of Marj Quinn and Janet Heubel, our kitchen is cleaner and less cluttered! Bob Bestvina has added labels on cabinets to increase the efficiency of cooks and servers as they host events. Well done!

How bright the Hostas and Marigolds and Pentecost Geraniums look in the neat gardens around our building! We owe thanks to many who pulled weeds and collected rubbish, to those who spread mulch, and to those who knelt to plant the flowers. The work happened over several weeks, and involved Roger, Janet, Diane, Roger, Dave and the Scouts, and probably others whose names are missing here. We appreciate your willing hands and the lovely results!

### **Rec Room update**

With plumbing completed in the Rec Room washroom, cleaning and painting the walls will be the next step. Any volunteers? From the samples brought to us by Bob Bestvina, the observers chose a floor tile similar to tiles in the parlor. We're grateful for progress toward reclaiming this space. Stay tuned!

### **We Extend Summer Hospitality**

**Sunday Supper**—Diane reminds donors to bring the Chicken dishes and cupcakes to church on Sunday, July 6 by 2:30 pm, or directly to First Church of the Covenant by 3:00 pm.

**Waldameer Picnic**—The Huff family once again will serve hot dogs, chips, and soft drinks, and participants are encouraged to bring a dish to share. The invitation has been extended to other churches of the Erie Lutheran Conference. Let's make new friends!

**Gem City Jazz Ensemble**—we'll serve refreshments to audience and musicians.

**Sloppy Joe sandwich dinner at Holy Trinity Church**—the last Thursday of July is always St. John's turn to bring a meal to this community, and we'll be recruiting food and servers in coming weeks. Carolyn welcomes volunteers!

**Cookies for Lutheran House in Chautauqua**—We send one car, four people, and dozens of cookies for the afternoon Social Hour. Our homemade cookies are highly praised! Carolyn welcomes volunteers!

### **Upcoming Events**

Sunday, July 6	St. John's serves Sunday Supper
Thursday, July 17	Church Picnic at Waldameer, with ELC guests, noon to ?
Wednesday, July 23	Gem City Jazz Ensemble concert, 7:00 pm
Thursday, July 31	St. John's hosts Sloppy Joe dinner for Holy Trinity community
Tuesday, August 12	St. John's serves homemade cookies, Lutheran House, Chautauqua
Sunday, August 10	ELC joint Beach worship service, 9:00 am, Cookhouse
Sunday, Sept. 7	God's Work, Our Hands
Sunday, Sept. 14	What it Means to be Lutheran/Congregational Potluck
Sunday, Sept. 28	CROP Walk



## St. John's Lutheran Church FAMILY PICNIC! THURSDAY, JULY 17TH, 2025

PICNIC GROVE HEADQUARTERS:  
**WEST LAKEVIEW SHELTER**  
**REGISTRATION-12:00 PM**  
**DINNER-Starting at 6:00 PM**

-Hot dogs, Chips, Table Setting, & Soda/Water will be provided-  
*~Please bring a dish to share~*

**Discount Combo Pass: Only \$25 each for use on day of picnic only**

*One-day Pass: \$40 for any day in the 2025 Season*

*No tickets are needed to attend the dinner only.*

Tickets available for purchase in the St. John's church office (2216 Peach Street)  
Monday – Thursday 9AM-2PM

Or may be purchased at the pavilion the day of the picnic  
Please RSVP by Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> to the church office (814)456-7596  
*Questions? Call the church office at (814)456-7596*



**Community Of Caring**  
*homeless shelter, food pantry, hot meals*

**We're invited to help provide for summer  
"PICNIC TIME"**

### **DONATIONS REQUESTED:**

- Heavy duty paper plates
- Heavy duty styrofoam plates
- Dessert plates
- Plastic silverware
- Napkins
- Hot and cold cups

**Container in narthex**

## INVITATION TO OUR: CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

*Beginning September 2025*



**Those who will be in  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade and above  
are invited!**

**SIGN-UP SHEET:** on the church office window.  
**QUESTIONS?** Ask Pastor Ralph, Tim and Leslye Durst.



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.



## What It Means to Be a Lutheran

### MEMBERSHIP CLASS

**Sunday, September 14  
2:00 to 7:00 pm  
Dinner at 5:00**

**Sign-up sheet:**  
church office  
window.

*Current members  
are invited as  
a refresher  
and support!*

**New Members received at worship:  
Sunday, September 21**

## A potluck meal for the whole congregation!



**Sunday,  
September 14  
at 5:00 pm  
in the Parlor**

**Sign-up sheet:**  
church office window.

Youth Group will be held on the **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month. All children from PreK – 8<sup>th</sup> grade are welcome to attend. Lunch will be provided. Bring a friend and come enjoy some fun, games and fellowship with us!

**When:** Sunday, September 7th

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

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

**Who:** PreK – 8<sup>th</sup> grade (invite a friend!)

**Questions?** Contact Leslye Durst 814-323-2134



**Watch for summer get togethers!**

## **Notice of a SPECIAL MEETING of the congregation of St. John's Lutheran regarding an update to the Bylaws of Dufford Terrace, Inc.**

**Due to IRS Tax Law** requirements for 501(C)3 corporations, Dufford Terrace must amend the Dufford Terrace Bylaws to include a Dissolution Clause. The Dissolution Clause is a statement that explains what said organization will do with its assets in the event that the organization dissolves. We must call a Special Meeting of the St. John's Congregation to vote on this change to the bylaws.

Also included will be a vote on an additional update related to Term Limits of an elected Dufford Officer.

### **A Special Meeting will be held immediately following the 10:00 AM Service of Worship on Sunday, July 13, 2025. A quorum of 40 members is required.**

If a quorum is not reached at the first meeting, a *second meeting* attempt will be held immediately following the 10:00 AM Service of Worship on *Sunday, July 27, 2025*.

If a quorum is not reached at the second meeting, a *third and final* meeting will be held immediately following the 10:00 AM Service of Worship on *Sunday, August 17, 2025*, at which time the number attending will be accepted as a quorum.

### **The agenda for the Special Meeting(s) will be strictly limited to the following:**

#### **Vote on Article To be added to the Bylaws:**

##### **Article XIII -- Dissolution Clause**

Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, as may be selected by the Board of Directors of this Corporation, to be used for, and devoted to, the purpose of carrying on a nonprofit housing project for independent living residents aged 62 and above, or to create an endowment for St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Erie, PA, or for another purpose to promote the general social welfare of the community of Erie County, PA. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes provided that nothing herein shall prohibit the Corporation from paying its just debts.

#### **Vote to Update Bylaws regarding Term Limits for Board Officers:**

Term Limit Language to be added (*in italics*):

Article 5.2 Term. Each officer shall hold office for a term of one (1) year, commencing on the first day of the month following his or her election, and may succeed himself or herself twice. After having served three terms, the officer may remain on the Board in accordance with Article IV, Sections 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 but not hold that same office for a period of 1 year. *However, if no other eligible and willing candidate is nominated, or steps forward to serve in that officer role at the time of election, the current officer may continue to serve beyond the term limit on a year-to-year basis, subject to annual approval by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. Such continued service shall not be considered a new term for the purposes of term limits and is intended solely to ensure continuity of leadership when necessary.*

### **Your presence at the Special Meeting(s) would be greatly appreciated!**

If you have any questions regarding the proposed changes, please contact Beth Nagy, President of the Dufford Terrace Board of Directors (ben2@psu.edu), or Roger Olsen, St. John's Council President and member of the Dufford Terrace Board of Directors (olsenhouse2375@gmail.com).

## *Music Notes*

***“We Sing, We Serve. We Ring, We Serve.”***

**NEW CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED:** Please consider the music ministry of St. John’s when planning your next year activities. We can use members in both the Chancel Choir and the Bell Choir. Choir rehearsals will resume in the Fall with rehearsals on Sunday mornings. Choir anthems are accessible and you don’t have to be a trained singer or musician to sing in the choir. Please keep the music of the Church in mind as you plan your Fall schedules.

**HYMN REQUESTS:** If anyone would like to request a favorite hymn for the 10:00 AM Service, please contact Kathy Swanson (swanson1910@gmail.com) or contact Rachel in the church office (office@stjohnserie.org) with the particular hymn. We ask that the hymn be in the red ELW hymnal.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** We are always looking for Special Music in the summer (or anytime really). 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 let Rachel know 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.




---

### ***Hello to our St. John’s Friends!***

It’s really tough to say goodbye so we’ll just say farewell for now. If you haven’t heard, Scot & I had been praying for a way to spend time with our families. I made the decision to “pause” my career to give us that gift. We planned to stay in Erie but decided it was just too far from family. We decided to sell our Erie home and move to a new city near family. We purchased a home in Dewitt, MI sight unseen and we’ve moved in. Unfortunately, we’re still awaiting some of our items from Erie. We’ve attended a couple of different churches but so far haven’t found a home like St. John’s. We miss our church family & Erie, but feel we made the right decision at the right time. We trusted in a plan other than our own and letting that take shape.

Love & Miss You,  
Julie & Scot Zoumbaris

## July 2025 St. John's Lutheran Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 	5 5PM WORSHIP
6 10AM WORSHIP	7	8	9 6PM CONG. COUNCIL	10 11:30AM WELCA	11	12 5PM WORSHIP
13 10AM WORSHIP	14	15 7PM Dufford Terrace Board	16	17  Waldameer Picnic Noon Registra- tion 6PM Dinner	18	19 5PM WORSHIP
20 10 AM WORSHIP	21	22	23 Gem City Jazz Ensemble Concert 7PM 	24	25	26 5PM WORSHIP
27 10 AM WORSHIP	28	29	30	31	Footsteps #93 Weekend	

### St. John's Lutheran Church

2216 Peach St., Erie PA 16502  
 (814) 456-7596 [www.StJohnsErie.org](http://www.StJohnsErie.org)  
 "You Belong Here!"