



St. John's News

Rev. Eric Reimer, Pastor

Church (518) 861-8862 fax 861-8068

E-mail – secretary@stjohnsaltamont.org

Website: www.stjohnsaltamont.org



Happy anniversary St. John's! I know the official 150th anniversary Worship Service has passed, but this is a year of celebrating 150 years of faithful ministry in this community as well as the ministry that continues now and into the future. St. John's Altamont is about to observe its 150th Holy Week as a congregation, and its first with me as its pastor. As this is our first Holy week together I want to share with all of you a tradition that has become very meaningful to me – The Chrism Mass.

When I was first ordained I served a congregation outside Pittsburgh. The Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod announced that the annual Chrism Mass would be held during Holy week at a church on the North Side of the city. I had never heard of a Chrism Mass or any Lutheran worship being called a mass since the time of Martin Luther. My curiosity was peaked and I had to investigate.

I learned that this is a worship service held every year in Holy Week. The Chrism Mass gets its name from the blessing and distribution of the Holy Oils. The three oils are the oil of the sick, the oil of the catechumenates (those beginning and ending confirmation or adults preparing for baptism), and the Sacred Chrism (used at baptism or whenever a reminder of baptism is warranted). This is where I receive the oil to anoint people at baptism, to anoint people with oil when they are ill, and the oil I used to anoint the confirmation class during the confirmation worship service at Pentecost and the confirmation entrance rite in September. After the oils are blessed the entire congregation is then invited to come forward to be anointed.

In addition to the communion and the holy oils the Chrism service is also an opportunity for all to renew their baptismal vows, and for pastors to renew their ordination vows. Renewing my vows every year in Holy Week has become a meaningful and important part of my faith and worship life. This year the USNY Synod will hold its Chrism Mass at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Glenville, NY. Worship will begin at 10am on Wednesday in Holy Week.

I have been blessed to serve in three Synods of the ELCA and thankfully all of them have held an annual Chrism Mass. I know that this will be an opportunity to worship, to hear the Bishop preach, to be anointed with Sacred Chrism, to renew my vows of baptism and ordination, to be

continued next page...

....continued from page 1

fed with the Body of Christ. In the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod we began the Chrism Mass by a few hundred clergy and lay people processing around several blocks on the North Side of Pittsburgh. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod did not have an outdoor procession, and its less formal worship service was followed by a smorgasbord of a meal in the fellowship hall with hours of fellowship. I have no idea what unique flavor the Upstate New York Synod will season into its Chrism Mass but I can't wait to tell you. Now I realize that many of you may not be excited about a Wednesday two hour worship service, but if you would like to attend with me please let me know I would be honored to have members of St. John's present as I renew my ordination vows for the coming year.



Saturday April 9, 10:30am - Memorial Service for Hal Grant at St. John's

Sunday April 10, 11:00am - Palm Sunday Worship at St. John's

Sunday April 10, 3:00pm - Memorial Service for Anna Marie Seiz at St. John's

Tuesday April 12, 12:00pm - Community Worship Altamont Senior's Luncheon

Wednesday April 13, 10:00am - Synod Chrism Mass at Good Shepherd, Glenville

Thursday April 14, 7:30pm - Maundy Thursday Worship at St. John's

Friday April 15, 1:00pm - Good Friday Worship at Altamont Reformed Church

Friday April 15, 7:30pm - Tenebrae Worship at St. John's

Sunday April 17, 6:30 - Sunrise Easter Worship at Rau Farm

Sunday April 17, 11:00am Easter Sunday Worship at St. John's



Don't Miss Out

Add your favorite pictures to the Anniversary slideshow!

It's not too late!! We plan to share a "revised" version at Easter.

We want to celebrate all the memorable St John's events and activities through the years. Send us your digital pictures (JPG) or drop off photos to the church office. You can pick up your precious photos in the church office at a later date.... once they have been digitized in a format we can use.

linda.garbellano@stjohnsaltamont.org
secretary@stjohnsaltamont.org

PASTOR ERIC INSTALLED MARCH 20, 2022

Sunday, March 20th was a very special day at St. John's! Dean of the Hudson Mohawk Conference, Rev. Jo Page, conducted the installation of Pastor Eric Reimer during worship and Council President Kate O'Donnell participated in the ceremony. Synod Bishop Lee Miller II also officiated at worship preaching the sermon and offering Holy Communion.

Pastor Eric and his family arrived in Altamont from Hatboro, PA in late August 2021 and took up residence at the Parsonage. Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and major surgery for Dean Page, the official installment was postponed until March 2022 to coincide with the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the new church building. The congregation donated a gift in Pastor Eric's honor to the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service which is gearing up to assist Ukrainian refugees coming to the USA. Congratulations and another warm welcome for Pastor Eric, Courtney, Vicki, Josiah and Eliza!



150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We were honored to have Bishop Lee Miller II join us in celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the dedication of St. John's new church building in 1872! As thanks for traveling to Altamont, preaching and offering Holy Communion on Sunday, March 20th, the congregation donated a \$150 gift in the Bishop's honor to the Synod Lenten Diaper Drive.

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Greg Zajac and Mindy traveled from western NY and former Pastor Rev. James and Mrs. Hulihan returned from Troy to celebrate. Also with us were Deacon Don Bunk, former Transition Pastor Rev. Joyce Fiore, Dean Rev. Jo Page and former interim pastor Rev. William and Mrs. Siiss from Amsterdam.

Photos are still coming in from the reception in the Fellowship Hall honoring Bishop Miller and Pastor Eric Reimer upon his official installation. Many photos will be added to Linda Garbellano's fabulous Anniversary revolving slideshow projected on the new mounted sanctuary screens prior to worship and in the hall during the reception. Many thanks are owed to Linda Garbellano, Music Director Agnes Armstrong, choir members, our Zoomer Linda Zell, the Altar Guild, Communion Preparers and the volunteers who brought food for the buffet and restored the hall and kitchen afterward. You made this a special day for all!



Highlights of the March 10th Council Meeting



Brad Grant, chair of Property Committee asked to address the council. The Property Committee recommended that we postpone the driveway project until next year due to the rising costs of petroleum products. Part of the driveway and some parking spots are owned by the Masonic Temple. Brad Grant and Pastor Reimer will meet with a representative of the Masonic Temple to inform them of the need to repair and

resurface the driveway and parking lot and determine how they plan to handle the part that belongs to them.

Plans for the Installment of Pastor Reimer and celebration of St. John's Sesquicentennial (150th) Anniversary were finalized including a reception in Fellowship Hall following the worship Service.

Timm Baldauf and I met with Gary Goss, the Building Inspector and Zone and Code Enforcement person for the Village of Altamont on March 3rd regarding the height of the balcony railing. The height of the railing would have to be raised nineteen inches in order to meet code requirements. Mr. Goss informed us that St. John's is exempt from the Building Code because of the age of the building. We will continue to keep the first row of pews closed off so no one can sit there.

Members of council checked out the newly installed Stair Lift and some tried it out. It is working well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kate O'Donnell, Council President

St John's is compiling a community cookbook to commemorate our 150th anniversary. We are not certain of the final format of this cookbook, but are hoping to have lots of current tasty recipes. It will include recipes from long ago culled from The Enterprise, and hopefully it will be a fun remembrance of our anniversary and our history..

If you have a recipe you would like to contribute, please email it to:

karen.williams@stjohnsaltamont.org

Submit Your Recipes





A memorial service for Hal Grant will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at 10:30am at St. John's. Light food and refreshments in fellowship hall after service. Beryl will be in attendance as well. Hal and Beryl formed many great friendships at church over the years and had a deep love for the church and its mission. The American Legion and St. Andrew Society will both have short

programs in the beginning.

On Sunday, April 10th at 3:00pm will be the Memorial Service for Anna Marie Seiz. She passed last year on Easter Sunday, and the COVID restrictions made it difficult to have the service at that time.

Easter Flowers

Easter flowers to decorate the altar for the Easter services can be ordered in Honor or in Memory of a special loved one. Order envelopes are located in a special basket at the back of the church. Please specify the person's name that you are ordering flowers for, if the flowers are "in memory" or "in honor" of that person. Please put your name and phone number on the envelope. The cost of each flower is \$16 and payment should be included with your order. All orders **must** be in by April 10th. If you have any questions, call Pat at 518-861-8862.



CHOIR PRACTICE

Rehearsals in preparation of Easter will be held in the sanctuary immediately following the 11:00 am worship service on Sundays, April 3rd and April 10th.



Coffee Hour after worship will resume in April. We already have volunteers for April 3rd & 10th, but we need you in the following weeks. There are sign up sheets in Fellowship Hall.

Collection for **OUR** **VETERANS**



May 17th - May 28

Tues - Sat 10 am - 2 pm

Fri 5 pm - 8 pm

St John's Lutheran Church

140 Maple Ave, Altamont

CURRENT NEEDS

Twin XL sheet sets, comforters/quilts

Bath towels, washcloths

Tissue boxes, paper towels, toilet paper

13 gal tall kitchen bags

Pasta, sauce, canned goods

Checks: Albany Housing Coalition, Inc

Sponsors: St John's Lutheran Church

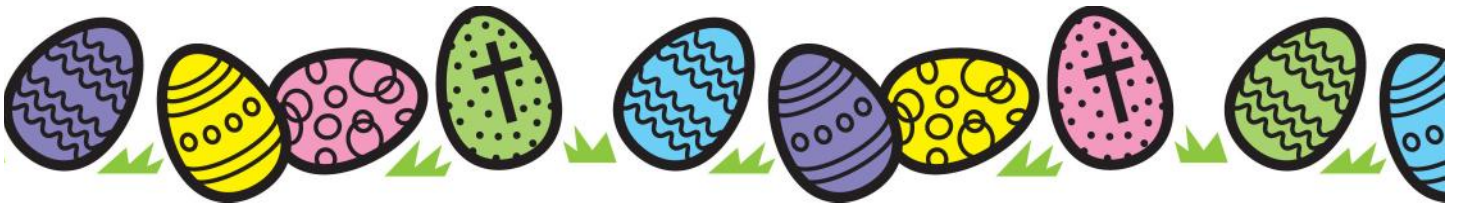
American Legion Helderberg Post 977

Boyd Hilton VFW Post 7062



April BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Ben Rosa
- 4 Carson Adams
- 4 Megan Connolly
- 9 Kolby LeClair
- 11 Olivia M. Langlois
- 12 Robert Freeman
- 12 Leah Farnum
- 13 Thelma Elgie
- 14 Violet McCutcheon
- 14 Scott Johnson
- 20 Charity Armstrong
- 21 Anne Choiniere
- 22 David Langlois, Jr.
- 27 Dan Scrafford
- 27 Katie Langlois
- 28 Kristen Johnson



If you have a change of phone number/
address/ email address or would like to be
added to the birthday/anniversary list, please
call the church office, 518-861-8862.

150th Anniversary Celebration



Please keep sending in more pictures of our celebration - we can celebrate the whole year!!

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran Church, a faith community united in love, filled with hope, and open to the power and gentleness of a holy spirit within us. We invite you to be part of the St. John's faith community. You are welcome at worship, in Sunday church school, at Fellowship events, at bible study and prayer gatherings. Together we can share our faith stories and continue on our spiritual journeys



Thank you Lord For:

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
140 Maple Avenue
P.O. Box 770
Altamont, New York 12009
Return Service requested

