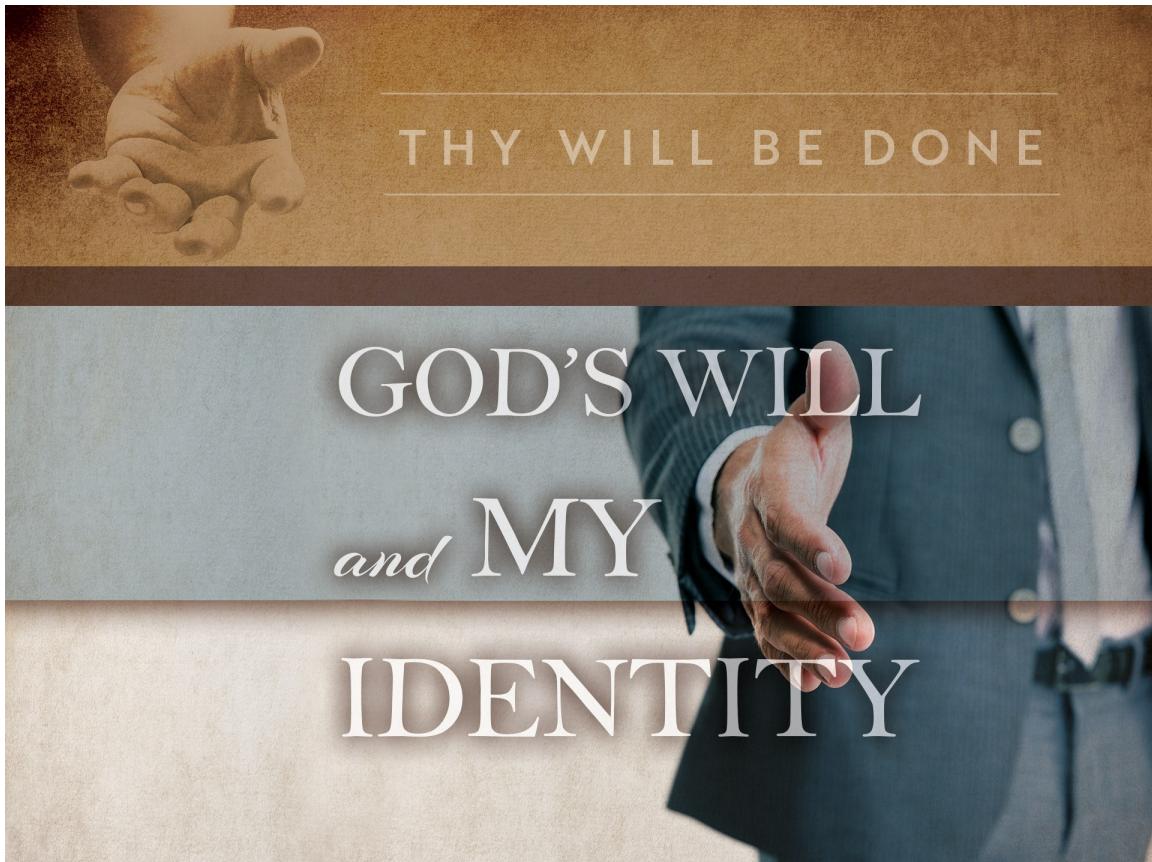


The 3rd Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 4th, 2018—8:30am



St. John's Lutheran Church

67 Litchfield Ave.
Depew, New York 14043
(716) 683-3947
www.sjlcdepew.com
Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr.
Ms. Lois Will, Music Director
Mr. Brad Lynch, Contemporary Worship Leader
Mrs. Stella Sawyer, Office Administrator

Schedule

Saturday Evenings, 4:30pm

Sunday Mornings, 8:30am (Traditional) and 11:15am (Contemporary)

"Nursery Care" provided downstairs for children ages 1-4 during 11:15am service.

Holy Communion—Celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class, Sunday Mornings, 10am (September-June)

Radio Broadcast WXRL 1300 AM, 11am Sundays

THOSE SERVING AMONG US

Acolytes	Dylan Pesch (8:30am), Paige Coffed (11:15am)
Altar Guild	Jon Barber & Dan Herbold
Elders	Jamie Bluhm (4:30pm), Ken Schabert (8:30am), John Hughey (11:15am)
Lectors	Jamie Bluhm (4:30pm), Sue Bluhm (8:30am), Arianna Lysiak (11:15am)
Radio Broadcast	Art Benson
Saturday Music	Brad Lynch

OUR WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST OVER WXRL is sponsored by
the People of St. John's,
to the Glory of God.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

are sponsored by ***the Herbold Family***,

in loving celebration of our blessed March birthdays:

Carson 8, Kayla 10, Ethan 17. Thank you God for these gifts..

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S



Just a friendly reminder.... Worship is sacred time; a time when God comes to us through his Word and Sacraments. In order to maintain reverence during worship we kindly ask that worshipers refrain from "regular conversation" during the service. Please refrain from cell phone use and ensure that ringers on phones are shut off before the service begins. **Please keep all food and beverage (with the exception of bottled water) out of the church/pews.** The "mother's room" in the back of the church is available for parents with young children should the need arise. The room is equipped with speakers and hymnals in order that those utilizing the room may continue to worship.

HOLY COMMUNION

Members may announce by signing a card in the pew rack and handing it to an Elder as they go forward to receive the Sacrament indicating they have been baptized and instructed in the meaning of the Sacrament (Agreeing with the clear teaching of Christ in the Holy Scriptures that His body and blood are truly present in the Sacrament and distributed to those who eat and drink offering forgiveness, life and salvation.) Those who are visiting St. John's and wish to participate in the Sacrament are kindly asked to speak to the pastor or an elder before the service begins. **PLEASE READ THE FRONT OF THE COMMUNION CARD IN THE PEW** for a clear understanding of our Confession. (*Note: Those who wish to receive the wine from the chalice are asked to cross their arms over their chest after receiving the bread. Please raise the chalice to your lips when the pastor comes to commune you.*)



Thy Will Be Done.... And My Identity

“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”
Luke 1:38

The Order of Service

♪ Opening Hymn “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” LW# 101

Invocation and Opening Litany

- P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☧ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C: **Amen.**
- P: When the time was fully come,
- C: **God sent forth his Son, born of a woman.**
- P: We thank our heavenly Father for our Lord’s humanity.
- C: **We thank our heavenly Father for the human family of which Jesus was a part.**
- P: Like Mary, mother of our Lord,
- C: **may we, the servants of the Lord in this time and place, also be humble, gentle and firm in faith.**
- P: May our spirits so rejoice in our God,
- C: **that our souls, too, magnify the Lord.**
- P: When events and circumstances seem to be overwhelming and beyond our control or understanding,
- C: **may our prayers also include this petition: “Lord, let it be to me according to your word. Amen.”**

Confession

- P: You have given us a new identity in your Son—Jesus who has made us your own and empowers us for servanthood. And yet sometimes we can make it more about us than serving—gentleness and togetherness. And so we confess:
- C: **We seek your compassion and forgiveness because sometimes we don’t bear Christ in our lives through our thoughts, our words, and actions. Sometimes we fail to carry him forward into the world, into our homes and even our churches. Though you have called us to be your people, we have lived as if we only needed to answer to ourselves. Send us your Spirit to help us live as your holy people.**

♪ Confessional Hymn

1. *The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!*

*Refrain: Worthy is the Lamb Whose death
makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning
on His throne!*

2. *The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
(refrain)*

3. *The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will
On our behalf the Law to fill.
(refrain)*

4. *He sighs, he dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me His own righteousness.
(refrain)*

Absolution

P: Almighty God in his mercy has heard our plea. He knows our weakness, our inadequacies and limitations. He has offered up his only Son as a sacrifice for our sins and iniquities. I by virtue of my office and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ as a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the ☧ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Gracious Lord, make our faith a little more like Mary's: Help us and ready us to do your will. We want to see our lives through the lens of your eternal Kingdom. We want to trust your promise and your leading. We want to bear you in our lives through service in the church, the world and our homes. Give us courage we pray to be your servants and to model your love, humility, faithfulness and gentleness. Through Christ our Lord, we pray.

C: Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He

will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Lenten Litany

The Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Verse

C: **Return to the Lord your God. For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." ³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even

Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.” ³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

♪ The Sermon Hymn “*Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways* ” LW #392

The Sermon Dialogue Rev. Galen Purpura
.....Elder Jamie Bluhm

The Offering

The Offering Prayer

P: Heavenly Father you have given us life.

C: **What can we give in return for our lives?**

P: We return them back to you.

C: **Accept these tokens. Accept our lives.**

P: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

The Prayers of the Church

P: Like Mary before us, we are humbled that you have chosen us to be a part of your family. Help us to be grateful to you and to honor you in all we do in thanksgiving for everything you called us to be through your power and strength. O Word made flesh,

C: **let us live to serve you, Lord.**

P: When tasks are daunting and we may not know if we can live up to the name Christian, help us to remember that you have made us who we are for a reason, and your purpose will come to pass through your divine will. May we never lose sight of your vision for our lives, and may we always trust that you will give us the abilities we need to carry out your plans. O Word made flesh,

C: **let us live to serve you, Lord.**

P: Thank you, Lord, for our mothers and fathers, and all those who cared for us in childhood and beyond. May we never forget the sacrifices they made for us and the insight they shared to help us to live more fully to our potential. Help mothers and fathers caring for children in our midst today turn to you for wisdom and guidance in living out their vocations as parents. O Word made flesh,

C: **let us live to serve you, Lord.**

- P: Bless those who, like Mary at the foot of the cross, mourn the loss of a loved one. Give them hope and confidence in your promise that all who die in the Lord are raised to life anew with you in heaven by your cross and empty tomb. Surround them, too, with family and friends to care for them in this time of sorrow, as John did for Mary. O Word made flesh,
- C: let us live to serve you, Lord.**
- P: Strengthen the bonds of families. Help them to grow to know and understand each other more and more. Encourage them to support and uplift one another through thick and thin, loving one another unconditionally. O Word made flesh,
- C: let us live to serve you, Lord.**
- P: When we have wondered from your way and lost a sense of who we are, search and seek us out and call us back to you. May we find our worth and our place and our motivation for living in your warm and protective embrace. Fill us with a desire to stay near to you in Word and devotion and prayer. O Word made flesh,
- C: let us live to serve you, Lord.**
- P: Care for, we pray, those in our family of faith who are sick and hurting in hospitals and at home with ailments of body, mind and spirit, especially ... Grant to them peace and comfort and recovery of energy, according to your will, and raise them up to continue the work you have created them to do for the expansion of your kingdom. O Word made flesh,
- C: let us live to serve you, Lord.**
- P: All these petitions we offer in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, who did the will of God and lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.**

The Service of the Sacrament

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also with you.**
- P: Lift up your hearts.
- C: We lift them up to the Lord.**
- P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**
- P: It is truly good right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:
- C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who**

comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

P: Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth, in mercy for our fallen world you gave your only begotten Son that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as He comes to us in his Holy Supper.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Institution

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

SPECIAL NOTE

During the winter months/flu season we will refrain from exchanging the peace in a handshake. Instead, Please take a moment to share a word of peace to your neighbor and those around you.

♪ Distribution and Distribution Hymns “*Christ the Life of All the Living*” LW #94
..... “*Amazing Grace*” LW # 509
..... “*I'm But a Stranger Here*” LW #515

Post Communion Prayer

P: Merciful God, accompany our journey throughout these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that repentant and forgiven we might live new lives trusting in your presence and promises—finding our only treasure in your Son Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you! The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace! In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Silent Prayer

♪ Closing Hymn "O Savior, Precious Savior" LW #282

The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the Holy Bible, New International Version NIV copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. All rights reserved.

Important Dates—Youth Group

Wednesday, March 14th, 5:30pm—Mid-Week Lenten Service, to assist with the soup and sandwich meal.

March Youth Group Event—Tubing, more information will follow, this event is dependent upon snow!

Remind messages will be sent!

ST. JOHN'S MEN'S GROUP

meets at 8am on the 1st and 3rd Saturday (*March 3rd & 17th*) of each month.

CAFÉ every month on the 3rd Thursday (*March 15th*).

SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Anyone interested in participating should contact Karen Dowdall (716-391-1171) (*March 3rd & 31st, Lorenz Home; March 17th, Lange Home*).

EVERYONE HAS A STORY

We all know that God is always there, but there are times when God steps into our lives in such a powerful way that he changes the landscape of our lives. We would like to document your stories and compile a booklet that would be made in-house and distributed to the congregation to lift us all. We invite you to submit your stories, art work, poems, etc. to put into this project. We hope to have this ready for Pentecost.

What's your story?



LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH WEDNESDAY MARCH 14TH, 6PM

We will have six cakes, if you'd like to help out, please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.



First Communion

Palm Sunday, March 25th

All students in 5th grade are invited to participate. Instruction session will take place Saturday, March 24th, from 10am—12noon. Please let Pastor Galen know if you plan on participating.

SPRING PLANT SALE

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 23RD

All orders must be prepaid and received no later than March 23rd.

The pick-up date has been scheduled for Saturday, May 19th, from 9:30 to 11:30am. Order forms can be found in the Narthex. If you have any questions, speak with Lois Will. Please do not place your order and/or payment in the offertory.



IN OUR PRAYERS: Carol Adragna; Sylvia Andolina; Jerry Bernfield; Jim Brennan; Evelyn Camarano; Shirley Christ; Shirley Connors; Harold Deutschlander; Ruth Dowd; Karen Durning; Janet Erickson; Tom Grzankowski; Nate, Sarah & baby Hoffman; Marlene Hutter; Cari Irvine; Don, Gail Kelm; Marge Kelm; Kori Kent; Rose Kirch; Nina Kyle, Deann Lorenz; Ron & Brittany Lorenz; Don Lynch; John Marone, Marsha McKinney; Lola Meyer; Donna Murawski; Carolyn Nosky; Phyllis O'Rourke; Elgene Peck; Carole Pleban; Barb Podisadlo; Ernie & Sue Reitzel; Pat Schlebus; Sam, Randy & baby Surface; Kim Theil, Jordan & Ryan Thurnherr; Norma VanDerwark; Betty Wilson. **OUR SERVICE MEMBERS:** Tracy Thurnherr, William Borowski. **FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S:** Sandy (Ruth Haungs' niece); Angela (Jay & Phyllis Hanson's daughter); Kyle, Rea, & Gloria (Kathy Ponosny's loved ones); Helen, Emily, Stanley (Ceil Rowell's friends); Delores Schad (Betty Cavaleri's sister-in-law); Meg (Carol Coffed's daughter-in-law); Mike & Gus (friends of Carol Coffed); Mary Dziejman (Jenn Purpura's grandmother); Brella (Betty Cavaleri's great granddaughter); Bill McIlhagga (Scott's father); Janie Jazwiecki (Dawn Smith's mother); Jackie & Steve Rogers (friends of Nina Kyle); Tom Fowler (friend of Ed & Deann Lorenz); Ray Helmicki (Christine Bluhm's brother); Beverly (Betty Cavaleri's daughter in law); Michael (Sam Surface's father); Chris Martino (Tony's son); Mark & Charlie (Sylvia's friends); Karen Plewik & Julie Reid (Linda Plewik's sister and niece); Katrina (Don & Barb Loney's daughter-in-law); Ray Nieman (RJ's dad); Russ (Heather Holtz's father); Warren (Rick Thurnherr's friend); Nate (Eric Lynch's friend); Carole (Fragale family friend); Deb (John Hughey's mom); Tony Manna (Katie & Joey's grandfather); Robert Power (Barb Perry's daughter-in-law's brother); Joe Bernacki (Barb Perry's friend & neighbor's father); Sharon Brady (Nicole Shields' grandmother); Glenn Laboski (Craig Shields' uncle); Laura Reynolds (Laura Tirone's friend); Gary Kent, Sr.; Danny (Colleen Hurley's brother); Alaina (Corine Lorenz's friend); Marvin (friend of Karen & Bob Zielen); Marge Blum (Jim Kless' cousin's mother in law); Dave (Wayne Dziejlewski's brother); Kristine (Irmgard's daughter); Jim (Barb Perry's niece's father in law). *Friends of St. John's" will remain on the prayer list for 4 weeks without further notification. If you would like to keep a prayer listed after 4 weeks, please contact us at that time by phone or email (683-3947 / stjohnslutheran.office@gmail.com).*

Attendance	4:30	8:30	11:15	Total	SS
24th & 25th	41	91	60	192	57

OUR CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Thank You for the financial blessings given to help carry out our ministry through St. John's.

Stewardship is a way of life . . . I Peter 4:10-11	Financial Mission Plan through January 2018	Mission 2018		WXRL Radio Broadcast through January 2018	
		Giving			
		Last Week	Plymouth Crossroads		
			Y-T-D		
Goal	\$ 20,256.24	\$ 4,632.00			
Giving - Actual	\$ 17,847.25	\$ 4,179.75	\$ 577.00	\$ 795	
Expenses - Actual	\$ 20,142.09			\$ 1,080	
Difference - Actual	(\$ 2,294.84)	(\$ 452.25)		(\$285) ₁₁	

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S ...

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5 7:15pm Elder's Meeting	6 6pm 6th Grade Confirmation Class 7pm Praise Band	7 6pm Mid Week Lenten Service Holy Cross 7pm Choir 8pm AA	8 10am Erie County Home (meet at church at 9:15am)	9 Pastor's Day Off	10 4:30pm Worship Service 8pm AA	11 8:30am Worship Service 10am Sunday School 11:15am Worship Service



Mid-Week Lenten Services
(6pm, Soup & Sandwich meal;
7:15pm, Hymn Sing;
7:30pm, Worship Service):
3/7—Holy Cross, Clarence
3/14—St. John's, Depew
3/21—Our Savior, Buffalo

Palm Sunday, 1st Holy Communion

Saturday, March 24th, 4:30pm
Sunday, March 25th, 8:30am & 11:15am
Worship Services with Holy Communion

Seder Meal, Wednesday, March 28th, 6:30pm
RSVP sheets are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex, or send an email to the office.

Maundy Thursday, March 29th
7:30pm, Worship Service
with Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 30th,
7:30pm, Worship Service

Easter Vigil, March 31st
4:30pm, Worship Service
with Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, April 1st
6am, 8:30am, 11:15am
Worship Services
with Holy Communion



Easter Flowers
to decorate St. John's
Cost: Hyacinth, \$6
Lilies, \$6.50
Deadline:
Sunday, March 18th
Please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board to place your order.