

The 4th Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 11th, 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

AcolytesBranden Purpura (8:30am), Alexandra Irvine (11:15am)
Altar Guild Jon Barber & Dan Herbold
EldersBob Chapman (4:30pm), Ken Schabert (8:30am), John Hughey (11:15am)
LectorsBob Chapman (4:30pm), Jamie Bluhm (8:30am), John Hughey (11:15am)
Radio Broadcast Debra Wisniewski
Saturday Music Tichy Family

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 *Ernest & Sue Reitzel,*
in loving memory of Fran Lorenz and for our many blessings.

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.

May the Lord richly bless your worship!

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

♪ Opening Hymn “Nearer My God to Thee” LW# 514

Invocation and Opening Litany

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law,

C: **so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.**

P: Therefore, no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law;

C: **rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.** (*Romans 3:19-20*)

P: We know that the law is spiritual;

C: **but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.**

P: I do not understand what I do.

C: **For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.** (*Romans 7:14-15*)

Confession

P: And so we confess to you:

C: **Almighty God, We seek your compassion and forgiveness for those times when we do what we shouldn't do and don't do what we ought to do. We are by nature sinful and unclean. We are spiritually blind. We sin against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. In your power—cause the scales to fall from our eyes. Forgive us, restore us, renew us.**

♪ 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, open our eyes to see. In those times when we harden our hearts, when we rest on our own assumptions and our own understanding of things in the world and church; guide us by your Spirit that we might see your vision. Cause the scales to fall, that we may emerge from the dark strengthened in our witness and utterly dependent on your grace. Conform our mind and will to yours. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Choir Anthem *“Do This and Remember Me”*

The First Reading

Acts 9:1-18

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶“Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” ⁷The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything. ¹⁰In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord,” he answered. ¹¹The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹²In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.” ¹³“Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴And he has come here with

authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” ¹⁷Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Lenten Litany

The Second Reading

Romans 8:31-39

³¹What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? ³³Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? ³⁶As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Mark 10:46-52

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

⁴⁶Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began

to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.”⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

♪ **The Sermon Hymn** *“Amazing Grace ” LW #509*

The Sermon Dialogue Rev. Galen Purpura
 Elder John Fragale

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: O Lord, thank you for giving us the example of St. Paul, whose worldview was transformed in a way that brought the message of the Gospel to light in dramatic fashion. Awaken in us a sense of awe and wonder at how what Christ did for us on the cross changes everything about how we see the world and how we live our lives for him. O Christ, who came to save the world,

C: **let us see the world through your eyes.**

P: Sometimes, O Savior, our worldview can get blurry and out of focus. For that, we are truly sorry. Through the study of your Word, time in worship and a deeper prayer life, help us to get refocused on you and clearer in our commitment to your will and your way. O Christ, who came to save the world,

C: **let us see the world through your eyes.**

P: Work in the hearts of those who have turned away from you and those who seek to do your followers harm. Bring messengers of your Gospel to them, like Ananias, and warm their cold hearts that they may turn their lives around and turn toward

you. Make us bold in our service just as you did with Annanias. May we be beacons of hope and sources of saving news to all your wandering sheep. O Christ, who came to save the world,

C: let us see the world through your eyes.

P: After his conversion, St. Paul spent his life teaching and preaching the Good News of Jesus to nations far and wide, dear Lord. Let us support pastors and teachers in our faith communities to continue the work St. Paul carried out so long ago. And give us generous hearts to support the work of missionaries who serve in far-off lands, often in the very places where St. Paul set foot. Grant them receptive hearts and minds to the message of the salvation found through your death and resurrection. O Christ, who came to save the world,

C: let us see the world through your eyes.

P: St. Paul went through many trials in his time serving the Lord, and we, too, struggle as we serve you. Be with those who are sick and injured, hospitalized or homebound, especially ... Give them an extra measure of your grace, and fill them with the confidence that no matter what happens, you are with them and you will be their rock of refuge. O Christ, who came to save the world,

C: let us see the world through your eyes.

P: Dear Jesus, supply renewed resolve to all those who are persecuted throughout the world for your sake. Keep your cross always before them. Let them never succumb to fear or doubt, but only have faith that the road ahead leads ultimately to paradise with you. O Christ, who came to save the world,

C: let us see the world through your eyes.

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 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.

Benediction

P: The 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** *"What is the World to Me" LW #418*

We leave to enter the Mission Field

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Important Information—Youth Group

Young Hearts (from Birth to Grade 5):
 Text Remind
 Text # 81010
 Text
 Box @little gift

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

A big Thank You to the youth for providing top notch service during the congregational spaghetti dinner. Your service with a smile and willingness to go above and beyond did not go unnoticed. At one point my daughter spilled her drink and you were cleaning the mess up before I could even say the word napkin. Again, many thanks to the exceptional youth of this congregation.
 Brian Mayback

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?



**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.**

Attendance	4:30	8:30	11:15	Total	SS
3rd & 4th	39	98	61	198	51

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 February 2018	Mission 2018		WXRL Radio Broadcast through February 2018
		Giving	St. Luke’s Pantry	
		Last Week	Plymouth Crossroads	
			Y-T-D	
Goal	\$ 20, 256.24	\$ 4,632.00	\$ 590.00	
Giving - Actual	\$ 39,722.12	\$ 6,967.81		\$ 2,323.92
Expenses - Actual	\$ 38,467.36			\$ 1,800.00
Difference - Actual	\$ 1,254.76	\$ 2,335.81		\$ 523.92



IN OUR PRAYERS: Carol Adragna; Sylvia Andolina; Jerry Bernfield; Jim Brennan; Evelyn Camarano; 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 Dziejilewski'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 / stjohslutheran.office@gmail.com). Thank you!



LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH WEDNESDAY MARCH 14TH, 6PM

We need 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 to participate.



The Lector Schedule and sign-up sheet for the months of March, April and May is on the office hallway bulletin board.

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S ...

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12 7:30pm Council Meeting	13 6pm 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Class 7pm Praise Band	14 6pm Mid Week Lenten Service St. John's 7pm Choir 8pm AA	15 10am Erie County Home (meet at church at 9:15am)	16 Pastor's Day Off	17 8am Men's Group 4:30pm Worship Service 7pm Bible Study, Lange Home 8pm AA	18 8:30am Worship Service 10am Sunday School 11:15am Worship Service  HOLY COMMUNION



Mid-Week Lenten Services
(6pm, Soup & Sandwich meal;
7:15pm, Hymn Sing;
7:30pm, Worship Service):
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.

Mauddy 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

DON'T FORGET TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!



Easter Flowers
to decorate St. John's
Cost: Hyacinth, \$6
Lilies, \$6.50

Deadline: Next Sunday, March 18th
Please use the sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board to place your order.



Join us this afternoon at Flix Stadium (10 Transit Road, Lancaster) for the movie *Peter Rabbit*. We'll meet at 1pm—cost is \$5 per child. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to RSVP!

The **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 17th, Lange Home; March 31st, Lorenz Home).



The Feast of Passover—The Seder Meal

Wednesday, March 28th, 6pm

\$12 Per Person

Please see Pastor Galen for your tickets.

The **Mystery Dinner** event originally scheduled for Friday, March 9th has been rescheduled:

Friday, April 20th.

Where: St. John's

When: 6pm to 9pm

Cost: \$8 per person



Join us for a fun-filled dinner and reserve your table now.

COMING SOON

Butterflies—Saturday, March 31st

Mother's Day—Sunday, May 13th

Plant Sale Delivery—Saturday, May 19th

Pentecost / Confirmation—Sunday, May 20th

Chicken Barbeque—Date to be Determined