

# The St. John's Journal Community Connect

A Monthly publication of St. John's Lutheran Church, Depew, New York

## A Series of Special Services for Advent

In this worship series for traditional worship for Advent, we contemplate the many ways we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child on Christmas, taking cues from the psalms of old and from those whom God chose to play a part in the story of our Lord's birth. As we draw near to the manger bed of our Savior from sin and death, our hearts prepare him room for his everlasting love.

**Week 1: 12/2 & 12/3 — Ponder** (Psalm 48:9): We consider ways in which we can ponder the meaning of the birth of our Savior through the reading of Scripture and through reflection. Mary serves as a model for us in this pondering in the Annunciation.

**Week 2: 12/9 & 12/10 — Pray** (Psalm 69:13): We think about ways in which we can take more time during this season to communicate to our God through prayer as we wait for Christ. Zechariah, who went to the temple to pray, serves as an example for us of how hard that waiting in prayer can be.

**Week 3: 12/16 & 12/17 — Praise** (Psalm 30:4): We celebrate the upcoming arrival of our Savior through songs and shouts of praise as we prepare for him. Elizabeth, in her greeting of Mary, provides a benchmark for rejoicing with others over the good news of salvation in Jesus, even as we wait.

**Week 4: Saturday, 12/23 — Proclaim** (Psalm 145:6): We contemplate how we can prepare ourselves and others for the arrival of Jesus through our proclaiming. John the Baptist stands as the forerunner of all future proclaimers of Christ and gives us the courage to use our own voices to proclaim our devotion to the One who is born to save.

**Longest Night: 12/21 7:00pm**

**Christmas Eve Services: 2:30pm; 4:30pm; 7:00pm**

**Christmas Day Service: 10:00am**

December 2023



Christ | Christian Community | Cause

I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.

**The Mission of St. John's** is grounded in the presence of Christ in God's Word and in the Sacraments. We are called by the Holy Spirit to spread the Kingdom of God through ministering to all of our members and sharing the love of Christ with all people by preaching the true Word of God, providing ongoing Biblical education for spiritual growth and reaching others with God's love in all we say or do.

### Weekly Worship

**Saturday Evening  
Blended  
4:30pm**

**Sunday Traditional  
8:30am**

**Sunday Contemporary  
11:15am**

**Sunday Morning BLAST!  
10:00am**

**Worship Broadcast  
WXRL- AM 1300 / FM 95.5  
at 11:00am**

## Those Serving December 2023

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
12/3	Jim Kless	Rod Lorenz	John Fragale	John Fragale
12/10	Jim Kless	Sue Bluhm	John Fragale	John Fragale
12/17	Jim Kless	Karen Shafer	John Fragale	John Fragale
12/21	Longest Night: Elder: Betty Cavaleri   Lector: Rod Lorenz			
12/24	2:30p: Betty C.,		Aleigha Sharpe	
12/24	4:30p: Ken S., Karen D., Barb P.		Ken Schabert	
12/24	7:00p: Barb P., John P., Betty C.		Karen Shafer	
12/25	Elder: Harold Deutschlander   Lector: Sue Bluhm			
12/31	Jim Kless	Aleigha Sharpe	John Fragale	John Fragale

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
12/2	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall
12/9	Betty Cavaleri	Pastor
12/16	John Preston	John Preston
12/23	Harold Deutschlander	Pastor
12/30	Rod Lorenz	Aleigha Sharpe

<u>Altar Guild</u>	
<b>December</b>	Nick & Alex Krupa Mary Warner



### **Holy Grounds**



Sign-up on the Narthex Bulletin Board to bring baked goods for Coffee Hour!



Thursdays at 6:00pm  
Will Resume in Jan. 2024!

### **Arise and Shine**



Thurs., Dec, 7th at 10am

# November Council Highlights

As reported on 11/12/23

- New Business– Vote to add to St. Paul's to make an even \$2,000 donation. Making 50 \$10 envelopes for congregation members to purchase for Tri-Community Food Pantry.
- Financial Report– Mike Brown—\$1,690 collected for St. Paul's.
- Elders– Rod Lorenz—Still working on photo directory in January 2024. Best way to get weather alerts and church closing info is to give phone no. to church so members can receive text alerts. Discussion around new organist.
- Stewardship– Ed Lorenz– Received about 58 information cards back for consecration weekend.
- Family Ministry– Cheryl Boling—Ice skating event coming in Dec. Youth to help with blessing bags and possibly the Christmas Pageant.
- Trustees— Gary H., Guy R., Larry R.—snow plow contract confirmed, Danforth will be in to check boilers and Great Lakes to perform fire alarm system check.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz—Fall Mission is collecting for Tri-Community and blessing bags. Christmas pageant on Dec. 17th during the 11:15a service.
- Shepherd's Staff— Helana Geisen—62 Poinsettias Sold



Next Council Meeting: December 11th, 7:00pm

## November Radio and Flower Sponsorships

11/5	<b><i>Nina &amp; Kevin Wright</i></b> <i>In memory of our parents.</i>	<b><i>Lois Will</i></b> <i>In memory of my husband, Paul H. Will Jr. who entered eternal life on Nov. 3rd, 2012.</i>
11/12	<b><i>Anne Bovo</i></b> <i>To the Glory of God!</i>	<b><i>Marsha McKinney</i></b> <i>Blessed birthday wishes to my grandson, Harley on his 24th birthday.</i>
11/19	<b><i>The Boling Family</i></b> <i>For God's many blessings.</i>	<b><i>Cindy Kloss</i></b> <i>In memory of Ernie Reitzel and over 50 years of friendship with the Kloss family.</i>
11/26	<b><i>The Sabadasz Family</i></b> <i>For God's blessings to all our radio listeners</i>	<b><i>The Sabadasz Family</i></b> <i>In memory of Marc Garrison who ent home to be with Jesus 13 years ago (Nov. 27). We miss and love you, Marc.</i>

Interested in sponsoring a broadcast or flowers? Openings are available!

Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board near the church office.

Full broadcast is \$180.00 (or \$45.00 per line) | Flowers: \$25.00/wknd



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRIDAY	SAT.
<h1>DECEMBER 2023</h1>					<b>1</b> Office Closed  5p—Scrap-booking Group	<b>2</b> 8a— Men's Group 4:30p Wor-ship w/ H.C. 8p— A.A
<b>3 1st Sunday of Advent</b> 8:30a— Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a—BLAST 10:00a—Adult Bible Class 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C.	<b>4</b> Office Closed  7:15p— Elder's Meeting	<b>5</b>  5:30p— Girl Scouts (1)	<b>6</b> Office Closed  7p— Choir 8p— A.A.	<b>7</b> 10a— Arise & Shine  6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	<b>8</b> Office Closed  5p— Scrap-booking Group	<b>9</b> 4:30p Wor-ship 6:00p— Watch Par-ty 8p— A.A.
<b>10 2nd Sunday of Advent</b> <i>Budget Vote &amp; Elections</i>  8:30a— Worship 10:00a—BLAST 10:00a—Confirmation Class 11:15a-Worship	<b>11</b> Office Closed  7:00p— Council Meeting	<b>12</b>  6:30p— Girl Scouts (2)	<b>13</b> Office Closed  7p— Choir 8p— A.A.	<b>14</b>  6p—Café 6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	<b>15</b> Office Closed  5p— Scrap-booking Group	<b>16</b> 8a— Men's Group 4:30p Wor-ship w/ H.C. 8p— A.A.
<b>17 3rd Sunday of Advent</b>  8:30a— Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a—Adult Bible Class 11:15a— BLAST Christmas Pageant	<b>18</b> Office Closed	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Office Closed  8p— A.A.	<b>21</b>  <i>7pm - Longest Night</i>	<b>22</b> Office Closed  5p— Scrap-booking Group	<b>23 4th Sunday of Advent</b>  4:30p Wor-ship 8p— A.A.
<b>24 Christmas Eve</b>  2:30p— Worship 4:30p—Worship 7:00p—Worship	<b>25 Christ-mas Day</b>  10:00a— Worship  Office Closed	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Office Closed  8p— A.A.	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Office Closed  5p— Scrap-booking Group	<b>30</b>  4:30p Wor-ship 8p— A.A.
<b>31 First Sunday of Christmas</b> <i>Nominee Acceptance/ Declination Deadline</i> 8:30a— Worship 10:00—Confirmation 11:15a-Worship						





# Fall Mission Project

Sunday Morning BLAST will be supporting the **TRI-COMMUNITY Food Pantry** by putting together Blessing Bags for people in need in our community.

**They will be collecting the following Travel sized items:**

toothpaste/toothbrushes dental floss/mouthwash brushes/combs bar soap/pump soap  
hand wipes nail clippers/nail files Small Kleenex packs shampoo/conditioner deodorant

**Please send any of the above items in by December 17<sup>th</sup>.  
Please place any donated items in the plastic bin in the Narthex.**

The Sunday School Children will be filling the Blessing Bags and making postcards to attach to each bag.

**Thank you for your support!**



## Youth & Family Highlights



### **Ice Skating Event**

Jr. & Sr. High Youth (6th-12th Grade)

Fri. Dec 8th—Ice skating then pizza at Keohane's. \$10/person. Meet at church at 6pm.

**Sat. Dec. 16th, 10am**—Youth will Assist with BLAST Christmas Pageant Rehearsal and Blessing Bags.

**Sun. Dec. 17th, 10:30am**—Youth will assist with BLAST Christmas Pageant

**Weekend Winter Activity—Jan 5th—Details Coming Soon!**

### **Congregational Soup-er Bowl & Dessert Bake Off**

Sun. Jan. 28th, following the 11:15a service. More details to come!



### **Young Hearts Family & Friends Bowling Event**

**Sat. Feb 17th, 1-4pm**- Alden Lanes, 1212 Sandridge. Cost \$4/game - includes shoe rental, pizza, & soda.  
Pub food & other beverages available for purchase. Sign up available soon!

### **SAVE-THE-DATES!**

Jr. & Sr. High Spring POTL Retreat May 17-19, 2024 (Fall- 9/27-9/29/24)

Congregational Picnic at Pioneer-On-The-Lake, Sat. August 17, 2024



## FINANCIAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thank you for the ongoing support.  
Your giving makes a difference in our lives and our community.

**Our Financial Mission Plan for spreading the Gospel to carry out ministry  
through St. John's.**

\$287,915—Budget for 2023 for Congregational Vote on 12/10/23

Besides the everyday increases we all live with... Changes:  
Mission—\$500—added a line for Disaster Relief  
Youth—\$8,000—increase in youth participation.

### St. John's Lutheran Church Proposed Budget 2024

Missions	\$24,040	Pastor	\$108,848
Worship Ministry Total	\$6,500	Staff Payroll	\$56,577
Boards	\$12,650	Bldg, Grounds Maint.	\$51,300
Church Office/Tech/Internet	\$28,000	Proposed Annual Budget	\$287,915

2024 Budget of \$ 287,915 is an increase of 3.3% over 2023

### Suggested increase in support of our Ministry

Currently Weekly Giving	3.30% Increase	Blessed Round Up
\$10	\$0.33	\$10.50
\$20	\$0.66	\$21.00
\$25	\$0.83	\$26.00
\$30	\$0.99	\$31.00
\$50	\$1.65	\$52.00
\$75	\$2.48	\$78.00
\$100	\$3.30	\$103.00
\$150	\$4.95	\$155.00
\$200	\$6.60	\$207.00

**Election and Budget Vote: 12/9 & 12/10/23**

## December Birthdays

Betty	Cavaleri	1
Alex	Krupa	1
John	Preston	1
Christine	Bluhm	1
Elaine	Grzankowski	3
Julianna	Burnham	3
Gregory	Yaskow	5
Matthew	Beck	7
Suzanne	Sabadasz	8
Richard	Sabadasz	9
Sandra	Haase	9
Nicole	Edwards	12
Amzie	Lorenz	13
Nathan	Bluhm	13
Taylor	Keohane	16
Susan	Plewik	17
Barbara	Loney	18
Noelle	Edwards	19
Kathleen	Earsing	19
Rosemarie	Contella	20
Tracy	Lumb	20
Ella	Silakowski	21
Douglas	Rutkowski	24
Joseph	Wisniewski	26
Lidia	Benson	30
Brian	VanDewark	31
Daniel	VanDewark	31

## December Anniversaries

4 Kathleen & Bruce Earsing

12 Wayne & Karen Shafer



### December Mission and Ministry Prayers

**Summit Life**—O God, Creator of Life, You knit us together in the wombs of our mothers, and You desire us to have life. Look in mercy and love upon all the precious lives of children yet unborn. Influence all mothers, our society, and the church that together we might be about the business of life preservation from natural birth to natural death. Help all of us to be a voice box and advocate for the unborn. We pray a special prayer this day on behalf of THE SUMMIT LIFE OUTREACH CENTER. Bless all involved as they minister to families with compassion and care.

**Café and Arise & Shine**—Fulfilling God, you give us your Word for our spiritual nourishment. Bless the ST. JOHN'S C.A.F.E./ARISE & SHINE GROUPS as they fellowship with each other and gather around your Word. Open the hearts and minds of all gathered so that bonds might be cultivated and faith strengthened.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

67 Litchfield Ave.  
Depew, New York 14043

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Web: [www.sjlcdepew.com](http://www.sjlcdepew.com)

***Pastor***

**Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr.**

***Pastoral Assistant***

**Rev. Howard Warner**

***Organist and Music Director***

**Mrs. Lois Will**

***Contemporary Music Leader***

**Mr. RJ Nieman**

**ST. JOHN'S OFFICERS:****President:**

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**Elders:**

([Elders@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:Elders@sjlcdepew.com))  
*Rod Lorenz (Chair)*  
*Betty Cavaleri*  
*Harold Deutschlander*  
*Karen Dowdall*  
*John Fragale, Jr.*  
*Jim Kless*  
*Amy Krupa*  
*Barb Perry*  
*Bob Plewik*  
*John Preston*  
*Ken Schabert*  
*Tom Stutzman*

**Board of Trustees:**

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*Guy Ramey*  
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**Sunday School Superintendent:**

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**Prayer Chain:**

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**Radio Announcers:**

*Jim Kless*  
*Karen Lorenz*  
*Darlene Schwenk*  
*Debra Wisniewski*

**Altar Guild Chair:**

*Betty Cavaleri*

**Communion Assistants:**

*Tom Bluhm*  
*Bob Chapman*  
*Jim Kless*  
*Rod Lorenz*  
*John Preston*  
*Guy Ramey*  
*Tom Stutzman*  
*John Sweeney*  
*Howard Warner*

**Communion Deacons:**

*Betty Cavaleri*  
*Deann Lorenz*  
*Jane Marone*  
*Karen Shafer*  
*Lois Will*  
*Caroline Coffed*



St. John's is a  
member  
congregation of  
the LCMS.