

# The St. John's Journal Community Connect

February 2024



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

Dear Friends in Jesus,

So what is Lent all about? I suppose it depends on who you are talking to doesn't it?

Historically Lent is a 40 day period of time-(not including Sundays: Sunday's are always feast days celebrating the resurrection) set aside as a time of preparation and contemplation; a time of reflection as we consider what Jesus has done for us on the cross; a time of repentance and renewal in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. Of course, there are various ways that folks might use this time to prepare:

- Regular time of devotion each day
- Regular prayer time each day
- Regular worship (on Sundays & the mid-week Lenten rotations in our circuit.)

And then for the some, the 40 day period of preparation might be a time when they choose to sacrifice or give something up. This is a very popular discipline; especially the practice of giving up meat on Fridays. However, whether you are giving up chocolate, Pepsi, some other sweet, or just sticking to meat on a Friday; the question ought to be, WHY? Are we doing it out of obligation or are we doing it because it helps us see Jesus more clearly?

At the end of the day, Lent is a time to fix our eyes on our Lord's sacrifice on that very cross for our sake. The traditions and practices of Lent should always point us or help us see God's free grace and his forgiveness and favor won only by the death of Christ Jesus.

Tradition is good if it helps us in reflecting on the truth and meaning of Christ crucified. If giving something up is helpful to you and contributes to your spiritual Lenten walk by drawing you closer to Jesus, then it is a useful and good practice. If it's not, then that is OK! **(BTW instead of giving up "something that only impacts you" what about giving up-sacrificing a part of your self or routine; your time and talents for the good of someone else- for the good of community.... Just a thought!)**

It's all a matter of Christian freedom. It isn't about requirement. It isn't about obligation. It isn't about one being more devout than the other. It's about thinking on our Lord's death in a meaningful way.

May this Lenten season draw you closer to God and help you fix your eyes on the cross that there you might see Jesus more clearly; that there you might see the sacrifice Jesus made for you so that you might freely know love, forgiveness and new life!

God bless your Lenten journey!

*Pastor Cal +*

## Transfiguration of Our Lord The Last Sunday after Epiphany

February 11th

This festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins. On a high mountain, Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We next turn to our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. We will put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of Transfiguration Sunday. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.



### **St. John's Weather Cancellations**

Should worship services need to be cancelled due to weather the cancellation notice will be posted to the following:

**WXRL– AM 1300 or 95.5 FM**

**WBEN –AM 930**

**WGRZ-Channel 2**

**WIVB-Channel 4**

A Mass email and text message will be sent through our church database. If we don't have your e-mail or cellphone #

**PLEASE PROVIDE IT!!**

A message will also be posted on the church website– displayed on the “ticker” at the top of the home page.  
[sjlcdepew.com](http://sjlcdepew.com)

## Lectionary & Communion Schedule

**February 4, 2024**

Epiphany 5

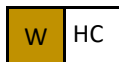
Is. 40:21-31; 1 Cor 9:16-23;  
Mark 9:2-9



**February 11, 2024**

Transfiguration

2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Cor 4:3-6;  
Mark 9:2-9



**February 14, 2024**

Ash Wednesday

Is. 25:6-9; Heb. 11:8-19;  
Matt 22:29-33



**February 18, 2024**

Lent 1

Ex. 3&4; Num. 20:2-13, 21:4-9; John 3:14-18



**February 25, 2024**

Lent 2

2 Sam. 7:4-29; Hebrews 10:1-5; Matt. 22:41-46



# January Council Highlights

As reported on 1/15/24

- New Business— Introductions of the committee members, new and returning. 2023 reflections. 2024 Goals. Communications, discussion about removing all of the remind groups and use Simple Church for communications.
- Financial—Mike Brown—2023 Radio Gifts were over what was needed. The extra was transferred to the Grace Blackwell Media Fund. Financial Review is January 28, 2024 after 11:15 service.
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Working out an instruction sheet for the radio and live stream. Photo directory pictures were postponed until April.
- Stewardship— Ed Lorenz— Still working with Greenfield and opportunities for members to participate
- Family Ministry— Cheryl Boling— Next activity is Feb. 17th, Bowling activity. Looking for all church members (young and old) to attend.
- Trustees— Larry R., Gary H. Joe M.— appear to have a current leak in the church. Update to the church security system. Level out the choir loft. Remove old kitchen.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— May 19 is the last day of individual classes. Doing large group through end of June.
- Shepherd's Staff— Becca Hojnacki— Meeting with Helana to better understand the position.
- Pastor—Went over sick list. Weather cancelations be patient, it is a process. Created a new booklet to help people with the passing of a loved one. Discussed challenges of confirmation. Will be scheduling new member class.



Next Council Meeting: February 12th, 7:00pm

## Financial Director's Report—as of January 28, 2024—Budget: \$\$23,993

	This YTD	Last YTD
2024 Giving	\$20,014	\$24,989
Ministry Expense	\$24,457	\$27,821
Net Income	<b>(\$4,443)*</b>	<b>(\$2,832)</b>
<i>* Lost 1 Sunday due to 1/14/24 Snowstorm</i>		

Radio Broadcast	January 2024
Sponsorship	\$525.00
Air Time	\$1,080
(This equals Approx. 3 Sponsorships)	<b>(\$555)</b>

## Those Serving February 2024

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
2/4	Jim Kless	Karen Shafer	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
2/11	Jim Kless	Jamie Bluhm	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
2/18	Jim Kless	Sue Bluhm	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
2/25	Jim Kless	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>February Altar Guild</u>
2/3	John Fragale	John Fragale	Tom & Sue Bluhm Kathy Beck
2/10	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert	
2/17	Barb Perry	Barb Perry	
2/24	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall	

### WORSHIP ASSISTANT BREAKFAST

All those who assist with worship or who are interested in learning about opportunities to serve in the various worship ministries are invited to attend!



**Saturday, March 2nd at 9:00am**  
Sign-up on the Bulletin Board!

### Holy Grounds



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

## February Mission and Ministry Prayers

### The LCMS & Eastern Dist.

O Christ, you have called your church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and teaching them to observe everything You commanded. Bless our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,. Bless also our Eastern District as the support the ministries of the local church. Give to them faithful servants and adequate resources to carry forward mission in your name.

### Deacons

O God, most merciful Father, we praise you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ who is servant of all and who has given us an example to follow in our ministry. Be with our DEACON PROGRAM and bless those who have heard the call to serve and model Christ love. May they faithfully proclaim God's Word so that those they visit that they may be fed and filled with joy and hope.



## January Radio and Flower Sponsorships

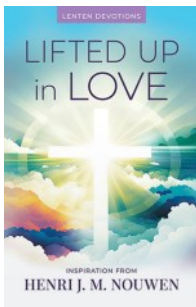
1/7	<i>Rae Carier, Cliff Lee, The Mudd Family &amp; Carolyn Nosky Happy New Year to our St. John's family!</i>	<i>Darlene Schwenk In Thanksgiving for all the prayers from my St. John's family.</i>
1/14	<i>Sharon Bielat In memory of parents, James &amp; Beverly Kovach.</i>	<i>Dave &amp; Caroline Coffed In loving memory of Dave's mom Bev, who would have turned 97 on January 5th.</i>
1/21	<i>John &amp; Cathy Fragale In celebration of their Wedding Anniversary!</i>	<i>The People of St. John's To the glory of God!</i>
1/28	<i>Rae Carier, Cliff Lee, The Mudd Family &amp; Carolyn Nosky To the glory of God!</i>	<i>The People of St. John's To the glory of God!</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



### Lenten Devotionals

Adult devotionals: \$1.50 ea.  
Children's devotionals \$2.50/ea.

Please make checks payable to  
St. John's and mark the envelope  
"Devotionals".

### Easter Flowers

Daffodils \$7.50 & Lilies \$10  
Make checks payable to  
St. John's and mark  
envelope "Easter Flowers".

Sign up by 3/3/24.



## Annual Congregational Dinner Friday, February 23rd, 2024 at 6 PM

Come Join in  
Fellowship as we  
celebrate Ministry  
in 2023



Tickets can be  
purchase before  
Services  
\$5/ea or \$15/family

Consider donating a dessert to share!  
Sign up sheet to bring dessert is on the Narthex Bulletin Board

## Youth & Family Highlights

**Bowling Event**—*Sat. Feb 17th, 1-4pm*- Alden Lanes, Cost \$4/game - includes shoe rental, pizza, & soda. Pub food & other bev. available for purchase. Sign up in Narthex

**Youth Lock-in/Congregational Dinner Prep & Set Up**  
Thurs 2/22—2/23 Details to come!

**Congregational 2023 Dinner**  
Friday 2/23—details TBD

**March Youth Winter Event**



**Young Hearts Easter Egg Hunt/Palm Cross Making**  
Saturday March 23 9am-1pm

**Butterfly Hanging**—Saturday, Mar. 30th at 9am

**Jr. & Sr. High Spring POTL Retreat** May 17-19, 2024  
\$50/youth registration fee & signed permission slip due to Dana by Sunday, 5/5/24

### SAVE-THE-DATES!

Congregational Picnic at Pioneer-On-The-Lake  
Sat. August 17, 2024—Reserve lodging now!

LCMS Summer 2025 New Orleans Youth Convention  
Planning



Cheryl Boling: 716-704-9324,  
cboling81@gmail.com

Dana Besch: 716-523-3262,  
danabesch@gmail.com

## **February Birthdays**

Brock	Smith	1
Stephanie	Meyer	1
Sarah	Gorski	3
Debra	Dziengielewski	4
Vito	Napierala	4
Penelope	Ritz	5
Cindy	Cappello	7
Dorothy	Walters	9
Alana	Alicea	10
Kathryn	Ponosny	11
Kyle	Sharpe	14
David	Coffed	15
Belladara	Mondo	16
Bonnie	Capozzi	17
Wendy	Garbutt	18
Harold	Hutchinson	19
Mark	Smith	19
Julia	Wisniewski	21
Mia	Barber	21
Darlene	Schwenk	21
Christopher	Geelan	24
Jackson	Baird	26
Justin	Burnham	28

## **February Anniversaries**

14	Richard & Felicia Sharpe
16	Ted & June Goga

**Arise and Shine**



Thurs., Mar 7th at 10am



Thursday, Feb 15th  
6:00 pm

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRIDAY	SAT.
<h1>February 2024</h1>				<b>1</b>  10a– Arise & Shine  6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	<b>2</b> Office Closed  5p– Scrapbook-ing Group	<b>3</b> 8a– Men’s Group  4:30p Worship w/ H.C. 6p– Watch Party 8p– A.A.
<b>4 5th Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a—BLAST 10:00a—Adult Bible Class 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C.	<b>5</b> Office Closed  7:15p—Elder’s Meeting	<b>6</b>  5:30p—Girl Scouts (1)	<b>7</b> Office Closed  8p– A.A.	<b>8</b>  6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	<b>9</b> Office Closed  5p– Scrapbook-ing Group	<b>10</b> 4:30p Worship  6:00p—Watch Party  8p– A.A.
<b>11 Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>  8:30a– Worship 10:00a—BLAST 10:00a—Confirmation 11:15a-Worship	<b>12</b> Office Closed  7:00p—Council Meeting	<b>13</b>  6:30p—Girl Scouts (2)	<b>14 Ash Wednesday</b> Office Closed  6:45p– Imposition of Ashes 7p- Worship  8p– A.A.	<b>15</b>  6p—Café  6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	<b>16</b> Office Closed  5p– Scrapbook-ing Group	<b>17</b> 8a– Men’s Group  1-4pm—Bowling Event  4:30p Worship w/ H.C.  8p– A.A.
<b>18 1st Sunday in Lent</b>  8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a—Adult Bible Class 11:15a– Worship  <i>No BLAST</i>	<b>19 President’s Day</b>  Office Closed	<b>20</b>  6:30p—Girl Scouts (2)	<b>21</b> Office Closed  8p– A.A.	<b>22</b>  6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)  Youth Lock-in	<b>23</b> Office Closed 5p– Scrapbook-ing Group  6p– Congregational Dinner	<b>24</b>  4:30p Worship  8p– A.A.
<b>25 2nd Sunday in Lent</b>  8:30a– Worship 10:00a—BLAST 10:00a—Confirmation 11:15a-Worship	<b>26</b>  Office Closed	<b>27</b>  6:30p—Girl Scouts (2)	<b>28</b> Office Closed  8p– A.A.	<b>29</b>  6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)		

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

67 Litchfield Ave.  
Depew, New York 14043

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Phone: (716) 683-3947  
E-mail: [secretary@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:secretary@sjlcdepew.com)  
Pastor's e-mail:  
[pastor@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:pastor@sjlcdepew.com)  
Web: [www.sjlcdepew.com](http://www.sjlcdepew.com)

**Pastor**

Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr.

**Pastoral Assistant**

Rev. Howard Warner

**Organists**

*Mr. Joe Momot & Mr. Camden Church*

**Contemporary Music Leader**

Mr. RJ Nieman

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

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([President@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:President@sjlcdepew.com))

**Elders:**

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*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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*Gary Hillman*  
*Joe Momot*

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**Board of Education Chair:**

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**Youth & Family Ministry Chair:**

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**Stewardship Chair:**

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**Shepherds Staff Chair:**

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**Sunday School Superintendent:**

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([SundaySchool@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:SundaySchool@sjlcdepew.com))

**Prayer Chain:**

*Jim Kless*  
([Prayerchain@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:Prayerchain@sjlcdepew.com))

**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.