

# The St. John's Journal Community Connect

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



**“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”  
Psalm 19:1**

The word WONDER can be understood as “a feeling of surprise and appreciation caused by something beautiful or out of the ordinary. “

We've all felt surprised, excited, thankful and maybe even had our breath taken away by something extremely special and out of the ordinary. On April 8th, the God of creation (Genesis 1 & 2) is surprising us with something out of the ordinary and beautiful in his creation through the solar eclipse. How awesome it will be to see and the experience of God's handiwork and artistry! It is my hope that the area skies will be clear and that we will be provided a breathtaking experience and our hearts and minds drawn to the magnificence of our loving God who put all things together for our good!

But you know as a thought about things, truth is, God surprises us everyday with beautiful things doesn't he? God is creator and he is our provider not just on April 8th. And while there are surprises and really special things that happen in our lives like a total solar eclipse, we can't forget that God is blessing us everyday with beautiful things. everyday we can be surprised by JOY as he shines in our lives and through all the seasons. You know, sometimes it can be easy to forget God goodness and brilliance. Sometimes we can take the everyday beautiful things in our lives for granted.

Of course, the most beautiful and the most brilliant blessing the world has ever seen is God's Son-our Jesus. Jesus is the BRIGHTEST AND THE BEST; He is the LIGHT OF THE WORLD and there is no darkness that extinguish his powerful love for us.(1 John 1:15)

As you well know, when a total solar eclipse happens the sky gets very dark, but here's the thing, what really stands out during a total eclipse is the brightness of the Sun! In fact our eyes are drawn to it ( DON'T LOOK WITHOUT SPECIAL GLASSES).

When the darkness of sin came into the world, God our creator and provider provided a beautiful and brilliant plan of redemption in Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to defeat darkness. On the first Easter morning he rose from the dead and because he did we are forgiven and can live in the light of his love forever. The Good News for you and me is that God draws our eyes to the brightness of his Son JESUS' love everyday! Jesus is our beautiful Savior. He is the King of Creation (Colossians 1:15-20) and because he is, he is brighter and more powerful than any darkness we might experience in life. He is even far more powerful than the darkness of sin, death and the devil!

Friends, Jesus is with us everyday and he wants us to look to him ALWAYS! And unlike a total solar eclipse we Don't need special glasses to fix our eyes on him!! On April 8th as we experience the total eclipse; let's give thanks to God for his beautiful handiwork. But let us too be filled with wonder for the bright shining Love of Jesus which shines in and through us now and forever!!

Pastor Galen

**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**

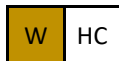
**Sunday Traditional  
8:30am**

**Sunday Contemporary  
11:15am**

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

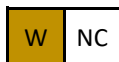
**Worship Broadcast  
WXRL- AM 1300 / FM 95.5  
at 11:00am**

## Lectionary & Communion Schedule



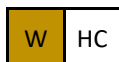
**April 7, 2024**

2nd Sunday of Easter  
Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-22; John  
20:19-31



**April 14, 2024**

3rd Sunday of Easter  
Acts 3:11-21; 1 John 3:1-7;  
Luke 24:36-49



**April 21, 2024**

4th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 4:1-12; 1 John 3:16-24;  
John 10:11-18



**April 28, 2024**

5th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:1-21;  
John 15:1-8



Arise and Shine  
Thurs., April 4th &  
Thurs., May 2nd  
at 10am



Thursday, April 18th  
6:00 pm

## April Mission and Ministry Prayers

### Pioneer on the Lake

Creating God, you have given us great places for rest and relaxation. We thank you for the gift that Pioneer on the Lake is to this area and beyond. Bless its various ministry programs and bless its leaders as they seek to provide an atmosphere of relaxation and point more people to Jesus.

### Trustees

For our building that it might be a gathering place and beacon of hope for all who walk through the doors. We pray for our Trustees as they maintain and make improvements to this house of worship and praise.

# March Council Highlights

As reported on 3/11/24

- Old Business— Annual Meeting/Dinner—Timing worked out well, after President’s Day. Will plan for same time next year. Good comments on help from youth. Communication channels: working on getting everyone’s log ins.
- New Business— Plant Sale ended 3/24, benefitting Sam & Rachel Vogt. Plant pick up 5/18. Looking for ideas for 2024 grant application. Ideas in by 3/18. Calendar updates available on Website under Happenings
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Organist is doing extremely well. Choir singing for Easter. Photo Directory photos are scheduled for April.
- Stewardship—Ed Lorenz—Still having trouble making connections at Greenfield to bring church members to help with resident’s spiritual growth and well-being.
- Family Ministry— Cheryl Boling— Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Cross making was held on 3/23. Butterflies were hung on 3/30. Youth will also assist when the butterflies come down. Youth Retreat coming up in May.
- Trustees—Gary H., Larry R., Joe M—looking into upgrading the security system
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Large group BLAST meeting will run after Pentecost through June 9th. Upcoming events: Spring Mission Project.
- Shepherd’s Staff— Becca Hojnacki—

Next Council Meeting: April 8th, 7:00pm



## Financial Director’s Report— as of March 31, 2024 —Budget: \$71,978


	This YTD	Last YTD
2024 Giving	\$74,628 *	\$71,669
Ministry Expense	\$74,091	\$75,007
Net Income	<b>573</b>	<b>(\$3,338)</b>

*\* Lost 1 Sunday due to 1/14/24 Snowstorm, TY includes Easter Services*

Radio Broadcast	March 2024
Sponsored	\$1,545
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	\$2,752
	<b>Loss of (\$1,207) = about 7 sponsorships</b>

## Those Serving April 2024

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
4/7	Betty Cavaleri	Karen Shafer	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall
4/14	Betty Cavaleri	Jamie Bluhm	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall
4/21	Betty Cavaleri	Sue Bluhm	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
4/28	Betty Cavaleri	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>April Altar Guild</u>
4/6	Tom Stutzman	Tom Stutzman	Linda Plewik Betty Cavaleri Jerry Bernfeld Jr. 
4/13	Jim Kless	Jim Kless	
4/20	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa	
4/27	John Fragale	John Fragale	



St. John's Screaming Eagles will be riding for their 12th year in the Ride for Roswell on **Saturday June 22, 2024.**

All our riders have experienced personal journeys or lost family or friends to cancer. So have many of you. Even through the pandemic, they have continued to ride.

Current riders to date are: Ramona Sietsma, doing the 30 mile ride, Mike Brown doing the 20 mile ride. James Kless, Grace Stever, Michael Stever, Laura Tirone and Kyle Tirone doing the 10 mile ride. For many years, John Preston has done the ride. Unfortunately, he has decided that he cannot continue to ride. He will be greatly missed!

Questions? Please call Grace Stever at 716-982-6733 or Laura Tirone at 716-432-7930. We would love to have more people join our group! It is an awe inspiring and memorable time.



**Thank you members of St. John's for your continued support.**

## March Radio and Flower Sponsorships

3/3	<p><b><i>Cheryl, Ryan &amp; Noah Boling</i></b>  <i>In honor of Bill's 61<sup>st</sup> Birthday and our many blessings!</i></p>	<p><b><i>Dawn Brennan</i></b>  <i>In loving memory of my husband, Jim and his twin sister, Jane as they celebrate their 1<sup>st</sup> Heavenly Birthday together on March 7.</i>  <i>Miss you my loves.</i></p>
3/10	<p><b><i>Linda Bernfeld</i></b>  <i>In memory of Jerry with this being the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing through the Gates of Heaven – Rest peacefully sweetheart.</i></p>	<p><b><i>Susan Reitzel</i></b>  <i>In loving memory of Fran Lorenz</i></p>
3/17	<p><b><i>Marsha McKinney</i></b>  <i>In thankfulness to God for all of my blessings.</i></p>	<p><b><i>Herbold Family</i></b>  <i>In thanks to God and in celebration of their son Ethans 23rd birthday, nephew Carson's 14th and niece Kyla's 16th birthday this month.</i></p>
3/24	<p><b><i>Wayne &amp; Mark Deutschlander</i></b>  <i>For their father, Harold Deutschland-er's birthday and the many blessings the Lord has given him.</i></p>	<p><b><i>Tom &amp; Sue Bluhm</i></b>  <i>In thanksgiving for our St. John's family.</i></p>
3/31	<p><b><i>John &amp; Jane Marone</i></b>  <i>Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!</i>  <i>Happy Easter, Everyone.</i></p>	



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	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> Office Closed  7:15p—Elder's Meeting	<b>2</b>  5:30p—Girl Scouts (1)	<b>3</b> Office Closed  8p— A.A.	<b>4</b> 10a— Arise & Shine 6:30p—Confirmation 6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	<b>5</b> Office Closed  5p— Scrap-booking Group	<b>6</b> 8a— Men's Group  4:30p Worship w/ H.C. 8p— A.A
	<b>7 1st Sunday of Easter</b> 8:30a— Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a—BLAST 11:15a—Worship w/ H.C.	<b>8</b> Office Closed <b>Solar Eclipse</b>  7:00p— Council Meeting	<b>9</b>  6:30p— Girl Scouts (2)	<b>10</b> Office Closed  8p— A.A.	<b>11</b> St. John's Photo Directory Photoshoot 6:30p—Girl Scouts (3) 6:30p—Confirmation	<b>12</b> Office Closed  5p— Scrap-booking Group
<b>14 2nd Sunday of Easter</b>  8:30a— Worship 10:00a—BLAST 11:15a—Worship	<b>15</b> Office Closed	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Office Closed  8p— A.A.	<b>18</b>  6p—Café 6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	<b>19</b> Office Closed  5p— Scrap-booking Group	<b>20</b> 8a— Men's Group  4:30p Worship w/ H.C. 8p— A.A.
<b>21 3rd Sunday of Easter</b>  8:30a— Worship w/ H.C. 10a— BLAST Morning Program 11:15a— Worship	<b>22</b> Office Closed	<b>23</b>  6:30p— Girl Scouts (2)	<b>24</b> Office Closed  8p— A.A.	<b>25</b> 8a-4p: Life Line Screening Event 6:30p—Girl Scouts (3) 6:30p—Confirmation	<b>26</b> Office Closed  5p— Scrap-booking Group	<b>27</b>  4:30p Worship  8p— A.A
<b>28 4th Sunday of Easter</b>  8:30a— Worship 10:00a—BLAST 11:15a—Worship	<b>29</b> Office Closed	<b>30</b>				

## April Birthdays

John M	Fragale Sr	6
Andrew	McNett	6
Ruth	Schlesinger	6
Carmi	DelConte	7
John R	Fragale Jr	9
Alicia	Milam	9
Charmaine	AfterBuffalo	12
Robert	Zielen	13
Sylus	Geelan	13
Laurel	Schunk	15
Gary	Hillman	16
Linnette	Ramey	16
John	Garbutt	17
Catherine	Fragale	19
Dolores	Mau	19
Thomas III	Mudd	20
Kendra	Herbold	22
Finnegan	Lozo	22
Julie	Gorski	24
Heidi	Manna	24
Bob	Plewik	26
Felicia	Sharpe	26
Alexander	Nobles	26
Carter	Hughey	27
John	Beck	30
Jennifer	Purpura	30

## April Anniversaries

7	Tony Martino & Kim Lorenz
15	Ross & Rosemarie Contella
16	Jay & Phyllis Hanson
19	Scott & Eileen McIlhagga
23	Brian & Jennifer Cocco



**ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS  
AND THEIR FAMILIES!!**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN  
THE GRADUATION STEPPING STONE?

PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW!  
SECRETARY@SJLCDPEW.COM | 716-683-3947

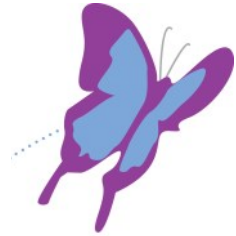


# Youth & Family Highlights

SJD hosted recent Jr. & Sr. High POTL Spring Retreat Committee Planning Meeting on 3/21.



Thank you to our energetic 33 young hearts, 10 youth, & 33 advisors/family members participating in our recent 3/23 Easter Egg Hunt/Family Fellowship, & Palm Cross, etc. making event! A good time was had by all and many beautiful palm crosses, cards/pictures were made and delivered to our Greenfields residents and SJD shut ins! Thanks to all who donated individually wrapped candy, novelty items, gold \$ coins which filled 570+ eggs, and for our Easter Bunny visit! Everyone's generosity, assistance greatly appreciated by all!!



Thanks to our youth who colored replacement butterflies and assisted with hanging them on Saturday, 3/30!

4/17 (5-8) - Please stop by Applebee's (4967 Transit Road, Depew) Special Olympics Dinner Fundraiser where our very-own Timmy Keohane will guest serve! Let's keep Timmy busy serving for a good cause!!

4/26 Youth Friday Night Bash Trivia in a Sahlen's Field Suite, Bison's vs. Iowa Cubs 6:05 pm game plus award-winning fireworks show with the Keohane Family. Sign-Up in Youth Room; church departure time TBD.

5/4 9 am - Youth assist with Butterfly removal.

5/12 Youth POTL Jr. & Sr. High Spring Retreat Registration/Permission Slip Form & \$50 fee due to Dana.

5/17-19 Jr. & Sr. High (6th-12th grade) Spring POTL Retreat. Leave church Friday ~5 pm, return church (or individual homes) Sunday ~12 noon. In addition your normal camp gear, please bring bible, personal or previous-retreat journal, money for country store merch/ice cream, and a plain white tee shirt to spray paint or \$5 to purchase tee from camp.

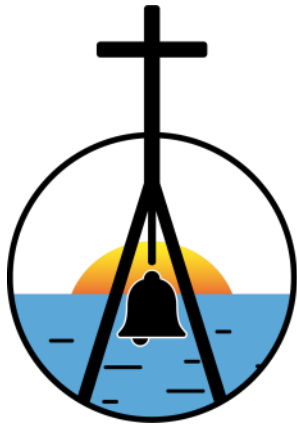


5/17 4 pm - Youth plant sale unloading assist prior to POTL camp departure.

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

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





# PIONEER ON THE LAKE

CHRISTIAN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

REFLECTIONS FROM THE  
PIONEER NEWSLETTER  
INVOLVING MEMBERS OF  
ST. JOHNS!

Here are some Reflections on Pioneer on the Lake,  
from our 2023 Youth Retreats:

Pioneer-On-The-Lake to me is leaving technology and our normal everyday chaos and regimented schedules - a chance to breathe, be ourselves, relax, rejuvenate, and become closer to God, our Faith, and Faith family! Through songs, games, programming, team service projects, free time and fellowship, we learn and broaden our faith with both old and new friends. POTL's beautiful Lake Erie, sunsets, beach, grounds, delicious food/snacks, bonfires, fully-equipped buildings and cabins, along with our loving, caring, nurturing, and patient staff, make such an incredible impact on our retreats, picnics, and visits! God Bless POTL!---Cheryl, Group Leader

What Pioneer-On-The-Lake meant to me...is to escape the craziness and some of the negativity from the community we live in...go out for the weekend with my really close friends that are basically family, and we all get closer to our creator at the same time. I really liked the different activity centers that we did, and the bonfire at the beach was amazing! ---Nick, Youth Participant

Pioneer-On-The-Lake helped me to make new bonds with God and to have different things to do to strengthen my relationship with God and the people I was with!---Taylor, Youth Participant

# DINING IN STYLE FOR A GREAT CAUSE

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT DEPEW COMMUNITY CENTER

\$10 PER TICKET



**2ND PRIZE:**  
**WEEKEND  
JACUZZI  
PACKAGE**

**1ST PRIZE:**  
**WINE &  
DINNER  
FOR 4 @  
RUSSELL'S**

**3RD PRIZE:**  
**DINNER  
FOR 2  
PACKAGE**



ALL PRIZE DONATIONS COURTESY OF  
RUSSELL'S STEAKS, CHOPS & MORE



**DRAWING TO BE HELD AT DEPEW  
HIGH SCHOOL CAR SHOW  
JUNE 7, 2024 @ 5PM**

Anyone interested in purchasing \$10 Depew Community Center Raffle tickets, use the above QR code or see Cheryl Boling.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

67 Litchfield Ave.  
Depew, New York 14043

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

*Pastor*

Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr.

*Pastoral Assistant*

Rev. Howard Warner

*Organist*

*Mr. Camden Church*

*Contemporary Music Leader*

Mr. RJ Nieman

**ST. JOHN'S OFFICERS:**

**President:**

*Jamie Bluhm*  
(President@sjlcdepew.com)

**Elders:**

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

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*Joe Momot*

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**Sunday School Superintendent:**

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(SundaySchool@sjlcdepew.com)

**Prayer Chain:**

*Jim Kless*  
(Prayerchain@sjlcdepew.com)

**Radio Announcers:**

*Jim Kless*  
*Karen Lorenz*  
*Darlene Schwenk*  
*Johnny Sabadasz*

**Altar Guild Chair:**

*Betty Cavaleri*

**Communion Assistants:**

*Tom Bluhm*  
*Bob Chapman*  
*Jim Kless*  
*Rod Lorenz*  
*Steve Plewik*  
*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.