

# The St. John's Journal Community Connect

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



Dear Friends in the Risen Jesus,

*A certain preacher once had a bad, bumpy flight. For the rest of his life, he hated airplanes. One time he sat down next to a calm passenger who noticed the preacher's nerves. "Why are you afraid, Preacher?" the passenger asked. "Doesn't that Bible of yours say God is with you always?" "No, that's not exactly what the Bible says," the minister responded. "The Bible says, 'Lo, I am with you always.'"*

Get it? "Lo" I am with you... okay. Probably a Dad joke.

May 9th is Ascension. We confess it in our Creeds and we know it to be the day when Jesus took his seat of power at the right hand of the Father, the day he commissioned his followers to preach, teach and baptize; and the day he promised he is with us ALWAYS.

Of the synoptic Gospels it is Matthew who shares the words "I am with you always." Now, don't get me wrong the whole ascension account is rich, but Matthew's really stand out and touch my heart. "I am with you always!!

The Savior who came to be among us— as the baby in Bethlehem; the same one who defeated sin, death and devil to keep us connected, the one who rose from the dead securing life for you and me is now the ascended Savior, who is STILL and ALWAYS with us. What a comfort! What a certainty!

He doesn't leave us. That's his promise. Lo, I am with you always. With us in everything; in our joys, in our accomplishments, in our milestones; in our frustrations, trials, suffering, grief, and disappointments.

Lo I am with you always! Says Jesus. You aren't alone. My word, my presence, and promises never leave you; they are your hope, your joy, your peace on this side of the kingdom. Lo I am with you always! And one day you will be right where I am. ***"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. me."***

*Forever connected. Wow. Just wow.*

*Pastor*

**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.

## Lectionary & Communion Schedule



**May 5, 2024**

6th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 10:44-48; 1 John 5:1-6;  
John 15:9-17



**May 9, 2024**

Ascension of Our Lord



**May 12, 2024**

7th Sunday of Easter  
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; 1 John  
5:9-13; John 17:6-19



**May 19, 2024**

Day of Pentecost  
Acts 2:1-21; Rom 8:22-27;  
John 15:26-27; 16:4-15



**May 26, 2024**

The Holy Trinity  
Isa 6:1-8; Rom 8:12-17; John  
3:1-17



### 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**

**Ascension of Our Lord—May 9, 2024** “The Risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples are told to not gaze up into heaven to look for Jesus (*Acts 1:11*); we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission.

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## May Mission and Ministry Prayers

### ST. PAUL BATAVIA

For ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL IN BATAVIA as they seek to be your presence to students and community. We pray that they might be bold in their witness; that students, staff and all others may know Christ and the true wisdom and power that comes from him when he is center in learning, growing and serving. We pray for the Hojnacki family as they attend school at St. Paul

### CONFIRMANDS

Touch us all and help us to remember the promises given to us in baptism. Give to us this day new lives rejuvenated faith, and new commitment in place of all that has grown tired and stale in our lives. Strengthen our confirmands for the journey of faith. Give to them a dedication to work for Christ in the church and world, that unity and fellowship might abound.

# April Council Highlights

As reported on 4/8/24

- Old Business— Plant Sale pick up 5/18, Discussion on 2025 Grant Application
- New Business— Church Picnic 8/17 @ POTL. Communication channels to get access to all on board. Planned transition should be complete by 7/1/24. All communications will be coming from the same source. Salary survey from district received—recommendation was to disregard.
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Great attendance for Holy Week services. Organist is doing very well. Photo Directory photos were taken 4/11-4/13. Geraniums for Confirmation on 6/2 (instead of Pentecost 5/19). Would like soloist to help lead the hymns.
- Stewardship—Ed Lorenz—Still trying to work with Greenfields to bring a message to residents. Group will go in as Visitation Deacons to Greenfields.
- Family Ministry— Cheryl Boling— Holy Grounds going well. Good participation for Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Cross making. 2025 LCMS Youth Convention in New Orleans will be 7/19 to 7/23/25
- Trustees—Gary H., Larry R., Joe M—Need 3 weeks for the new floor for praise band. Boiler went down again in early April Repair parts have been replaced. Update to security cameras coming up.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Regular classes to end on 5/19. Large Group classes 5/26, 6/2 & 6/9.
- Shepherd's Staff— Becca Hojnacki— Nothing to report.
- Pastor—Collection of used solar eclipse glasses being collected and sent to Latin America. Confirmation will be 6/2/24, 10 students to be confirmed.

Next Council Meeting: May 13th, 7:00pm




## Financial Director's Report— as of April 30, 2024 —Budget: \$95,972

	This YTD	Last YTD
2024 Giving	*\$93,480	\$97,073
Ministry Expense	\$99,367	\$99,430
Net Income	<b>(\$5,887)</b>	<b>(\$2,357)</b>
<i>*Lost 1 Sunday due to 1/14/24 Snowstorm</i>		

Radio Broadcast	April 2024
Sponsored	\$2,805
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	\$3,240
	<b>Loss of (\$435) = about 3 sponsorships</b>

## Those Serving May 2024

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
5/5	Barb Perry	Karen Shafer	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
5/12	Barb Perry	Jamie Bluhm	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
5/19	Barb Perry	Sue Bluhm	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
5/26	Barb Perry	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>April Altar Guild</u>
5/4	Barb Perry	Barb Perry	Tom & Sue Bluhm Dawn Smith 
5/11	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert	
5/18	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall	
5/25	Betty Cavaleri	Pastor	



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.**

## April Radio and Flower Sponsorships

4/7	<i>Cliff Lee, Tom &amp; Andrea Mudd Carolyn Nosky &amp; Rae Carier For God's many blessings</i>	<i>Cindy Kloss Happy Anniversary to my parents Ruth and Walter Kloss. Miss You.</i>
4/14	<i>Sharon Bielat In memory of parents, James &amp; Beverly Kovach.</i>	<i>Charmaine AfterBuffalo Thanksgiving for my 62<sup>nd</sup> Birthday and for my beautiful mother, Marie Karl that gave me life!</i>
4/21	<i>Cliff Lee, Tom &amp; Andrea Mudd Carolyn Nosky &amp; Rae Carier For God's many blessings</i>	<i>Tom &amp; Sue Bluhm In memory of Mom &amp; Dad Bluhm. Thank the Lord.</i>
4/28	<i>Harold Deutschlander &amp; Family In celebration of grandson Quinn's 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday!</i>	<i>The People of St. John's To the Glory of God!</i>



Interested in sponsoring a broadcast or flowers?  
Openings are still 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/weekend



SUNDAY	MON	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRIDAY	SAT.
			1 Office Closed  8p- A.A.	2 6:30p— Confirma- tion 6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	3 Office Closed  5p- Scrap- booking Group	4 8a- Men's Group 9a—Butterfly Removal 4:30p Worship 8p- A.A. Pastor Away
5 6th Sunday of Easter 8:30a- Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a—BLAST 10:00a—Confirm. Interviews w/ Elders 11:15a-Worship	6 Office Closed  7:15p— Elders Meeting	7  5:30p— Girl Scouts (2)	8 Office Closed  8p- A.A.	9 Ascen- sion  6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	10 Office Closed  5p- Scrap- booking Group	11  4:30p Worship  8p- A.A.
Pastor Away						
12 7th Sunday of Easter Mother's Day 8:30a- Worship 11:15a-Worship  No BLAST Pastor Away 	13 Office Closed  7:00p— Council Meeting	14  6:30p— Girl Scouts (2)	15 Office Closed  8p- A.A.	16  6p—Café 6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	17 Office Closed 4p- Plant Sale Drop off 5p- Scrap- booking Group Youth Retreat	18 8a- Men's Group 9a- Plant Sale pick up 4:30p Worship 8p- A.A.
19 Day of Pentecost 8:30a- Worship w/ H.C. 10a- BLAST Morn- ing Program 10a- Confirmation Interviews w/Pastor 11:15a- Worship Youth Retreat	20 Office Closed	21	22 Office Closed  8p- A.A.	23  6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	24 Office Closed  5p- Scrap- booking Group	25  4:30p Worship  8p- A.A.
26 The Holy Trinity  8:30a- Worship 10:00a—BLAST 10a- Confirmation Rehearsal 11:15a-Worship	27 Memorial Day Office Closed	28  6:30p— Girl Scouts (2)	29  8p- A.A.	30  6:30p—Girl Scouts (3)	31  5p- Scrap- booking Group	

# MAY

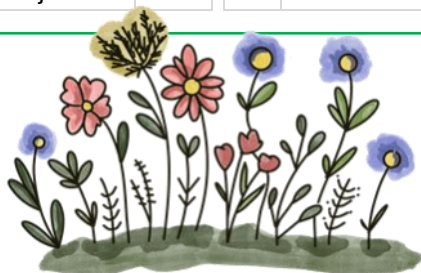
## BIRTHDAYS

Charlotte	Cocco	2
CHERYL	BOLING	2
Leigh Varga	Cwiklinski	3
Loren	Ratajczak	6
Don	Loney	7
Kaitlin	Gorski	7
John	Hughey	8
Rick	Mayback	9
Gaige	Hughey	11
Jonathan	Lasky	12
Silas	Hojnacki	12
George	Meyer Sr.	14
Leslie	Maciejewski	16
Edwin	Lorenz	17
Emma	Kabel	17
Kenneth	Schottke	19
Carolyn	Nosky	20
Isaiah	Hojnacki	21

Jeffrey	Sowinski	24
Larry	Rindfuss	24
Camden	Smith	24
Pat	McGloin	25
Makenzie	Castiglione	29

## Anniversaries

3	Guy & Linnette Ramey
11	Bob & Linda Plewik
13	Tom & Sue Bluhm
15	Mike & Grace Stever
17	Dave & Laura Tirone
20	George & Stephanie Meyer
21	Brian & Natalie Napierala
24	Ken & Rochelle Menard
29	Tim & Jamie Silakowski
31	Jeff & Debora Sowinski



## Holy Grounds

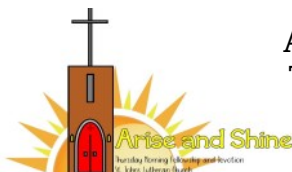


Sign-up on the Narthex Bulletin Board to bring baked goods for Coffee Hour!

Almighty and ever-living God, you fulfilled the promise of Easter by sending the gift of your Holy Spirit. Look upon your people gathered in prayer, open to receive the Spirit's flame. May it come to rest in our hearts and heal the divisions of word and tongue, that with one voice and one song we may praise your name in joy and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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Arise and Shine  
Thurs., June 6th  
at 10am



Thursday, May 16th  
6:00 pm

## Youth & Family Highlights

May 4th, 9 am - Youth assist with Butterfly removal.

5/12 Youth Retreat Registration/Permission Slip Form & \$50 fee due to Dana.



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

Friday, 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.

June 2024 Graduation Stepping Stone—Please notify the church office or Pastor if you would like to participate.

August 9—Lutheran Charities Annual Bison's Game. Details coming soon.

August 17—Congregational Picnic at Pioneer on the Lake. Overnight rentals available through camp office. Youth to bring hot dogs, hamburgers, buns, condiments and games. Youth and volunteer musicians to assist Pastor with Evening Vesper Service.

Nov. 1st—LCMS Youth Convention (2025 in New Orleans) Registration begins.



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

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



## ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND FAMILIES!!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN  
THE GRADUATION STEPPING STONE?  
PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW!

secretary@SJLCDEPEW.COM | 716-683-3947



# 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*  
*John Gauthier*  
*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.