

# The St. John's Journal Community Connect

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

January 2025



**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**  
Sunday Traditional  
Worship 8:30am  
Sunday Contemporary  
Worship 11:15am  
Sunday Evening Blend-  
ed Worship 4:30pm

Sunday Morning  
BLAST!  
September—June  
10:00am  
Worship Broadcast  
WXRL— AM 1300 /  
FM 95.5 at 11:00am

## ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP MEAT RAFFLE



**SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH**  
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM



**GRAPEVINE BANQUETS**  
DICK ROAD, DEPEW

**TICKETS FOR THE YOUTH GROUP  
MEAT RAFFLE ARE ON SALE NOW!**



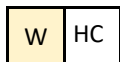
### TICKET PRICE INCLUDES: ADMISSION, BEER & POP

Bring your own snacks!  
(no outside alcohol permitted).

Members of the Youth Group will be selling tickets each Sunday in the Narthex, after the 8:30am service and before the 11:15 service.

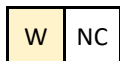
**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.**

## Lectionary & Communion Schedule



**January 5th, 2025**

2nd Sunday of Christmas  
Jer. 31:7-14; Eph. 1:3-14;  
John 1:10-18



**January 12, 2025**

The Baptism of Our Lord  
Isa. 43:1-7; Rom. 6:1-11;  
Luke 3:15-22



**January 19, 2025**

2nd Sunday after Epiphany  
Isa. 62:1-5; 1 Cor. 12:1-11;  
John 2:1-11



**January 26, 2025**

3rd Sunday after Epiphany  
Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; 1 Cor.  
12:12-31; Luke 4:16-30

## January

### Mission and Ministry Prayers

#### Media Ministry

Gracious God your word tells us that we are your witnesses to all the ends of the earth. Cast your blessing upon our media ministry as we share your Word of truth through the means and opportunities provided us. We ask your blessing upon our live stream ministry and radio ministry. Thank you for all who watch and listen.

#### Council and Elders

We pray for the Leaders of St. John's as they engage in your ministry and support your Gospel. Bless these leaders, give them wisdom, excitement and energy as they serve you. Help them to always look to the cross and crutch on you.

## The Baptism of our Lord

This festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty



God when we "pass through the waters...the rivers...fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

#### 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. **[www.sjlcdepew.com](http://www.sjlcdepew.com)**

# December Council Highlights

As reported on 12/

- Old Business— Council vote. Appointment for Trustee member.
- New Business— Annual Meeting scheduled for 2/21. Menu, time, & guest speaker to be discussed. Annual reports due 1/31/25. Financial Review to take place 1/19 or 1/26. Combined Elder/Council meeting on 1/4/25.
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Elders oversaw Elections process. Council officers installation in January. Assigned Elders to new Members. Photo directory is being finalized.
- Youth & Family Ministry— Cheryl Boling— Holy Grounds assistance and donated baked goods are greatly appreciated. Youth enjoyed Flix Movie Outing. Youth assisted in Blessing Bag prep on 12/21. Youth to sell Meat Raffle tickets beginning in January. Meat Raffle at Grapevine on 3/15/25.
- Trustees— Gary H., Larry R., Joe M— New contracts signed for boilers and fire system. Working on price for backflow preventor.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Children's Christmas Program, Amazing Grace in a Manger, was a success. 176 attended. Fall/Winter Mission Project completed 12/21. Collected toiletry items and Christmas Gifts for the school children in NC.
- Shepherd's Staff— Becca Hojnacki— Gifts for North Carolina families were delivered to First Trinity Lutheran on Saturday 12/7. First Trinity was grateful for the participation from St. Johns. Gifts and meal items for the Depew Community Center were delivered on 12/15.

Next Council Meeting: January 13, 7:00pm



## Save the Date!


Annual Congregational  
Dinner & Meeting

Friday, February 21st

More details to come.

# Those Serving January 2025


	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
1/5	John Gauthier	Cantor	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
1/12	John Gauthier	Sue Bluhm	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
1/19	John Gauthier	John Gauthier	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
1/26	John Gauthier	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik

<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>January Altar Guild</u>
1/5	John Fragale	John Fragale	<div>Carol &amp; Paige Coffed</div> <div>Wendy Garbutt</div> 
1/12	Barb Perry	Barb Perry	
1/19	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert	
1/26	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall	

## Financial Director’s Report— as of 12/31/2024 — Budget: \$287,915

This YTD	
2024 Giving	\$285,051
Ministry Expense	\$267,923
Net Income	<b>\$17,128</b>

Radio Broadcast	December 2024
Sponsored	\$9,737
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	\$9,540
	<b>\$197</b>



**Arise and Shine**  
1st & 3rd Thursdays  
of the month  
At 10am



**3rd Thursdays of the month  
at 6:00pm**

**Holy Grounds**



**Sign up to bring in  
baked goods!**

## December Radio and Flower Sponsorships

12/1	<p><b><i>The Blackwell Families</i></b>  <i>In loving memory of Jan Blackwell on Pastor Michael and Jan's anniversary, 11/29. We thank the St. John's family for the love and support given to them.</i></p>	<p><b><i>The Rindfuss Family</i></b>  <i>In loving memory of Richard &amp; Kittie Brandenburger. Also in loving memory of brother, Richard.</i></p>
12/8	<p><b><i>The Sabadasz Family</i></b>  <i>In loving memory of Marc Garrison on the 14<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of his passing. God's blessings to all the radio listeners, Pastor Galen and family, and our church family.</i></p>	<p><b><i>Tom &amp; Sue Bluhm</i></b>  <i>Thank you for all the prayers and expressions of love for my recovery. I'm so blessed for my St. John's family.</i></p>
12/15	<p><b><i>The Gorski Family</i></b>  <i>In loving memory of Ronnie Rich on her birthday.</i></p>	<p><b><i>The People of St. John's</i></b>  <i>To the Glory of God!</i></p>
12/22	<p><b><i>A St. John's Family</i></b>  <i>Merry Christmas everyone and have a Happy New Year!</i></p>	<p><b><i>Dave &amp; Carol Coffed</i></b>  <i>In celebration of Carol's sisters, Rita &amp; Pat's heavenly birthdays.</i></p>
12/29	<p><b><i>Norman &amp; Vikki Hirschey</i></b>  <i>In celebration of 42 years of marriage and in celebration of now being a part of St. John's Lutheran Church in Depew!</i></p>	<p><b><i>Linda Bernfeld</i></b>  <i>May God bless this world with peace, love &amp; tranquility for the coming new year!</i></p>

### Christmas Poinsettias

Mary Anne Arber; The Anthony Family; Anne Bovo; Mike & Jan Brown; The Krupa Family; Andy & Donna McNett; The Gauthier Family; Sharon Taylor; Barb Perry; Dana Besch, Joy Matson; Darlene Schwenk; The Mudd Family; The Napierala Family; Patrick, Melissa & Ruth Mudd; Barb & Gary Geitter; Carrie Schwarzmuehler; Rev. & Lin Warner; Nina & Kevin Wright; Norm & Vikki Hirschey; Sue Pijacki; The Lumb Family; Bruce Mussehl.

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





# JANUARY

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Jane	Marone	1
Glenn	Stever	3
Carl	Suhr Jr	3
Brian	Barber	4
Kenneth	Menard	5
Janice	Brown	6
Daniel	Herbold	6
Eileen	Kranz	6
Aleigha	Sharpe	7
Cade	Jagiello	9
Hank	Springer	9
Jett	Walczak	9
Edward	Mau	12
Ella	Bluhm	16
Carol	Pawlak	17
Noah	Boling	17
Clifton	Lee	18
Debra	Wisniewski	19
Robert	Chapman	19
Peyton	Pauly	20
Susan	Reitzel	21
Joseph	Momot	21
Edward	Faltisco	23
Lois	Will	29
Matthew	Garbutt	31

## *Anniversaries*

25	John & Catherine Fragale
28	Don & Barbara Loney
31	Daniel & Rebecca Hojnacki



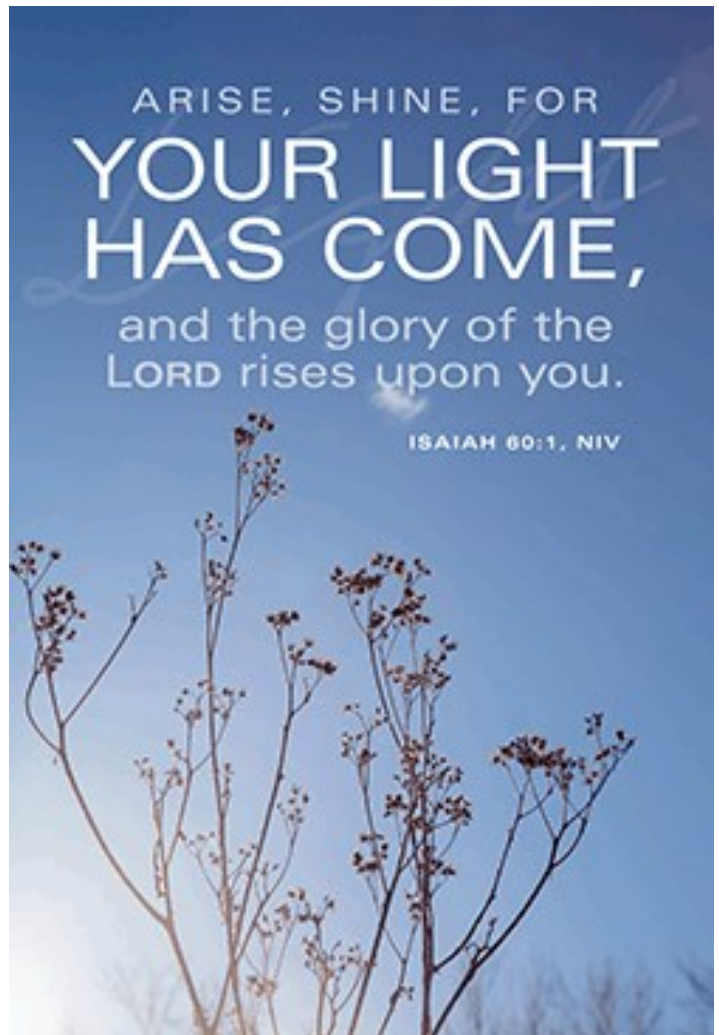
## **The Chosen Watch Party**



The 2nd Saturday of the  
Month at 4:30 PM

Meets in the basement  
conference room

Sign-up sheet on the  
Narthex Bulletin board

*Call Barb Perry with any  
questions: 716-983-7064*



SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRIDAY	SAT.
			<b>1 New Year's Day</b> Office Closed  8p– A.A.	<b>2</b>  6:30p– Girl Scouts	<b>3</b>  5p– Scrap-booking Group	<b>4</b> 9a– Elder & Council Meeting  8p– A.A
<b>5 2nd Sunday after Christmas</b> 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10a— BLAST 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	<b>6 Epiphany of the Lord</b> Office Closed  7:15p— Elders Mtg.	<b>7</b>  5:30p— Girl Scouts	<b>8 Office Closed</b>   8p– A.A.	<b>9</b>  6:30p– Girl Scouts 6:30p– Confirmation	<b>10 Office Closed</b>  6p– Girl Scouts	<b>11</b> 8a– Men's Group  6p -Watch Party 8p– A.A
<b>12 The Baptism of Our Lord</b> <b>Installation of Officers</b> 8:30a– Worship  10a– BLAST 11:15a-Worship 4:30p– Worship	<b>13 Office Closed</b>   7p— Council Mtg.	<b>14</b>  6:30p— Girl Scouts	<b>15 Office Closed</b>   8p– A.A.	<b>16</b> 10a– Arise & Shine  6pm— Café 6:30p– Girl Scouts	<b>17 Office Closed</b>	<b>18</b> 8a– Men's Group  5p– Private Party
<b>19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b>  8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10a— BLAST 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	<b>20 Office Closed</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>   8p– A.A.	<b>23</b>  6:30p– Girl Scouts 6:30p– Confirmation	<b>24 Office Closed</b>  6p– Girl Scouts	<b>25</b>   8p– A.A.
<b>19 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b>  8:30a– Worship 10a– BLAST 11:15a– Worship 4:30p– Worship	<b>27 Office Closed</b>	<b>28</b>  6:30p— Girl Scouts	<b>29</b>   8p– A.A.	<b>30</b>  6:30p— Girl Scouts	<b>31</b>	

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

67 Litchfield Ave.  
Depew, New York 14043

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

*Organist*  
Mr. Camden Church

*Contemporary Music Leader*  
Mr. RJ Nieman

**ST. JOHN'S OFFICERS:**

**President:**  
Jamie Bluhm  
([President@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:President@sjlcdepew.com))

**Elders:**  
([Elders@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:Elders@sjlcdepew.com))  
Rod Lorenz (Chair)  
Betty Cavaleri  
Karen Dowdall  
John Fragale, Jr.  
John Gauthier  
Jim Kless  
Jackie Kraebel (Alt)  
Amy Krupa  
Leslie Maciejewski (Alt)

Barb Perry  
Bob Plewik  
Steve Plewik  
John Preston  
Ken Schabert

**Board of Trustees:**  
([Trustees@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:Trustees@sjlcdepew.com))  
Larry Rindfuss  
Joe Momot  
Norm Hirschey

**Secretary of the Council:**

Susan Vriesen  
([CouncilSec@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:CouncilSec@sjlcdepew.com))

**Financial Director:**  
Mike Brown  
([finance@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:finance@sjlcdepew.com))

**Board of Education Chair:**  
Kim Lorenz  
([BoardofEd@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:BoardofEd@sjlcdepew.com))

**Youth & Family Ministry Chair:**  
Jen Anthony  
([FamilyMin@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:FamilyMin@sjlcdepew.com))

**Stewardship Chair:**  
Ed Lorenz  
([Stewardship@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:Stewardship@sjlcdepew.com))

**Shepherds Staff Chair:**  
Rae Carier  
([shepherdsStaff@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:shepherdsStaff@sjlcdepew.com))

**Sunday School Superintendent:**  
Chandra Jagielo  
([SundaySchool@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:SundaySchool@sjlcdepew.com))

**Prayer Chain:**  
Jim Kless  
([Prayerchain@sjlcdepew.com](mailto: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  
Caroline Coffed



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