

# The St. John's Journal Community Connect

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

March 2025

A WORSHIP SERIES  
FOR LENT

## CONVICTED



Step into the courtroom each week in Lent with our Convicted worship series. Each service puts a different biblical person from the story of Christ's passion and death on trial, accused of an actual crime.

### **Week 1—Dereliction of Duty—March 9th**

Welcome to court as we look at the case against Jesus' disciples on the charge of dereliction of duty. We listen to the arguments for and against conviction and ask ourselves, "Would we be convicted of the charge of dereliction of duty in our discipleship of Christ?"

### **Week 2—Treason—March 16th**

Welcome to court as we look at the case against Judas on the charge of treason, which is a betrayal of trust against authority. We listen to the arguments for and against conviction and ask ourselves, "Would we be convicted of treason, of betraying the trust and authority of Christ?"

### **Week 3—Perjury—March 23th**

Welcome to court as we look at the case against Peter on the charge of perjury, lying under an oath that he did not know Jesus. We listen to the arguments for and against conviction and ask ourselves, "Would we be convicted of perjury, of denying to others our connection with Christ?"

### **Week 4—Obstruction of Justice—March 30th**

Welcome to court as we look at the case against Pontius Pilate on the charge of obstruction of justice in the trial of Jesus. We listen to the arguments for and against conviction and ask ourselves, "Would we be convicted of obstruction of justice, causing Jesus to go to the cross?"

### **Week 5—Rebellion—April 6th**

Welcome to court as we look at the case against Barabbas on the charge of rebellion. We listen to the arguments for and against conviction and ask ourselves, "Would we be convicted of rebellion against the kingdom of Christ?"



**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 Blended  
Worship 4:30pm

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

## **February Council Highlights**


As reported on 2/10/25

- Old Business— 130th Anniversary of Church, 75th Anniversary of church addition. Financial review completed with no discrepancies.
- New Business— Special Forum and Vote for Tony Martino to become Specialized Ministry Pastor. Tentative Fall Festival / Anniversary Dinner in October in conjunction with Reformation. Vote on plant sale beneficiary.
- Financial— Mike Brown— \$825 was collected at the door offering for Malyah Haj.
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Congregational Dinner 2/21. Worship Assistant Appreciation Breakfast 3/1. Tony Martino pursuing Associate Pastor position. Meeting with Deacons.
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony— Approx. 200 of 500 tickets have been sold for Meat Raffle. Opening up outside promotion to boost sales. Big ticket item ticket sales started 2/9. Annual Dinner 2/21, Youth assist with setup, serving, clean-up. Planning for conference is moving forward.
- Stewardship— Ed Lorenz— Peregrine Landing has been receptive to visitors.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Spring Mission Project to begin 3/2 and run through 3/30. On 3/23, Family Services to be held. Children in grades 3 and up will participate in services. Children will also sing during the 11:15am service. No BLAST on 4/20, or 5/11. June 8 is last Sunday for BLAST.
- Shepherd's Staff—Rae Carier—LCES meeting was scheduled for 2/13, cancelled due to weather. Rescheduled for March 13 at 7pm. Easter Flower Sale to begin 3/2, flowers ordered from Angle's Acres.

Next Council Meeting:  
March 10, 7:00pm



# Those Serving February 2025

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
3/2	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
3/9	Ken Schabert	Sue Bluhm	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
3/16	Ken Schabert	Karen Shafer	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
3/23	Ken Schabert	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
3/30	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>March Altar Guild</u>	
3/2	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik	Rae Carier  Ken & Sue Schabert  	
3/9	John Gauthier	John Gauthier		
3/16	Jim Kless	Jim Kless		
3/23	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa		
3/30	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa		

## BLAST Spring Mission Project

*Sleep in Heavenly Peace*



**NO KID SLEEPS  
ON THE FLOOR  
IN OUR TOWN!**

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28*

*More details to come...*

## February Radio and Flower Sponsorships

2/2	<i>The People of St. John's To the Glory of God!</i>	
2/9	<i>The Sietsma Family In loving memory of Millie Sietsma.</i>	
2/16	<i>Ron &amp; Lynn Hensel In memory of those in our family who now rest in God's eternal peace and love.</i>	
2/23	<i>The People of St. John's To the Glory of God!</i>	<i>June Goga In loving memory of my husband, Ted, who passed away 1 year ago on February 21, 2024</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



### March Mission and Ministry Prayers

#### Concordia University System

All wise Lord, through your Word and Spirit you both enlighten the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom you draw to your service. Look in favor upon the professors, students, and staff who make up our Concordia University System. May all there be given wisdom and openness to hear your call to service in church and community.

#### Shepherd Staff

Lord Jesus, you became a servant willing to suffer death in our place. Be with all the members of the St. John's Shepherd's Staff as they aim to follow your example in acts of compassion, love and hospitality. May all in this community profit from their work and presence.

### Save the Dates:

Easter Egg Hunt &  
Palm Cross Making  
Saturday 4/12

Times and Details to  
come...



# Easter Flowers

**Hyacinths: \$8.00**

**Daffodils: \$8.00**

**Lilies: \$10.00**

**Deadline to order: 3/23/25**

**Sign up on Narthex Bulletin Board**



**Happy Spring, St. John's!**

**It's almost time to get out of hibernation and go outdoors. Put away your snow brushes and boots, tune up your lawnmower and your bikes.**

**Did you say bikes? Yes, we did! It's getting to be that time of year for the Ride for Roswell, Saturday, June 28th.**

**Questions? See Grace Stever  
Look Forward to seeing you There!**



## **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)**

## **The Chosen Watch Party**

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

**Meets in the basement conference room**

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



## **Holy Grounds**



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



Hailey	Holtz	1
Judith	McMahon	2
Stephen	Blackwell	3
Patricia	Rindfuss	3
Deborah	Howell	3
Ken	Nagel	3
Laurie	Miller	4
Hannah	Burnham	5
Abigale	Blackwell	6
Nancy	Sweeney	6
Bill	Boling	6
Jordan	Thurnherr	7
Rebecca	Mayback	7
Peyton	Anthony	10
David	Anthony IV	11
Carson	Fragale	13
John	Hughey V	13
Shirley	Morrison	14
Eileen	McIlhagga	15
Alan	Lumb	16
Colleen	Hurley	17
Justin	Besch	18
Debora	Sowinski	18
Kristen	Romal	18
Ethan	Herbold	20
Lainey	Schulz	20
Richard	Thurnherr II	21
Bryan	Mayback	22
Abby	Geisen	22

Emmalee	Mondo	22
Adalyn	Purpura	23
Matthew	Purpura	23
Elizabeth	Sexstone	23
Heather	Holtz	23
Roberta	Blackwell	24
Dennis	Sulzbach	24
Kyla	Fragale	27
Travis	Kilanowski	28
Jacquelyn	Kraebel	28
Grace	Stever	29
Nina	Wright	30
Timothy	Keohane IV	30

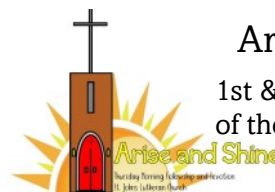


## Anniversaries

13	Stephen & Roberta Blackwell
27	Kaylin & Brian Pauly
27	George & Jennifer Bushey




3rd Thursdays of the month  
at 6:00pm



## Arise and Shine

1st & 3rd Thursdays  
of the month at 10am



SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI-DAY	SAT.
						<b>1</b> 9a– Worship Assistant Appreciation Breakfast  8p– A.A
<b>2 Transfiguration</b>  8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10a— BLAST 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C. <b>Spring Mission Project Begins</b> <b>Easter Flower Orders Begin</b>	<b>3</b>  Office Closed  7:15p— Elders Mtg.	<b>4</b>  5:30p— Girl Scouts	<b>5 Ash Wednesday</b> Office Closed <b>6:30p-Imposition of Ashes</b> <b>7p– Worship</b>  8p– A.A.	<b>6</b>  10a– Arise & Shine  6:30p– Girl Scouts	<b>7</b> Office Closed  5p– Scrap booking	<b>8</b> 8a– Men’s Group  4:30p -Watch Party  8p– A.A
<b>9 1st Sunday in Lent</b>  8:30a– Worship 10a– BLAST 11:15a-Worship 4:30p– Worship	<b>10 Office Closed</b>  7p— Council Mtg.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Office Closed  8p– A.A.	<b>13</b>  6:30p— Confirmation 6:30p– Girl Scouts	<b>14</b> Office Closed  6p– Girl Scout	<b>15</b> 8a– Men’s Group 6p– Meat Raffle at Grapevine  8p– A.A
<b>16 2nd Sunday in Lent</b>  8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10a— BLAST Children’s Music Ministry 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	<b>17</b> Office Closed	<b>18</b>  6:30p— Girl Scouts	<b>19</b> Office Closed  8p– A.A.	<b>20</b> 10a– Arise & Shine  6p– Café 6:30p– Girl Scouts	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b>  8p– A.A.
<b>23 3rd Sunday in Lent</b> <b>Family Service</b> 8:30a– Worship 10a– BLAST 11:15a– Worship <i>Baptism</i> 4:30p– Worship 10a– BLAST 11:15a– Worship 4:30p– Worship	<b>24</b> Office Closed  <b>31</b>	<b>25</b>  6:30p— Girl Scouts	<b>26</b> Office Closed  8p– A.A.	<b>27</b>  6:30p— Confirmation  6:30p— Girl Scouts	<b>28</b> Office Closed  6p– Girl Scouts	<b>29</b>  8p– A.A.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr.

*Pastoral Assistant*  
Rev. Howard Warner

*Organist*  
Mr. Camden Church

*Contemporary Music Leader*  
Mr. RJ Nieman

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Betty Cavaleri  
Karen Dowdall  
John Fragale, Jr.  
John Gauthier  
Jim Kless  
Jackie Kraebel (Alt)  
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Leslie Maciejewski (Alt)  
Barb Perry  
Bob Plewik  
Steve Plewik  
John Preston  
Ken Schabert

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**Radio Announcers:**

Jim Kless  
John Gauthier  
Karen Lorenz  
Darlene Schwenk  
Suzanne 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.