

The St. John's Journal Community Connect

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

April 2025

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion (4/13 8:30a; 11:15a; 4:30p):

This is the Sunday which begins Holy Week. Give serious thought to the meaning of the death of Christ. Palms play a part in the introductory rites of the Sunday, but the dominant theme of the service for the day is the Passion of our Lord.

Maundy Thursday (4/17 — 7:00p) A service of Holy Communion in which we remember our Lord's farewell supper with his disciples and the "new command" he gave to love. The service will conclude with the stripping of the altar to symbolize how our Lord was stripped of his clothing and dignity on that night.

Good Friday (4/18 — 7:00p) This is the day we recall the death of Jesus on the cross. We call it good, because by his death comes the good news of our salvation—secured by his blood. A service of Tenebrae will be held in which the church gradually becomes darker leading to the sound of the *strepitus*" (a loud noise symbolizing the closing of the tomb at the end of the service).

Easter Vigil (4/19 — 4:30p) Anciently, the service was a watch through the night for signs of the rising dawn. Readings, prayers and hymns would accompany the night of watching for new light of day that would signal the Day of Resurrection. The Vigil service was often a time when the newly instructed would receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and prepare to receive Holy Communion for the first time on Easter. The service includes a procession with candles, readings from Holy Scripture, a proclamation of victory, prayers and Holy Communion. Our Saturday service will follow the vigil format on Easter Eve.

The Resurrection of Lord— (4/20—8:30a; 11:15am) Easter is to be understood as the crown of the whole year, the queen of feasts; and as such, it lasts not for a day, not for a week, but for a week of weeks, a week made up not of seven days, but of seven weeks. So the Sundays of this season are called the Sundays of Easter. It is one extended feast. The Ascension (40 days after Easter) and the following Sundays are understood not as a separate season as in the past (Ascensiontide), but as a continuation of the Easter celebration within the week of weeks. The forty day period of preparation for Easter is thus succeeded by the fifty days of rejoicing. The Gospels for the Sundays of Easter present the themes of resurrection, ascension, and the sending of the Holy Spirit—aspects or stages of the Easter mystery.



March Council Highlights

As reported on 3/10/25

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


- Old Business— 74 people attended the Annual Meeting in February. SMP Vote for Tony Martino. Meat Raffle 424 tickets sold.
- New Business— Plant Sale to benefit Jackie Munzel. Lois to handle plant sale. Youth to help with unloading plants. Looking for 2025 Grant application. 130 year Anniversary Celebration. Looking at Reformation Weekend for celebration.
- Financial— Mike Brown— \$825 door offering to benefit Mal-yah Haj (granddaughter of member Cathy Haj).
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Convicted Series for Lenten Season. Butterflies to be hung on 4/19 at 9am. Photo Directory is in final layout. Ash Wednesday service was well attended.
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony— Meat Raffle on March 15. The Youth will help with unloading plants for the plant sale. Tentative plans to go to Pioneer on the Lake for Spring Retreat. Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for 4/12. Summer picnic plans in the works, will be held locally in Depew this year.
- Stewardship— Ed Lorenz— Working on a relationship with Peregrine Landing Assisted Living.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Family Service on March 23rd. Spring Mission project continues through 4/12.
- Shepherd's Staff— Rae Carier— Easter Flower order deadline 3/24. LCES meeting was March 13th.
- Trustees— Norm Hirschey, Larry Rindfuss, Joe Momot— Bell tower roof needs to be replaced. Winter weather has caused extensive damage. Looking for prices to put backflow preventer in.

Next Council Meeting:

April 14, 7:00pm



Those Serving April 2025

| | 8:30AM | | 11:15AM | |
|----------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|---------------|
| <u>Date</u> | <u>Elder</u> | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Elder</u> | <u>Lector</u> |
| 4/6 | Betty Cavaleri | Jeff Schuler | Amy Krupa | Amy Krupa |
| 4/13 | Betty Cavaleri | Sue Bluhm | Amy Krupa | Amy Krupa |
| 4/17 | Maundy Thursday 7:00pm | | | Sue Bluhm |
| 4/18 | Good Friday 7:00pm | | Rod Lorenz | Sue Bluhm |
| 4/20 | Betty Cavaleri | Cantor | Amy Krupa | Amy Krupa |
| 4/27 | Betty Cavaleri | Ed/Deann Lorenz | Amy Krupa | Amy Krupa |
| <u>4:30 PM</u> | <u>Elder</u> | <u>Lector</u> | <u>April Altar Guild</u> | |
| 4/6 | Barb Perry | Barb Perry | <div>Linda Plewik Betty Cavaleri Jerry Bernfeld Jr.</div>  | |
| 4/13 | Ken Schabert | Ken Schabert | | |
| 4/19 | Sat. Easter Vigil Karen Dowdall | Karen Dowdall | | |
| 4/27 | Betty Cavaleri | Pastor | | |

Election Results From Our Congregation

On March 9, 2025, our congregation came together in a special election to support and affirm Tony Martino as he embarks on a significant step in his faith journey through the Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP). I would like to announce that the vote was overwhelmingly in favor of supporting Tony on this journey.

The results of the election were as follows:

- Approve: 94
- Disapprove: 2
- Abstain: 1

With the majority approval of our congregation, Tony will now move forward by submitting his application to be considered for the SMP, with the goal of beginning in the Spring 2026 semester. We look forward to supporting him as he continues to grow in his faith and ministry.

Please join us in praying for Tony as he embarks on this exciting new chapter!

March Radio and Flower Sponsorships

| | | |
|------|---|---|
| 3/2 | <p><i>The People of St. John's</i> <i>To the Glory of God!</i></p> | <p><i>Dawn Brennan</i> <i>Remembering my husband, Jim and his twin sister, my best friend, Jane, as they celebrate their birthday in heavenly peace. Love & Miss you so much.</i></p> |
| 3/9 | <p>John Preston & Lois Zietz In loving memory of our parents.</p> | <p>Brian Thurnherr In celebration of Jordan's 34th Birthday!</p> |
| 3/16 | <p>Joan Dittmar In loving memory of her husband, Fred, who passed away January 14th of this year and is celebrating his first birthday in heaven on Wednesday, March 19th. "I miss you every moment, Fred, but I am comforted by the fact that you are now safely in your heavenly home."</p> | <p>The Herbold Family In celebration of all the March Birthdays in our family and in thanks to God for blessings received.</p> |
| 3/23 | <p>Norm & Vikki Hirschey To honor all those whom contributed to the life and growth of this church.</p> | <p>The Sharpe Family Happy Heavenly Birthday, Dad. Thank you Mom and Dad for teaching all of us what a blessing and a gift our family is to one another. We Love You!</p> |
| 3/30 | <p>Tony & Kim Martino In celebration of our Wedding Anniversary on April 7th.</p> | <p>Renay McCarthy In loving memory of Dad and Grandpa, Howard Weber, who God called home April 1, 2007. We love and miss you.</p> |

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



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.



3rd Thursdays of the month
at 6:00pm

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.



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!



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



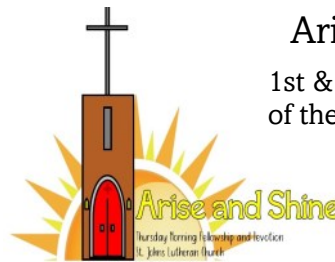
Holy Grounds



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

Arise and Shine

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



BLAST Spring Mission Project

Sleep in Heavenly Peace



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

You Can Help by Donating the Following by 4/12:

Brand New Twin-Size Bedding:

- ☐ Standard Pillows
- ☐ Twin Mattress Covers
- ☐ Twin Comforters

Gift Cards (\$25):

- ☐ Amazon
- ☐ Target
- ☐ Lowes
- ☐ Walmart

The Spring Mission Project concludes with Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Cross Making on Palm Sunday, April 12th, 2025

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

Birthdays

| | | | John | Garbutt | 17 |
|-----------|--------------|----|------------|---------|----|
| Maxwell | Castiglione | 1 | Catherine | Fragale | 19 |
| Mitchell | Romal | 1 | Dolores | Mau | 19 |
| John M | Fragale | 6 | Thomas III | Mudd | 20 |
| Andrew | McNett | 6 | Kendra | Herbold | 22 |
| Ruth | Schlesinger | 6 | Finnegan | Lozo | 22 |
| Carmi | DelConte | 7 | Julie | Gorski | 24 |
| John R | Fragale | 9 | Heidi | Manna | 24 |
| Alicia | Milam | 9 | Bob | Plewik | 26 |
| Charmaine | AfterBuffalo | 12 | Felicia | Sharpe | 26 |
| Sylus | Geelan | 13 | Alexander | Nobles | 26 |
| Laurel | Schunk | 15 | Carter | Hughey | 27 |
| Gary | Hillman | 16 | John | Beck | 30 |
| Linnette | Ramey | 16 | Jennifer | Purpura | 30 |



Anniversaries

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

| SUNDAY | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|---|
|  | | 1 5:30p— Girl Scouts | 2 Office Closed 8p— A.A. | 3 10a— Arise & Shine | 4 Office Closed 5p— Scrap- booking | 5 8a— Men's Group 8p— A.A |
| 6 5th Sunday in Lent 8:30a— Worship w/ H.C. 10a— BLAST 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p— Worship w/ H.C. | 7 Office Closed 7:15p— Elders Mtg. | 8 6:30p— Girl Scouts | 9 Office Closed 8p— A.A. | 10 6:30p— Girl Scouts 6:30p— Confirma- tion | 11 Office Closed 6p— Girl Scouts | 12 10a— Easter Egg Hunt & Palm Cross Making 4:30p -Watch Party 8p— A.A |
| 13 Palm Sunday 8:30a— Worship 10a— BLAST 11:15a-Worship 4:30p— Worship | 14 <i>Office Closed</i> 7p— Council Mtg. | 15 | 16 Office Closed 7p— Se- der Din- ner 8p— A.A. | 17 Maundy Thursday 7p— Wor- ship | 18 Good Friday Office Closed 7p— Wor- ship | 19 Easter Vigil 9am— Butterfly Hanging 4:30p— Worship 8p— A.A |
| 20 The Resurrection of Our Lord 8:30a— Worship w/ H.C. No BLAST 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p— Worship w/ H.C. | 21 Office Closed | 22 8a— Life- Line Screen- ing 6:30p— Girl Scouts | 23 Office Closed 8p— A.A. | 24 6:30p— Girl Scouts 6:30p— Con- firmation | 25 Office Closed 6p— Girl Scouts | 26 8p— A.A. |
| 27 The 2nd Sunay of Easter 8:30a— Worship 10a— BLAST 11:15a— Worship 4:30p— Worship | 28 Office Closed | 29 | 30 Office Closed 8p— A.A. |  | | |

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

67 Litchfield Ave.
Depew, New York 14043

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
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)
Larry Rindfuss
Joe Momot
Norm Hirschey

Secretary of the Council:

Susan Vriesen
(CouncilSec@sjlcdepew.com)

Financial Director:

Mike Brown
(finance@sjlcdepew.com)

Board of Education Chair:

Kim Lorenz
(BoardofEd@sjlcdepew.com)

Youth & Family Ministry Chair:

Jen Anthony
(FamilyMin@sjlcdepew.com)

Stewardship Chair:

Ed Lorenz
(Stewardship@sjlcdepew.com)

Shepherds Staff Chair:

Rae Carier
(shepherdsStaff@sjlcdepew.com)

Sunday School Superintendent:

Chandra Jagielo
(SundaySchool@sjlcdepew.com)

Prayer Chain:

Jim Kless
(Prayerchain@sjlcdepew.com)

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.