

The St. John's Journal Community Connect

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

Mental Health Awareness Night Tuesday, May 13, 2025 from 7-8PM at St. John's



Join us as we discuss the
importance of mental
health in ourselves and in
others!

We will provide information on coping skills
and participate in a mindfulness activity.

We will show you how to be a trusted person
for someone struggling with their mental
health.

Bring your questions and
open minds to explore this
important topic!



Hosted by: Nicole Shields, Youth Peer Advocate Program Manager at Mental Health Advocates of WNY & George Bushey, School Counselor at Depew HS



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

May 2025

April Council Highlights

As reported on 4/14/25

- Old Business— Plant sale \$3,032. Meat Raffle \$16,250.
- New Business— 130th Anniversary, looking for historian to help with collecting and displaying artifacts. Summer Congregational picnic at Fireman's Park on Sat. Aug. 9th. Pente-cost Geranium Sale
- Financial— Mike Brown— Collected 112 items and \$265 for SHP Spring Mission Project. Youth Gathering \$6,800 for flights.
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony— Meat Raffle held on 3/15, great success, raised over \$16,00 to go towards the Youth Gathering. Flights, hotel and shuttle booked for YG. Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Cross making on 4/12 with a good turnout. Summer Picnic 8/9.
- Stewardship— Ed Lorenz— Success in getting out in the community representing St. John's. Turnout was great at Peregrin for making of palm crosses.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Family Service held on 3/23. Children assisted as greeters, offering collectors, readers and acolytes. Sleep in Heavenly Peace began 3/9 and concluded on 4/12 with 112 items received and \$265 in gift cards. LCES grant application for Stephens Ministry was prepared and submitted. Expect to hear in June if the grant will be awarded. No BLAST on 5/11. Last day of BLAST will be 6/8.
- Shepherd's Staff—Rae Carier— Easter Cards and gifts were prepared for shut-ins. Over 30 attended the Seder Meal. Easter Flowers arranged 4/19. Plant sale items will be delivered in May.
- Trustees—Norm Hirschey, Larry Rindfuss, Joe Momot— Sewer backflow check valve. Bell Tower Roof replacement. Hot water boiler repairs made. Parking lot South side driving lane repaving.

Next Council Meeting:

May 12, 7:00pm



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.

2025 Lutheran Church Extension Society Grant Application Summary

St. John's Lutheran Church, Depew - Stephen Ministry Program



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 2 Corinthians 1: 3-4

St. John's Leadership identified a need in our congregation of Christ-centered care services for grief, health issues, terminal illness or end of life, shut-ins or those in assisted living or nursing homes, financial difficulties, separation or divorce, parents of and/or children leaving home for college or military service, preparing for retirement, and as primary caregivers for loved ones. A Lutheran Church Extension Society (LCES) Grant Application was submitted to pursue Stephen Ministry as a new church ministry to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of our members. The 2025 LCES Grant awards are anticipated to be announced in June 2025.

Major Objectives

The primary objective of this new Christ-centered ministry is to meet the spiritual or emotional needs of congregational members. The secondary objective includes providing an opportunity for members to serve God through assisting others with spiritual and emotional needs. Our Stephen Ministers and Stephen Ministry Leaders would work closely with our Pastor and other member churches as an extension of pastoral care to see that the needs of congregational members are being met and provide regular Christ-centered care and support for as long as the person needs it.

Anticipated 2025 Goals and Activities

Goal 1 – To identify and provide training to two (2) congregational members as Stephen Ministry Leaders by early-Fall 2025.

Goal 2 – To have our Stephen Ministry Leaders train three (3) to five (5) congregational members to be Stephen Ministers before the end of 2025.

We anticipate holding a meeting in early June for anyone interested in learning more about the Stephen Ministry Program if the LCES Grant is awarded to St. John's.



Lectionary & Communion Schedule

"Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Luke 24:5-6



W C May 4, 2025—3rd Sun. of Easter
Acts 9:1-6; Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-19


W NC May 11, 2025—4th Sun. of Easter
Acts 9:36-43; Rev 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

W C May 18, 2025—5th Sun. of Easter
Acts 11:1-18; Rev 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

W NC May 25, 2025—6th Sun. of Easter
Acts 16:9-15; Rev 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29

W May 29, 2025—Ascension
Acts 1:1-11; Eph 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Those Serving May 2025

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
5/4	Barb Perry	Cantor	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
5/11	Barb Perry	Sue Bluhm	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
5/18	Barb Perry	Karen Shafer	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
5/25	Barb Perry	Ed/Deann Lorenz	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>May Altar Guild</u>	
5/4	John Preston	John Preston	Tom & Sue Bluhm Dawn Smith 	
5/11	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik		
5/18	Rod Lorenz	Rod Lorenz		
5/25	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik		

April Radio and Flower Sponsorships

4/6	<p>Darlene Schwenk <i>In loving memory of husband, George on his 80th Birthday</i></p>	<p>Charmaine AfterBuffalo <i>In loving memory of my dad, Gary Karl on his 78th Birthday with my mom in heaven. Together now forever.</i></p>
4/13	<p>Darlene Vogel <i>Blessings of 2 great-grandchildren. For my church family. For my family members who have passed. For my husband Richard, brother Ken, parents Elmer & Alvina.</i></p>	<p>The People of St John's <i>To the Glory of God!</i></p>
4/20	<p>Mike, Jan & Danny Brown <i>In loving memory of Eric Brown's birthday, April 16th.</i></p>	
4/27	<p>The People of St John's <i>To the Glory of God!</i></p>	<p>Tom & Sue Bluhm <i>In loving memory of our parents Del & Madeline, sister Pam & brother Douglas.</i></p>



Saturday, June 28th

Please support our current year's riders: Mike Brown, Grace & Mike Stever, Dave & Laura Tirone.

All are welcome to join in the fun and fellowship and ride with us.

Any Questions? Please see any one of the riders!

Thank you again for supporting this important cause!



The Chosen Watch Party

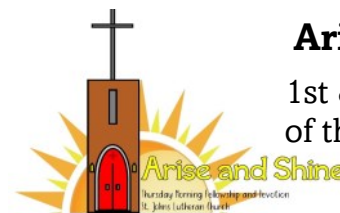
The 2nd Saturday of the Month at 4:30 PM

Meets in the basement conference room

Call Barb Perry with any



3rd Thursdays of the month at 6:00pm



Arise and Shine

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



June	Goga	1
Wendy	Latalladi	1
Charlotte	Cocco	2
Cheryl	Boling	2
Leigh Varga	Cwiklinski	3
Loren	Ratajczak	6
Don	Loney	7
Kaitlin	Gorski	7
John	Hughey	8
Kelsea	Milam	8
Rick	Mayback	9
Gaige	Hughey	11
Jonathan	Lasky	12
Silas	Hojnacki	12
George	Meyer Sr.	14
Leslie	Maciejewski	16
Edwin	Lorenz	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
John	Beck	30
Jennifer	Purpura	30

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





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

Are you interested in volunteering on a Saturday (date TBD) from 8:30-12:30 to “sand, drill, assemble, and stain” the wood used to make twin beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace?

If so, contact Mike Brown at 716-901-6219 or leave a note in the office.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a National Non-Profit Organization of volunteers with a Buffalo chapter whose goal is providing beds in the city of Buffalo so kids do not have to sleep on the floor.

In the last 4 years they have made and delivered over 5,500 beds with a need for more!

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1 10a– Arise & Shine	2 Office Closed 5p– Scrap-booking	3 8a– Men’s Group 8p– A.A
4 Easter 3 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10a— BLAST 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C. 12:30p– Private Event 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	5 Office Closed 7:15p— Elders Mtg.	6 5:30p—Girl Scouts	7 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	8 6:30p– Girl Scouts 6:30p– Confirmation	9 Office Closed 6p– Girl Scouts	10 8a– Private Event 4:30p -Watch Party 8p– A.A
11 Easter 4 Mother’s Day 8:30a– Worship 11:15a-Worship 4:30p– Worship (No BLAST) 	12 Office Closed 7p— Council Mtg.	13 6:30p—Girl Scouts 7p– Mental Health Awareness Night	14 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	15 10a– Arise & Shine 6p– Café 6:30p– Girl Scouts	16 Office Closed	17 8a– Men’s Group 8p– A.A
18 Easter 5 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10a— BLAST 10a– Confirmand Review 11:15a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	19 Office Closed	20	21 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	22 6:30p– Girl Scouts 6:30p– Confirmation	23 Office Closed 6p– Girl Scouts	24 8a– Butterflies come down 8p– A.A.
25 Easter 6 8:30a– Worship 10a– BLAST 11:15a– Worship 4:30p– Worship	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 6:30p—Girl Scouts	28 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	29 The Ascension 6:30p– Girl Scouts	30	31 8p– A.A.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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:**

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Betty Cavaleri
Karen Dowdall
John Fragale, Jr.
John Gauthier
Jim Kless
Jackie Kraebel (Alt)
Amy Krupa
Leslie Maciejewski (Alt)
Barb Perry
Bob Plewik
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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.