

The St. John's Journal Community Connect

July & August 2025

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



On Saturday June 28th, Our church team the St John's Screaming Eagles took to the bike routes riding 10, 20 & 30 miles. \$6,771 was donated towards the \$6,000 goal.

Thank you for your generous support!





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
10:30am

Sunday Evening Blended
Worship 4:30pm

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

June Council Highlights

As reported on 6/9/25

- Financial— Mike Brown— Flower sale proceeds were \$2,745.25. Rounded up to \$3,000 from mission fund to benefit Jaclyn M. \$15,000 moved from general fund to trustees improvement fund.
- Old Business— Grant Application was accepted for Stephen Ministries training at St. John's. Summer picnic 8/9. Details to come.
- New Business— 130th Anniversary Celebration. Ride for Roswell has 10 riders. Sleep in Heavenly Peace event made 117 beds. Several SJ members attended and assisted.
- Elders—Rod Lorenz—Still finalized photo directory. Meeting held for deacons and communion assistants. July & August contemporary worship is at 10:30am.
- Stewardship—Ed Lorenz—outreach still moving along at Perigrine.
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony— Small group went on spring retreat to Pioneer on the Lake in May and to Darien Lake on 6/14. Family Mini Golf Night 6/30. Congregational Picnic 8/9.
- Shepherd's Staff—Rae Carier— Deacon and Communion Assistant meeting held 6/12.
- Board of Education—Kim Lorenz—BLAST closing was 6/8. Encouraging more family services to get families to church.
- Trustees—Norm Hirschey, Larry Rindfuss, Joe Momot— looking at parking lot repair work.
- Pastor—upgrading to Windows 11. Upgraded firewall.

Next Council Meeting:
Monday, September 15, 7:00pm



130 Years of Blessings—Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

As we reflect on the past 130 years, it’s clear that much has changed. In 1895, communities were centered around shared spaces—where news was exchanged face-to-face, electricity was still an emerging innovation, and travel was done by horse or carriage. Today, we live in a digital age where communication is instant, and travel spans the globe with both quickly and with ease.



Over this same time period, our church community has grown and evolved alongside these changes. Looking through the gallery in our History Room, we can see not only how our physical space has moved and expanded, but how we’ve grown spiritually and communally as a church community. We have also embraced new ways to share the Word and connect with each other in faith.

130 years is a milestone worth celebrating—not only to honor the vision and dedication of our founders, but also to recognize who we are today. This October during Reformation weekend we are planning a special anniversary celebration. More details will be shared throughout the summer months. In addition to the celebration, we’ll also be reaching out to all of you—our cherished faith community—to help us tell the story of 2025: from the roots your family planted in this church, to the faith that continues to shape your journey today.

Financial Director’s Report— as of 6/25/25 — Budget: \$144,450

	This YTD	Last YTD	Percentage
Giving	\$142,877	\$132,567	Up 7.8 %
Ministry Expense	\$145,946	\$143,466	Up 1.7%
Net Income	(\$3,069)	(\$10,899)	

Radio Broadcast	As of 6/25/25
Sponsored	\$4,510
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	\$4,860
	Loss of (\$350) = 2 unfulfilled sponsorships

Thank you!

Giving Statements for Quarter 2 have been sent out via e-mail. If you would like a printed statement, please call or email the office 716-683-3947 or secretary@sjlcdepew.com

Blessing for Travelers

*O God, whose glory fills the whole creation,
and whose presence we find wherever we
go: Preserve those who travel: surround
them with your loving care; protect them
from every danger; and bring them in safety
to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen*

National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA

July 19– July 23

*Youth will be flying Delta to Atlanta GA to
New Orleans, LA.
Staying at Hilton New Orleans Riverside*

16 Youth and 3 Leaders:

Matthew Bluhm

Carter Hughey

Gaige Hughey

Ayla Jagielo

Cade Jagielo

Taylor Keohane

Timmy Keohane

Alex Krupa

Julia Lorenz

Michael Merriman

Aubree Pauly

Susan Plewik

Ava Purpura

Branden Purpura

Johnny Sabadasz

Aleigha Sharpe



Lectionary & Communion Schedule



July 6, 2025

4th Sunday after Pentecost

Is 66:10-14; Ps 66:1-9; Gal 6:1-16;
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20



July 13, 2025

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Deut30:9-14; Ps1-10; Col 1:1-14;
Luke 10:25-37



July 20, 2025

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen18:1-10; Ps15; Col 1:15-28;
Luke 10:38-42



July 27, 2025

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 18:20-32; Ps138; Col 2:6-15;
Luke 11:1-13



August 3, 2025

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Eccl 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23; Ps 49:1-
12; Col 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21



August 10, 2025

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 15:1-6; Ps 33:12-22; Heb 11:1-
3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40



August 17, 2025

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Jer 23:23-29; Ps 82; Heb11:29-
12:2; Luke 12:49-56



August 24, 2025

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Is 58:9-14; Ps 103:1-8; Heb 12:18-
29; Luke 13:10-17



August 31, 2025


12th Sunday after Pentecost

Prov 25:6-7; Ps 112; Heb 13:1-9,
15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Those Serving July 2025

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
7/6	Barb Perry	Barb Perry	Karen Lorenz	Karen Lorenz
7/13	Rod Lorenz	Barb Perry	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
7/20	Ken Schabert	Norm Hirschey	Karen Lorenz	Karen Lorenz
7/27	Barb Perry	Barb Perry	John Preston	John Preston
<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>July Altar Guild</u>	
7/6	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert	<div style="text-align: center;">  ALTAR GUILD </div>	
7/13	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall		
7/20	Betty Cavaleri	TBD		
7/27	John Preston	John Preston		

Those Serving August 2025

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
8/3	John Gauthier	Pastor	John Gauthier	Pastor
8/10	Jim Kless	Jim Kless	John Fragale	John Fragale
8/17	Barb Perry	Barb Perry	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
8/24	Rod Lorenz	Rod Lorenz	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
8/31	Barb Perry	Barb Perry	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>August Altar Guild</u>	
8/3	John Gauthier	John Gauthier	<div style="text-align: center;"> Donna McNett Charmaine AfterBuffalo  Altar SERVERS </div>	
8/10	Rod Lorenz	Rod Lorenz		
8/17	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik		
8/24	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik		
8/31	Jim Kless	Jim Kless		

July Mission and Ministry Prayers	August Mission and Ministry Prayers
<p>Depew Community Center—For the Depew Community Center for its construction and all who work towards its completion. We pray that the presence of God’s love, his compassion and charity shine through the work of this center.</p>	<p>Trinity West Seneca—For St. Trinity Lutheran School in West Seneca 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.</p>
<p>Christian Education—Good and Gracious God, our children are precious in your sight as well as our youth. Receive our thanks for all the programs of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION here at St. John’s. Bless the students and fill them with a passion to hear and learn about you. Give to each teacher, leader, or helper, wisdom and patience that they may be an influence for good and point these young hearts and minds to the love of Jesus.</p>	<p>Youth—Gracious God, give strength to our Youth and our Youth Group as they gather, pursue and explore your will for their lives. Bless the leaders with wisdom, patience and new insight as they seek to cultivate loving community grounded and rooted in Christ Jesus. Open the hearts of the young people there present so that they might see you more clearly, love you more dearly and walk with you more nearly day by day</p>



Summer Congregational Picnic

August 9th, 2025 2-8pm | Depew Fireman’s Park — 90 Gould Ave.
(Please Park in Erie St. Lot)
Evening Vespers at 7:00pm

Join us for an afternoon and evening of fun, food & fellowship!
 Please bring a dish to pass. Hotdogs, Hamburgers and beverages will be provided.
Sign-up Sheet Posted in Narthex



June Radio and Flower Sponsorships

6/1	<p>Paul Murawski <i>In loving memory of my wife, Donna, on her birthday, June 4th.</i></p>	
6/8	<p>Barbara Keller & Family <i>In loving memory of Ruth Dowd on her birthday, May 27th.</i></p>	<p>Sue & Ken Schabert <i>For thanksgiving to God for all of the blessings during our 52 years of marriage.</i></p>
6/15	<p>Jan & Mike Brown <i>In celebration of our 35th Wedding Anniversary on June 16th and in memory of Alex Lynch, 6/15/2005.</i></p>	<p>Dawn Brennan <i>In loving memory of my husband, Jim. So grateful for our time together and for his Heavenly peace. 2 Timothy 4:7-8. Love and miss you every day.</i></p>
6/22	<p>John & Jane Marone <i>In celebration of John's birthday and all blessings received throughout the year</i></p>	<p>Charmaine & Ed AfterBuffalo <i>In celebration of birthdays and anniversaries</i></p>
6/29	<p>Karen Lorenz <i>In honor of my missionary grandson, Jason Cizdziel and wife Laken's 15 year wedding anniversary as they bring the saving word of God to the tribe in Wabuku, Papua New Guinea.</i></p>	<p>The Herbold Family <i>In celebration of our daughter's 21st birthday and in thanks to God for all He provides.</i></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



**Congratulations to
our Confirmands
and Graduates!**



Stephen Ministry

The LCES Grant was awarded to St. John's to pursue the Stephen Ministry Program. Stephen Ministry is a Christ-centered ministry that acts as an extension of pastoral care to provide care and support to our members in need.

We look forward to this new Ministry at St. John's.



Elaina	Lorenz	1
Ross	Contella	3
Hayden	Herbold	3
Karen	Shafer	3
Jamie	Bluhm	3
Janet	Erickson	5
Katherine	Lange	5
Crew	Jagiello	5
John	Gauthier	5
Jenna	Burnham	6
Jessica	Nobles	7
Mary	Warner	8
Susanne	Bluhm	9
Debra	Best	9
Alyssa	Cappello	9
Kerry	Lesanti-Alicea	10
Aisley	Sharpe	10
Andrea	Mudd	12
Caleb	Hojnacki	13
Desire	Zdanowicz	13
Jennifer	Anthony	14
Hope	Oberteau	15
Cameron	Fragale	16
Joan	Keating	17
Joseph	Baird Jr.	17
Kimberly	Castiglione	19
Kathy	Beck	20
Carla	Nagel	21
Jennifer	Sharpe	22
Rose Mary	Kirsch	23
Renay	McCarthy	23
Scott	Geisen	24
Laura	Tirone	25
Eden	Jagiello	26
Karen	Lorenz	28
Sue	Hillman	28

Gerald	Radder	29
Michael	Durning	30
Dave	Tirone	31
Morgan	DelConte	31
Neal	Schlesinger	31
Braxton	Murray	31
Charles	Miller	31



1	Wayne & Debra Dziengielewski
1	Christopher & Angela Geelan
3	Mr. & Mrs. Loren Ratajczak
4	Andrew & Donna McNett
	Cheryl & Bill Boling
4	Mitchell & Kristen Romal
5	John & Andrea Fragale
5	Adam Orzechowski & Jaime Lorenz
11	Ed & Deann Lorenz
12	Martin & Debra Wisniewski
17	Timothy & Theresa Keohane
20	Jon & Colleen Kilanowski
	Gregory & Joy Yaskow
24	Richard & Suzanne Sabadasz
31	James & Trudy Possinger

Joelle	Baird	1
Dawn	Varga	1
Lori	Lesanti	2
Dawn	Gauthier	2
Arthur	Benson	3
Michelle	Hughey	3
Kristin	Sexstone	4
Rev. Galen	Purpura	6
Michael	Brown	8
Clara	Durso	8
Jim	Kless	8
Ryan	Boling	8
Kimberly	Lorenz	9
Robin	Redenbach	10
Sue	Pijacki	12
McKenzie	Kilanowski	14
Patricia	Schlebus	14
Henley	Sharpe	14
Sandy	Thompson	14
Joy	Matson	17
Thomas	Bluhm	19
Sharon L	Taylor	19
Summer	Lumb	21
Cameron	Garbacz	21
Iyla	Lorenz	24
Matthew	Goodyear	25
Peter	Blackwell	26
Karen	Rutkowski	26

Branden	Purpura	27
James	Possinger	29
John	Sweeney	29
Jesse	Plewik	29
Aubree	Pauly	31



1	Ron & Brittany Lorenz
	Gary & Barb Geitter
8	Rob & Robin Redenbach
11	Adam & Chandra Jagielo
12	Dan & Judy McMahon
16	John & Kathy Beck
17	Matthew & Jessica Goodyear
	Christopher & Lara Lozo
21	Justin & Katie Burnham
	George & Carmi DelConte
25	Larry & Patricia Rindfuss
31	Andrew & Amy Krupa

Arise and Shine & Café

Will Resume in September!





The Chosen Watch Party

Join us September when we resume Watch Party!

Barb: 716-983-7064

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3	4 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Independence Day</i>	5 8p– A.A
6 Pentecost 4 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:30a–Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	7 <i>Office Closed</i>	8	9 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	10	11 <i>Office Closed</i>	12 8p– A.A
13 Pentecost 5 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:30a–Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	14 <i>Office Closed</i>	15	16 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	17	18 <i>Office Closed</i>	19 8p– A.A
20 Pentecost 6 8:30a– Worship 10:30a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	21 <i>Office Closed</i>	22	23 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	24	25 <i>Office Closed</i>	26 8p– A.A.
Youth Gathering 7/17—7/24 New Orleans (<i>Pastor Away</i>)						
27 Pentecost 7 8:30a– Worship 10:30a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29	30 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	31		

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 Office Closed	2 8a– Men’s Group 8p– A.A
3 Pentecost 8 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:30a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	4 Office Closed	5	6 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	7	8 Office Closed	9  2-8pm 8p– A.A
10 Pentecost 9 8:30a– Worship 10:30a-Worship 4:30p– Worship	11 Office Closed	12	13 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	14	15 Office Closed	16 8a– Men’s Group 8p– A.A
17 Pentecost 10 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:30a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	18 Office Closed	19	20 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	21	22 Office Closed	23 8p– A.A.
24 Pentecost 11 8:30a– Worship 10:30a-Worship 4:30p– Wor-ship <div> 31 Pente- cost 12 8:30a– Wor-ship 10:30a-Worship 4:30p– Worship </div>	25 Office Closed	26	27 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	28	29 Office Closed	30 8p– A.A.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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secretary@sjlcdepew.com
pastor@sjlcdepew.com
Web: www.sjlcdepew.com



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

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

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Prayer Chain:

Jim Kless

Radio Announcers:

Jim Kless
John Gauthier
Karen Lorenz
Darlene Schwenk
Suzanne Sabadasz

Altar Guild Chair:

Betty Cavaleri

Communion Assistants:

Charmaine AfterBufflalo

Jerry Bernfeld Jr

Tom & Sue Bluhm

Rae Carier

Karen Carwile

Carol Coffed

Wendy Garbutt

Sue Hillman

Deborah Howell

Jackie Kraebel

Nick & Alex Krupa

Deann Lorenz

Donna McNett

Barb Perry

Linda Plewik

Karen Plewik

Ceil Rowell

Ken & Sue Schabert

Dawn Smith

Communion Deacons:

Betty Cavaleri

Deann Lorenz

Caroline Coffed