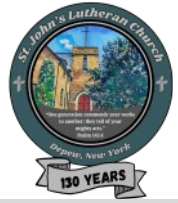


# The St. John's Journal Community Connect



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

October 2025



## From The Pastor

Blessings and Greetings to you, my dear friends in Jesus,

Mark Twain is attributed to saying: *"The only person who likes change is a wet baby."* There just might be some truth to this statement, do you agree? Now, I suppose our opinion on change would most likely be based on what the particular change may be, but I'm going to presume that for many of us change is a difficult thing.

"but the Word of the  
Lord endures forever."  
1 Peter 1:25

And yet in thinking about this, perhaps, at first glance, the only constant in our lives may be change. Change is happening all around us! There are those changes that happen to us physically, changes in our family dynamics. In considering the world around us, we are seeing some pretty radical changes, and how change is impacting the greater church too.

Of course, some change is worth rejoicing in! God is at work in our lives and how he is constantly "working good for those who love him." But being real, some of the changes we're seeing, especially as we think about the impact of sin on our lives, the world and the church isn't so good at all. There is no denying that there is a compromise to God's Word as his truth's are being adjusted or changed to better fit personal or cultural influences.

Change can be a good thing, but change is a never good when the Word of God is compromised or attempts are made to alter it. As Christian Lutheran's we believe **that "the Word of God endures forever!"** (it was the motto of the Lutheran Reformation-by the way) The Word of the Lord endures forever! In other words it doesn't change. The Word which points us to the will of God and our life and Salvation in Jesus... never changes! The truths and promises are real!! God's Word IS infallible, inspired, and inerrant and, this my friends, is a good thing!! Amidst so much change happening in our lives, the world and the church at large, we are reminded that we have a **FOREVER CONSTANT** in the Word of God and in the Divine Word- Jesus; Our Jesus the one who came to secure for us life abundantly by his death, resurrection and the sending of the Holy Spirit The Word of God as given to us by God himself is our foundation!! Nothing more. Nothing less. Forever Unchangeable!!

May the Holy Spirit empower us to ever build our lives on the truth of the Word of God alone! May we be enabled to hold fast to the Word- never adding to it or subtracting from it. And may we read, mark and inwardly digest God's Word that we might be empowered to share it just as it is! **The unchanging WORD has the power to CHANGE this ever CHANGING world.** Now, I don't know about you, but that's the kind of change I can get behind! — PG.





**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

## October Mission and Ministry Prayers

**St. Luke Food Pantry**— All providing God, you have given us with all that we need for this life and the life to come. Since you use us to serve others, help us to always be aware of the needs of those in our community. We thank you for the ministry of the St. Luke's Food Pantry and we ask your blessings as they seek to serve the needs of so many in this community.

**Music Ministry**—Good and gracious God, to you we raise our voices in song and praise for grace bestowed through your Son Jesus. We thank you for the gifts you have bestowed upon RJ, Camden, the Praise Band and all others who serve in Music Ministry. Bless each of these servants in their ministry as they lead us in song and point us to your love.

## The Chosen Watch Party



Join us on  
October 11th  
for the  
The Chosen  
Watch Party

Sign up sheet on the bulletin  
board in the Narthex  
Questions?  
Call Barb Perry : 716-983-7064

## Lectionary & Communion Schedule



**Oct. 5, 2025**  
17th Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Hab 1:1-4, 2:1-4; 2  
Tim 1:1-14; Luke  
17:5-10



**Oct 12, 2025**  
18th Sunday after  
Pentecost  
2 Kings 5:1-3,7-15; 2  
Tim 2:8-15; Luke  
17:11-19



**Oct. 19, 2025**  
19th Sunday after  
Pentecost  
Gen 32:22-31; 2 Tim  
3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-  
8



**Oct. 26, 2025**  
Reformation  
Jer 31:31-34; Rom  
3:19-28; John 8:31-  
36

## Holy Grounds



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

## September Council Highlights

As reported on 9/15/25

- Old Business— Church picnic was a success, approximately 60 people attended. Location worked well. Special thank you to Jim Kless, Norm Hirschey, John Hughey and Tony Martino for assisting with setup, grilling, etc.
- New Business— Pastor Appreciation Month is October, observed 10/19. **Oct. 26th is the 130th Anniversary Celebration.** One Worship Service at 9:00am, celebration luncheon at Ripas. Veterans Day discussion. **Election Nomination Sunday 11/2.** Discussion around advertising during the week for Sunday Church Service on WXRL.
- Financial—Mike Brown—Many thanks from recipients of gifts. Cost of Youth Gathering was \$37,000.
- Elders—Rod Lorenz— Discussion on security, locking doors, Single Point of Entry
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony— Anniversary Committee meeting bi-weekly, plans are moving smoothly. Youth Convention went very well. Looking for fall youth event, Pioneer on the Lake retreat.
- Trustees— Larry R., Joe M., Norm H.— Check valve has been installed, issue with it still. Looking to put in an additional restroom, get trustees a larger area,. And upgrade the security cameras.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— 34 children registered for BLAST. 3 **Family Day Services, November 16, March 22 and May 17.** Kids to sing and participate. 12/21/25 Christmas Pageant.
- Shepherd's Staff— Rae Carier— Fall Gifts for Shut-ins are ready. Shut-in lists need to be updated as there have been many changes. Planning visits in October. Upcoming Inventory of Kitchen to be done. **Next Meeting: 10/13/25 7:00pm**



Dates to remember: Nomination Sunday 11/2, Elections 12/7

### Financial Director's Report— as of 9/30/2025 — Budget: \$216,675

	This YTD	Last YTD	Percentage
Giving	\$221,270	\$196,010	+\$12.9%
Ministry Expense	\$213,460	\$205,608	+3.8%
Net Income	<b>\$7,810</b>	<b>(\$9,598)</b>	

Radio Broadcast	September 2025
Sponsored	\$6,665
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	\$7,380
	<b>(Loss of \$715 = 4 Sponsorships or 1 month)</b>



# OFFICIAL PRIMARY NOMINATION BALLOT

## November 2nd, 2025

### St. John's Lutheran Church



In accordance with our constitution, the following offices are to be filled by persons 21 years of age or older.

- Any member of the congregation may make a nomination.
- Incumbents are listed below for **informational purposes only**.
- To nominate an incumbent, you must **WRITE** in their name(s) in the Ballot section.

**REMINDER – INCUMBENTS** - complete their term of service in December 2025 and are eligible for nomination to hold office in 2026.

**OFFICERS CURRENTLY IN OFFICE AND NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RE-ELECTION ARE:**

*Elders: Karen Dowdall, John Gauthier, Jim Kless, Amy Krupa, Barb Perry, Steve Plewik*

*Trustees: Joe Momot, Norm Hirschey*

You must **SIGN THE VOTING REGISTER** for your nomination to be included!

<b><u>President</u></b> (1-year term) Incumbent: Jamie Bluhm  _____ _____	<b><u>Secretary</u></b> (1-year term) Incumbent: Susan Vriesen  _____ _____	<b>Elders (6 elders for a 2-year term)</b> <b>Incumbents:</b> <i>Betty Cavaleri, John Fragale Jr., Rod Lorenz, John Preston, Ken Schabert, Bob Plewik</i>
<b><u>Financial Director</u></b> (2-year term) Incumbent: Mike Brown  _____ _____	<b><u>Board of Education Chair</u></b> (1-year term) Incumbent: Kim Lorenz  _____ _____	
<b><u>Shepherd's Staff Chair</u></b> (1-year term) Incumbent: Rae Carier  _____ _____	<b><u>Stewardship Team Chair</u></b> (1-year term) Incumbent: Ed Lorenz  _____ _____	
<b><u>Family Ministry Chair</u></b> (1-year term) Incumbent: Jen Anthony  _____ _____	<b><u>Trustee</u></b> (3-year term) Incumbent: Larry Rindfuss  _____ _____	

## Those Serving October 2025

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
10/5	Betty Cavaleri	Cantor	John Preston	John Preston
10/12	Betty Cavaleri	Sue Bluhm	John Preston	John Preston
10/19	Betty Cavaleri	Tony Martino	John Preston	John Preston
10/26	9:00am Worship - Elder: Betty Cavaleri Lector: Ed & Deann Lorenz			
<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>October Altar Guild</u>	
10/5	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa	Ceil Rowell, Jackie Kraebel & Sue Hillman	
10/12	John Fragale	John Fragale		
10/19	Barb Perry	Barb Perry		

## September Radio and Flower Sponsorships

9/7	<b><i>Harold &amp; Patti Hutchinson</i></b> <i>In loving memory of wife, Nova and husband, Thomas Gibson.</i>	<b><i>Terri Holtz</i></b> <i>In loving memory of my mom and dad.</i>
9/14	<b><i>The People of St. John's</i></b> <i>To the Glory of God</i>	<b><i>Tom &amp; Sue Bluhm</i></b> <i>Thank God for Pastor &amp; the great members of St. John's that share their time and talents to make this such a special place.</i>
9/21	<b><i>John &amp; Jane Marone</i></b> <i>In thankfulness for the blessings received during our 60 years of marriage.</i>	<b><i>John Hughey</i></b> <i>Happy 21st Anniversary, Michele. I love you forever and always.</i>
9/28	<b><i>The People of St. John's</i></b> <i>To the Glory of God!</i>	<b><i>Caroline &amp; David Coffed</i></b> <i>In celebration of our 59<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Also in celebration of Carol's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on 9/16 and celebrating all of our family's September birthdays.</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





SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

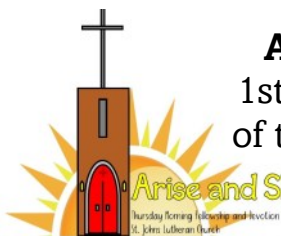
DOORS OPEN @ 12PM, GAME STARTS @ 1PM



**PRESENTS A  
BILLS VIEWING PARTY  
FUNDRAISING EVENT**

**@ ISMAILIA SHRINERS - 1600 SOUTHWESTERN BLVD, BUFFALO,  
NY 14224**

- ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT PLYMOUTH CROSSROADS
- \$40 DONATION FOR A TICKET (INCLUDES 2 DRINK TICKETS & FOOD. FOOD INCLUDES ASSORTED APPETIZER BARS, FULL LUNCH OPTIONS, DESSERT, & MUCH MORE!)
- BASKET RAFFLE & PRIZE DRAWINGS
- SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS, CALL 716 - 393 - 3906, OR VISIT [WWW.PLYMOUTHCROSSROADS.ORG](http://WWW.PLYMOUTHCROSSROADS.ORG)
- PURCHASE TICKETS BY 11/01/25



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

Next Date: 10/2





3rd Thursday  
of the month  
at 6:00pm

Next Café: 10/16

Noah	Shaw	4
Rae	Carier	5
Ramona	Sietsma	6
Phyllis	Hanson	7
Paul	Murawski	9
Erik	Orzechowski	9
Amy	Krupa	12
Paul	Varga	12
Rebecca	Hojnacki	12
Justin	Purpura	12
Aliza Ruth	Hojnacki	13
Jamie	Mondo	13
Finley	Cray	13
Kyle	Tirone	14
Daniel	Hojnacki	14
Lauren	Yaskow	14
Terri	Holtz	15
Hunter	Silakowski	16
Brian	Thurnherr	18
Mya	Silakowski	19
Easton	DelConte	19
Lois	Zietz	19
Michael	Stever	20
Arthur	Haase	22
Evan	Herbold	25
Amelia	VanValkenburg	26
Ava	Marsh	28
Dylan	Lumb	28
Brooke	Mayback	29
Richard	Sharpe III	29
Thomas	Mudd	29
George	Bushey	30
Shelley	Matthews	31

1	Kyle & Jennifer Sharpe
	John & Dawn Gauthier
2	Gary & Sue Hillman
4	Harold & Patti Hutchinson
5	Daniel & Susan Vriesen
6	John & Nancy Sweeney
8	Laurel & Patrick Schunk
	Scott & Kim Castiglione
	Kevin & Nina Wright
9	Jason & Jamie Bluhm
	Bryan & Emily Mayback
14	Sandy & Art Haase
	Gretta & Andrew Garbacz
15	Rick & Rebecca Mayback
	Justin & Dana Besch
18	Ken & Carla Nagel
22	Joe & Betty Cavaleri



SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>2</b> 10a— Arise & Shine  6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>3</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  5p– Scrap- booking	<b>4</b>  8a– Men’s Group  8p– A.A
<b>5 Pentecost 17</b> 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	<b>6</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  7:15p Elder’s Meeting	<b>7</b>  5:30p– Girl Scouts #31133	<b>8</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>9</b>  6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>10</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  6p– Girl Scouts #31973	<b>11</b>  4:30p– Watch Party  8p– A.A
<b>12 Pentecost 18</b> 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	<b>13</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  7p– Council Meeting	<b>14</b>  6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	<b>15</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>16</b> 10a– Arise & Shine  6p– Girl Scouts #30984  6p–Café	<b>17</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>18</b>  8a– Men’s Group  8p– A.A
<b>19 Pentecost 19</b> <b>Pastor Appreciation</b> 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	<b>20</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>23</b>  6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>24</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  6p– Girl Scouts #31973	<b>25</b>  8p– A.A.
<b>26 Reformation</b> <b>St. John’s 130th Anniversary Celebration</b> 9:00a– Worship 12:00–3:00pm— Anniversary Luncheon at Ripa’s	<b>27</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>28</b>  6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	<b>29</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>30</b>  6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>31</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  <b>Day of Reformation</b>	

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Depew, New York 14043

Phone: (716) 683-3947  
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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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*Joe Momot*

*Norm Hirschey*

**Secretary of the Council:**

*Susan Vriesen*  
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**Financial Director:**

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**Sunday School Superintendent:**

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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:**

*Tom Bluhm*  
*Rod Lorenz*  
*Gary Hillman*  
*Bob Chapman*  
*Bob Plewik*

**Communion Deacons:**

*Betty Cavaleri*  
*Caroline Coffed*  
*Deann Lorenz*  
*Judy McMahon*