

# The St. John's Journal Community Connect



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

January 2026

## "The Reveal"

### 2026 Bible Challenge

St. John's Lutheran Church, Depew, New York

*"But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."*

John 20:31

### Bible Reading Resources



**1517- Chad Bird Bible in a year**

→ <https://www.1517.org/oneyear>

**The Bible App for Android and IOS**

<https://www.bible.com/> →



→ **The Concordia Study Bible**

<https://www.cph.org/the-lutheran-study-bible-app>

**Lutheran Hour Daily Bible Devotions**

<https://www.lhm.org/bibleyear/> →



→ **ZOX Interactive Bible Bracelets**

**Luther's Small Catechism App** →



Dear Friends,

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Bible challenge throughout the Advent season! I hope it was a blessing to you and I hope you saw Jesus so clearly as you journeyed toward the celebration of his birth.

**On January 11th we invite you to bring your Bible to church for a special blessing ceremony!!**

**If you don't have a Bible and would like one, WE HAVE ONE JUST FOR YOU!! Let us know before worship and we will be sure to get you one!**

To the left you will see some QR codes and links, These are resources for you to help you continue in your Bible reading journey!! Although the Advent reading plan has come to a close, the journey continues!!!! God's Word is a gift for us every-day!! May the Holy Spirit empower you to READ ON!

Pastor Galen



**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

## January Mission and Ministry Prayers

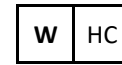
### Media Ministry

Gracious God your word tells us that we are your witnesses to all the ends of the earth. Cast your blessing upon our media ministry as we share your Word of truth through the means and opportunities provided us. We ask your blessing upon our live stream ministry and radio ministry. Thank you for all who watch and listen.

### Council and Elders

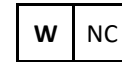
We pray for the Leaders of St. John's as they engage in your ministry and support your Gospel. Bless these leaders, give them wisdom, excitement and energy as they serve you. Help them to always look to the cross and crutch on you.

## Lectionary & Communion Schedule



**Jan 4, 2026**

Christmas 2—  
Jer 31:7-14;  
Eph 1:3-14;  
John 1:1-18



**Jan 11, 2026**

Baptism — Isa  
42:1-9; Acts  
10:34-43; Matt  
3:13-17



**Jan 18, 2026**

Epiphany 2—  
Isa 49:1-7; 1  
Cor 1:1-9; John  
1:29-42



**Jan 25, 2026**

Epiphany 3—  
Isa 9:1-4; 1 Cor  
1:10-18; Matt  
4:12-23

## 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 cell #

**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)**

# December Council Highlights

As reported on 12/8/25

- New Business— Annual Dinner 2/20/26. Year-end reports due at end of Jan. Spring Plant Sale; Lois to run, funds designated to Jackie Munzel. Joint Council and Board of Elders meeting Sat 1/3. Focus on communication and volunteerism. Additional \$10,000 received from former member. 10% of donation to be designated at January meeting.
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Weather cancelations channel 2 & 4, St. John's Text Alerts.
- Stewardship— Ed Lorenz— Bible Challenge was well accepted. Questions brought up about verse. Questions to help understand should be directed to Pastor via email, or to Ed Lorenz via phone call after 7pm.
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony— Youth Group Christmas outing 12/19. Family Golf event Tues 12/30.
- Trustees— Larry R., Joe M., Norm H.—Ice Melt repaired over entrance. Fire Alarm inspection completed. Camera system will be installed in January. Motion sensor will be added to some of the church lighting.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Stephen Ministries meeting held. George Bushey signed up to be a trained leader. Christmas Pageant was 12/21.
- Shepherd's Staff— Rae Carier— 2 Thanksgiving meals provided to 2 Depew families. Collected 2 meals for Christmas as well. Ornament tree for gifts/gift cards for families. Food collection currently ongoing to St. Luke.
- Pastor— Tony Martino and Pastor will go to St. Louis in February to officially start Tony's vicarage.



Next Council Meeting: 1/12/26 7:00pm

## Financial Director's Report— as of 12/31/2025 — Budget: \$288,908

	This YTD	Last YTD	Percentage
Giving	\$307,470	\$ 285,051	Up 7.9%
Ministry Expense	\$279,526	\$267,923	Up 4.3%
Net Income	<b>\$27,944</b>	<b>\$17,128</b>	

Radio Broadcast	December 2025
Sponsored	\$9720
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	\$9540
	<b>(Loss of \$180 = 1 Sponsorship)</b>

**2025 Giving Statements** will be emailed this month. If you do not have an email on file, please let the Church office know. If you prefer a printed copy, please contact the church office: 716-683-3947 or [secretary@sjlcdepew.com](mailto:secretary@sjlcdepew.com)



## Those Serving January 2026

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
1/4	John Gauthier	Norm Hirschey	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
1/11	John Gauthier	Jeff Schuler	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
1/18	John Gauthier	Karen Shafer	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
1/25	John Gauthier	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>January Altar Guild</u>	
1/4	Betty Cavaleri	Pastor	Carol & Page Coffed Wendy Garbutt	
1/11	John Gauthier	Pastor		
1/18	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik		
1/25	Rod Lorenz	Rod Lorenz		



Thank you for  
supporting the  
Sunday Morning BLAST  
Winter Mission Project!

St. John's raised \$280 to  
gift chickens for families in  
poverty.

This gift of chickens ensures that:

Families will have a reliable source of meat and eggs, giving  
children consistent, nutritious food that helps them grow  
healthy and strong.

Families can earn a steady income from selling eggs and  
chickens, helping them become self-sufficient.

## December Radio and Flower Sponsorships

12/7	<b><i>The Sietsma &amp; Geisen Families</i></b> <i>In loving memory of John Sietsma and Bill Arsenault</i>	<b><i>Larry &amp; Pat Rindfuss</i></b> <i>In memory of parents, Rich &amp; Kittie Brandenburger and Millie Rindfuss</i>
12/14	<b><i>Darlene Vogel</i></b> <i>In gratitude to God for the blessings of family. In loving remembrance of my husband, Richard; my parents, Elmer &amp; Alvina, and my brother, Ken. In honor of my grandson, Maverick Hayes Meyers' baptism today. May he be richly blessed.</i>	<b><i>Mark &amp; Dawn Smith</i></b> <i>Christmas Blessings</i>
12/21	<b><i>The Sowinski &amp; Gorski Families</i></b> <i>In loving memory of Ronnie &amp; Bob Rich on their anniversary.</i>	<b><i>The Lumb Family</i></b> <i>In loving memory of Alan's father, Kenneth and Tracy's mother, Ruth.</i>
12/24	<b><i>Leslie Maciejewski &amp; Family</i></b> <i>In memory of our family who rest with the Lord.</i>	
12/28	<b><i>John &amp; Jane Marone</i></b> <i>Wishing Pastor, Jen, and everyone a Blessed New Year! Thanking our good Lord for eighty years of blessings.</i>	<b><i>The Menard Family</i></b> <i>May the new year be blessed with joy and peace.</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 \$150.00 (or \$50.00 per line)

Flowers: \$25.00/weekend



**THANK YOU DOESN'T EVER SEEM  
LIKE ENOUGH!!!!**

Thank you to so many of you for the very kind, thoughtful and generous gifts you provided us during the Christmas season!!! We are truly blessed and "spoiled" by you!!

All our Love,  
Pastor, Jenny, Branden, Ava, Matthew  
and Adalyn

**COLD AND FLU SEASON**

Health reports in our area are indicating a significant rise and seriousness to this year's flu (and other illness).

**Please share the peace (and during other greeting times) as you are comfortable and as the others around you are comfortable in receiving).**

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**St. John's Annual**  
**Congregational Dinner**  
**February 20th at 6:00pm**



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



3rd Thursday  
of the month  
at 6:00pm



**The Chosen Watch Party**

Join us on December 13th for the  
The Chosen Watch Party  
Sign up sheet on the bulletin board  
in the Narthex

Questions? Call Barb Perry : 716-983-7064

**Holy Grounds**

**Volunteer to bring in  
baked goods!**



**Sign up sheet in Narthex**

# *Christmas Poinsettias*



Maryanne Arber  
Dave & Caroline Coffed  
Norm & Vikki Hirschey  
Andrew & Donna McNett  
Darlene Schwenk

Barb & Gary Geitter  
Joy Matson  
The Mudd & Napierala Families

Carrie Schwarzmuller

Sharon Taylor  
Rev. Howard & Lin Warner  
Nina & Kevin Wright

Brown Family  
John & Dawn Gauthier  
Jim Kless  
Barbara Perry  
Smith Family

In memory of our parents  
In memory of Ruth Wilczak  
In loving memory of our parents, grand-  
parents, great-grandparents.  
Al & Ruth Mudd  
In loving memory of our parents, grand-  
parents, great-grandparents.  
Al & Joyce Runkel  
In honor of the birth of the Lord Jesus  
In memory of Florence Syrek  
In memory of Dennis & Susan  
Mielcarek  
In memory of my loved ones  
In memory of loved ones  
In memory of Dr. Stanley & Jean Blach  
In memory of Richard & Susan Wright





Jane	Marone	1
Glenn	Stever	3
Carl	Suhr Jr	3
Brian	Barber	4
Kenneth	Menard	5
Janice	Brown	6
Daniel	Herbold	6
Eileen	Kranz	6
Aleisha	Sharpe	7
Cade	Jagielo	9
Hank	Springer	9
Jett Myles	Walczak	9
Edward	Mau	12
Ella	Bluhm	16
Carol	Pawlak	17
Noah	Boling	17


Clifton	Lee	18
Debra	Wisniewski	19
Robert	Chapman	19
Peyton	Pauly	20
Susan	Reitzel	21
Joseph	Momot	21
Edward	Faltisco	23
Lois	Will	29
Matthew	Garbutt	31



25	John & Catherine Fragale
28	Don & Barb Loney
31	Daniel & Rebecca Hojnacki





SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b>  10a– Arise & Shine  6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>2</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  5p– Scrap- booking	<b>3</b>  9a– 12p—Joint Elders & Council Meeting  8p– A.A
<b>4 2nd Sunday After Christmas</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>5</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  7:15p Elder’s Meeting	<b>6 The Epiphany of Our Lord</b>  5:30p– Girl Scouts #31133	<b>7</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>8</b>  6p– Con- firmation 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>9</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>10</b>  4:30p– Watch Party  8p– A.A
<b>11 The Baptism of Our Lord</b> <b>Installation of Officers</b> 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	<b>12</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  7p– Council Meeting	<b>13</b>  6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	<b>14</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>15</b>  10a– Arise & Shine  6p– Café 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>16</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>17</b>  8a– Men’s Group  8p– A.A
<b>18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</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>19</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>22</b>  6p– Confir- mation 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>23</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  6p– Girl Scouts #31973	<b>24</b>  8p– A.A.
<b>25 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship <b>30</b>	<b>26</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>27</b>  6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	<b>28</b>  8p– A.A.	<b>29</b>  6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>30</b>  <b>Council Annual Re- ports Due</b>	<b>31</b>  8p– A.A.

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

67 Litchfield Ave.  
Depew, New York 14043

Phone: (716) 683-3947  
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.

**Worship Assistant**

Seminarian Elect Anthony Martino

**Pastoral Assistant**

Rev. Howard Warner

**Organist**

Mr. Camden Church

**Contemporary Music Leader**

Mr. RJ Nieman

**Praise Band Assistant**

Mr. Dylan Lumb

**ST. JOHN'S OFFICERS:****President:**

Jamie Bluhm  
(President@sjlcdepew.com)

**Elders:**

(Elders@sjlcdepew.com)  
Rod Lorenz (Chair)  
Betty Cavaleri  
Karen Lorenz  
John Gauthier  
Jim Kless  
Amy Krupa  
Barb Perry  
Bob Plewik  
Steve Plewik  
Ken Schabert  
Tom Stutzman

**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)

**Radio Announcers:**

Jim Kless  
John Gauthier  
Karen Lorenz  
Darlene Schwenk  
Johnny Sabadasz  
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