

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 everyday!! 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

W **HC**

Jan 11, 2026

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

W **NC**

Jan 18, 2026

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

G **HC**

Jan 25, 2026

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

G **NC**

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

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 cancellations 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	\$27,944	\$17,128	

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

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

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
4:30 PM	Elder	Lector	January Altar Guild	
1/4	Betty Cavalieri	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	<p><i>The Sietsma & Geisen Families</i> <i>In loving memory of John Sietsma</i> <i>and Bill Arsenault</i></p>	<p><i>Larry & Pat Rindfuss</i> <i>In memory of parents, Rich & Kittie</i> <i>Brandenburger and Millie Rindfuss</i></p>
12/14	<p><i>Darlene Vogel</i> <i>In gratitude to God for the blessings</i> <i>of family. In loving remembrance of</i> <i>my husband, Richard; my parents,</i> <i>Elmer & Alvina, and my brother, Ken.</i> <i>In honor of my grandson, Maverick</i> <i>Hayes Meyers' baptism today.</i> <i>May he be richly blessed.</i></p>	<p><i>Mark & Dawn Smith</i> <i>Christmas Blessings</i></p>
12/21	<p><i>The Sowinski & Gorski Families</i> <i>In loving memory of Ronnie & Bob</i> <i>Rich on their anniversary.</i></p>	<p><i>The Lumb Family</i> <i>In loving memory of Alan's father,</i> <i>Kenneth</i> <i>and Tracy's mother, Ruth.</i></p>
12/24	<p><i>Leslie Maciejewski & Family</i> <i>In memory of our family who rest with the Lord.</i></p>	
12/28	<p><i>John & Jane Marone</i> <i>Wishing Pastor, Jen, and everyone a</i> <i>Blessed New Year! Thanking our good</i> <i>Lord for eighty years of blessings.</i></p>	<p><i>The Menard Family</i> <i>May the new year be blessed with</i> <i>joy and peace.</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 \$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

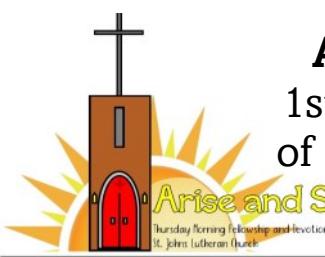
COLD AND FLU SEASON

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	Brown Family
Dave & Caroline Coffed	John & Dawn Gauthier
Norm & Vikki Hirschey	Jim Kless
Andrew & Donna McNett	Barbara Perry
Darlene Schwenk	Smith Family
Barb & Gary Geitter	In memory of our parents
Joy Matson	In memory of Ruth Wilczak
The Mudd & Napierala Families	In loving memory of our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents. Al & Ruth Mudd
Carrie Schwarzmueler	In loving memory of our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents. Al & Joyce Runkel
Sharon Taylor	In honor of the birth of the Lord Jesus
Rev. Howard & Lin Warner	In memory of Florence Syrek
Nina & Kevin Wright	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
Aleigha	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	THUR.S	FRI	SAT
				1 10a– Arise & Shine 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	2 <i>Office Closed</i> 5p– Scrap- booking	3 9a– 12p—Joint Elders & Council Meeting 8p– A.A
4 2nd Sunday After Christmas 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	5 <i>Office Closed</i> 7:15p Elder's Meeting	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord 5:30p– Girl Scouts #31133	7 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	8 6p– Con- firmation 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	9 <i>Office Closed</i>	10 4:30p– Watch Party 8p– A.A
11 The Baptism of Our Lord Installation of Officers 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	12 <i>Office Closed</i> 7p– Council Meeting	13 6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	14 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	15 10a– Arise & Shine 6p– Café 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	16 <i>Office Closed</i>	17 8a– Men's Group 8p– A.A
18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20	21 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	22 6p– Confir- mation 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	23 <i>Office Closed</i> 6p– Girl Scouts #31973	24 8p– A.A.
25 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	28	29 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	30 Council Annual Re- ports Due	31 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
[\(President@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:President@sjlcdepew.com)

Elders:

[\(Elders@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:Elders@sjlcdepew.com)
Rod Lorenz (Chair)
Betty Cavalieri
Karen Lorenz
John Gauthier
Jim Kless
Amy Krupa
Barb Perry
Bob Plewik
Steve Plewik
Ken Schabert
Tom Stutzman

Board of Trustees:

[\(Trustees@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:Trustees@sjlcdepew.com)
Larry Rindfuss
Joe Momot
Norm Hirshey

Secretary of the Council:

Susan Vriesen
[\(CouncilSec@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:CouncilSec@sjlcdepew.com)

Financial Director:

Mike Brown
[\(finance@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:finance@sjlcdepew.com)

Board of Education Chair:

Kim Lorenz
[\(BoardofEd@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:BoardofEd@sjlcdepew.com)

Youth & Family Ministry Chair:

Jen Anthony
[\(FamilyMin@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:FamilyMin@sjlcdepew.com)

Stewardship Chair:

Ed Lorenz
[\(Stewardship@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:Stewardship@sjlcdepew.com)

Shepherds Staff Chair:

Rae Carier
[\(shepherdsStaff@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:shepherdsStaff@sjlcdepew.com)

Sunday School

Superintendent:
Chandra Jagiolo
[\(SundaySchool@sjlcdepew.com\)](mailto:SundaySchool@sjlcdepew.com)

Radio Announcers:

Jim Kless
John Gauthier
Karen Lorenz
Darlene Schwenk
Johnny Sabadasz
Suzanne Sabadasz

Altar Guild Chair:

Betty Cavalieri

Communion Assistants:

Tom Bluhm
Rod Lorenz
Gary Hillman
Bob Chapman
Bob Plewik

Communion Deacons:

Betty Cavalieri
Caroline Coffed
Deann Lorenz
Judy McMahon