

# The St. John's Journal Community Connect



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

**February 2026**



Greetings My Friends,

Well, the time has come!! Tony and I will be heading off to St. Louis to engage in SMP orientation at the beginning of the month.

SMP stands for Specialized Ministry Program and it is a structured, four year distance education program developed to prepare men over 40 years of age for the office of ministry (in a specialized setting). Tony has officially begun his academics and will study for the next 4 years. During the first 2 years, Tony will be considered a "vicar" at St. John's... (By the way, if I recall correctly, the last

vicar to serve St. John's was Rev. Chuck Erzkus who served under Pastor Erickson in 1976(ish).

The aim of the vicarage program is to *"equip the man of God for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17), to provide Tony with opportunities to grow, experience, participate and assist (important distinctions) all while gaining practical knowledge through the *"Holy Spirit's school of experience"* ... *building off of Martin Luther and C.W. Walther's concepts that pastoral formation is developed through the experiences of prayer, meditation, and Struggle (oratio, meditatio, tentatio)*. The vicarage program is further grounded in the doctrine of the church and scriptures (1 Timothy 3:1-7' Titus 1:5-9).

As a vicar, Tony will be serving St. John's actively as a seminary student. He will be provided opportunities to learn and grow as he studies and engages in his course work. Primarily, under the pastoral supervision and mentorship of myself, Tony will be provided opportunities to preach, teach, engage in pastoral care and visitations. He will be allowed the chance to participate in the life of the congregation's ministry, not yet as a pastor, but as a student willing to be shaped by the experience provided. All of the opportunities are meant to bridge a "gap" between classroom learning and "field experience."

This is an exciting time! What a remarkable way for us as a congregation to participate in the ministry of the church through the seminary's work in forming pastor to preach the Word and rightly administer the Sacraments!

We hope to enrich Tony in his pastoral formation, but we too, look forward to being blessed by Tony as he shares his experiences and as he grows in humility and service.... with the ultimate goal of serving his Lord and the church as a SMP pastor.

Please hold Tony, St. John's, the Seminary and all others in your prayers as we begin this most exciting ministry opportunity!



**Concordia  
Seminary**  
ST. LOUIS



**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

## February Mission and Ministry Prayers

**The LCMS & Eastern Dist.**  
O Christ, you have called your church to make disciples of all nations by baptizing them and teaching them to observe everything You commanded. Bless our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod,. Bless also our Eastern District as the support the ministries of the local church. Give to them faithful servants and adequate resources to carry forward mission in your name.

### Deacons

O God, most merciful Father, we praise you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ who is servant of all and who has given us an example to follow in our ministry. Be with our DEACON PROGRAM and bless those who have heard the call to serve and model Christ love. May they faithfully proclaim God's Word so that those they visit that they may be fed and filled with joy and hope.

## Lectionary & Communion Schedule

**Feb 1, 2026**  
Epiphany 4—  
Micah 6:1-8; 1  
Cor 1:18-31;  
Matt 5:1-12

**Feb 8, 2026**  
Epiphany 5—  
Isa 58:1-12; 1  
Cor 2:1-16;  
Matt 5:13-20

**Feb 15, 2026**  
Transfiguration  
Exod 24:12-18;  
2 Peter 1:16-21;  
Matt 17:1-9

**Feb 22, 2026**  
Lent 1— Gen  
2:15-17, 3:1-7;  
Rom 5:12-19;  
Matt 4:1-11

## 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. This message will also be posted on the church website— displayed on the “ticker” at the top of the home page. [sjlcdepew.com](http://sjlcdepew.com)

# January Council Highlights

As reported on 1/12/26

- New Business— Thank you to returning leaders. Reflection from 2025, Goals for 2026. Grant DAF giving 360—\$10,000 (3rd donation). Rob Redenbach to fill vacant Elder seat for 2 year term. Travel expenses to be paid for Pastor & Tony Martino to St. Louis, paid from Legacy Fund.
- Financial—Mike Brown—3rd \$10,000 donation was received. Discussion tabled to Feb. meeting. Compassion Internation \$280 for Fal Mission Project.
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Rob Redenbach appointed to fill vacant Elder position
- Stewardship—Ed Lorenz—Bringing back to the Word, great interest in bible challenge and many brought their bibles to church for the blessing.
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony— Family outing to Wehrle Golf Dome, 12 attendees. Youth Christmas outing was 12/19 to Cheektowaga Country Club.
- Trustees— Larry R., Joe M., Norm H.— Fire Safety Systems contracted to install security camera and recording computer for \$5,320. Wiring from cameras and monitoring computer will be completed by SJ to help lower cost. Work currently underway. Copier lease renewal upcoming for spring 2026.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Christmas program complete. Many thanks to Laura Tirone, Beth Lasky, and all of the teachers and children!
- Shepherd's Staff— Rae Carier— 2 families received Christmas dinner. 20 children received Christmas gifts and several gift cards for seniors were also collected. All was taken to Depew CC for distribution. **Next Council Meeting: 2/9/26 7:00pm**



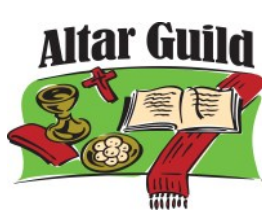
## Financial Director's Report— 2025 Final #s — Budget: \$288,908

Giving	\$ 306,485
Ministry Expense	\$ 279,526
Net Income	<b>\$ 26,958</b>

Radio Broadcast 2025		Christian Education (BLAST)	
Sponsorships	\$ 10,135	Giving	\$ 2,709.61
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	\$ 9,720	Expense	\$ 1,818.00
<b>Net: \$415 Transferred to Grace Blackwell Fund Acct</b>		<b>Net: \$972.61 Transferred to Christian Ed Fund Account</b>	

**\$ 2,000 in Mission Distributions from Anonymous Giver:  
\$500ea to Plymouth Crossroads; St. Luke Food Pantry; Village of Depew Outreach Coordinator; Depew Police Department: Chaplaincy**

## Those Serving February 2026

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
2/1	Jim Kless	Norm Hirschey	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
2/8	Jim Kless	Jeff Schuler	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
2/15	Jim Kless	Karen Shafer	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
2/18	<b>Ash Wednesday</b> Elder: Karen Lorenz — Lector: Steve Plewik			
2/22	Jim Kless	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
<u>4:30 PM</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>February Altar Guild</u>	
2/1	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik	Tom & Sue Bluhm 	
2/8	John Gauthier	Pastor		
2/15	Jim Kless	Jim Kless		
2/22	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa		

## January Radio and Flower Sponsorships

1/4	<i>The People of St. John's</i> Wishing the families of St. John's a blessed New Year!	
1/11	<b>The Sietsma Family</b> In loving memory of John & Millie	<b>The AfterBuffalo Family</b> In celebration of our family's January birthdays and in thankfulness for God's blessings for the new year!
1/18	<b>Betty Cavaleri &amp; Marsha McKinney</b> In loving memory of Harold Hutchinson.	<b>Dave &amp; Carol Coffed</b> In memory of Dave's mother, Beverly.
1/25	<b>John &amp; Catherine Fragale</b> As we celebrate our 57 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary, we thank the Lord for all the many blessings that He has given our family.	<b>Tom &amp; Sue Bluhm</b> In celebration of our sister, Pam's life. We miss you.

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





**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 the 2nd Saturday of the month at 4:30pm for 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**



**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).**



Brock	Smith	1
Stephanie	Meyer	1
Sarah	Gorski	3
Debra	Dziengielewski	4
Vito	Napierala	4
Penelope	Ritz	5
Alex	Orzechowski	6
Cindy	Cappello	7
Dorothy	Walters	9
Alana	Alicea	10
Timothy	Keohane V	12

Kyle	Sharpe	14
David	Coffed	15
Alan	Growth	16
Bonnie	Capozzi	17
Wendy	Garbutt	18
Mark	Smith	19
Julia	Wisniewski	21
Mia	Barber	21
Darlene	Schwenk	21
Christopher	Geelan	24
Jackson	Baird	26
Justin	Burnham	28

14	Richard & Felicia Sharpe
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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 AT 6:00PM

JOIN US AS WE  
CELEBRATE THE  
PEOPLE OF ST.  
JOHN'S, OUR  
COMMUNITY, AND  
MINISTRIES FROM  
2025

TICKETS CAN BE  
PURCHASED AFTER  
SERVICES ON  
2/1, 2/8, & 2/15.

**\$5** EACH

OR

**\$15** PER FAMILY



## THE MENU

PULLED PORK

BALSAMIC CHICKEN

MASHED POTATOES



SEASONAL VEGETABLE

SALAD

DINNER ROLLS

DESSERT



SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1 4th Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	<b>2</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  7:15p Elder’s Meeting  	<b>3</b>  5:30p– Girl Scouts #31133	<b>4</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>5</b> 10a– Arise & Shine  6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>6</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  5p– Scrap- booking	<b>7</b> 8a– Men’s Group  8p– A.A
<b>8 5th 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>9</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  7p– Council Meeting	<b>10 The Epiphany of Our Lord</b>  6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	<b>11</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>12</b>  6p– Con- firmation 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>13</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  6p– Girl Scouts #31973	<b>14</b> 4:30p– Watch Party   8p– A.A.
<b>15 The Transfiguration of our Lord</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>16</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18 Ash Wednesday</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  6:30p– Impo- sition of the Ashes 7p–Worship  8p– A.A.	<b>19</b> 10a– Arise & Shine  6p– Café 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>20</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  6p– Annual Congrega- tional Meet- ing	<b>21</b> 8a– Men’s Group  8p– A.A
<b>22 The 1st Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	<b>23</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>24</b>  6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	<b>25</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p– A.A.	<b>26</b>  6p– Confir- mation 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	<b>27</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  6p– Girl Scouts #31973	<b>28</b>  8p– A.A.



## ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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.

*Worship Assistant*  
Seminarian Elect Anthony Martino

*Pastoral Assistant*  
Rev. Howard Warner

*Organist*  
Mr. Camden Church

*Contemporary Music Leader*  
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 McMahan