

# The St. John's Journal Community Connect



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

**March 2026**

## The Word Among Us

# LENTEN BIBLE READING PLAN

St. John's Lutheran Church

	Date	Passage
1	March 1	Genesis 3:1-19
2	March 2	Genesis 8:20-9:17
3	March 3	Genesis 14:17-24
4	March 4	Genesis 22:1-19
5	March 5	Genesis 33
6	March 6	Genesis 44
7	March 7	Exodus 12:1-28
8	March 8	Joshua 3
9	March 9	I Samuel 17
10	March 10	2 Samuel 23:3-4
11	March 11	Psalms 1
12	March 12	Psalms 2
13	March 13	Psalms 16
14	March 14	Psalms 22
15	March 15	Psalms 23
16	March 16	Psalms 31
17	March 17	Psalms 32
18	March 18	Psalms 51
19	March 19	Psalms 79
20	March 20	Psalms 103
21	March 21	Isaiah 42:1-9
22	March 22	Isaiah 44:6-8

	Date	Passage
23	March 23	Isaiah 49:1-7
24	March 24	Isaiah 50:4-11
25	March 25	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
26	March 26	Matthew 21 (Zech 9)
27	March 27	Mark 14:32-50
28	March 28	Luke 22:1-23
29	March 29	I Corinthians 10 & 11
30	March 30	John 6:35-41
31	March 31	John 11:17-27
32	April 1	John 13
33	April 2	John 18:1-27
34	April 3	John 19:1-27
35	April 4	John 19:28-42
36	April 5	John 20:1-30



“Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Isaiah 53



**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

**March Mission and  
Ministry Prayers**

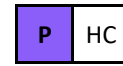
**Concordia University System**

All wise Lord, through your Word and Spirit you both enlighten the minds and sanctify the lives of those whom you draw to your service. Look in favor upon the professors, students, and staff who make up our Concordia University System. May all there be given wisdom and openness to hear your call to service in church and community.

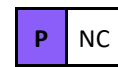
**Shepherd Staff**

Lord Jesus, you became a servant willing to suffer death in our place. Be with all the members of the St. John's Shepherd's Staff as they aim to follow your example in acts of compassion, love and hospitality. May all in this community profit from their work and presence.

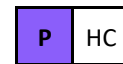
**Lectionary &  
Communion Schedule**



**Mar 1, 2026**  
Lent 2— Is 53:8-10; 1 Pet 1:13-21; Luke 12:16-21



**Mar 8, 2026**  
Lent 3— Prov 3:5-8; James 1:5-8; Matt 14:22-33



**Mar 15, 2026**  
Lent 4— Ps 6:2-9; Phil 4:6-9; John 14:25-29



**Mar 22, 2026**  
Lent 5— Jo- nah 3:1-10; Rom 6:1-11; John 8:2-11



**Mar 29, 2026**  
Palm Sun- day—

## February Council Highlights

As reported on 2/9/26

- New Business— Discussion on Congregational Dinner. February 22nd Installation of Tony Martino.
- Financial—Mike Brown— 2025 Financial review was completed with no concerns. Travel expenses for Pastor and Tony were \$1020.
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Worship Assistant breakfast 2/28 at 9am. Elder's to help. Confirmand interviews in May.
- Stewardship—Ed Lorenz— working on a new Bible passage for Lent
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony— Easter Egg Hunt 3/28. Youth help at congregational dinner. Possible Camp Pioneer May 15th-17th.
- Trustees— Larry R., Joe M., Norm H.— Office space for Tony. Work continued on security cameras. Ice buildup around church and how to proceed
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Spring Mission Project with Sleep in Heavenly Peace March 1-29th. Family Service 3/22. No BLAST 4/5 (Easter).
- Shepherd's Staff— Rae Carier— Congregational dinner on 2/20 catered by Smokin' Little Diner.
- Pastor—St. Louis. Discussed what Tony's role will be in the church and Pastor's role as a mentor to Tony. Congregations role in Tony's vicarage journey.

Next Council Meeting: 3/9/26 7:00pm



### Financial Director's Report — as of February 25, 2026 — Budget: \$49,616

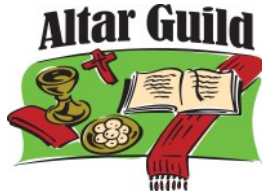
Giving	\$ 37,010
Ministry Expense	\$ 58,495
Net Income	<b>(\$ 21,485)</b>

### Radio Broadcast 2026

Sponsorships	\$ 1,513
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	\$ 1,620

**Net: (\$107) Includes \$180 transferred from the Grace Blackwell Media Fund Acct**

## Those Serving March 2026

8:30AM		11:15AM		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
3/1	Ken Schabert	Norm Hirschey	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
3/8	Cavaleri/Redenbach	Jeff Schuler	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
3/15	Ken Schabert	Karen Shafer	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
3/22	Ken Schabert	Family Day	Steve Plewik	Family Day
3/29	Ken Schabert	Jamie Bluhm	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik
<u>4:30</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	
3/1	Rob Redenbach	Rob Redenbach	Rae Carier Ken & Sue Schabert  	
3/8	John Gauthier	Pastor		
3/15	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert		
3/22	Karen Dowdall-Lorenz	Karen Dowdall-Lorenz		
3/29	Betty Cavaleri	Pastor		

## Easter Flowers

**Hyacinths: \$8.00**

**Daffodils: \$8.00**

**Lilies: \$10.00**

*Deadline to order: 3/15/26*

*Sign up on Narthex Bulletin Board*



### 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).**



### Save the Dates:

Easter Egg Hunt & Palm Cross Making

Saturday March 28th

More details to follow...





**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**

## February Radio and Flower Sponsorships

2/1	<p><i>Karen Dowdall- Lorenz</i> <i>For the blessings of my grandchildren, Joey and Julia Wisniewski, on their 18<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> birthdays And what a blessing they are to our fam- ily!</i></p>	<p><i>The People of St. John's To the Glory of God!</i></p>
2/8	<p><i>Norm &amp; Vikki Hirschey</i> <i>For the blessing of our grandchildren, Jake, Jalen, and little Jaxson.</i></p>	<p><i>The People of St. John's To the Glory of God!</i></p>
2/15	<p><i>Rae Carier</i> <i>For my dear momma Zella Cope. You are in my heart always.</i></p>	<p><i>Jackie Kraebel</i> <i>In loving memory of my mom, dad, brother, and sister.</i></p>
2/22	<p><i>The People of St. John's To the glory of God and in humble reflection during this Lenten season that we</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








Hailey	Holtz	1
Judith	McMahon	2
Stephen	Blackwell	3
Patricia	Rindfuss	3
Deborah	Howell	3
Laurie	Miller	4
Hannah	Burnham	5
Abigale	Blackwell	6
Nancy	Sweeney	6
Bill	Boling	6
Jordan	Thurnherr	7
Rebecca	Mayback	7
Peyton	Anthony	10
David	Anthony IV	11
Carson	Fragale	13
John	Hughey V	13
Eileen	McIlhagga	15
Alan	Lumb	16
Colleen	Hurley	17
Justin	Besch	18
Debora	Sowinski	18
Kristen	Romal	18

Ethan	Herbold	20
Lainey	Schulz	20
Richard	Thurnherr II	21
Bryan	Mayback	22
Abby	Geisen	22
Emmalee	Mondo	22
Adalyn	Purpura	23
Matthew	Purpura	23
Elizabeth	Sexstone	23
Heather	Holtz	23
Roberta	Blackwell	24
Dennis	Sulzbach	24
Kyla	Fragale	27
Travis	Kilanowski	28
Jacquelyn	Kraebel	28
Grace	Stever	29
Nina	Wright	30
Timothy	Keohane IV	30



13	Stephen & Roberta Blackwell
27	Kaylin & Brian Pauly
27	George & Jennifer Bushey

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>1 2nd Sunday in Lent</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>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>  8p- A.A.	<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 3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30a- Worship 10:00a- BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a-Worship 4:30p- Worship	<b>9</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  7p- Council Meeting	<b>10</b>	<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 4th Sunday in Lent</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.  Easter Flower order deadline	<b>16</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>17</b>   6:30p- Girl Scouts #34670	<b>18</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  8p- A.A.	<b>19</b>  10a- Arise & Shine  6p- Café 6p- Girl Scouts #30984	<b>20</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>21</b>  8a- Men's Group  8p- A.A
<b>22 5th Sunday in Lent</b>  <b>Family Day Worship</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>  Easter Egg Hunt & Palm Cross Mak- ing (Time TBA)  8p- A.A.
<b>29 Palm Sunday</b> 8:30a- Worship 10:00a- BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a-Worship 4:30p- Worship 	<b>30</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>31</b>  6:30p- Girl Scouts #34670				

**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.

Vicar Anthony Martino, *CSL SMP*  
*Student Intern*

*Organist & Choir Director*  
Mr. Camden Church

*Contemporary Musicians Director*  
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

Rob Redenbach

**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