

The St. John's Journal Community Connect

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



April 2026



Easter Blessings my dear St. John's Family!

Have you ever thought about or have you been a little confused by the line from the Apostles' Creed: "He descended into hell?"

Years ago, when I first started here at St. John's a very active- seasoned member informed me that he didn't say that line in the Creed because he believed that Jesus finished his suffering on the cross.

I think the thought for a lot of people is that Christ's decent into hell was to endure further suffering for the sins of the world, however that was not the case at all! As a matter of fact, it is the start of his "State of Exultation." (When we talk about how Jesus functioned as true God and true man, we will refer to two states: 1. His state of humiliation- when he hid his divine power and 2. His state of Exultation- when his divine power was fully revealed.

As part of his state of exultation, when Jesus descended into hell (sometime between his death and resurrection) it wasn't to further suffer but it was to DECLARE victory and to proclaim (as a town herald) that the devil is done! Victory is secured! C.S. Lewis once said: **"On the back of Satan's neck is a nail scared footprint!"** What an awesome thing, wouldn't you say?

Now, Some will further argue that Jesus decent wasn't to further suffer, but to offer a "second chance" if you will- for those who denied "the good news" and the salvation of the anticipated coming Messiah.

To really understand, we have to look at the key bible passage for the decent into hell from 1st Peter 3:18-19. ***"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits".***

If we aren't careful, in looking at the passage we can easily think of the word proclaim like maybe we do when we think of the preaching of a sermon... "good news proclamation." However, the word often associated with "Good News" proclamation is εὐαγγελίζω, which when translated means "good message." The word used in 1st Peter for "proclaim" however isn't εὐαγγελίζω, instead it's Κηρύσσω which can be rightly translated to mean "herald."

So... what does all this mean???!!! In the context of 1st Peter then, Jesus descended into hell to "herald" the message of victory over sin, death and the devil! He didn't descend, you see, to further suffer or to extend salvation through the good news proclamation of the Gospel for the forgiveness of sins (to those who already denied and died).

Christ's decent into hell is a BEAUTIFUL truth relating to the victory and exultation of Christ! And this victory my friends, belongs to us because of Jesus!!! The devil is defeated and he has no power over us! After all, "on the back of his neck is a nail scared footprint!" Jesus WINS!!!

So... next time you find yourself in church and you come to that part of the creed that says: "he descended into hell," DECLARE IT BOLDLY just as Jesus boldly declared victory when he descended!!!!

PAX!
P.G.



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

April Mission and Ministry Prayers

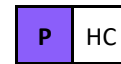
Pioneer on the Lake

Creating God, you have given us great places for rest and relaxation. We thank you for the gift that Pioneer on the Lake is to this area and beyond. Bless its various ministry programs and bless its leaders as they seek to provide an atmosphere of relaxation and point more people to Jesus.

Trustees

For our building that it might be a gathering place and beacon of hope for all who walk through the doors. We pray for our Trustees as they maintain and make improvements to this house of worship and praise.

Lectionary & Communion Schedule



Apr 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

Malachi 4:1-3; 2
Tim 2:8-13; Matt
28:1-10



Apr 12, 2026

Easter 2

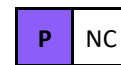
Acts 5:29-42; 1
Peter 1:3-9; John
20:19-31



Apr 19, 2026

Easter 3

Acts 2:14, 36-41;
1 Peter 1:17-25;
Luke 24:13-25



Apr 26, 2026

Easter 4

Acts 2:42-47; 1
Peter 2:19-25;



The weather is turning and now it's time to dust off your gears. Join us for a day of fun and for a worthwhile cause!

This year's Ride for Roswell is Saturday, June 27th

Join the StJohnsScreamingEagles team
riding for its 14th year!

Current team members to date include Mike Brown, Mike Stever, Grace Stever, Dave Tirone, and Laura Tirone.

March Council Highlights

As reported on 3/8/26

- New Business— Plant Sale schedule and beneficiary Jaclyn Munzel. Ideas for 2026 grant application to Lutheran Extension Service. Girl Scout Cookie sale denied due to setting a precedence. No table setup. Calendar updates.
- Financial—Mike Brown— Expenses up due to rising costs everywhere.
- Elders—Rod Lorenz— Holy Week services.
- Stewardship—Ed Lorenz— Continuing with the Lent Bible readings.
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony—Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Cross making on March 28th.
- Trustees— Larry R., Joe M., Norm H.— Video monitoring set up and working. Obtaining pricing for parking lot sealing and striping. 2 parking lot lights out and will be addressed.
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Family day service March 22nd. Spring Mission Project— Sleep in Heavenly Peace ends 3/29.
- Shepherd's Staff— Rae Carier— Easter Flower sale. Seder Meal on 4/1 at 6pm

Next Council Meeting: 4/13/26 7:00pm



January—March 2026 Financial Blessings

Thank you for supporting God's Ministry through St. John's!

Budget: \$74,400	This Year	Last Year
Giving	\$67,238	\$68,264
Ministry Expense	(\$81,905)	(\$76,789)
Net Income	(\$14,667)	(\$8,525)

Expense Notes: Gas & Electric up \$2,000 over last year.

Flowers billed \$1,552 for 2025

Radio Broadcast 2026

Sponsorships	\$ 2,543
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	\$ 2,340
Net	\$203

Sponsorships decreased from \$180 to \$150/service. Sponsorship supported by \$30/service from Grace Blackwell/Media Fund.

Quarter 1 Giving Statements have been sent by e-mail. If you still need to have a printed copy, please leave a note in the office for Melissa or Mike or send an e-mail: secretary@sjlcdepew.com

Those Serving April 2026

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
4/2	Maundy Thursday 7:00pm: Elder: Betty Cavaleri Lector: Bob Plewik			
4/3	Good Friday 7:00pm: Elder: Rod Lorenz Lector: Rod Lorenz			
4/4	Saturday Easter Vigil 4:30pm Elder/Lector: Tom Stutzman			
4/5	Betty Cavaleri	Jeff Schuler	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
4/12	Betty Cavaleri	Karen Shafer	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
4/19	Betty Cavaleri	Sue Bluhm	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
4/26	Betty Cavaleri	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
<u>4:30</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	
4/12	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik	Linda Plewik Betty Cavaleri Jerry Bernfeld Jr.	
4/19	Rod Lorenz	Rod Lorenz		
4/26	Rod Lorenz	Rod Lorenz		



March Radio and Flower Sponsorships

3/1	<i>The People of St. John's</i> <i>To the Glory of God!</i> <i>(This broadcast was not sponsored)</i>	<i>The AfterBuffalo Family</i> <i>In joyful anticipation of the birth of</i> <i>our first grandchild, we give thanks</i> <i>for God's abundant love.</i>
3/8	<i>Zella "Rae" Carier</i> <i>God bless Israel and the people of Iran.</i> <i>God Bless our Troops.</i>	<i>Dawn Brennan</i> <i>Heartfelt birthday wishes to my hus-</i> <i>band Jim and his twin sister, my best</i> <i>friend, Jane, as they celebrate eternal</i> <i>life together.</i> <i>1 Thessalonians 4:13-18</i>

March Radio and Flower Sponsorships (continued...)

3/15	<i>The AfterBuffalo Family</i> <i>In thanksgiving for the St. John's Radio Ministry that reaches listeners so that they may hear the Word of God. We are thankful for our friend, Barb, especially, as she enjoys this Sunday morning broadcast.</i>	<i>The People of St. John's</i> <i>To the Glory of God!</i> <i>(These flowers were not sponsored)</i>
3/22	<i>Darlene Vogel</i> <i>In gratitude and thanks to God for all of my family's many blessings. We are especially joyful as we celebrate Amelia Mae Master's baptism today. Also in celebration of my daughter, Tabitha Delano's 50th birthday. Thank you for being a part of our lives and sharing in our family's joy</i> <i>Janet Erickson & Carole Pleban</i> <i>In loving memory of Edward H., Grandparents and parents, and in memory of Eileen Mau on the anniversary of her passing 3/18/18.</i>	<i>The Herbold Family</i> <i>In celebration of their son, Ethan's 25th birthday and in thanks to God for blessings received.</i>
3/29	<i>Betty & Joe Cavaleri</i> <i>In celebration of our grandson, Travis' 26th birthday.</i>	<i>The Hirschey Family</i> <i>For all dedicated staff and congregation members who serve St. John's.</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



Birthdays

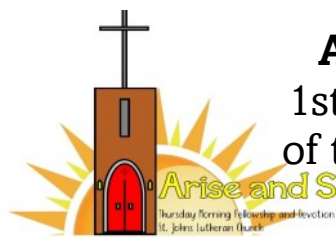
Maxwell	Castiglione	1
Mitchell	Romal	1
Cathi	Doering	4
John M	Fragale Sr	6
Ruth	Schlesinger	6
Andrew	Mcnett	6
Carmi	DelConte	7
John R	Fragale Jr	9
Alicia	Milam	9
Charmaine	AfterBuffalo	12
Tabitha	Delano	12
Sylus Anthony	Geelan	13
Laurel	Schunk	15
Gary	Hillman	16
John	Garbutt	17
Catherine	Fragale	19
Dolores	Mau	19
Thomas III	Mudd	20
Robert	Beardi	21
Kendra	Herbold	22



Finnegan	Lozo	22
Julie	Gorski	24
Heidi	Manna	24
Bob	Plewik	26
Felicia	Sharpe	26
Carter	Hughey	27
John	Beck	30
Jennifer	Purpura	30

Anniversaries

7	Tony Martino & Kim Lorenz
15	Ross & Rosemarie Contella
16	Jay & Phyllis Hanson
19	Scott & Eileen McIlhagga
23	Brian & Jennifer Cocco



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

Arise and Shine

Thursday Morning Fellowship and Devotion
St. John's Lutheran Church



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

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	2 Maundy Thursday 7p– <i>Worship w/ H.C.</i> 	3 Good Friday <i>Office Closed</i> 7p– <i>Worship</i> 	4 9a– Hanging of Butterflies 4:30p– <i>Easter Vigil Worship w/ H.C.</i> 8p– A.A
5 The Resurrection of Our Lord 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 11:15a–Worship w/ H.C.	6 <i>Office Closed</i> 7:15p– Elders Meeting	7 5:30p–Girl Scouts #31133	8 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	9 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	10 <i>Office Closed</i> 6p– Girl Scouts #31973	11 4:30p– Watch Party 8p– A.A.
12 4th Sunday in Lent 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	13 <i>Office Closed</i> 7p– Council Meeting	14	15 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	16 10a– Arise & Shine 6p– Café 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18 8a– Men’s Group 8p– A.A
19 5th Sunday in Lent Family Day Worship 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21 6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	22 <i>Office Closed</i> 8p– A.A.	23 6p– Confirmation 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	24 <i>Office Closed</i> 6p– Girl Scouts #31973	25 8p– A.A.
26 Palm Sunday 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	29 8p– A.A.	30 6p– Girl Scouts #30984		

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.

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:

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Joe Momot
Norm Hirschey

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Financial Director:

Mike Brown
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Board of Education Chair:

Kim Lorenz
(BoardofEd@sjlcdepew.com)

**Youth & Family Ministry
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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