

The St. John's Journal Community Connect

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



May 2026

Greetings my dear friends in Jesus,

When you hear the words “Spring Plant Sale” at St. John’s it is a sure indicator that spring is springing... or at least that’s the hope anyway! Each year we are so very blessed to share in this amazing opportunity to support someone from within our midst who is experiencing a specific need. This year we are once again supporting Jaclyn Munzel and her family as they maneuver through the season they are experiencing. Thank you to everyone who has supported the sale!

But this month, I really wanted to take a moment to pause and thank **LOIS WILL** for all of her hard work in coordinating the plant sale not only in year’s past, but specifically for her dedication and passion this year! As many of you know this year was filled with all kinds of health concerns and changes for Lois... it was, for lack of a better phrase, “A rollercoaster ride” of things for Lois. Most recently Lois transitioned into a new home all the while continuing to focus on her health and wellbeing. Despite all of

this, Lois still stepped up to the plate to make sure the 2026 plant sale was looked after!! And from the sounds of it, this year’s sale will be another great success. St. John’s is truly blessed to have such a special person in Lois who has not only exhibited a servant’s heart through music ministry but who has demonstrated the joy of putting other before self by her example and love in leading the plant sale this year—



A BIG THANK YOU TO LOIS~~

Pastor Galen .

2026 Confirmation + Final Schedule +

Sunday May 3rd - 10:00am-
Holy Communion Instruction
ALL STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT

Sunday May 10th, 10:00am
Final Review with Elders
ALL STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT

Thursday May 14th - 6:00pm
Final Class Review

Sunday May 17th - 10:00am
Final Review w/ Pastor in the adult Bible class
STUDENTS WHO ARE NOT ATTENDING PIONEER MUST BE PRESENT

Sunday May 24th - 7:30am
Confirmation Rehearsal and Rite of Confirmation
ALL STUDENTS MUST ARRIVE PROMPTLY AT 7:30AM





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

May Mission and Ministry Prayers

ST. PAUL BATAVIA

For ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SCHOOL IN BATAVIA as they seek to be your presence to students and community.

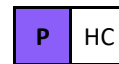
We pray that they might be bold in their witness; that students, staff and all others may know Christ and the true wisdom and power that comes from him when he is center in learning, growing and serving.

We pray for the Hojnacki family as they attend school at St. Paul

CONFIRMANDS

Touch us all and help us to remember the promises given to us in baptism. Give to us this day new lives rejuvenated faith, and new commitment in place of all that has grown tired and stale in our lives. Strengthen our confirmands for the journey of faith. Give to them a dedication to work for Christ in the church and world, that unity and fellowship might abound.

Lectionary & Communion Schedule



May 3, 2026

Easter 5

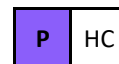
Acts 6:1-9; 7:2a, 51-60; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14



May 10, 2026

Easter 6

Acts 17:16-31; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21



May 17, 2026

Easter 7

Acts 1:12-26, 1 Peter 4:12-19, 5:6-11; John 17:1-121



May 24 2026

Day of Pentecost

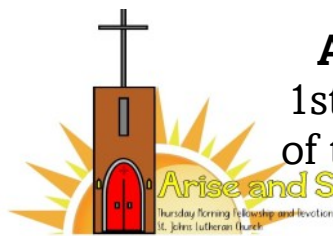
Num 11:24-30; Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39



May 31 2026

Trinity Sunday

Gen 1:1-2:4a; Acts 2:14a, 22-36; Matt 28:16-20



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

April Council Highlights

As reported on 4/13/26

- New Business— Radio Ad w/ WXRL for 60th Anniversary partnership. Summer Picnic, Donation of \$1,000 to St. Paul Blossom after their groundbreaking for new church after fire. AA donation amount from \$125 to \$25. Dumpster ordered, various items being removed from church
- Elders— Rod Lorenz— Butterfly removal May 9th. Donkey for Palm Sunday was well received. Confirmation interviews in May.
- Stewardship— Ed Lorenz— Palm crosses were taken to Peregrine Nursing Home
- Family Ministry— Jen Anthony— Youth to help w/ Plant Sale, Youth Lock-in scheduled 4/17. Pioneer on the Lake weekend of May 15th. 15 children and 3 Youth Group assistants participated in Easter Egg hunt and palm cross making
- Trustees— Larry R., Joe M., Norm H.— Copier lease expiring, pursuing new vendor. Obtaining pricing for parking lot sealing and striping. Elevator was repaired. Reflective tape added to stair treads for increased safety. Vicar's office created
- Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— No BLAST on 5/10 for Mother's Day. Family Service May 31. June 7th last Sunday Blast. September 2026-27 Blast to begin 9/13/26.
- Shepherd's Staff— Rae Carier— 20 people attended the Seder Meal. Spring plant sale delivery scheduled for 5/16. Pentecost geraniums for 5/24.

Next Council Meeting: 5/11/26 7:00pm



Geraniums For Pentecost

RED OR WHITE \$4.50 EACH

ORDERS MUST BE IN BY SUNDAY, MAY 17TH 2026



Financial Director's Report — as of April 30, 2026 — Budget: \$99,232

	This Year to Date	Last Year to Date
Giving	\$ 90,463	\$ 93,917
Ministry Expense	\$106,001	\$ 99,048
Net Income	(\$15,538)	(\$ 5,131)

Budget Support

Income Notes vs. Last Year:

\$ 1,239 Christian Education for last year, \$0 for this year.

Included in Last Year's #'s, now supported through their own Fund Account.

\$ 480 Radio—Includes \$480 Internal Transfer from Grace Blackwell Media Fund.

Expense Notes vs. Last Year:

\$ 1,552—Flowers—Billed for 2025 in 2026

\$ 2,122—Gas & Electric—47% increase over last year

\$ 3,500—Mission Budget—timing vs. last year

Radio Broadcast 2026

Sponsorships	\$ 3,434
Air Time (cost to WXRL)	(\$ 3,240)
Net	\$ 194

Radio Notes:

Lowered broadcast sponsorship from \$ 180 to \$ 150 per service.

\$ 30/service difference supported with a transfer from Grace Blackwell Media Fund

\$480 Year to Date

Plant Sale— Help Needed!

Help unload the Plant Sale plants on

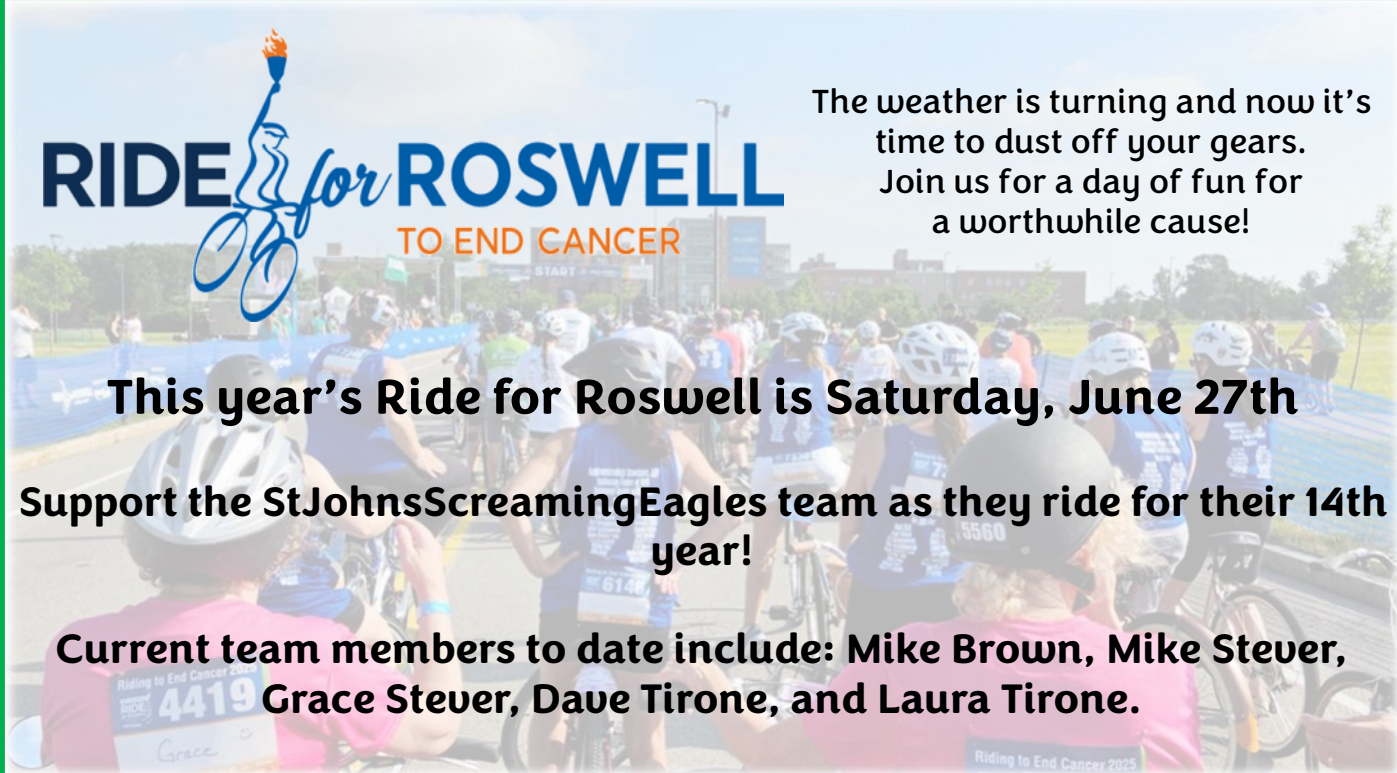
Friday, May 15th at 4:00 PM

Sign-up sheet on Narthex Bulletin Board

Plant Sale Pick-Up will be Saturday, May 16th

Those Serving May 2026

	8:30AM		11:15AM	
<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>
5/3	Barb Perry	Vicar	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
5/10	Barb Perry	Ken Schabert	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
5/17	Barb Perry	BLAST	Bob Plewik	BLAST
5/24	Barb Perry	Ed/Deann Lorenz	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
5/31	Barb Perry	Vicar	Leslie Maciejewski	Vicar
<u>4:30</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>Altar Guild</u>	
5/3	John Gauthier	John Gauthier	Tom & Sue Bluhm Dawn Smith	
5/10	Jim Kless	Jim Kless		
5/17	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa		
5/24	Rob Redenbach	Rob Redenbach		
5/31	Jackie Kraebel	Jackie Kraebel		



RIDE for ROSWELL
TO END CANCER

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

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

Support the StJohnsScreamingEagles team as they ride for their 14th year!

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

April Radio and Flower Sponsorships

4/5	Darlene Schwenk In memory of husband, George Schwenk's birthday. You are missed.	
4/12	Sharon Taylor In loving memory of my beloved husband, Don, and in celebration of his birthday, my brother Ross' birthday, and my great-grandson's birthday. All who were born on April 16th.	Kim Lorenz Martino & Tony Martino In celebration of Wedding Anniversary on April 7th.
4/19	Rae Carier Happy 85th Birthday to my mother, Zella Cope.	Tom & Sue Bluhm In loving memory of Tom's parents, Delbert & Madeline. We miss you!
4/26	<i>In thankfulness to our Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, for guiding us through every step of our lives. May we keep listening for His voice and following where He leads.</i> <i>(this Sunday was not sponsored)</i>	Hirschey Family <i>In thankfulness for all the dedicated staff and congregation members serving 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





Cheryl	Boling	2
Charlotte	Cocco	2
Leigh Varga	Cwiklinski	3
Loren	Ratajczak	6
Don	Loney	7
Kaitlin	Gorski	7
Kelsea	Milam	8
John	Hughey	8
Rick	Mayback	9
Gaige	Hughey	11
Jonathan	Lasky	12
Silas	Hojnacki	12
George	Meyer Sr.	14
Leslie	Maciejewski	16
Edwin	Lorenz	17
Kenneth	Schottke	19
Carolyn	Nosky	20
Isaiah	Hojnacki	21
Norman	Hirschey	23

Larry	Rindfuss	24
Karly	Kostusiak	24
Jeffrey	Sowinski	24
Camden	Smith	24
Pat	Mcgloin	25
Makenzie	Castiglione	29



11	Robert & Linda Plewik
13	Tom & Sue Bluhm
15	Michael & Grace Stever
16	Michael & Kristin & Sexstone
17	Dave & Laura Tirone
20	George Sr. & Stephanie Meyer
21	Brian & Natalie Napierala
24	Ken & Rochelle Menard
29	Tim & Jamie Silakowski
31	Jeffrey & Debora Sowinski

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 Office Closed 5p– Scrap-booking	2 8a– Men’s Group 8p– A.A
3 Easter 5 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	4 Office Closed 7:15p– Elders Meeting	5 5:30p–Girl Scouts #31133	6 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	7 10a– Arise & Shine 6p– Confirmation 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	8 Office Closed 6p– Girl Scouts #31973	9 4:30p– Watch Party 8p– A.A.
10 Easter 6 Mother’s Day 8:30a– Worship 10a– Confirmation reviews with Elders 11:00a—Choir 4:30p– Worship No BLAST	11 Office Closed 7p– Council Meeting	12 6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	13 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	14 Ascension 6p– Confirmation 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	15 Office Closed	16 8a– Men’s Group 8p– A.A
17 Easter 7 Family Day Worship 8:30a– Worship w/ H.C. 10:00a– BLAST Confirmation Reviews w/ Pastor 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p– Worship w/ H.C.	18 Office Closed	19	20 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	21 10a– Arise & Shine 6p– Café 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	22 Office Closed 6p– Girl Scouts #31973	23 9a– Butterflies come down 8p– A.A.
24 Day of Pentecost Rite of Confirmation 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship 31 The Holy Trinity 8:30a– Worship 10:00a– BLAST 11:00a—Choir 11:15a–Worship 4:30p– Worship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 6:30p– Girl Scouts #34670	27 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	28 6p– Girl Scouts #30984	29 Office Closed	30 8p– A.A.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

67 Litchfield Ave.
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Phone: (716) 683-3947
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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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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