

The St. John's Journal Community Connect

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



July & August 2026



God blessed the St. John's Screaming Eagles with great weather and health as the team rode for cancer survivors on June 27th. \$ 8,700 was donated, surpassing the Team goal of \$ 7,500.

- Almost every week included in our prayers are family and friends affected by cancer.
- 120 names were prayed for in our services and by our riders themselves.
- Donations are still being accepted by check payable to Ride for Roswell.



Thank You for helping us to make a difference for the fight to find a cure. Uplifted Prayers for Survivors and Victory Claimed



July Mission and Ministry Prayers	August Mission and Ministry Prayers
For the Depew Community Center for its construction and all who work towards its completion. We pray that the presence of God's love, his compassion and charity shine through the work of this center.	For St. Trinity Lutheran School in West Seneca 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.
Good and Gracious God, our children are precious in your sight as well as our youth. Receive our thanks for all the programs of CHRISTIAN EDUCATION here at St. John's. Bless the students and fill them with a passion to hear and learn about you. Give to each teacher, leader, or helper, wisdom and patience that they may be an influence for good and point these young hearts and minds to the love of Jesus.	Gracious God, give strength to our Youth and our Youth Group as they gather, pursue and explore your will for their lives. Bless the leaders with wisdom, patience and new in-sight as they seek to cultivate loving community grounded and rooted in Christ Jesus. Open the hearts of the young people there present so that they might see you more clearly, love you more dearly and walk with you more nearly day by day



Summer Lectionary Readings

July Lectionary	Jul 5, 2026	Jul 12, 2026	Jul 19, 2026	Jul 26, 2026
Sunday	Pentecost 6	Pentecost 7	Pentecost 8	Pentecost 9
First Reading	Zechariah 9:9-12	Isaiah 55:10-13	Isaiah 44:6-8	Deut 7:6-9
Epistle	Romans 7:15-25	Romans 8:12-17	Romans 8:18-27	Romans 8:28-39
Gospel	Matthew 11:25-30	Matt 13:1-9, 18-23	Matt 24-30, 36-43	Matthew 13:44-52

August Lectionary	Aug 2, 2026	Aug 9, 2026	Aug 16, 20...	Aug 23, 20...	Aug 30, 20...
Sunday	Pentecost 10	Pentecost 11	Pentecost 12	Pentecost 13	Pentecost 14
First Reading	Isaiah 55:1-5	Job 38:4-18	Isaiah 56:1.6-8	Isaiah 51:1-6	Jer 15:15-21
Epistle	Romans 9:1-13	Romans 10:5-17	Romans 11:1-32	Rom 11:33-12:8	Romans 12:9-21
Gospel	Matt 14:13-21	Matt 14:22-33	Matt 15:21-28	Matt 16:13-20	Matt 16:21-28



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 on-going 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
10:30am
Sunday Evening Blended
Worship
4:30pm
Sunday Morning Blast!
September–June
10:00am
Wxrl– AM 1300 / FM
95.5 at 11:00am



June Council Highlights as reported on 6/8/26

New Business– Summer Church Picnic: Depew Pavilion reserved 8/9/26.

Elders– Rod Lorenz— Organizing positions for the summer with Elders. Confirmation of 4 youth in May. New Membership classes have begun with 6+ people. July 5th the 11:15am will switch to 10:30 through 9/6/26. Service will resume regular time 9/13.

Family Ministry– Jen Anthony— Congregational picnic 8/9/26 at Fireman's Park in Depew. Will be looking for assistance with setup, grilling, and cleanup. Youth Group went to Pioneer on the Lake in May. Youth Cookout at Dana's house on June 18th. Darien Lake trips will follow this summer as the youth have season passes. Possible Niagara Jet Boat in August.

Trustees— Larry R., Joe M., Norm H.— Checking the cost of solar panels for the church.

Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Family Day Service (grades 3-6) assisted. Will consider Family Day Services earlier in the year, October, January & March. May Mission Project supported Army 316th Expeditionary Support Command stationed in the Middle East. BLAST kids make cards, and put together the bags of items collected for the Service men and women. June 7th was Sunday BLAST Celebration. BLAST classes will resume September 13th with kick-off and teacher installation. Children Entering Sunday School Stepping Stone: 9/27/26; Grade 3 First Bible Stepping Stone: 10/11/26.

Next Council Meeting: 9/21/26 7:00pm

Financial Director's Report

As we enjoy the coming summer, God continues to bless us.
Electronic Giving is available using the QR code or by mailing in your offering.
In Thankfulness, Mike Brown, Financial Director



Report as of June 30th, 2026 — Budget: \$ 148,848

Giving	\$144,219	Up .94% from LYTD
		\$ 1,304 Christian Ed. - incl in LY, TY, in Fund Acct
		Radio- \$720 YTD Transferred from Media Fund \$30/Broadcast
		AA Fee reduced \$125 to \$25 = \$100/mo v. LY Per Ap
Ministry Expense	\$156,533	Up 42% from LYTD (\$2,801)
		(\$1,552) Altar Flowers billed for 2025
Net Income	(\$ 12,314)	

Radio

Giving	\$4,815
Airtime	\$4,860
Net	(\$ 45)



Thank you to Rob & Robin Redenbach
for donating their time services to
help maintain and add new plants to
the front flower bed.

THOSE SERVING JULY & AUGUST 2026

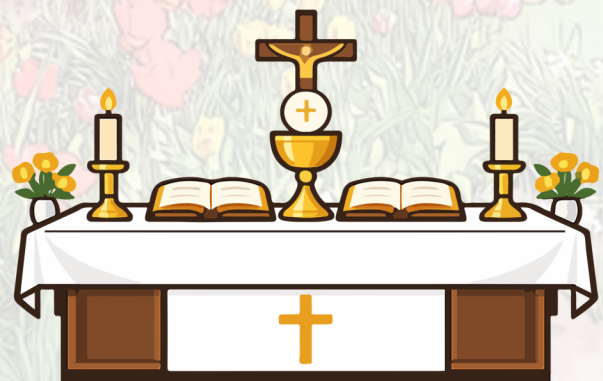
Date	8:30 AM Elder	8:30 AM Lector	11:15 AM Elder	11:15 AM Lector	4:30 PM Elder	4:30 PM Lector
7/5	Barb Perry	Jamie Bluhm	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert
7/12	Amy Krupa	Sue Bluhm	Leslie Maciejewski	Bob Chapman	John Gauthier	John Gauthier
7/19	Betty Cavaleri	Vicar	TBD	TBD	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
7/26	Rod Lorenz	Ed/Deann Lorenz	TBD	TBD	John Gauthier	John Gauthier
8/2	Amy Krupa	Jamie Bluhm	TBD	TBD	Jim Kless	Jim Kless
8/9	Barb Perry	Sue Bluhm	TBD	TBD	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
8/16	Betty Cavaleri	Vicar	TBD	TBD	Rob Redenbach	Rob Redenbach
8/23	Ken Schabert	Ed/Deann Lorenz	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik	Barb Perry	Barb Perry
8/30	Jim Kless	Jamie Bluhm	TBD	TBD	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert

ALTAR GUILD - JULY

Barb Perry & Deann Lorenz

ALTAR GUILD - AUGUST

Donna McNett
Charmaine AfterBuffalo
Deborah Howell



JUNE RADIO AND FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

6/7/2026	<i>Friends of St. John's</i> <i>To the Glory of God!</i>	<i>Paul Murawski</i> <i>In honor of my wife, Donna Murawski's birthday on June 4th.</i>
6/14/2026	<i>Mike & Jan Brown</i> <i>In thankfulness to God for continuing to bless our 36 years of marriage.</i>	<i>Ken & Sue Schabert</i> <i>In thanks to God for walking with us during our 43 years of marriage.</i>
6/21/2026	<i>Richard & Suzanne Sabadasz</i> <i>In celebration of our grandson, John Sabadasz's 16th birthday (June 23). May he always find strength and wisdom in the Lord and with Jesus by his side, may he continue to grow in his faith.</i>	<i>Daniel & Kendra Herbold</i> <i>In celebration of our 27th Anniversary, for all the hard-working, loving Father's for Father's day and in thanks to God for his many blessings.</i>
6/28/2026	<i>Rae & Tom Carier</i> <i>Thanking God for our 22nd anniversary.</i> <i>We are blessed beyond measure.</i>	<i>Ed & Charmain AfterBuffalo</i> <i>God's blessings for our son Ed's 38th birthday, for Ed & Charmaine's 43rd anniversary, and for Alex & Henna AfterBuffalo's 8th anniversary. All thanks to</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





Summer Congregational Picnic

August 9th, 2026 - 12:00pm

(following 10:30am Service)

Depew Firemen's Park

90 Gould Ave. (Please Park in Erie St. Lot)

**Join us for an afternoon and evening of
fun, food & fellowship!**

Sign-up to attend and/or to help!

Sign-up sheets located on
bulletin board in Narthex



Elaina	Lorenz	1
Ross	Contella	3
Hayden	Herbold	3
Karen	Shafer	3
Jamie	Bluhm	3
Janet	Erickson	5
Katherine	Lange	5
Crew	Jagielo	5
John	Gauthier	5
Jenna	Burnham	6
Mary	Warner	8
Susanne	Bluhm	9
Debra	Best	9
Alyssa	Cappello	9
Kerry	Lesanti-Alicea	10
Aisley	Sharpe	10
Andrea	Mudd	12
Caleb	Hojnacki	13
Desire	Zdanowicz	13
Jennifer	Anthony	14
Sue	Wieand	14
Hope	Oberteau	15
Cameron	Fragale	16
Joan	Keating	17
Joseph	Baird Jr.	17
Kimberly	Castiglione	19
Kathy	Beck	20

Carla	Nagel	21
Jennifer	Sharpe	22
Rose Mary	Kirsch	23
Renay	McCarthy	23
Scott	Geisen	24
Laura	Tirone	25
Eden	Jagielo	26
Karen	Dowdall	28
Sue	Hillman	28
Gerald	Radder	29
Michael	Durning	30
Greg	Scott	30
Dave	Tirone	31
Morgan	DelConte	31
Neal	Schlesinger	31
Braxton	Murray	31
Charles	Miller	31





1	Wayne & Debra Dziengielewski
1	Christopher & Angela Geelan
3	Mr. & Mrs. Loren Ratajczak
4	Andrew & Donna McNett
	Cheryl & Bill Boling
4	Mitchell & Kristen Romal
5	John & Andrea Fragale
5	Adam Orzechowski & Jaime Lorenz
11	Ed & Deann Lorenz
12	Martin & Debra Wisniewski
17	Timothy & Theresa Keohane
20	Jon & Colleen Kilanowski
	Gregory & Joy Yaskow
24	Richard & Suzanne Sabadasz
31	James & Trudy Possinger



to our 2026 Graduates!

***Alyssa Cappello
Timothy Keohane
Thomas Mudd III
Susan Plewik
Ava Purpura
Joey Wisniewski***

Heavenly Father, We celebrate the hard work, perseverance, and dedication that have brought these graduates to this moment.

Bless them as they step into the next chapter of their lives. Grant them wisdom to make choices that honor their values, courage to face the unknown with faith, and compassion to serve others with kindness.

When the path ahead feels uncertain, remind them that they are never alone — that Your presence goes before them, beside them, and behind them.

Surround them with mentors, friends, and opportunities that will help them grow into the people You have called them to be. And may their lives shine as a light of hope, integrity, and love in the world.

We entrust their future into Your hands, confident that the plans You have for them are good — plans to give them a future and a hope.

In Your holy name we pray, Amen.



Joelle	Baird	1	Matthew	Goodyear	25
Dawn	Varga	1	Peter	Blackwell	26
Lori	Lesanti	2	Karen	Rutkowski	26
Dawn	Gauthier	2	Branden	Purpura	27
Arthur	Benson	3	James	Possinger	29
Michelle	Hughey	3	John	Sweeney	29
Kristin	Sexstone	4	Jesse	Plewik	29
Rev. Galen	Purpura	6	Marcia	Growth	30
Michael	Brown	8	Aubree	Pauly	31

Clara	Durso	8
Jim	Kless	8
Ryan	Boling	8
Kimberly	Lorenz	9
Robin	Redenbach	10
Sue	Pijacki	12
McKenzie	Kilanowski	14
Patricia	Schlebus	14
Henley	Sharpe	14
Sandy	Thompson	14
Mia	Pauly	14
Joy	Matson	17
Thomas	Bluhm	19
Sharon L	Taylor	19
Summer	Lumb	21
Cameron	Garbacz	21
Iyla	Lorenz	24



1	Ron & Brittany Lorenz
	Gary & Barb Geitter
8	Rob & Robin Redenbach
11	Adam & Chandra Jagielo
12	Dan & Judy McMahon
16	John & Kathy Beck
17	Matthew & Jessica Goodyear
	Christopher & Lara Lozo
21	Justin & Katie Burnham
	George & Carmi DelConte
25	Larry & Patricia Rindfuss
31	Andrew & Amy Krupa

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR.S	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day  8p- A.A.
5 Pentecost 6 8:30a- Worship 10:30a-Worship 4:30p- Worship	6 Office Closed	7	8 Office Closed 8p- A.A	9	10 Office Closed	11 8p- A.A
12 Pentecost 7 8:30a- Worship 10:30a- Worship 4:30p- Worship	13 Office Closed	14	15 Office Closed	16	17 Office Closed	18 8a- Men's Group 8p- A.A
19 Pentecost 8 8:30a- Worship w/ H.C. 10:30a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p- Worship w/ H.C.	20 Office Closed	21	22 Office Closed	23	24 Office Closed	25 8p- A.A.
26 Pentecost 9 8:30a- Worship 10:30a-Worship 4:30p- Worship	27 Office Closed	28	29 Office Closed 8p- A.A.	30	31 Office Closed	

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR.S	FRI	SAT
						1 8a- Men's Group 8p- A.A
2 Pentecost 10 8:30a- Worship w/ H.C. 10:30a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p- Worship w/ H.C.	3 Office Closed	4	5 Office Closed 8p- A.A	6	7 Office Closed	8 8p- A.A
9 Pentecost 11 8:30a- Worship 10:30a-Worship CHURCH PICNIC 4:30p- Worship	10 Office Closed	11	12 Office Closed 8p- A.A.	13	14 Office Closed	15 8a- Men's Group 8p- A.A
16 Pentecost 12 8:30a- Worship w/ H.C. 10:30a-Worship w/ H.C. 4:30p- Worship w/ H.C.	17 Office Closed	18	19 Office Closed 8p- A.A.	20	21 Office Closed	22 8p- A.A.
23 Pentecost 13 8:30a- Worship 10:30a-Worship 4:30p- Worship	24 Office Closed	25	26 Office Closed 8p- A.A.	27	28 Office Closed	29 8p- A.A.
30 Pentecost 14 8:30a- Worship 10:30a-Worship 4:30p- Worship	31 Office Closed					

St. John's Lutheran Church

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secretary@sjlcdepew.com
pastor@sjlcdepew.com
Web: www.jlcdepew.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 Monot

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:

(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