

The St. John's Journal

Faith Community Connected in Christ



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

September 2026

Greetings Friends,

I hope you had a blessed and joyful summer. Time has a way of zipping by doesn't it? Summer provides for us opportunities to rest, relax and enjoy the company of the people we love.

And here we are at the start of another September and with September comes some pretty exciting returns to life at St. John's!

On September 13th, we start Sunday School Blast and Adult Class. Our youth Group gatherings will pick back up as well.

In addition, we will see weekday morning and evening fellowship opportunities returning...

- Arise and Shine (10/1/26)
- Cafe (9/17/26)
- The Chosen Watch Group (9/12/26)

It is my hope and my prayer that you take up the opportunity to grow in faith by joining in on these awesome fellowship and learning groups. You won't be disappointed! And the food is super good too!!

Looking forward to getting back into the swing of things with you!!! Keep an eye out for sign-up sheets and additional opportunities, to grow, gather, and serve!!

With you in Christ,

Pastor.



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

September Ministry & Mission

Local School Kids & Teachers

We pray for all students everywhere that they might have an enriching, safe, and enlightening education. For all teachers that they may be supported and strengthened to provide meaningful learning experiences. Enable your love and presence to grow in these institutions that all students and staff may know of your welcome and positive influence for life.

Radio Commentators—For the St. John's Radio Ministry, the support staff at WXRL, our commentators and all listeners; that the ministry continues to be blessed and more and more people come to know the saving message of gospel through it.



September Lectionary Readings

September Lectionary	Sep 6, 2...	Sep 13, 2...	Sep 20, 2...	Sep 27, 2...
Sunday	Pentecost 15	Pentecost 16	Pentecost 17	Pentecost 18
First Reading	Ezekiel 33:7-9	Genesis 50:15-21	Isaiah 55:6-9	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Epistle	Romans 13:1-10	Romans 14:1-12	Phil 1:12-14, 19-30	Phil 2:1-18
Gospel	Matt 18:1-20	Matt 18:21-35	Matt 20:1-16	Matt 21:23-32

Financial Director's Report

Report as of August 31st, 2026 — Budget: \$ 198,464

	This Year	Last Year	
Giving	\$185,799	\$187,860	(Down 1.1% --Less \$2,061)
Ministry Expense	\$200,832	\$192,802	Up 4.1% from LYTD (\$8,029)
	(\$15,033)	(\$4,942)	

Expense Notes:

	This Year	Last Year	
Gas/Electric Charges	\$10,470	\$7,696	Up 36% (+\$2,774) from last year

Christian Education: Last Year, \$1,410 was included. This Year it was included in the Fund Account.

Radio

Giving	\$7,208	
Airtime	\$6,300	
Net	\$905	includes \$30/broadcast from Grace Blackwell Fund* (total YTD from fund: \$960)

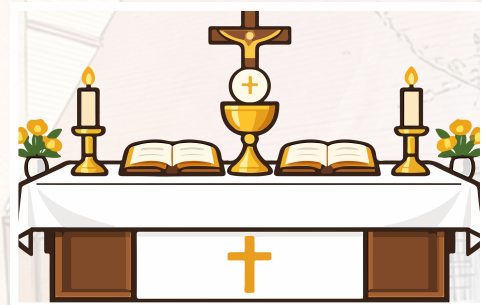
*Lowered the Broadcast Sponsorship from \$180 to \$150.



THOSE SERVING IN SEPTEMBER 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
9/6	Ken Schabert	Helana Geisen	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall
9/13	Ken Schabert	Sue Bluhm	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik	Betty Cavaleri	Betty Cavaleri
9/20	Ken Schabert	Jeff Schuler	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik	Tom Stutzman	Tom Stutzman
9/27	Ken Schabert	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik	Steve Plewik	Steve Plewik

ALTAR GUILD - SEPTEMBER
SUE SCHABERT
KAREN PLEWIK



Arise and
SHINE

*1st & 3rd Thursdays
of the month at 10am
(Begins Thurs. 10/1)*



Café

3rd Thursdays of the month @ 6:00pm

(Begins Thurs. 9/17) Sign up sheet in Narthex



JULY RADIO AND FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

7/5/2026	Jim Kless <i>Happy Birthday, mom. This has been a tough year for you but you're on the up and up now. Thanks for everything you do for me. I love you.</i>	Dan & Kendra Herbold <i>In celebration of our daughter's birthday and the country's 250th birthday. Also, in thanks to God for his many blessings.</i>
7/12/2026	Paul Murawski <i>In loving memory of Donna Murawski for the occasion of our wedding anniversary, July 15th.</i>	Susan Reitzel <i>In loving memory of my dad, John Krickovich; sister, Anne; brothers James and Joseph; brother-in-law, Jon; and nephew, Thomas.</i>
7/19/2026	The Mudd family & Carolyn Nosky <i>In thanks to God for the St. John's Radio Broadcast Ministry</i>	Tom Bluhm & Family <i>In celebration of Sue's Birthday. We love you!</i>
7/26/2026	Jacquelyn Kraebel <i>In loving memory of my husband Larry on the 15th anniversary of his passing.</i>	Susan Pijacki <i>In loving memory of my husband Paul on his heavenly birthday.</i>



THE CHOSEN WATCH PARTY

**JOIN US ON SEPTEMBER 12TH
AT 4:30 PM**

**Sign up sheet in the Narthex
Questions? Call Barb Perry : 716-983-7064**

Heavenly Father,
 As this new school year begins, we lift up every student, teacher, and parent into Your loving care. Grant students curiosity to learn, courage to try, and kindness. Bless teachers with wisdom, patience, and joy in their calling. Surround our schools with safety, peace, and respect. May each day be filled with growth, friendship, and purpose. Guide every step, every word, and every decision, so that this year becomes a season of blessing and discovery. In Your name we pray, Amen.

AUGUST RADIO AND FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

8/2/2026	<i>The People of St. John's</i> <i>To the Glory of God!</i>	<i>Dawn Brennan</i> <i>In loving memory of my husband Jim. So grateful for the blessed, wonderful life we shared for 55 years. August 3rd, 1968. Forever in my heart. Ruth 1:16-17</i>
8/9/2026	<i>Jan Brown</i> <i>In celebration of Mike's birthday and giving thanks for the many, many blessings received.</i>	<i>Tom & Sue Bluhm</i> <i>In loving memory of Sue's parents, Ray & Helen Binkowski. We miss you!</i>
8/16/2026	<i>Suzanne & Richard Sabadasz</i> <i>In remembrance of our nephew, Michael Gabrielli's recent passing. May God's grace comfort, strengthen and be with the family during this unexpected loss.</i>	<i>The People of St. John's</i> <i>To the Glory of God!</i>
8/23/2026	<i>John & Jane Marone</i> <i>Celebrating the baptism of Kataleya Francesca Marone, our great-granddaughter.</i>	<i>The People of St. John's</i> <i>To the Glory of God!</i>
8/30/2026	<i>John Preston & Lois Zietz</i> <i>Grateful to God for the privilege of worshipping at St. John's.</i>	<i>Amy & Andrew Krupa</i> <i>In celebration of our 30th Wedding Anniversary.</i>

Interested in sponsoring a broadcast or flowers?
Openings are still available!

Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board near the church office.

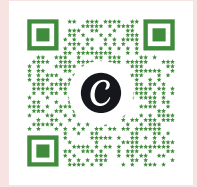
Full broadcast is \$150.00 (or \$50.00 per line)

Flowers: \$25.00/weekend



JOIN US ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH TO KICK OFF

Sunday **MORNING** **BLAST!**



NOW REGISTERING ONLINE FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR!

**ENTERING "BLAST" STEPPING STONE
FOR ALL AGE 4 PRESCHOOLERS BEGINNING (OR
CONTINUING)**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH DURING THE
8:30AM OR 11:15AM SERVICE
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO
LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL PARTICIPATE!**



**FIRST BIBLE STEPPING STONE
FOR ALL 3RD GRADERS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH DURING
THE 8:30A OR 11:15A SERVICE
PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TO
LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL PARTICIPATE!**



**SUNDAY MORNING CONFIRMATION WITH YOUTH GROUP
LEADERS AND OTHER 6TH AND 7TH GRADE STUDENTS WILL
BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 13TH, 2026 AT 10AM. ALL 8TH GRADE
STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE!**

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION
WITH PASTOR WILL BEGIN ON OCTOBER 11 AT 1:00PM.
ALL 8TH GRADE STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO
PARTICIPATE!**



Matthew	Bluhm	1
Beth	Lasky	2
Trudy	Possinger	2
Danniella	Benson	2
Zachary	Richardson	3
Hugo	Geitter	3
Joseph	Manna	4
Carrie	Schwarzmueller	5
Chandra	Jagielo	6
Charlotte	Olson	6
Dawn	Smith	8
Daniel	McMahon	8
Lilyana	Cocco	12
Ava	Goodyear	13
Nicholas	Krupa	14
Caroline	Coffed	16
Joy	Yaskow	16
Brandon	Wright	17
Vikki	Hirschey	18
Gino	Napierala	20
Susan	Vriesen	24
Carole-Ann	Pleban	24
Ava	Purpura	25
Mary (Betsy)	Suttell	26
Donna	McNett	27
Jackson	Goodyear	28
Ronald	VanDewark	29
Ethan	Meyer	29
Anne	Bovo	29



Tracy & Alan Lumb	2
Leslie & Ron Maciejewski	6
David and Caroline Coffed	10
Douglas and Karen Rutkowski	10
John and Wendy Garbutt	11
Heidi & Anthony Manna	13
Joseph & Mary Momot	16
Jane and John Marone	18
Mark and Dawn Smith	21
Michael & Karen Durning	23
John and Michelle Hughey	25

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 8p- A.A.	3	4	5 8a- Men's Group 8p- A.A.
6 Pentecost 15 Holy Communion 8:30a- Worship Schunk Baptism 10:30a-Worship 4:30p- Worship	7 Office Closed 7:15p - Elder's Meeting	8	9 Office Closed 8p- A.A	10	11 Office Closed 6:30p- Girl Scouts Trp #31973	12 4:30p - Watch Party 8p- A.A
13 Pentecost 16 BLAST Kick-off! 8:30a- Worship 10a- BLAST 11a - Choir Practice 11:15a- Worship 4:30p- Worship	14 Office Closed 7p - Council Meeting	15	16 Office Closed 8p- A.A.	17 10a- Arise & Shine 6p- Cafe	18 Office Closed	19 8a- Men's Group 8p- A.A
20 Pentecost 17 Holy Communion 8:30a- Worship 10a- BLAST 11a - Choir Practice 11:15a-Worship 4:30p- Worship	21 Office Closed	22 	23 Office Closed 8p- A.A.	24	25 Office Closed 6:30p- Girl Scouts Trp #31973	26 8p- A.A.
27 Pentecost 18 <i>Children Entering Sunday School Stepping Stone</i> 8:30a- Worship 10a- BLAST 11a - Choir Practice 11:15a-Worship 4:30p- Worship	28 Office Closed	29	30 Office Closed 8p- A.A.			

St. John's Lutheran Church

67 Litchfield Ave.
Depew, New York 14043

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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:

(Trustees@sjlcdepew.com)

Larry Rindfuss

Joe Monot

Norm Hirschey

Secretary of the Council:

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(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