The St. John's Journal

Faith Community Connected in Christ

October 2026



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



Greetings Friends,

A couple of weeks back during church I shared with you some advice a young man shared with our Ava as she was preparing to leave for the Air Force's Basic Military Training. Here again is what he shared: "Count your weeks by Sunday... and go to church."

This Dad and pastor's ears perked right up! That's some pretty sound advice wouldnt you say?

So why did I feel this was the best advice that could be given to my daughter as she prepared to leave home for the first time? Well, here is how I took it:

- Sunday is "the first day of the week" and it's a day given to us by our God; a day that we specifically get to recall to our minds Jesus' glorious resurrection (every Sunday worship is really a celebration of Easter)! And as we recall to our minds the glorious resurrection we are reminded of the abundant life we have in Jesus now and forever. You see, no matter how tough our week has been, no matter how tired or fatigued we may be by our circumstances, we always have Sunday to look forward to! It's a day for us to lay whatever it may be at the feet of our Jesus and find "rest" in his presence and promises. Sunday is a day to recharge, refresh and renew. It's a day to conclude the previous week and a day to begin the new week optimistically, hopefully and joyfully-confident that God's grace is sufficient and that His mercies will be ours with each new day.
- Sunday is a day for us to go to church. It a day to "remember the sabbath by keeping it holy." Friends, God in his wisdom has appointed for us a day to gather together as community "on the first day of the week. It's a day different than all the others and contrary to popular belief it isn't a day primarily focused on sleeping in or being the first to arrive for tailgating... No, it's about all about God! It's all about him coming to us- inviting us into his presence. It's about relationship; our relationship with him and subsequently about our relationship with one another! It's about his coming to us very personally in Worship through the Word and Sacraments to fill us... cups overflowing."

As we gather together as a people of God, we are so very blessed to know through faith our ever-present God in Christ Jesus who is for us and never against us. And not only that, how blessed we are to know one another and to be present for one another as the bonds of faith unite us and drive us to love and service within our walls and beyond them. Sunday is a day to go to church and for good reason, right? God established it for our good- for our health and wellbeing. He established it that we might be pointed to our Jesus "the light of the World" The one who illumites our hearts and our lives and the one who uses us to illuminate the hearts and lives of others!

Let me finish with this one final thought, when the young service member shared "counting days by Sunday and going to church with Ava, he also followed it up with this: "and on Sunday you get donuts at church."

For the young member of the Armed Forces who is served up the basic foods of a military mess hall day in and day out, I suppose a donut is rather appealing. Something to look forward to. Well, whether the young man realized it or not, as I saw it, his statement was rather profound. My friends, on Sunday you and me may not always be "fed a donut" but you can bet that we are fed something sweet and satisfying! The Psalmist put it like this: **"How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119:103)** Friends, how sweet it is to be fed and filled- nourished in the sweet Word of our God! How amazing it is to be served the true body and blood of our Jesus which is sweet sustenance for our souls! There is nothing more fulfilling and nothing more pleasing in this life! It never spoils and it never gets old; AND it's something we get to look forward to EVERY WEEK!

May the Holy Spirit empower us to count our days by Sunday and may "going to Church" always be our main priority each week!

See you on Sunday!

Pastor Dal +





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 : 11:15am
Sunday Evening Blended Worship : 4:30pm
Sunday Morning Blast! - September—June 10:00am
WXRL— AM 1300 / FM 95.5 AT 11:00AM

October Ministry & Mission

St. Luke Food Pantry— All providing God, you have given us with all that we need for this life and the life to come. Since you use us to serve others, help us to always be aware of the needs of those in our community. We thank you for the ministry of the St. Luke's Food Pantry and we ask your blessings as they seek to serve the needs of so many in this community.

Music Ministry—Good and gracious God, to you we raise our voices in song and praise for grace bestowed through your Son Jesus. We thank you for the gifts you have bestowed upon RJ, Camden, the Praise Band and all others who serve in Music Ministry. Bless each of these servants in their ministry as they lead us in song and point us to your love.



October Lectionary Readings

October Lectionary	Oct 4, 2026	Oct 11, 2026	Oct 18, 20...	Oct 25, 20...
Sunday	Pentecost 19	Pentecost 20	Pentecost 21	Reformation
First Reading	Isaiah 5:1-7	Isaiah 25:6-9	Isaiah 45:1-7	Revelation 14:6-7
Epistle	Philippians 4:4-14	Philippians 4:4-13	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Romans 3:19-28
Gospel	Matthew 21:33-46	Matthew 22:1-14	Matthew 22:15-22	John 8:31-36



Dear St. John's Family,

Thank you for all the well wishes, cards, and gifts sent to me before I left for the Air Force. I can't begin to explain how grateful I am for the kindness shared. I look forward to seeing when I return around Christmas time.

Thank you so much,

Ava Purpura



Welcome New Members

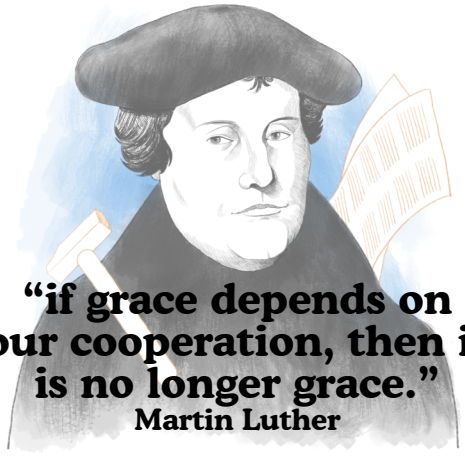
Just before the start of summer Pastor offered a new member class to those interested in learning more about St. John's. We are pleased to welcome the following individuals to the Family of Faith at St. John's:

Lois Zietz
Emma Will*
Joseph Mondo
Jeffery Schihl
Evie Schihl
Dave Demeyer
Ella Buczynski
Matt Kostek
Darlene Morrow
Yolanda Preston*
Serenity Lawrence*

*Returning members



HAPPY 90th birthday to Anne Bovo! We celebrate with you Anne and we wish you much joy, happiness and health in the years to come!



"if grace depends on our cooperation, then it is no longer grace."
Martin Luther

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED ON 9/21/26



New Business- October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Elections for Council coming up

Elders- Rod Lorenz—Directories are almost complete. Working to get a better understanding the role of SMP. Discontinuing the reception line at the end of church

Stewardship—Ed Lorenz— Working on a Stewardship Reflection.

Family Ministry- Jen Anthony— Congregational picnic was held on 8/9, attended by about 70. Great weather and great fellowship. Youth had a summer picnic at Danas, enjoyed Niagara Jet Boats and a trip to Darien Lake. Took advantage of special pricing for 2027 passes. Split cost.

Trustees— Larry R., Joe M., Norm H.— Parking lot was sealed and striped. Looking into the ice melt at a few doors

Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— BLAST began on September 13th. Registration continues.

Shepherd's Staff— Rae Carier— Getting additional volunteers for kitchen help. Shafer & Merkt funeral brunches. Poinsettia orders and Thanksgiving Meal coming soon.

.Pastor— Confirmation classes on Sunday afternoons. Potential 12 attending new member classes.

Next Council Meeting: 10/12/26 7:00pm

COMING NEXT MONTH...

ST. JOHN'S WILL ONCE AGAIN BE ASSISTING A COMMUNITY FAMILY BY PROVIDING A THANKSGIVING MEAL

MORE DETAILS WILL BE SHARED SOON!



Financial Director's Report

Report as of September 30th, 2026 — Budget: $

	This Year	Last Year	
Giving	$207,077	$221,270	(Down 6.4% --Less $14,193*) *Received $10k anonymous donation last year (2025)
Ministry Expense	$222,133	$213,460	Up 4.1% from LYTD ($8,673)
Net	($15,056)	$7,810	
January-September Expense Notes:			
	This Year	Last Year	
Gas/Electric Charges	$10,978	$8,219	Up 34% (+$2,760) from last year
Altar Flowers	$3,234	$725	Difference of $2,509** **2025 Altar Flowers were billed in 2026
Christian Education	Last Year, $1,410 was included. This Year it was included in the Fund Account.		

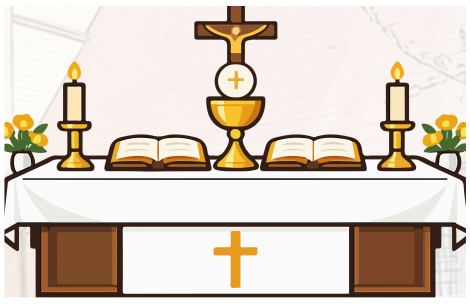
Radio		
Giving	$7,565	
Airtime	$7,200	
Net	$365	includes $30/broadcast from Grace Blackwell Fund* (total YTD from fund: $1,109
*Lowered the Broadcast Sponsorship from $180 to $150.		



THOSE SERVING IN OCTOBER 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
10/4	Betty Cavaleri	Cantor	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik	Rod Lorenz	Rod Lorenz
10/11	Betty Cavaleri	Jeff Schuler	Karen Lorenz	Karen Lorenz	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik
10/18	Betty Cavaleri	Sue Bluhm	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik	John Gauthier	Vicar
10/25	Betty Cavaleri	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Bob Plewik	Bob Plewik	Jim Kless	Jim Kless

ALTAR GUILD - OCTOBER
CEIL ROWELL
JACKIE KRAEBEL
SUE HILLMAN



Arise and SHINE

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



Café

3rd Thursdays of the month @ 6:00pm

SEPTEMBER RADIO AND FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

9/6/2026	***Leslie Maciejewski*** *In praise and thanksgiving on the occasion of Ron and my 40th Wedding Anniversary.*	***Terri Holtz*** *In memory of all my loved ones in heaven.*
9/13/2026	***John & Jane Marone*** *Thanking the good Lord for our 61 years of marriage.*	***Dave & Caroline Coffed*** *In celebration of our 60th Wedding Anniversary. Also, in celebration of all of our family's September birthdays.*
9/20/2026	***Sandy & Art Haase*** *Praying for God's blessings as our children begin a new school year and for the BLAST program at St. John's.*	***The People of St. John's*** *To the Glory of God!*
9/27/2026	***Norm & Vikki Hirschey*** *We thank all at St. John's for the kind words, prayers, and cards sent with the recent loss of Norm's brother, Ronald. It was comforting to hear from so many.*	***The People of St. John's*** *To the Glory of God!*

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





COMING SOON

NOMINATION SUNDAY

Sunday, November 1st



PREPARING FOR ADVENT

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS & POINSETTIA SIGN UPS



Life Line Screening
Preventive Care, Peace of Mind.

Life Line Screening will be at St. John's on Tuesday, October 20th
Visit their website to book your preventative screening: LifeLineScreening.com



October is Pastor Appreciation month!



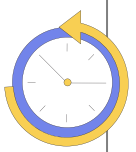
Noah	Shaw	4
Rae	Carier	5
Ramona	Sietsma	6
Phyllis	Hanson	7
Paul	Murawski	9
Erik	Orzechowski	9
Amy	Krupa	12
Paul	Varga	12
Rebecca	Hojnacki	12
Justin	Purpura	12
Aliza Ruth	Hojnacki	13
Finley	Cray	13
Kyle	Tirone	14
Daniel	Hojnacki	14
Lauren	Cohn	14
Terri	Holtz	15
Hunter	Silakowski	16
Brian	Thurnherr	18
Mya	Silakowski	19
Easton	DelConte	19
Lois	Zietz	19
Michael	Stever	20
Arthur	Haase	22
Evan	Herbold	25
Amelia	Vanvalkenburg	26
Ava	Marsh	28
Dylan	Lumb	28
Brooke	Mayback	29
Richard	Sharpe III	29
Thomas	Mudd	29
George	Bushey	30
Shelley	Matthews	31



1	Kyle & Jennifer Sharpe
	John & Dawn Gauthier
5	Daniel & Susan Vriesen
6	John & Nancy Sweeney
8	Laurel & Patrick Schunk
	Scott & Kim Castiglione
	Kevin & Nina Wright
9	Jason & Jamie Bluhm
	Bryan & Emily Mayback
14	Sandy & Art Haase
	Gretta & Andrew Garbacz
15	Rick & Rebecca Mayback
	Justin & Dana Besch
22	Joe & Betty Cavaleri

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 10a- Arise & Shine 6p- Girl Scouts *#30984*	2 5p- Scrapbooking	3 8a- Men's Group 8p– A.A.
4 Pentecost 19 Holy Communion 8:30a– Worship 10a- BLAST 11a - Choir Rehearsal 11:15a-Worship 4:30p– Worship	5 Office Closed 7:15p - Elder's Meeting	6 5:30p- Girl Scouts #31133	7 Office Closed 8p– A.A	8 6p- Girl Scouts #30984	9 Office Closed 6:30p- Girl Scouts Trp #31973	10 4:30p - Watch Party 8p– A.A
11 Pentecost 20 8:30a– Worship 10a- BLAST 11a - Choir Rehearsal 11:15a-Worship 1p- Confirmation Class 4:30p– Worship	12 Office Closed 7p - Council Meeting	13 6:30p- Girl Scouts #34670	14 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	15 10a- Arise & Shine 6p- Cafe 6p- Girl Scouts #30984	16 Office Closed	17 8a– Men's Group 8p– A.A
18 Pentecost 21 Holy Communion 8:30a– Worship 10a- BLAST 11a - Choir Rehearsal 11:15a-Worship 4:30p– Worship	19 Office Closed	20 Life Line Solutions 9am-5pm 6:30p- Girl Scouts #34670	21 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	22 6p- Girl Scouts #30984	23 Office Closed 6:30p- Girl Scouts Trp #31973	24 8p– A.A.
25 Reformation Sunday 8:30a– Worship 10a- BLAST 11a - Choir Rehearsal 11:15a-Worship 1p- Confirmation Class 4:30p– Worship	26 Office Closed	27	28 Office Closed 8p– A.A.	29 6p- Girl Scouts #30984	30	31 Day of Reformation





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pastor@sjlcdepew.com
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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

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Larry Rindfuss
Joe Monot
Norm Hirschey

Secretary of the Council:
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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
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Shepherds Staff Chair:
Rae Carier
(shepherdsStaff@sjlcdepew.com)

Sunday School
Superintendent:
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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