The St. John's Journal

Faith Community Connected in Christ

November 2026



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

Dear Fellow Stewards of God's Goodness,

Tis the season for football! There is such a love for the game in Buffalo, wouldn't you say? A passion even! Now, in football there are two sets of actions; The offense and the defense.

The offense- has the goal of getting into the endzone and scoring touchdowns.

The defense- has the goal of stopping touchdowns, preventing positive gain, and ultimately gaining possession of the ball however possible.

The offense works as a team as does the defense. There is a sense of togetherness as the members of each team strive toward their ultimate goal. It is almost as if they are walking in step with each other.

Interestingly there is even a playbook, and all the players have a familiarity with the playbook, they might even well study it... front to back!



The playbook points the players to what is important and how the ultimate goal is met. Admittedly, when I looked at the game of football from these two perspectives, what I saw was similarity to "God and the Devil." When sin came into the world God set forth a plan to restore us to himself through Jesus. Of course, it would result in Jesus dying a death we deserve, but Jesus accomplished the goal and rising three days later he secured for you and me forgiveness and life.

The devil on the other hand, will work his darndest to get in the way of that forgiveness and life. He works hard on our hearts attempting to block us from God's will and ways. He makes ever effort to try to take possession of our hearts and in his crafty way how he interferes with the positive gain that Jesus has secured for us.

But the devil's defense has nothing on the Savior's Offense! The devil is left in the in the dust... trampled on! The victory won! The goal of forgiveness, life, salvation sealed in triumph by Jesus! Our Jesus, who joins us the contrite, repentant and forgiven to his team- making us his own and giving His Word (the playbook if you will) which points us to his presence and promises!

Not only that, in the strength of the Lord's might (Ephesians 6) with eyes fixed on Jesus who is the perfector of our faith, together with others on the team of faith, we throw off everything that hinders to run the game we call life with endurance and perseverance never losing heart. Never losing hope (Hebrews 12). Why? Because we know that team of Redeemed has won and has the prize for God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3).

What an amazing message! We know what awaits us, but being truthful, that time hasn't come yet, and as we already mentioned, the "defense" works hard on us. The game of life is tough.

And that's why God has given us his Word- its our greatest tool! You see, joined to the offense in Jesus; the Bible becomes our defense (you can bet the devil doesn't like the Word of God).
And so, like the member of any good football team studies their playbook, we too see the benefit and great value in Studying God's Word... reading it, marking it, and inwardly digesting it!

This Word opens our eyes to see God's way verse our way and the world's way. This Word points us always to our Jesus who is our rock-solid foundation and who is the one who has paved the way for victory no matter the season, the obstacle, or challenge!
May the Holy Spirit ever and always keep our hearts open to the Word. And as good Stewards untied to Jesus, may we see our every Sunday not primarily as football Sunday but as "Sabbath Sunday" a day set apart...

-a day to be together as a team (the priesthood of all believers) as God comes to us so personally through the Word and The Sacraments, as we are built up by one another, as we hear the Word and study the Word, as we walk together...

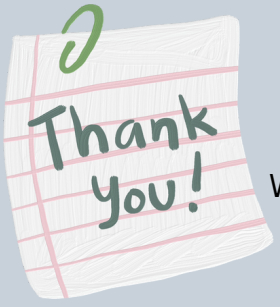
-and it's a day for us to be empowered and strengthen as we prepare for another week in the game of life confident that "Team Jesus" and His Word always prevails! It never fails! It can never be defeated! The Savior and his promises endure forever!

The vison for this article by
Ed Lorenz
Stewardship Chair



Sign Up For Weekly Prayer Updates!

Interested in receiving the names of people announced each week?
Let pastor know and he will email you weekly through prayer chain.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS!

Words cannot begin to express my gratitude for your kind words,
your generous gifts and thoughtfulness for pastor appreciation!!! Thank you so very much!
Pastor Galen

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



November Lectionary Readings

November Lectionary	Nov 1, 2026	Nov 8, 2026	Nov 15, 2026	Nov 22, 2026	Nov 29, 2026
Sunday	All Saints Day	Pentecost 24	Pentecost 25	Christ the King	Advent 1
First Reading	Isaiah 25:6-9	Amos 5:18-24	Zephaniah 1:7-16	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24	Isaiah 11:1-9
Epistle	Revelation 21:1-6	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	Romans 8:18-25
Gospel	John 11:32-44	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46	Luke 3:1-9

November Ministry & Mission

Tri Community— 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 TRI-COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY and we ask your blessing as they seek to serve the needs of so many in this community.

Stewardship—All that we have is from you and is received from your all providing hand. Gracious and loving God, you call us to be stewards of your Abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Bless our Stewardship ministry at St. John's that together we might scatter our gifts as you lead us that our kingdom might grow abundantly.

Thanksgiving Eve WORSHIP

November 25th — 7:00pm
with Holy Communion



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

$9.00/EA
ORDER BY NOV. 15
SIGN-UP SHEET ON BULLETIN BOARD

OCTOBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED ON 10/12/26



New Business- Grant Award: 10% to mission fund, 10% to Youth fund, 80% to new budget. Percentage to send to St. Luke's. Upcoming Elections/Budget Vote 12/13/26.

Elders- Rod Lorenz— Reformation 10/25/26. Shut-in's, anyone interested in driving contact Betty. Lack of participation from 20-30 year olds.

Family Ministry- Jen Anthony— BLAST resumed and Youth are meeting as a group again on Sunday mornings. Youth Group had fall plans to Darien Lake but cancelled due to weather. Had a trip to Becker Farms.

Trustees— Larry R., Joe M., Norm H.— Fall maintenance was completed on furnaces & boilers. Lights changed in the Praise Band loft. Fire extinguisher inspections completed. Work on roof/gutter ice-melt systems.

Board of Education— Kim Lorenz— Installation of Teachers and BLAST Kick-off on 9/13. BLAST had a change in curriculum to Enduring Faith (LCMS based). Faith stepping stone response was low. Looking to address low response and awareness. Upcoming Family Day service(11/22), Winter Mission Project (11/22 to 12/19), and Christmas Porgram (12/20). No BLAST or Adult Bible classes on 12/27.

Shepherd's Staff— Rae Carier— 4 Shut-ins were given fall tote bags with word search and fall decorations. Veteran's Day service is 11/11/26. Poinsettias orders due by 11/15. Partnering once again with the Depew Community Center to provide Thanksgiving meals to four families in Depew. Working on getting Christmas lists to provide gifts for 20 children for Christmas.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: 11/9/26 7:00PM

THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR DEPEW FAMILIES

ST. JOHN'S WILL ONCE AGAIN BE ASSISTING 4 COMMUNITY FAMILIES BY PROVIDING A THANKSGIVING MEAL

SIGN-UP SHEETS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD

BRING FOOD DONATIONS IN BY 11/22



Financial Director's Report

Report as of October 31st, 2026 — Budget: $ 240,080

	This Year	Last Year	
Giving	$238,802	$240,658	Down $1,856 (.07%)
Ministry Expense	$244,596	$235,129	Up 4.03% or $$9,467
Net	($5,794)	$5,529	

January - October Expense Notes:

	This Year	Last Year	
Gas/Electric Charges	$11,371	$8,662	Up 31% (+$2,709) from last year
Altar Flowers	$3,559	$725	Difference of $2,509****2025 Altar Flowers were billed in 2026

Christian Education: Last Year, $2,085 of giving was included. This Year it was included in the Fund Account.

Radio	
Giving	$7,995
Airtime	$7,920
Net	$75
*Lowered the Broadcast Sponsorship from $180 to $150.	
includes $30/broadcast from Grace Blackwell Fund* (total YTD from fund: $1200	

Do you have an IRA?

Are you now required to make a minimum distribution? (Required Miniumum Distribution or RMD) If you are paying income tax on an IRA, you might be eligible to not pay tax on the distribution by setting up a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD). The donation would come directly to St. John's. Contact your financial advisor for more answers.

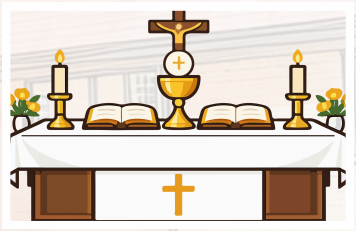
St. John's received a $10,000 unrestricted grant from Jack Roskoz (non-member).

$8,000	to Budget Giving
$1,000	to St. Luke Food Pantry
$1,000	to Youth Fund (Towards next Gathering)

THOSE SERVING IN NOVEMBER 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
11/1	Barb Perry	Norm Hirschey	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall	Amy Krupa	Amy Krupa
11/8	Barb Perry	Sue Bluhm	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall	John Gauthier	Rob Redenbach
11/15	Barb Perry	Jamie Bluhm	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall	Barb Perry	Barb Perry
11/22	Barb Perry	Ed & Deann Lorenz	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall	Ken Schabert	Ken Schabert
11/29	Barb Perry	Emma Will	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall	Karen Dowdall

ALTAR GUILD - NOVEMBER
JERRY BERNFELD JR.
KAREN CARWILE



Arise and
SHINE

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

Café

3rd Thursdays of the month @ 6:00pm

OCTOBER RADIO AND FLOWER SPONSORSHIPS

10/4/2026	***Art & Sandy Haase*** *Thanking God and family for the blessings of our 59th Wedding Anniversary. 10/14/1967*	***The People of St. John's*** *To the glory of God!*
10/11/2026	***Jason & Jamie Bluhm*** *In celebration of our anniversary. And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.*	***Susan Reitzel*** *Remembering my husband Ernie with much love, with flowers for our church, St. John's. See ya*
10/18/2026	***Karen Shafer*** *In praise to God for the people of this congregation who hold everyone who is ill or absent in their thoughts and prayers. Thank you.*	***The Lumb Family*** *In celebration of Dylan's 21st birthday on October 28th. Wishing you a blessed and joyful birthday rooted in His grace.*
10/25/2026	***Stan & Karen Carwile*** *In memory of Deanna Bickert.*	***The Herbold Family*** *In celebration of our son Evan's 27th birthday and in gratitude to God for his enduring love, guidance, and grace.*

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





CHURCH OFFICE NOMINATIONS

The following persons have been nominated by their fellow congregants.
If you choose to accept your nomination, please return the forms that were e-mailed and/or mailed to you to the church office by 11/15/26

PRESIDENT
Jamie Bluhm (Incumbent)
Bob Plewik
Carl Suhr

TRUSTEE
Rob Redenbach
Gary Hillman
Dan Hojnacki
T.J. Mudd
Mike Stever
Mike Benson
Jerry Bernfeld Jr.

SHEPHERD STAFF CHAIRPERSON
Rae Carier (Incumbent)
Carl Suhr
Beth Lasky

CONGREGATIONAL SECRETARY
Susan Vriesen (Incumbent)

YOUTH & FAMILY CHAIRPERSON
Tom Stutzman
Tracy Lumb
Jackie Kraebel
Becca Hojnacki
Laura Tirone
Vikki Hirschey
Deborah Howell
Hope Obertean
Dana Besch
Kim Lorenz

STEWARDSHIP CHAIRPERSON
Ed Lorenz (Incumbent)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON
Kim Lorenz (Incumbent)
Carl Suhr
Carrie Schwarzmueller

BOARD OF ELDERS
Karen Dowdall
John Gauthier
Jim Kless
Amy Krupa
Barb Perry
Steve Plewik
John Sabadasz
Darlene Schwenk
John Hughey
Joy Yaskow



ELECTION & BUDGET VOTE

Sunday, December 13th

Jennifer	Thurnherr	1
Linda	Plewik	1
Anthony	Martino	3
Karen	Zielen	5
Adam	Jagielo	8
Richard	Sharpe IV	8
Ayla	Jagielo	8
Robert	Redenbach	8
Jay	Hanson	10
Rev. Howard	Warner	11
Barbara	Perry	12
Ella	Liberto (Thurnherr)	12
Andrew	Garbacz	12
Theresa	Keohane	14
Rochelle	Menard	14
Kaylin	Pauly	15
Susan	Schabert	16
Timothy	Silakowski	17
Jamie	Silakowski	17
Charlotte	Atkins	17
Katie	Burnham	18
Joshua	McFarland-Shields	19
Katherine	Lasky	20
Cecilia	Rowell	22
Dawn	Brennan	22
Barbara	Geitter	24
Deann	Lorenz	26
Irmgard	Hartung	28
Paige	Coffed	29
Helana	Geisen	30

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

2	Gary & Sue Hillman
20	Ed & Delores Mau
21	Mondo
27	Norman & Vikki Hirschey
30	Carrie Schwarzmueller

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS



Advent Devotional Booklets

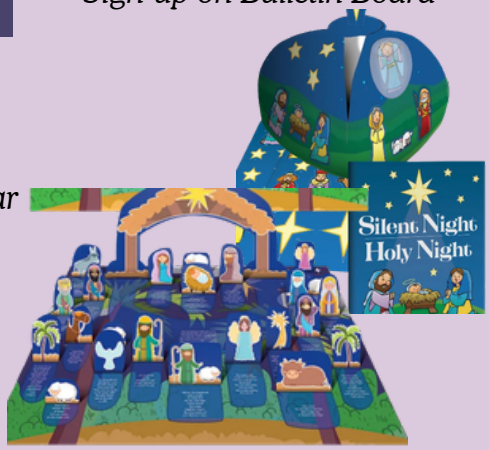
Readers are guided to reflect on God's Word and rediscover the hope fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Each reading speaks to real-life struggles while pointing to the unchanging truth that God's promises always come to pass.

$2.00/each
Sign-up on Bulletin Board

Children's Advent Devotionals

Pop-up Advent Calendar and Activity Booklet

$5.00
Sign-up on Bulletin Board



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

St. John's Lutheran Church
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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:
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
(SIewardship@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