

The Eagle

October
2024

ST. JOHN'S CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Lee Dryden
president

CJ Ullrich
vice president | personnel

Lisa Leach
secretary | fellowship

Ellen Pancoe
treasurer

Ginny Hohl
financial secretary

Paul Swanson
building & grounds

Klansee Bulmer
christian education

Candy Scorsone
worship & music

Shirleen Besch
social ministry

Brian Hirschey
finance

Listen carefully," Jesus told His disciples, "I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." Matthew 10:16

Dear Friends,

Over the last several months, there have been many hacks and scams sent out to our members. These fraudulent efforts utilize fake emails, phone calls, and texts targeting our membership. A typical request will ask for gift cards or bank account information. The sender pretends to be me, one of our other pastors, or the office.

Please know and trust that our office and staff members will NEVER send you a cryptic message asking for "help" or "assistance." We certainly will not ask you to take pictures of gift cards and email them back to us. If it seems even a little bit "off," do not reply. Our church directory company recently informed us that our membership directory had a trojan horse. The AI bot, person, or agency has been removed, but they still have the information they stole. Meaning, further fraudulent efforts can be expected. The company has assured us that they've put measures in place to prevent any future breach.

In the gospel of Matthew Jesus cautioned his disciples to be "wise as serpents and innocent as doves" because they were like "sheep in the midst of wolves." His advice was to be shrewd, cunning, and wary, while also practicing kindness and gentleness. What these scammers hope is that we will just be kind and gentle without being shrewd, cunning, or wary. Their hope is to play on Christian sympathies like wolves' prey on sheep.

The easiest way to determine if a request is actually from St. John is to check and double-check the email address. In every single instance of attempted scam, the fraudster has created a false email with my or Pastor Debi's name and likeness. They make it look real; it isn't. A careful look at the sender will reveal that it is NOT coming from the church, but rather from someone outside.

The four emails our office will use are:

stjohnamherst@gmail.com *or* office@sjlcamherst.com


pastorscotthannon@gmail.com *or* pastorscott@sjlcamherst.com

The only cell phone that will ever text you for official business is mine:

(716) 969-5187. Please disregard and REPORT all other requests made in the church or in my name. You can report phishing, mark as junk, and block the user from future communication. If you receive any odd requests or even wonder if it is real, please contact me or the church office immediately.

Unfortunately, we are not the only congregation who is receiving these attacks. Unfortunately, I don't see things getting better before they get worse. So, in the meantime, let's be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

Yours in Christ,
PSDH



September Pastoral Acts

Baptisms: 3

Funeral: 1

COUNCIL UPDATE - SEPTEMBER

Attendance: Absent (excused): CJ Ulrich, Shirleen Besch; Present: Pastor Scott, Lee Dryden, Lisa Leach, Ellen Pancoe, Klansee Bulmer, Paul Swanson, Candy Scorsone, Brian Hirschey, Ginny Hohl.

Meeting Commences: 7:04 pm

Previous Meeting's Minutes: Ginny will be adding a specific amount on the car show: To Main Transit \$2,180.00; To MIF. \$2,243.68 Lee moves to approve the minutes, Candy seconds, all in favor.

Devotions: Shared something fun about our summers. Scott shared a prayer about courage.

Pastor's Report - Scott - I am beyond grateful for the opportunity this congregation provided me and my family this summer. I will use this time of holy rest to fuel my ministry going forward. I published my "sabbatical remembrances" in the newsletter with the hope that I won't ever end up feeling so burned out again. I share them not just for my sake, but for our sake, with the hope that I can be a healthy, happy pastor to St. John and our wider community. I am more than ready to reengage with the ministries of St. John. I hope to begin that process particularly, individually, and pastorally. I want to know how people are, what's going on, and how I can help. I hope people know that they can reach out and I am eager to help. One significant change I envision moving forward is that I want to emphasize my role as spiritual leader and not administrator or executive. I've resumed hospital visits and pastoral conversations. There was one baptism this month (Dominic Rubino) and there are many others scheduled throughout this fall.

Social Ministry – Shirleen – I have a social ministry meeting scheduled for Sunday, 9/29. I am talking with Marsha about planning something for world hunger day but no specific details yet. I spoke with Clarence High School and we will be doing bags of cheer again but that won't be until end of October/early November so I will outreach them again closer to finalize.

Christian Education – Klansee – Started Sunday school on 9/15. Hopeful the new schedule will work better than it was before. Need to purchase the full curriculum. Start thinking about Christmas Pageant - to meet with Scott about this.

Fellowship – Lisa – Coffee hour to welcome back Pastor Scott and Thank Pastor Debi. Looking forward to a Bills party in October.

Worship and Music – Candy - Excited to have Pastor Scott. Singing songs that the congregation knows to ease back in. Cindy started bell choir and small group.

Youth - Scott - Confirmation to start in October for 7th graders. Lutheran Charities has acquired Lutheran Youth WNY, so they are now operating out of St. John. They will be launching a program and have asked us to participate. We'd pay them \$2,550.00 and they would provide a youth leader and 17-weeks of curriculum (October-May) of programming for the youth. Pastor Scott moved to pass, Ellen seconded, all in favor-passed

Building and Grounds – Paul - OMC/St John bricks have been installed. Other work continues. Furnace/boiler work has begun to get us ready for winter. Courtyard has been cleaned up. In need of a new snowblower. Quote from Landpro - \$2400.00. Looking into the plow service taking care of it too. Scott suggests moving forward on the snowblower. Ginny suggests we take it out of our maintenance budget. Scott moves, Ginny seconds, all in favor - passed.

Financial Secretary - Ginny - We're doing well. Revenue exceeded expenses by \$21,000. Weekly income about \$5500 below budget, but it often slows down during summer. Loose plate on budget. Building use was over budget. Personnel was paid a bit off schedule, so it may look weird on the balance, but we're on track. Paid Grayson for playing at services over the summer.

Old Business – Facility Rental Application Removal from website. Rental over the weekend was an example of why we should keep this suspended until we have a better process in place.

New Business – Main Transit Financial Support: Ginny suggested to give \$100 - Lee moves, Scott seconds, all in favor.

Meeting Adjourns: with the Lord's Prayer at 7:51 pm

Elisabeth Leach

Buffalo Bills watch party in the OMC

on Sunday, October 6th following worship.

Church will provide the hamburgers and hot dogs, members are encouraged to bring a side or dessert to share.

Football Squares will be sold for \$25.00 each with payouts at each quarter and half-time

**CHANGES
AHEAD**

First Communion will be held on **Reformation Sunday, October 27, 2024**. All those interested should contact Pastor Scott as soon as possible to get the children prepared for the sacrament. Please note a few important dates: on **Sat. Oct. 12**, the class will meet at Clay Hands Pottery at 12:00noon and on **Sunday, Oct 13** the class will meet at 11:30am at our Church.

Confirmation Classes will meet on the first Sunday of the month starting Oct 6th for grades 7+.

50
years



ELCA
World Hunger

WORLD FOOD DAY

Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger

TUESDAY, OCT. 15

7 PM CENTRAL TIME

online event

learn more at ELCA.org/WH50

Our October Mission: World Hunger

In anticipation of World Food Day on October 16, an initiative of the Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that seeks to promote action and awareness in response to the ever present reality of world hunger; and in conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, whose mission is “that all the world may be fed” - we will highlight and encourage prayerful giving of our resources - from purse and pantry - to support both our denomination’s commitment to end hunger and the local food bank we have been supporting in good faith for many years.

Mindful that food insecurity is an ever-present reality, across the globe and in our home town, where food ‘deserts’ still make it virtually impossible, especially for the underserved and marginalized, to have enough food to feed and keep families healthy -- you are encouraged to ‘think hunger’ when you’re grocery shopping, say a little prayer of gratitude that you have the resources to share with others - and bring non-perishable food items to worship on the Sundays of October; and, as you are able, to respond with an ELCA World Hunger offering (checks made out to St. John, with a notation in the subject line; or you may also give online.)

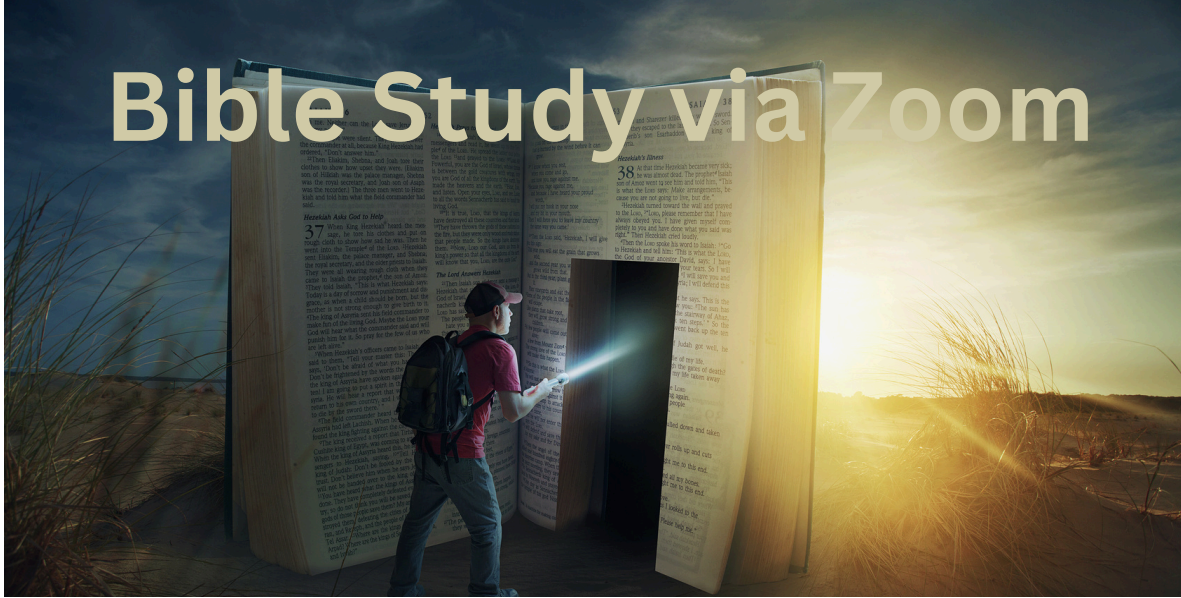
St. John has been so very generous - may you continue to share out of your abundance, blest to be a blessing to others.

Thank you.

Pr. Marsha Irmer

On behalf of St. John’s Social Ministry and ELCA World Hunger

Bible Study via Zoom



The Zoom Bible group meets from 7 PM to 8 PM Wednesdays on Zoom. We discuss Christian literature: sometimes scripture, sometimes Bible Studies, sometimes recent and contemporary books by Christian authors. The choice of what to read is made by consensus of the group.

If you are interested in checking out this opportunity for discussion of faith with friends from St. John, please contact Lee Dryden at <<dryden@buffalo.edu>>. He will send you the link so you can join us.



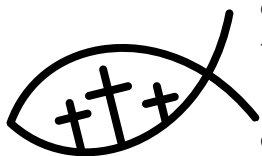
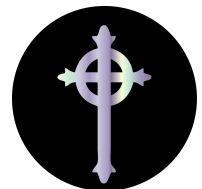
Our Chrismons Didn't Last Forever, So.....



We are going to repair and make new ones. Chrismons are those beautiful white and gold ornaments (150) on our giant, about 20ft. Christmas tree in the chancel. Chrismons or monograms of Christ were developed by a Lutheran Church in Virginia in 1957. How many different symbols can you think of, 32? There are 7 different cross designs. Add stars, crowns, doves etc.

Claire Ohanissian, who had made them in her previous church, remarked that ours were not looking too beautiful anymore. Upon conversations with Diana Brock who actually worked on making them in the late 70's or 80's?? and Pam Figel Chair of Christian Ministry, it was decided to tackle this project during the next year. If you know anyone alive now who worked on them, please tell Diana or me. Starting in October, we will sort and repair some. The whole congregation and Sunday School will have an opportunity to make them in the next year.

Thivent Financial has granted us some money for supplies and Pam is busily creating design samples. Please watch for further activities etc. This should be a fun challenge!



Jane D'Agostino



St. John Cemetery

St. John Cemetery

650 Pine Ridge Heritage Blvd.
Buffalo, NY 14225

Committee members:

Larry Schroeder,
Ken Figel,
Tom Brunner, and
Jenn Goehle

All sales and
arrangements are made
by contacting:
Breton Cemetery Service
716-892-7322

*A cemetery is a
sacred place which
tells a sacred
story, a place to
tell your story.*

St. John has a Youth Director!

Through partnership with Lutheran Charities, St. John can boast that we now have a Youth Director, Mr. Alexander (Alex) Dominique. Committed to building a strong foundation of familiarity, fun and faith within our youth community, Alex was kind enough to visit me so we could all learn a little more about our new Youth Director.

Alex is a 2023 graduate of Clarence High School, and he will graduate from ECC in May with an Associate Degree in General Studies. Alex is on track to eventually earn a PhD degree in Psychology. At this point, Alex is interested in either Education or Counseling in an educational setting which coupled with his experience here with our Youth Program, should help to excel his career path onto an excellent trajectory. We wish Alex all the best as he builds his dream.

When asked about how he evolved into this position, Alex explained that his first youth experiences were with Young Life through his Methodist Church. As he got older, Alex attended camps at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center where he met Ryan Lotocki, the Executive Director of Lutheran Youth WNY who now has an office here at St. John in the Lutheran Charities Office. Alex seems very excited about the variety of experiences that are now available to work with our youth; especially with smaller group events that are closer to home as well as large group events that encourage relational growth among the community.

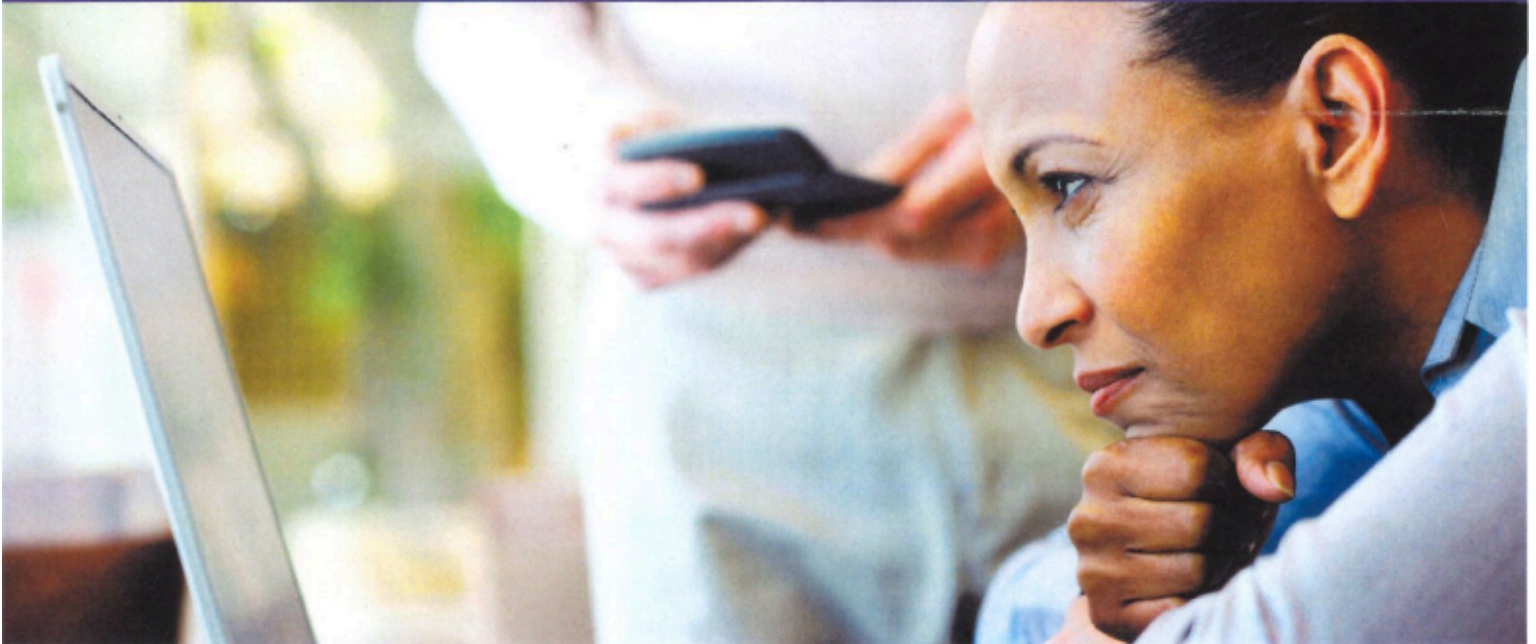
Alex is enthusiastic about meeting the youth in our parish and eager to learn about our community in general. May his fresh perspective and kindness bring Alex much success as he works to build a sustainable youth program for St. John.



Brigid Monica

UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

An education program presented by the Alzheimer's Association®



ALZHEIMER'S IS NOT NORMAL AGING.

It's a disease of the brain that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior.

Join us to learn about:

- » The difference between Alzheimer's and dementia.
- » Current research and treatments available.
- » Free Alzheimer's Association resources.

PLUS! Experience what it might feel like to live with Alzheimer's disease through our interactive exercise!

Sunday, October 20 | 12:00pm

Join us for lunch at 11:30am!

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

68 Eagle St, Williamsville

Registration is required!
Please call or email to save your spot:
(716)634-2330 or
stpaulswilliamsville@gmail.com

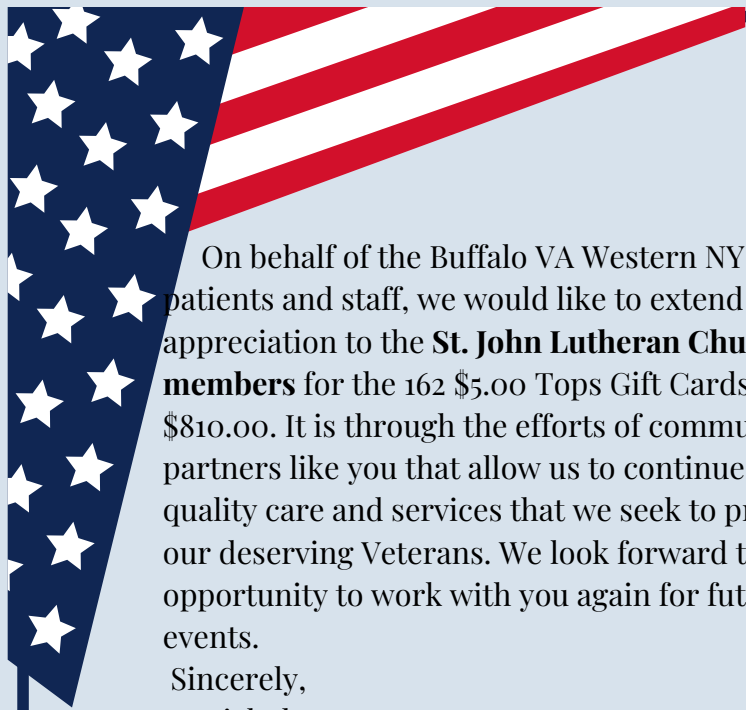
Visit alz.org/CRF to explore additional education programs online and in your area.

This event is sponsored in-part by St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

This program is supported in-part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Western New York Chapter



On behalf of the Buffalo VA Western NY HCS (528) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to the **St. John Lutheran Church members** for the 162 \$5.00 Tops Gift Cards valued at \$810.00. It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Sincerely,
Nicholas M. LaMarca,
Voluntary Service Officer.

**DEAR ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH,
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR
WELCOMING OUR NEW BABY INTO
THE CHURCH AT HIS BEAUTIFUL
BAPTISM ON SEPTEMBER 15TH. HIS
BLANKET IS ABSOLUTELY PERFECT
AND SO SPECIAL. WE TRULY
APPRECIATE THE THOUGHTFUL
PERSONALIZED GIFTS HE RECEIVED.
WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE HOW
MEANINGFUL AND SPECIAL THEY ARE
TO US.**

**THANK YOU AGAIN,
CHANTEL, DANIEL, COLETTE, CECILIA,
+ DOMINIC RUBINO**



Pastor Scott-

We didn't get a chance to thank you for such a beautiful Baptism for the kids! It went so well: Lachlan actually did it and all of our family and friends really enjoyed the service and sermon. The gifts from the church were so thoughtful!

*Carrie, Kyle,
Lachlan & Vera Brogan*



October

- Shavonne Kruszynski 10/02
- A Lazroe 10/03
- Evelyn Ullrich 10/03
- Oaklie Zdrojewski 10/04
- Sean Menzies 10/05
- Mya Carson 10/06
- Conner Merlihan 10/07
- Brooklyn Gerstung 10/09
- Ashton Fink 10/10
- Mary McVee 10/11
- Kenneth Reid 10/11
- Deborah L. Turley 10/11
- Alexa Yard 10/11
- Larry Swindle 10/13
- Barbara Tiffany 10/13
- Sheryl Kutis 10/14
- Allison Goehle 10/15
- Richard Bosch 10/16
- Victoria Utz 10/16
- Sarah Reid 10/17
- Michael Manning 10/18
- Alyssa Hong 10/19
- Zachary Mayer 10/19
- Andrea Goubiski 10/21
- James Olson 10/21
- Larry King 10/22
- Diane McMullen 10/22
- Jean Delamere 10/24
- Brooks Holler 10/24
- Darryl Steinman 10/24
- Michael Utz 10/25
- Joel May 10/27
- Peter Menasco 10/29
- Paulette Allen 10/30
- Gail Drahms 10/31
- Kenneth Figel 10/31

St John Prayer List

Hospitalized and Homebound

Richard Galmarini, Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss & Bereavement

Friends & Family of Tim Kachelmeyer

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

Ellen Lothead, Ken Krantz, Kate Olson, Bob Tiffany, Gayle Bosch,
Jerry Szykowny, Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Millie Webb, Rich Traina,
Jane D'Agostino, Christine Bosch, Russell Burning Sr., Rick Bosch, Sheri Steinman,

Bob Koehneke, brother of Mary Koehneke
Sheylee Klaes, friend of Susan Hadala
Val and Linda Fenti, friends of Ginny Hohl
Griffin Joseph Mueller grandson of Susan Ott
Harold Weigel, father of Danielle Schmitt
Tomoni Steinhilber, niece of Barbara Tiffany
JoEllen Blickensderfer, neighbor of Laura Kachelmeyer
Mckenna McDonough, family of Laura Kachelmeyer
Freddie Roy, great nephew of Midge Davis
Diane Manning, mother of Mike Manning
Brian Smith, friend of St. John
Charlie Ryan, nephew of Kate & Jim Olson
Evelyn Ullrich, daughter of CJ and Danielle Ullrich
Joe & Ginger Ward, friends of Marsha Irmer

Jennifer Nesfield, friend of Deb Francis
David McCarty, son of Pat McCarty
Maria DeNapoli friend of Marsha Irmer
Peggy Adessa, friend of Judy Nichke
Audrey Crimian & Amy Riemenscheider,
sisters of Candy & Jim Pankow
Christie Guadagno, family of Bobbie &
Rich Traina
Bonnie Beebe, friend of Sue Hadala
Colleen O'Connor friend of Jean
Delamere & Barb King
Phylis Dryden, sister-in-law of Lee Dryden
Kristine Kelly, niece of Lee Dryden
Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Coté
Jen Diakun, daughter of Kate & Jim Olson
Miriam Benson, friend of Kate & Jim Olson
Adrienne Granitz, friend of Marsha Irmer

For the Sake of the World

- To increase our responsible stewardship of creation
- For wise governing dealing with political tension, suffering, and peace in our country and all countries at war.
- Healing, comfort and strength for those seeking refuge from natural disasters
- For the unhoused, and all who suffer from hunger, loneliness, violence, racism, antisemitism, abuse in any form, coercion, and addiction.
- For the youth, who struggle with anxiety and other issues of mental health.
- Those who grieve over mass shootings.
- For those who have no one to pray for them.

Military

Matt Newman, Drew Steinhilber, Ben Hoyt, Maj. Kurt Wasilewski, Mike Ferguson

Please contact Deb Francis of the Gathered In Prayer Group if you have any prayer concerns you wish to add to the list at (716) 512-5513 or beaconseeker52@gmail.com.