

# The Eagle

January  
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*

light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not  
overcome it,  
John 1:6

Dear Friends,  
As we begin another Lenten journey, I commend to you the following spiritual disciplines...

**PRAY.**

Our prayers may be offered in many different forms. Sometimes they're out loud. At other times they're in the silence of our hearts. At times they're articulate and well composed. And sometimes it's just a groan. If you're not in the practice of daily prayer, why not use the next 40 days as an opportunity to be intentional about talking with God?

**FAST.**

Historically, the season of Lent has provided disciples a chance to deny themselves. Maybe you've heard of or have tried "giving something up." While I hardly think skipping wings and having fish fries is a sacrifice or great spiritual endeavor, I do think it is worth asking: what practices do we have in place to say NO to ourselves?

In Isaiah God says, "The fast I choose is a fast from injustice, a break from oppression, an end to finger-pointing, and the cessation of evil. Instead, feed the hungry, care for those who have needs, help the homeless." (my translation, Isaiah 58:1-12) If we can't think of a way to say NO to ourselves, can we ponder "taking something on" this Lent that would pull us outward?

## WORSHIP.

The scriptures call us to return to the Lord our God. One of the ways we do that is through public, corporate worship. We gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the font and the table. We gather to hear God's word and share Christ's peace.

We gather to be centered, grounded, and ultimately sent.

In Lent we provide special services to guide us through this season of growth. Ash Wednesday, mid-week services, and Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday) each offer additional opportunities for spiritual renewal.

Sometimes I'll be talking with a Christian and they'll confess, "Pastor, I really don't feel very close to God." Or, "I wish I were more religious (or spiritual)."

I'll then ask, Okay, are you praying? NO. Are you connected to a church? NO. Do you worship regularly? NO. Do you have friendships where you're comfortable talking about God? NO. Do you read the Bible? NO. (I'll keep going until it hits.)

Our God does not need nor want us to be disciples in name only. Rather, we are called to be disciplined. This Lent our congregational challenge is to increase our prayer, denial of self, and worship. May we come to know the joy that comes from following Christ.

In the Way,

PSDH

### Pastoral Acts

A Celebration of Life was held on January 26, 2024, for Charles Platzer.

A Celebration of life was held on February 6, 2024, for Larmar Todd.

The Sacrament of Baptism for twins,  
Jane Laurel Saxer & Norah Faith Saxer  
on February 24, 2024

# COUNCIL UPDATE - JANUARY

**The January church council meeting was held on January 16th, 2024.**

The meeting began with prayer and the election of officers. The executive officers for 2024 are: President Lee Dryden, Vice President CJ Ullrich, Secretary Lisa Leach, and Treasurer Ellen Pancoe. Ginny Hohl will continue to serve as financial secretary. Many thanks were offered to our council members and leaders.

In his report Pastor Scott noted that Christmas was very joyful and well attended. Pastor thanked the many volunteers and musicians who went above and beyond to enhance the worship experience for many. There was one funeral in early January for Raymond Chipman.

The committees offered the following reports...

**Social Ministry** – The donations to Sleep in Heavenly Peace will be delivered with an additional financial donation from the congregation.

**Christian Education** – The spring semester has begun. We hope to modernize the lessons and sign-up process for Sunday School utilizing digital resources. The weekly adult bible study continues on Wednesdays at 7PM via zoom.

**Fellowship** – Fellowship activities are in the works. Anyone who wants to get involved is encouraged to contact Lisa Leach.

**Worship & Music** – We will put all advent and Christmas decorations away on Saturday, January 21.

**Personnel** – A possible candidate for Youth Director has been identified.

**Building and Grounds** – There were several repairs including faucets, roof, gutters, and pumps.

**Stewardship** – 48 pledges were received totaling \$148,000 for 2024.

**Finance** – 2023 ended well financially. Weekly giving, loose plate giving, and building use all exceeded expectations. Through that generosity we were able to cover Pastor's sabbatical in 2024 and carry a surplus of \$25,000 into the new year. A mortgage fund has been created and individuals are encouraged to give what they can when they can.

The meeting ended with the Lord's Prayer.



## Ash Wednesday Services

February 14, 2024

12:45 pm

(following Luncheon)

7:00pm

## Wednesdays in Lent

Dinner 5:30pm– 6:30pm

Mid-Week Service  
6:45pm–7:30pm

All are Welcome



## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024

8:30AM & 10:30AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024

7:00PM

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2024

7:00PM

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024

8:30AM & 10:30AM



## Rick Bosch

receives Magi Award

by the Lutheran Foundation of WNY

in recognition of exceptional philanthropy within WNY. Rick is being honored for his dedication, altruism and charitable support of his congregation in addition to local ministries, social services and community programs.

## Oaklie Zdrojewski

is awarded

the Edward G. Scholarship Award

by the St. John's Lutheran Home for Children is presented to Oaklie as a graduating High-school senior acknowledging academic excellence, congregational involvement and interest in serving youth and community.

Both Rick & Oaklie will be celebrated at an awards banquet on Friday May 3, 2024 at Ripa's Italian Restaurant. Our community will be invited to join the celebration for \$55.00 a plate, details to follow.

Congratulations to both Rick & Oaklie!

## IRA Contributions

If you are 70.5 yrs. or older, you can make a donation to St. John directly from your IRA account, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), and reduce your future tax burden in the process! And if you are aged 73 yrs. or older, IRA gifts can also help you to fulfil your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for this year. The Only stipulations that the donation must come directly from your financial institution directly to St. John. Some members of St. John are already contributing in this way.

If you have any questions,  
please contact Ginny Hohl, email: [prime199calculus@roadrunner.com](mailto:prime199calculus@roadrunner.com)



Boy Scouts  
Pancake Breakfast  
Sunday March 10, 2024  
8:30am-10:30am

THE ST. JOHN MEN'S GROUP MEETS SATURDAY MORNINGS IN PERSON AND ON ZOOM AT 9:00 AM. WE ALSO MEET FOR BREAKFAST AT 8:00 AM ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH. THESE ARE JUST INFORMAL MEETINGS FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER MEN OF OUR CONGREGATION. WE HAVE NO AGENDA AND TALK ABOUT WHATEVER COMES UP. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR REMINDER EMAILS PLEASE CONTACT RICK BOSCH AT [RICKSEAB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:rickseab@gmail.com) OR THE CHURCH OFFICE.

# ELCA World Hunger Spring Appeal

## LOAVES AND FISHES

In keeping with this year's celebration of the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, our Upstate New York Synod's Hunger Justice Team - inspired by Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 5000 with only five loaves of bread and two small fish - will encourage congregations to live out God's generosity by empowering those living with food insecurity - which is interconnected with poverty and health - for the hope of a better livelihood. To this end, we are encouraging congregations to direct their giving specifically to two areas which resonate with God's abundance: **FISH FARMING AND IRRIGATION.**

An old proverb says "Give your neighbors and fish, and they'll eat for a day". Give your neighbors a community fish farm, and they'll eat for lifetime. A fish farm starts with a pond, training and a few fast-growing fish, such as tilapia (St. Peter's fish). Soon the pond provides food rich in vitamins, minerals and protein. Irrigation systems are critical, especially for those farmers around the world who rely on rainwater to nourish their crops. When the rain doesn't fall, an entire community can be vulnerable to drought and hunger.

Your generosity funds programs around the world that address the complex and connected root causes of hunger in more than 60 countries, including ours, as we accompany companions hard at work providing food, health care, agricultural training safe water, livelihood support and more. Our challenge at St. John is to give of our resources to provide for two fish farms @ \$250 each; and, if the Spirit is particularly active, to also provide increments of \$100 to fund a portion of an irrigation project.

I know I can count on your generosity. With gratitude and hope, let us give, that all the world may be fed.

In peace,

Pastor Marsha Irmer,  
on behalf of the Upstate NY Synod Hunger Justice Team



# The Children's Christmas Pageant



Narrator 1..... Molly Hannon  
 Narrator 2..... Melissa Licht  
 Innkeeper..... Sydney Menasco  
 Prophet Isaiah..... Timmy Mayer  
 Prophet Micah..... Natalie Goubski  
 Mary..... Graciella Cordero  
 Joseph..... Jackson Manning  
 Head Angel..... Delaney Hannon  
 Talking Shepherd..... Andrew Cordero  
 Silent Shepherd..... Jessica Licht  
 King 1..... John Hannon  
 King 2..... Cecilia Rubino  
 King 3..... Zachary Mayer  
 Sheep 1..... Peter Menasco  
 Sheep 2..... Matthew Hannon  
 Sheep 3..... Savanna Leach  
 Angel 1..... Colette Rubino  
 Angel 2..... Abigail Manning  
 Angel 3..... Grace Manning  
 O Holy Night Solo..... Jill Goehle  
 Sound..... Andrew Goubski  
 Sound..... Peter Schmude  
 Saxophone..... Timmy Mayer  
 Trombone..... Alexei Goubski  
 William Lawniczak, Beatrice Lawniczak,  
 Adam Lawniczak, McKinley Kruszynski,

# Thank You

## Bags of Cheer

---

Thank You for the recent gift bag and previously a lap robe for my husband, Lamar Todd. He suffers from dementia and is no longer able to write messages, thus I do that for him. Your thoughtfulness and prayers are much appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Lamar & Marilynn Todd

---

### A phone call:

Thank you so much for the gift bag that you dropped off! It was a delightful gesture.

Sincerely,  
Colleen Gunning

---

Thank you for the gift in kind donation you made to the Beechwood/Blocher Foundation. On behalf of our residents, the Board of Directors and our staff, we would like to express our appreciation for your generosity. The Bags of cheer will definitely bring a smile to all who receive these.

Sincerely,  
Beecher/Blocher Foundation.

---

Please accept our sincere thanks for your recent donation of beautifully crafted gift bags for the Residents of GreenField Court. We greatly appreciate the efforts of St. John's Social Ministry and the students of Clarence High School!

We are truly blessed to have friends such as you who remember the needs of our residents who were so thrilled with the gifts!

Best,  
David P O'Neill

Thank you to all of those who sent cards and emails, called me, and visited during my recent health issues. Your prayers, concern and caring was very much appreciated. I am doing well.

Looking forward to getting back into "the swing of things." So Blessed to be a part of St. John. Peace and Love to all.  
Judy Nitchke

## Donations

---

### Lutheran Charities:

We are continually appreciative of your support to our efforts to adapt to the changing climate our community faces. 100% of your generous donation will fund grants supporting the missions of local service providers striving to create a sustainable future throughout Western New York.

---

### Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$1000.00 to LIRS. You have helped to welcome the stranger; you are sending a powerful message of hope to many as they rebuild their lives.

Together in Christ's Love,  
Andrew Steele

---

### Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation:

Thank you very much for your gift of \$1000.00 in support of our 2023 *Leadership Council* campaign. Donor support helps us to achieve our goals and grow stronger. Our heartfelt thanks go to you for making our mission of service possible and truly make a difference in the lives of our residents!

Best Regards,  
David McMullen

---

### Wings Flights of Hope:

We would like to thank you for a very generous donation of \$1000.00, which will directly help fund the fuel for 4 flights of hope.

Thanks again for giving HOPE one flight at a time.

Sincerely,  
Joe Demarco



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## January

Thomas Allen 01/01  
William Delamere 01/01  
Mason Gerstung 01/01  
Mariann Martin 01/01  
Candice Pankow 01/02  
James Pankow 01/02  
Rob Zdrojewski 01/02  
Andrew Goubiski 01/03  
Bobbie Traina 01/05  
Claire Ohanessian 01/06  
Deborah Schugardt 01/06  
Grace Manning 01/07  
Laura Maraschiello 01/07  
Josiah Kaehlmeyer 01/08  
Roy Lewis 01/08  
Donnette Hong 01/11  
Natalie Goubiski 01/12  
David Eckhardt 01/13  
Pamela Figel 01/14  
Iris Reese 01/14  
Zachary Slaper 01/14  
Jillian Goehle 01/15  
Timothy Mayer 01/15  
Olivia Suszynski 01/15  
Raelynn Anasiewicz 01/17  
Noah Boling 01/17  
Ellen Manthey 01/17  
Kathleen Miller 01/17  
Molly Hannon 01/18  
Deborah Steinhilber 01/18  
Charlotte Carnes 01/22  
Michael Walters 01/22  
Mark Cox 01/26  
Lisa Markarian 01/27  
Patricia McCarty 01/27  
Marilyn Siface 01/28

## February

Sheri Steinman 02/04  
Steven Favale 02/07  
Aeryn Zahn 02/07  
Matthew Cote 02/08  
Amanda Zdrojewski 02/08  
Addison Lawida 02/12  
Anita Rosa 02/13  
Deborah Anasciewicz 02/14  
Cindy Lin 02/14  
Jason Ekberg 02/15  
Jackson Manning 02/16  
Judith Yendall 02/17  
Lawrence Schroeder 02/18  
Everett Burd 02/19  
Katie Burd 02/19  
Jeffrey Gifford 02/19  
Caitlyn Kutis 02/20  
Shaelyn Kutis 02/20  
Joni Cote 02/21  
Caleb Martin 02/21  
Alex Morrell 02/21  
Grayson Snyder 02/21  
Michael Oles 02/22  
Margaret (Peggy) Eberhard 02/23  
Mia Tobia 02/24  
Lauren Markarian 02/27  
Maddie Blake 02/28  
Adam Lawniczak 02/28

# St John Prayer List

Hospitalized and Homebound  
**Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry, Wayne Yendall**

Loss and Bereavement  
Jean Delamere, & Family of Charles Platzer  
Candy Scorsone, & Family of Andrew Young  
Maryilynn Todd & Family of Lamar Todd

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns  
**Rick Bosch, Bob Tiffany, Gayle Bosch, Jerry Szykowny,  
Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Millie Webb, Rich Traina,  
Susan Ott, Jane D'Agostino**

Connie Smith, sister-in-law of Deb Francis  
Pat Tambacas, sister of Judy Nitchke  
Les Livingston, brother-in-law of Joni Cote  
Judy Gilligan, friend of Deb Francis  
Robert and Judie Pufpaff, friends of Jane D'Agostino  
Carole Grove and Sue Pickett, friends of Marsha Irmer  
Brian Fullam, brother-in-law of Lois Robinson  
Audrey Crimian & Amy Riemenscheider, sisters of Candy (Jim) Pankow  
Shelley Diakun, sister-in-law of Jim & Kate Olson  
Carrie Eberly, Christie Guadagno, Tom Hughes, Sandy William, family of Bobbie Traina  
Bonnie Beebe, friend of Sue Hadala  
Nohl Michael Heitzenrsater, infant, friend of Karen Caton  
Colleen O'Connor friend of Jean Delamere & Barb King  
Phylis Dryden, sister-in-law of Lee Dryden  
Gene Overdorf, family of Mike Dempsey  
Doris Curtin, family of Emily Dryden Curtin  
Suzanne Kelly, sister of Lee Dryden  
Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Coté  
Jill & Ken Porter, Guy & Mary Wilcox, friends of Marsha Irmer  
Jen Diakun, daughter of Kate & Jim Olson  
Miriam Benson, friend of Kate & Jim Olson  
Joyce Geary, friend of Barb King  
Charlene Ferrara, Family of Christine Ferrara

## For the Sake of the World

- For wise governing dealing with political tension, suffering, and peace for our nation and the world
- Healing, comfort and strength for those seeking refuge from natural disasters.
- Those victimized by homelessness, 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

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.