

Jan / Feb  
2025

# The Eagle

## 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

*In 2024 the emphasis for myself and the church was SABBATH. REST. We accomplished this through a pastoral sabbatical and also a congregational focus on what matters. We got back to the basics and caught our breath. In a symbolic way, by the end of the year our TWO services became ONE. I describe this to colleagues as doing less to accomplish more. We pooled resources. We took the burden of ministry and began sharing it as opposed to spreading ourselves thin. And I believe, wholeheartedly, that as we begin 2025 we are in a better place because of it. At the very least, I can tell you that I am better because of the SABBATH REST of 2024.*

*This year, my pastoral emphasis and the message I hope our church will adopt is one of FORGIVENESS.*

*Some of the folks I've shared this message with insist that I mean GRACE. In a sense and a matter of speaking, I do. But really what I mean by FORGIVENESS is FORGIVENESS. See GRACE for many is leeway or freedom or a get out of jail free card (for others it is what you say before dinner). What I hope to stress this year is more than that. I mean letting go of resentment. I mean acknowledging our frailty and humanity. I mean accepting that we ALL make mistakes. I mean reconciliation.*

*I sincerely believe that our best path forwards this year as a congregation and a people (and a country?) is the path of FORGIVENESS. See, without forgiveness we have no hope. Without FORGIVENESS there is no hope.*

*My fear is that we are all walking around with grudges against our neighbors and regrets from ourselves. I worry that we carry too many assumptions and accusations without enough understanding and empathy. I really believe that the practice of FORGIVENESS might be exactly what we all need. You're going to hear me talk about it, so begin thinking about it. How might FORGIVENESS change your life? As we contemplate these heavy matters, we do so knowing that in God's eyes the FORGIVENESS is already complete.*

*In Christ, PSDH*



HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

THE LADIES OF THE CREATIVE MINISTRY HAVE ASSEMBLED BIRTHDAY PARTY KITS TO BE DONATED TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES. THESE KITS WILL BE GIVEN TO CLIENTS WITH CHILDREN HAVING A BIRTHDAY. EACH KIT WILL CONTAIN A CAKE MIX, FROSTING, CANDLES, PLATES AND NAPKINS AND PACKAGED IN A 9X13 FOIL PAN. MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED THE SUPPLIES AND PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE SOMEONE'S BIRTHDAY SPECIAL.



## Thrivent Choice Dollars

### Designating Your 2025 Thrivent Choice Dollars to St John

All qualifying money you have accumulated from your product for 2025 is listed and ready for you to give to St. John.

Any money designated this year will go toward camperships at LCLC.

Please do so before March 31, 2025.

Does your Thrivent product qualify? Call 800 847 4836 and say "Choice Dollars" to find out. Thrivent reps will help you. Or go the Thrivent.com, log in, and check your Choice Dollars and designate it to St. John. Call or email me for more information. Thank you.

Jane D'Agostino Thrivent representative to St. John

716 713 8167

dagosdinos@gmail.com



# Youth Group

The youth Group has been happily meeting every other Tuesday under the direction of Youth Director Alex Dominique. Learning has never been so much fun!



The next great adventure is scheduled for Feb 11, from 6-8pm. Make-A-Valentine Day! Of course, there will be snacks and drinks! Students are encouraged to bring a friend.



Andrew Goubksi, Asa Pawlowski, Carter Scorsone, Molly Hannon, Carmella Jefferson, Melissa Licht  
second row: Alex Dominique

The Confirmation class covered the Church Year during their class in January

BOY SCOUT TROOP 457 INVITES YOU TO OUR



ANNUAL

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, March 30, 2024  
8:30am - 12:30pm

St. John Lutheran Church  
6540 Main St., Williamsville



BISCUITS  
AND  
GRAVY

also included!



Bring your own mug  
for a chance to win a prize!

### Tickets Available:

\$10 per adult, \$5 per child

\$30 per family (2 adults, 3 kids under 12)

- > Any Troop 457 Boy Scout
- > At St. John Lutheran Church
- > At the door or email [sueperras@gmail.com](mailto:sueperras@gmail.com)

BAKE SALE

BASKET RAFFLE

Dear Friends at St. John Lutheran Church,

This organization was started by our community, and we can't stress enough how much your continued support means to us and those who rely on our services. Thank you for your gift of \$250.00 on 1/7/2025 to support Patient Care in memory of Edward M. Dempsey.

Through your partnership, patients in both hospice and palliative care and their families receive enhanced benefits such as spiritual care, expressive therapies, and grief support. In addition, we provide charity care for those who are underinsured so no one is denied hospice care.

Serving more than 1,100 people daily, we strive to reach even more patients, families and caregivers in need in our community. We thank you for your generosity and hope we can continue to count on your support.



With Appreciation,  
Tom Kane  
Development Officer  
The Hospice Foundation of WNY



To our Angels at St. John Lutheran,

*We were an angel tree family this year for Christmas. It was our first year asking for help and we were grateful for anything. When we received the donation, we were blown away by your generosity! My family can't thank you enough for everything you gave us! The games for family night, the placemats, the centerpiece, the recipes and food were amazing! We never dreamed we'd receive that much! You took a burden off our shoulders.*

*When I saw that on top of all of that, there were gift cards for us, I became emotional. We actually had no money for groceries, and I wasn't sure what we were going to do. The gift cards took a huge weight off our shoulders that I never expected to receive.*

*Knowing Christmas was taken care of and that we had gift cards for groceries was such a huge blessing. Words can't express how grateful I am for your generosity.*

*Thank you from the bottom of my heart,*

*Kristen*

*Thank You!*



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St. John Congregation,

On behalf of the Depew Community Action Team, it is with gratitude that we say, "thank you!" for your donation of \$500.00 to the Depew Community Center. We have been richly blessed with community partner like you who share God's love with your time, talents and treasure.

When we began the renovation of the former Dom Polski building in 2021, people smiled and said, "impossible!". Here we are three years later with Phase one complete and a community center actively serving the Village of Depew and its residents. The Community Laundry is bustling, we have events scheduled months ahead, and Lancaster Opera House is providing teachers to engage our community's children in various forms of the Arts. We have opened our facility for use by Depew/Lancaster families and organizations for parties, weddings and meetings as well as productions by the Opera House. We truly are a Community Center!

Bob and I are so blessed to be part of the faith community of St. John where we find abundant life in the relationships and ministries that our congregation fosters. Thank you for supporting this ministry that is so close to our hearts.

Blessings to you,  
Deborah L. Turley

*Thank You*



Dear Rev. Dr. Hannon, Brigid & Staff,  
The Amherst Garden Club wishes everyone a Blessed Christmas full of love for family and friends!

Our club appreciated all the support you gave us throughout 2024. You provided a warm and friendly facility for all our activities. Please accept our donation of \$500.00. May 2025 be a year of health and happiness for everyone. May St. John Lutheran Church prosper and continue God's work in the community.

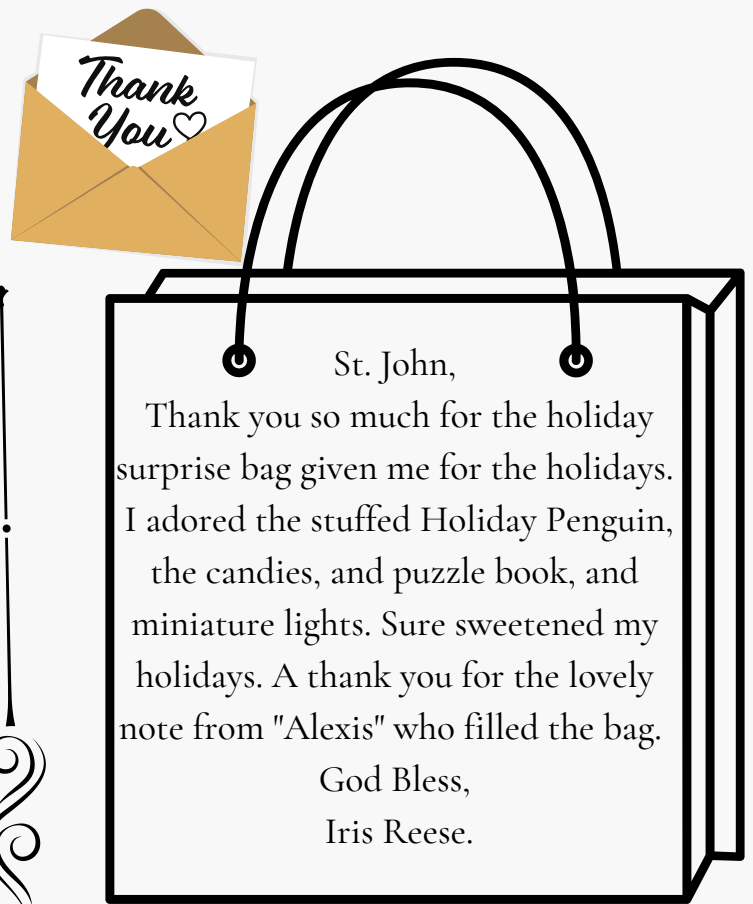
All the best,  
Members of the Amherst Garden Club,  
Evelyn Mietlowski (President)  
Judy Dudkiewicz (Treasurer)

Dear St. John Lutheran Church,

We would like to thank you for a very generous donation to Wings Fights of Hope. A donation in the amount of \$1,500.00 has been received. Your contribution will help directly fund our upcoming flights. All the pilots at Wings Fights of Hope are volunteers. Our mission at Wings is to provide FREE flights of hope to those in need. This will be accomplished with the help of groups and people like yourselves.

Thank you very much for your support! This money will sponsor 6 flights of hope, giving HOPE one flight at a time.

Merry Christmas,  
Joe DeMarco  
Founder/Volunteer Pilot



St. John,  
Thank you so much for the holiday surprise bag given me for the holidays. I adored the stuffed Holiday Penguin, the candies, and puzzle book, and miniature lights. Sure sweetened my holidays. A thank you for the lovely note from "Alexis" who filled the bag.  
God Bless,  
Iris Reese.

Dear Rev. Hannon,

Thank you very much for your gift of \$1,500.00 received in support of our 2024 Leadership Council campaign for the Niagra Lutheran Health Foundation.

Donor support year after year helps us to achieve our goals and grow even stronger. Niagra Lutheran continues to be blessed with so many wonderful benefactors who enable this organization to thrive, despite today's daunting financial and public health circumstances. Our heartfelt thanks go to you for making our mission of service possible.

Thank you again so much Pastor Scott for this latest expression of wonderful generosity from you and the Council of St. Johns! We can't thank you enough!

Best,  
David E. McMullen



T H A N K Y O U

Dear Friends at St. John

On behalf of the team at Journey's End Refugee Services, we want to extend our sincere gratitude for your generous gift of \$1,500.00 to our 2024 Annual Appeal. Your support chooses humanity, compassion and community. It is instrumental in empowering refugees, asylum-seekers and immigrants to achieve self-sufficiency and create fulfilling lives in Western New York.

Your contribution directly impacts the individuals and families we serve by helping us provide vital services such as resettlement and housing assistance, English language classes, employment support, interpretation, translation, and immigration Legal Services. Thanks to caring donors like you, we can offer these essential programs and advocate for those seeking safety and opportunity. Together we are building a more welcoming community.

Thank you once again for your partnership in this important work, as your support makes a lasting difference.  
Warm Regards,

Pamela Bos Kefi  
Chief Advancement Officer

Theresa DeLuca  
Chief Executive Officer



DEAR ST. JOHN,  
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MAKING KENZIE'S  
BAPTISM SO BEAUTIFUL. FROM THE  
INTIMATE SERVICE TO THE CHRISTMAS  
DECOR, EVERYTHING WAS JUST PERFECT.  
WE ARE SO BLESSED TO BE A PART OF SUCH  
A WONDERFUL CHURCH. THANK YOU FOR  
THE MEMORABLE GIFTS AS WELL - KENZIE  
WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HER SPECIAL DAY!

LOVE,  
THE SILVERI FAMILY

*Dear Pastor Scott,  
Thank you very much for welcoming  
Brooks into St. John through  
baptism. My family and I feel so at  
home in St. John, and it is such a  
blessing to see my son officially join  
the church.*

*With Gratitude,  
Paige and Dalton Holler*





## January

Candice Pankow 01/02  
James Pankow 01/02  
Rob Zdrojewski 01/02  
Andrew Goubksi 01/03  
Bobbie Traina 01/05  
Claire Ohanessian 01/06  
Laura Maraschiello 01/07  
Josiah Kachelmeyer 01/08  
Roy Lewis 01/08  
Donnette Hong 01/11  
Natalie Goubksi 01/12  
David Eckhardt 01/13  
Pamela Figel 01/14  
Iris Reese 01/14  
Zachary Slaper 01/14  
Jillian Goehle 01/15  
Timothy Mayer2 01/15  
Olivia Suszynski 01/15  
Raelynn Anasiewicz 01/17  
Molly Hannon 01/18  
Deborah Steinhilber 01/18  
Charlotte Carnes 01/22  
Mark Cox 01/26  
Lisa Markarian 01/27  
Patricia McCarty 01/27

Happy  
Birthday!

## February

Carol Russell 02/04  
Sheri Steinman 02/04  
Steven Favale 02/07  
Aeryn Zahn 02/07  
Matthew Cote 02/08  
Amanda Zdrojewski 02/08  
Anita Rosa 02/13  
Deborah Anasciewicz 02/14  
Cindy Lin 02/14  
Jason Ekberg 02/15  
Judith Yendall 02/17  
Lawrence Schroeder 02/18  
Jeffrey Gifford 02/19  
Caitlyn Kutis 02/20  
Shaelyn Kutis 02/20  
Joni Cote 02/21  
Grayson Snyder 02/21  
Michael Oles 02/22  
Margaret (Peggy) Eberhard 02/23  
Mia Tobia 02/24  
Lauren Markarian 02/27  
Adam Lawniczak 02/28



## St. John Prayer List

### Bereavement

Family and friends of William Westley

### Hospitalized and Homebound

Richard Galmarini (Beth), Colleen Gunning

### Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

Charlotte Carnes, Sherry Slaper, Iris Reese, Ellen Lothead, Ken Krantz, 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, Penny Favale

David Giertz, brother-in-law of Ellen Pancoe  
Lois Robinson, friend of St. John  
Ken Hilston, friend of Ray Hohl  
Joel Hutcheson, brother of Jim & Kate Olson  
Marion Campbell, mother of Barb King  
Dawn Ruettimann, family of Laura Maraschiello  
Mariah Strickland cousin of Scott Hannon  
Heather Miller, wife of Bishop Lee Miller  
Jim Hewitt, cousin of Ray Hohl  
Debbie Schugardt, family of Kristin Silveri  
Bob Koehneke, brother of Mary Koehneke  
Sheylee Klaes, friend of Susan Hadala  
Harold Weigel, father of Danielle Schmitt  
Tomoni Steinhilber, niece of Barbara Tiffany  
Makenna McDonough, family of Laura Kachelmeyer  
Diane Manning, mother of Mike Manning  
Brian Smith, friend of St. John  
Charlie Ryan, nephew of Kate & Jim Olson

Joe & Ginger Ward, friends of Marsha Irmer  
Jennifer Nesfield, friend of Deb Francis  
Maria & Elissa DeNapoli, friends 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  
Krista & Reid Moon, cousins of Laura Kachelmeyer

### 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, Matt Hallgren

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](mailto:beaconseeker52@gmail.com).