

Jan  
2026

**ST. JOHN'S  
CONGREGATIONAL  
LEADERSHIP**

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*

Susan Ott  
*social ministry*

Ken Figel  
*finance / cemetery*

Michelle Cordero

**STAFF**

**REV. SCOTT D. HANNON**  
*PASTOR*

**REV. CHARLIE GREENE**  
*VISITATION PASTOR*

**BRIGID MONICA**  
*ADMIN. ASST.*

**MIKE DEMPSEY**  
*SEXTON*

**CINDY LIN**  
*MUSIC DIRECTOR*  
**ALEX DOMINIQUE**  
*YOUTH DIRECTOR*

# The Eagle

Dear Friends,

The turning of the calendar has a way of inviting reflection. We look back on the year that has passed—with its joys and sorrows, its celebrations and losses—and we look ahead, wondering what the coming months will bring. A new year often tempts us to make promises: This year will be different. This year I'll do better. Scripture offers us a gentler and deeper word.

In the book of Lamentations, written in the midst of devastation and grief, we hear this surprising confession of hope:

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,

His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3:22–23)

Notice what is new here. Not our resolve. Not our strength. Not our ability to fix what is broken. What is new—every morning, including this first morning of the year—is God's mercy.

As Lutherans, we confess that we live by grace alone. That means we enter this new year not by proving ourselves worthy of God's love, but by trusting a promise that has already been made and kept in Jesus Christ. In Christ, God has claimed us in baptism, forgiven us in mercy, and promised never to let us go. That promise did not expire on December 31, and it does not depend on how well we perform in the months ahead.

This does not mean the new year is meaningless. Quite the opposite. Because we are freed from having to justify ourselves, we are free to live—free to love our neighbors, free to serve, free to risk hope even when the future feels uncertain. We step into the new year carrying both our wounds and our gratitude, trusting that God meets us in both.

The coming year will likely hold moments of joy and moments of challenge. There will be times when faith feels strong and times when it feels fragile. Through it all, the church remains a place where we gather around Word and Sacrament, where we are reminded again and again who we are and whose we are.

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So, as this new year begins, may we be gentle with ourselves and with one another. May we listen more closely, forgive more readily, and trust more deeply. And when the year feels long or heavy, may we remember this simple truth: God is already there—faithful, merciful, and making all things new in Christ.

Happy New Year. God's peace be with you in all that lies ahead.

Your Pastor,  
Scott



# Council Update - December

**Present:** Scott Hannon; Lee Dryden ; CJ Ullrich;  
Lisa Leach; Ellen Pancoe; Klansee Bulmer; aul  
Swanson; Ken Figel; Susan Ott;  
Ginny Hohl

**Absent:** Candy Scorsone

**Meeting Commences:** 7:02pm

**Previous Meeting's Minutes:** Lee moves to  
approve, Paul seconds, All approve

**Devotions:** Shared two Advent Poems by  
Madeleine L'Engle. Reminder that Advent is not  
all about Christmas, especially a commercialized  
one, but waiting for the promises in the darkness.

**Pastor's Report** - Scott - Main Transit Chaplain

Transition Pastor, First Lutheran, Blasdell

Conference Assembly

Wrapped up a Bible study on John's gospel

Pastoral Care & visitation

Worship leadership

Reformation, All Saints', Hanging of Greens.

Thank you all so much for the very surprising and  
kind 'pastor's anniversary' celebration. I love this  
church and you all so much. I thank God for you.

Thank you for the generous gift cards.

Worship continues to be a source of joy and a  
significant source of work (for me and our many  
volunteers). Our attendance has been very good.  
As the winter months are now in full gear,  
please consider parking farther away from the  
door so our more elderly members can have the  
closer spots.

Looking ahead... annual meeting 12/14 (get  
your reports in), Christmas pageant 12/21,  
Christmas eve 12/24 3 & 5PM, lessons and  
carols 12/28.

**Pastoral Acts:**

**Funeral** – Charles Zippiroli

**Wedding** – Julie Zippiroli & Timothy Hoyt

**Executive Report** - Lee - No Report

**Community Involvement Committee** – Susan—  
Bags of Cheer in Narthex, ready to be disbursed  
(needs to know where); Last year for Bags of  
Cheer. Stocking Stuffer event went well - stuffed  
100 stockings, lots of fellowship while  
decorating church. Stockings need to be  
distributed. Coat Drive for Depew Community  
Center was very successful.

## Update cont'd from Page 2

**Christian Education** – Klansee – Started Pageant rehearsal. About 20 kids, with a few missing. Work on Pageant until Christmas, then new lessons start in the new year.

**Fellowship** – Lisa – Successful Bills game and Coffee Hour and Pastor Celebration. Snacks for both Annual Meeting and Christmas Pageant

**Worship and Music** – Candy - Going well. This setting through Christmas, then modified version of setting until Lent

**Personnel** – CJ - Routine Staff reviews for all Staff in January. Christmas gifts for the staff, including Alex.

**Youth** - Scott - Confirmation is being held. There was a special Halloween party. We had a flag football event with 30 kids from our congregation and others. Youth group continues to draw more and more kids. The youth participated in the stocking stuffer event.

**Building and Grounds** – Paul - Winterized the OMC and Outdoor bathroom. Front light updated to LED. Striped 6 additional parking spots. Electrical contractor coming tomorrow for switches in Sanctuary

**Mutual Ministry** – Met to discuss Pastor's Salary, recommendation made for budget

**Cemetery** – Ken - Several people willing to serve on the committee. Tom Brunner will be chairman. Kathy Brunner and Ken to share Treasurer position. Team apprises of Larry Schroeder, Paul Swanson, Pat Panaro, Steve Favale, and Jenn Goehle as Database Manager. Looking to have committee up and running by spring. Ken Motions to add new committee members; Lee seconds; All in favor. Motion passes.

**Stewardship** – I drafted a letter which will be mailed out this week to the congregation. The letter will include a pledge card. Folks may also pledge online at [www.sjlcamherst.com/pledge](http://www.sjlcamherst.com/pledge). Mission 200 has nearly \$320,000 pledged.

**Finance** - Ken– No Report

**Permanent endowment** - Ken - No Report

**Financial Secretary** - Ginny - Remaining Benevolences need to be distributed. Pastor Irmer reached out to ask for some to go to feeding the hungry. Ginny asks for Heritage Christian Services. Already have given to Journey's End, the Arc, among others. \$1000 for Heritage; \$2000 for FeedMore WNY; Executive committee to distribute the rest by end of December.

**2026 Budget** - Proposed weekly budget to increase some, loose plate has been up too. Building use and Pancake breakfast remain about the same. Pastor 4% increase in Salary; Admin and Sexton 3% increase; youth pastor increase hours so increase salary. Much else remains the same. B&G increase to match cost increase. Adding Tech Support line item for Peter Smude internship. Confident that we'll have surplus again. Tabled discussion of what to do with surplus. Lee moved to present the budget to the congregation; Scott seconds; All in favor. Will send out next week.

\$318,000 has been pledged for Mission 200 so far. Received over \$100,000 of that this far. \$60,000 set aside from Mission 200 for early year expenses.

**Old Business** –

**New Business** –

**Nominating Committee Report** – Ken and Susan need to be presented to the congregation since they served partial terms. Candy, Lisa, Lee's term's coming to an end. Lee's ineligible to be reelected. Lee and Scott will meet to discuss replacements

**Meeting Adjourns:** with the Lord's Prayer at 8:12: Susan moves; Ellen seconds, all in favor to adjourn

Elisabeth Leach



# Lent

**Ash Wednesday**

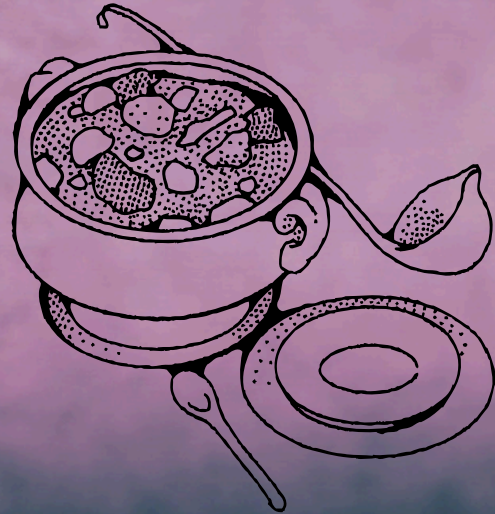
18 February 2026

Luncheon at Noon

Service at 7pm



Each Wednesday in Lent:  
Soup Lunch at noon at St. John  
with Bible Study  
happening concurrently





# LIFE @ SJLC





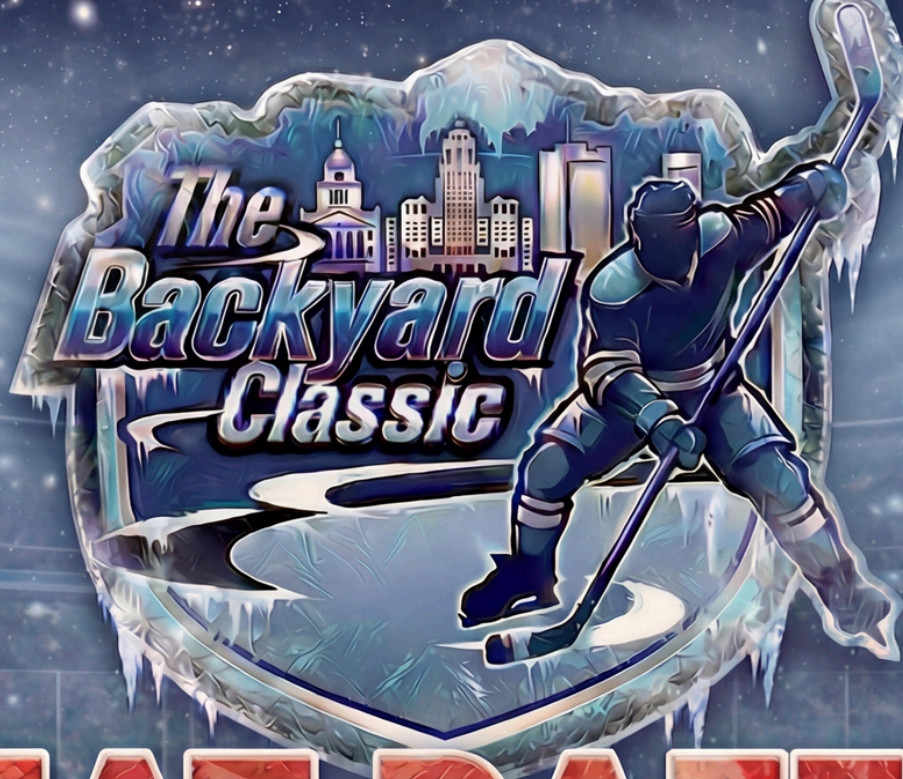
YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE		
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2026		
<b>13</b> JAN	YOUTH GROUP	6 PM-8 PM
<b>27</b> JAN	YOUTH GROUP	6 PM-8 PM
<b>10</b> FEB	SHARE THE VALENTINES	6 PM-8 PM
<b>24</b> FEB	YOUTH GROUP	6 PM-8 PM



## First Communion

The Celebration of First Communion will be held in February or March of 2026. If your child is ready to receive Our Lord, please contact the church office to put your child's name on the list. Please feel free to contact Pastor Scott directly if you have any questions.





# MEAT RAFFLE

**BUFFALO GIVES BACK, ONE STEAK AT A TIME!**

**SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 2026**

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**6540 MAIN STREET**

**WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221**

**SUPPORTING P.U.N.T** WNY COMPASSION  
CONNECTION

**DOORS OPEN AT 6PM FIRST DRAW AT 7PM**

**DONATION \$15 //TICKET**

**INCLUDES: BEER, WINE & POP**

**\*\* RESERVED TABLES OF 8 OR MORE**

## ADDITIONAL RAFFLES



**50-50**



**BASKET  
RAFFLES**



**COOLER FULL  
OF BOOZE**



**FREEZER  
FULL OF MEAT**



**venmo**

Chris Taggart - Backyard Classic  
@Chris-Taggart-13



# Mission 200

Dear Members & Friends of St. John,

In the fall of 2025, our congregation will embark upon an exciting endeavor to enhance our positive momentum and address our biggest needs. We are calling this effort “Mission 200: Our Faith, Legacy, & Future.” Mission 200 intends to honor our past and set us on a strategic path as we prepare for our 200th anniversary in 2033.

At St. John we have a rich history and a vibrant future. Our abundant story began with a faithful group of immigrants worshiping above a grocery store in the early 1800’s. In 1833 we incorporated, called a pastor, and built a church on Hickory Street. In the decades that followed we started a cemetery and an orphanage. We “birthed” enough congregations that we earned the nickname: “The mother church of Buffalo Lutheranism.” In the 1950’s we moved to Main St. in Amherst. In 1964, our beautiful sanctuary was completed. In 2002, we embarked upon a campaign to create the Gathering Space and address other capital improvements. Most recently, we constructed the Outdoor Ministry Center to improve our campus and create a worship and gathering area in the midst of God’s creation. These are the legacies of St. John.

As we prepare for our 200th anniversary, we rejoice in the renewed energy and growth at St. John. Our youth ministry and Sunday school continue to nourish families. Our Creative Ministry and Caring Hearts teams show the world God’s love. Our men’s ministry provides holy conversation, great breakfasts, and church improvements. Our worship services, including increased baptisms and celebrations, ground us in the Word. Simultaneously, our connections to the community continue to deepen in creative and life-giving ways.

To honor our past and capture the energy at St. John right now we are launching this campaign with the intention of capitalizing on our biggest opportunities and addressing our needs. We begin this ambitious endeavor trusting that our efforts will not just bless the church today but be a tremendous blessing to the future of St. John.

In short, Mission 200 seeks to raise \$500,000 with the intent to erase debt, provide restroom facilities and an altar at the OMC, refurbish the Youth Room, provide necessary Sanctuary improvements (including organ repair and improved lighting and sound), address capital improvements like the heating system, and much more. This is a three-year campaign. We hope that when the time comes you will be able to attend one of our gatherings where more information will be shared.

In the meantime, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. Thank you for playing a role in this great story of God’s mission through St. John Lutheran Church. Mission 200 will not just honor our past; it will set our congregation up for a rich and vibrant future.

Yours in Christ,  
The Church Council



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

*blessed to be a blessing.*

- WE SEND VOLUNTEERS TO FRIENDS OF NIGHT PEOPLE ONCE A MONTH. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING THE LABOR WE ALSO PURCHASE AND PROVIDE THE FOOD THAT IS DISTRIBUTED.
- WE SUPPORT THE TIGER'S DEN FOOD PANTRY. ITEMS ARE COLLECTED YEAR-ROUND. THE LAST TRIP TO DELIVER DONATED ITEMS TOOK TWO FULL TRUCK LOADS
- .IN ADVENT WE STUFFED 100 STOCKINGS WITH ITEMS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES. THOSE WERE DISTRIBUTED TO BRIGHTEN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN NEED.
- WE SET A RECORD IN JULY WITH DONATIONS FOR GIFT CARDS FOR VETERANS.
- WE PARTNERED AGAIN WITH CLARENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLECTED BAGS OF CHEER WHICH WERE BROUGHT TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS IN THE AREA. WE COLLECTED COATS, HATS, AND GLOVES FOR THE DEPEW COMMUNITY CENTER.
- COOKIES WERE DECORATED AND PACKAGED NICELY AND DONATED TO THE MAIN TRANSIT FIRE DEPARTMENT.
- THE CREATIVE MINISTRY GROUP CONTINUES TO MAKE ITEMS WHICH ARE DONATED TO VARIOUS PEOPLE AND PLACES.
- AT VARIOUS POINTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR DONATIONS ARE COLLECTED FOR LUTHERAN WORLD HUNGER AND DISASTER RELIEF.
- BAGS OF FOOD AND GIFT CARDS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THOSE IN NEED.
- IN LENT OUR FOCUS WAS ON COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE WAYS OUR CONGREGATION CAN HELP THOSE AROUND US. WE HEARD PRESENTATIONS FROM LUTHERAN CHARITIES, BUFFALO IMMIGRATION SERVICES, HOSPICE, AND THE ARC OF ERIE COUNTY.

THE 2026 CALENDAR IS ALREADY COMING INTO VIEW WITH MANY OF OUR ROUTINE EFFORTS AND NEW ADDITIONS AS WELL. COMMUNITY OUTREACH REMAINS A TOP PRIORITY AT ST. JOHN. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO THAT IS ABOVE AND BEYOND. BECAUSE WE CARE AND BECAUSE WE SHARE THE WORLD IS A BRIGHTER AND BETTER PLACE FOR MANY.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
SUSAN OTT



# Thank You

## Thank You

SO VERY MUCH



with love,

The Pidgeon Family  
John, Kelly, Kendra, Jeffrey & Kael



Dear Pastor Scott & St. John Lutheran Church,

We want to Thank You so much for the baptism of Kaelyn. It was such a special and amazing service. We are very Grateful and blessed to be part of this church and truly thankful for Pastor Scott and everything he has done for our family.

Love & Blessings

The Pidgeon Family

John, Kelly, Kendra, Jeffery & Kaelyn

Dear Pastor Scott and St John Lutheran,  
Please accept my gratitude for all the Prayers, well wishes, cards, phone calls and flowers I have received from you. I was very touched and they all helped with my recovery.

Gratefully Yours,  
Bobbie Traina

Dear St. John,  
I wanted to thank the church council, and everyone involved who makes my job easier than it already is! The community is more than welcoming and is always willing to help. I also wanted to thank the church for the generous bonus given to me for Christmas once again this year. Thank you once again and I am very happy to be a part of the church and the families involved!

Thank you,  
Alexander Dominique





## January

Candice Pankow 01/02  
James Pankow 01/02  
Susan Sahlem 01/02  
Rob Zdrojewski 01/02  
Andrew Goubiski 01/03  
Bobbie Traina 01/05  
Claire Ohanessian 01/06  
Grace Manning 01/07  
Laura Maraschiello 01/07  
Josiah Kachelmeyer 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  
Molly Hannon 01/18  
Deborah Steinhilber 01/18  
Charlotte Carnes 01/22  
Mark Cox 01/26  
Lisa Markarian 01/27  
Patricia McCarty 01/27  
Marilyn Sirface 01/28

## February

Amy Bucholtz 02/04  
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  
Douglas Garlapo 02/15  
Jackson Manning 02/16  
Everett Leach 02/17  
Judith Yendall 02/17  
Lawrence Schroeder 02/18  
Jeffrey Gifford 02/19  
Joni Cote 02/21  
Grayson Snyder 02/21  
Mykelti Bulmer 02/22  
Michael Oles 02/22  
Margaret (Peggy) Eberhard 02/23  
Sandy Lorenzo 02/24  
Mia Tobia 02/24  
Lauren Markarian 02/27  
Adam Lawniczak 02/28



**Gathered In Prayer (GiP)**  
**St. John Lutheran Church Prayer List**

**Bereaved**

Kate Hannon and family, granddaughter of Mary Sheehan  
Pastor Debi Turley and family, wife of Robert Turley

**Hospitalized and Homebound**

Don Reidell, Iris Reese, Richard Galmarini (Beth), Colleen Gunning

**Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns**

Christine Bosch, Grace Bosch-Krug, Bob Rosa, Anita Rosa, Sandi Ekberg, Jennifer Ekberg,  
Bob Tiffany, Jerry Szykowny, Charlotte Carnes, John Sivak, Millie Webb, Audi Webb,  
Sheri Steinman, Judy Yendall

Alan Benjamin, cousin of Pam Figel  
Eric Moon, and wife, Jan cousin of Laura Kachelmeyer  
Jen Diakun, daughter of Kate & Jim Olson  
George Walgrove, family of Diane & Dave McMullen  
Vincent Curtin, son-in-law of Lee Dryden  
Miriam Benson, friend of Kate & Jim Olson  
Heidi Flack niece of Deni Krantz  
Lois Robinson, friend of St. John  
Christie Guadagno, family of Bobbie & Rich Traina  
Dave & Janice Rouse, family of Dave & Judy Nitchke  
Linda Sievert, friend of Ginny Hohl  
Ingrid Herman, friend of Pam and Ken Figel  
Bonnie Beebe, friend of Susan Hadala  
Tomoni Steinhilber, niece of Barb Tiffany

Elaine Small, friend of Marsha Imer  
Pr. David Preisinger, friend of Marsha Imer  
Rev. Ken Hilston, friend of Ray Hohl  
Charlie Ryan, nephew of Kate & Jim Olson  
Marilou Taylor, friend of Lee Dryden  
Joel Hutcheson, brother of Jim & Kate Olson  
Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Cote  
Carol Allison, sister of Deni Krantz  
Scott Behrend, son of friends of Ginny & Ray Hohl  
Gerald Molen, cousin of Betty & Bob Williams  
Amy Riemenscheider, sister of Candy & Jim Pankow  
Ron Granitz & wife, Adrienne,  
friends of Marsha Imer

**Joyful Prayers of Thanks**

Lee Dryden's granddaughter, Maria Paz Lopez-Dryden, born to Katie and Alejandro

**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, addiction, coercion  
and abuse in any form  
~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**

Sean Menzies, Matt Newman, Drew Steinhilber, Lt. Col. Kurt Wasilewski, Matt Hallgren

Contact Deb Francis with any prayer requests to add to the list at 716-512-5513  
or beaconsseeker52@gmail.com, or call the church office.