

**Jul/Aug
2025**

**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

Ken Figel
finance / cemetery

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

(Friends, this is a devotion I wrote in 2019. I stumbled across this and it seemed apropos for the world right now.)

It's 2:15 in the morning and my son is thrashing in his bed. He's hurting. He has a fever. It hurts to lay still; it hurts to move. He had surgery about a week ago and his recovery was going well, until it wasn't. The ER doctors sent us home around 10:30PM. We see the surgeon again tomorrow AM. Tonight, we wait. Tonight, he thrashes. Tonight, he cries. Tonight, I cry too.

I cry, but I'm not sad. I'm angry. I'm agitated. I'm frustrated. I'm feeling sorry for my son. And, in my worst moments, I'm feeling sorry for myself (seriously, Scott, get over yourself). I try to sooth and reassure him, but sometimes I break. I whisper calming things to him, but sometimes my voice gets louder and shakier. I pray. I lament to God, how can you let him suffer like this? Help him. Please. My son groans; I groan. I wonder, does God groan?

His crying wakes up his brother who starts crying too. Then, his crying wakes up his mother who starts crying too. Now, we're all crying and equally frustrated and not at all happy. And, it's 2:30 in the morning.

His mother takes his brother and their crying stops. I kneel at the side of his bed and hold his hand while he wriggles in agony. After a minute, his crying stops. And now, he is holding my hand and my crying stops. And then it happens... peace. It is quiet. My boy is still. His breaths deepen. The anguish he was carrying on his furrowed brow relaxes. His pursed lips part. He sleeps. I notice my own breaths getting deeper.

I try to conjure up my anger. I want to revisit my frustration. But, I can't. I think about crying, but I don't want to anymore. Things seem okay; life is peaceful. Is this what St. Paul was talking about when he promised peace which surpasses understanding?

con't. from page 1

his peace doesn't make sense. It surpasses my understanding. We're in the eye of the storm – caught between the ER and the surgeon's office. Now, is the time for worry and agitation. However, the new and unrelenting reality is peace. Peace for the boy in pain. Peace for his brother who has fallen back asleep. Peace for his mother who cradles her son. Peace for his dad who can't tell if he's holding onto his son's hand or if his son is holding onto his. It's 2:45 in the morning.

I pull that scripture up on my cell phone. I read what St. Paul wrote to the Philippians: Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7).

I entertain the notion of rejoicing – even now. I vow to be gentler – even when I'm angry. I think about the Lord being near – even here. I let go of anxiety – even as my prayers expose my worries and fear. I try to wrap my mind around the peace of God, which transcends all understanding. I pray for that peace.

It's 3:00 in the morning. I'm falling asleep. I know that when I wake up it will be chaotic. There will be pain. The anger, the agitation, and the frustration will undoubtedly return. The day will be hurried and emotional. Tomorrow, my son will cry. Tomorrow, I may cry. But, for now... peace.

I hope that you find that peace too. And that it guards your heart and your minds through the many storms we face in this tumultuous life. Peace, my friends. Peace, not after, but in the eye of the storm.

WAY-ward,
PSDH



St. John Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting ~ May 20, 2025

Attendance: Present: Scott Hannon, Lee Dryden, Lisa Leach, Ellen Pancoe, Paul Swanson, Candy Scorsone, Ken Figel, CJ Ullrich, Klansee Bulmer, Ginny Hohl.

Absent: Shirleen Besch

Meeting Commences: 7:03pm; Previous Meeting's Minutes: Approved - none opposed

Devotions: Reflected on Easter and how our church is doing: joyful, lively, full, involved

Pastor's Report: Scott: Main Transit Chaplaincy Work Projects at LCLC

Youth Group

Confirmation

LCLC Visit at St. John

Easter Bible Study

Worship Leadership & Planning

Pastoral Conversation

Visitation

Marriage: Jeremy & Katarine Reynolds

Baptisms: Quinn Cretacci, Javier Schmidt,

Kaelyn Pidgeon

Looking ahead...

• Be mindful of how we can be intentionally hospitable on Sunday mornings.

- Park farther away
- Sit in the middle of the pew
- Greet someone you don't know
- Beginning in July I will be serving as Transitional Pastor a small congregation in Blasdel, NY.
- This is standard operating procedure when a pastor retires
- It's a 5 hour a week commitment
- There are no Sunday morning responsibilities
- Thank you for the outpouring love and support as my family mourned a loss. It means a great deal to us. We feel the love and hope you know how much we love you all too.

Executive Report - Lee - No Report

Community Involvement Committee - Shirleen - No Report

Fellowship - Lisa - June 8 - summer kick off, June 22 - confirmation, concerns with OMC space.

Christian Education - Klansee - Start getting ready for next year, Kate stepped up this spring. Sunday school wrapped for the summer. Day camp not getting the desired registration. Lutheran youth will determine if to run it still

Worship and Music - Candy - hoping to utilize OMC as much as possible, but there are struggles with keyboard/sound outside. Need to make sure that we have a good team for set up. Cindy Lin planning music team get-together

Personnel - CJ - Alex coming back as youth director in the fall (working at camp for summer)

Youth - Scott -

Building and Grounds - Paul - Scouts did annual clean up. Reached out to contractor for lights

Mutual Ministry - No Report

Cemetery -

Stewardship - No Report

Finance - Ken - No Report

Permanent endowment - CJ - No Report

Financial Secretary - Ginny - The Income exceeded the expenses in April by \$7,249.25 and is above by \$11,063.27 for the year. Some problems with the credit card company led to fees of \$56.46 assigned but have since been removed. We also overpaid by \$716.73, which was applied to the following month's bill. Weekly income is below budget by about \$5,500 but a large donation in May should help lower that subsequently. Income for Lent and Easter were slightly below budget, but \$1,000 came in April for Loose, largely for the Easter service. \$700 has been donated for the Refugee Partnership. \$9,290 was transferred from the Permanent Endowment Fund; the same amount will be transferred in September. That amount is just slightly below what was budgeted.

Expenses were as expected. We have contributed \$5,000 from Community Benevolence this year. \$1,000 was given to five charities for five programs during Lent.

Old Business - Visioning - met on a Saturday - great meeting, Pastor Randy was a great resource. Next meeting 5/31

New Business - Next council 6/24

Meeting Adjourns: 7:49 Paul moves, all in favor. Elisabeth Leach

St. John Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting ~ June 24, 2025

Attendance: Present: Scott Hannon, Lee Dryden, Lisa Leach, Ellen Pancoe, Candy Scorsone, Ken Figel, CJ Ullrich, Klansee Bulmer, Ginny Hohl.

Absent: Paul Swanson, Shirleen Besch

Meeting Commences: 7:04pm; Previous Meeting's Minutes: Approved - Motion to approve by Ellen, second by Lee, all in favor

Devotions: Reflected on Easter and how our church is doing: joyful, lively, full, involved

Pastor's Report: Scott: Main Transit Chaplaincy

- Work Projects at LCLC
- Youth Group wrapped up. Kids are encouraged to attend camp.
- Easter Bible Study
- Lutheran Youth held their Field Day at St. John.

9 of our youth attended.

- Day Camp prep.
- Hospital visits.
- Ministry to shut-ins.
- Pastoral Conversation & Counseling.
- I will be working from First, Blasdell from

9-noon on Wednesdays.

Baptisms: Everett Leach

New Members: Doug & Christine Garlapo

Vow Renewal: Steinman

Confirmation: Asa Pawlowski & Carter Scorsone

Executive Report - Lee - Approved "No Parking" sign to allow for Amherst Police (at owner expense) to tow abandoned vehicles in the parking lot. A member paid for the sign.

Community Involvement Committee – Shirleen – Refugee resettlement

Christian Education – Klansee – No Report.

Fellowship – Lisa – Confirmation and Music ministry gathering June 22. Prepping for summer. Getting date for Church Picnic in August (8/24)/New members and Council dinner. - Happy hour instead of dinner. Treat the car show like it's our own thing even though it's on Main/Transit - Coordinated by Bob Zahler.

Personnel – CJ -Cindy gets 4 paid Sunday's off per year, the other Sunday's off this summer will be unpaid.

Youth - Scott - Confirmation of Carter and Asa.

Encouraging kids to go to day camp.

Worship and Music – Candy - Wrapped up the "year" last Sunday. Over the summer will have guest accompanists (Dawn and Cassandra). Hoping to use the OMC as much as possible. Looking at using OMC 7/6. Bill for OMC equipment purchase to go on balance sheet.

Building and Grounds – Paul -- I have talked to the contractor for the lights, he said end of July or beginning of August. We have speakers for the rear of the sanctuary coming in, they will have to be mounted and wired. Several items were ordered for services in the OMC, I am not sure if they should be charged against the OMC or worship budget. I left a marked up invoice in Ellen's mail box. Two lights in the OMC were replaced that weren't working properly. "Toys" from the St John garage were moved to the entrance by the fellowship hall to make room for the Sikhs party.

Mutual Ministry – No Report

Cemetery – No Report

Stewardship – No Report

Finance - Ken – No Report

Permanent endowment - CJ - No Report

Financial Secretary - Ginny -Right on budget with weekly income. People making annual contributions in advance for the year Ginny breaks it down to apply monthly or weekly. Shown in Excess of Revenue over Expenses > \$34,000. \$500 from Car Show. \$2000 from Day Camp. Checking on sending Refugee Partnership funds. Added line item for Caring Hearts; will add to budget next year. We're in excellent shape.

Old Business –

New Business –Disbursement from Community

Benevolence to Niagara Lutheran Foundation: Lee suggesting \$1000 pledge. Lisa seconds, all in favor.

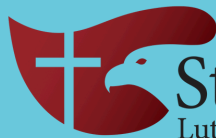
Mission 200 update: looking to launch capital campaign on labor day or week after. hoping to raise \$500,000 over 3 years to reduce debt and set church up for future. Sending out letter to church mid-August. (240K in debt reduction; 90k in sanctuary updates; 15K for Youth; 30K for bell; 20K for alter outside). No meeting in July; Next meeting Aug 19

Meeting Adjourns: 7:46; Motion to adjourn Ken; seconded by Candy. Ended with Lord's Prayer

Elisabeth Leach



WILD WONDERS DAY CAMP



St. John
Lutheran Church
Discover Joy. Share Love. Grow Faith.

LUTHERAN YOUTH IS PARTNERING WITH LUTHERAN CHURCHES ACROSS WNY TO BRING THE COMMUNITY FOUR "WONDER-FILLED" WEEKS OF SUMMER DAY CAMP!

WILD WONDERS DAY CAMP IS DESIGNED FOR YOUTH AGES 5-11 TO EXPLORE THE WONDERS OF GOD'S CREATION THROUGH EXCITING GAMES, HANDS-ON CRAFTS, AND ENGAGING WEEKLY THEMES.

WEEK 1: **WORLD OF WONDER** (JUNE 30 - JULY 3)

WEEK 2: **BRICK BY BRICK** (JULY 7 - 11)

WEEK 3: **WONDER KINGDOM** (AUGUST 18 - 22)

WEEK 4: **GAME ON!** (AUGUST 25- 29)



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
LUTHERANYOUTHWN.Y.COM



CAMP

more information
& online registration @
www.sjlcamherst.com/wildwonders

LIFE @ SJLC



3rd Annual

CAR SHOW & CHICKEN BBQ

Presented by: St. John Lutheran Church and The Main-Transit Junior Firemen

SUNDAY, JULY 13TH, 2025 | 12-4PM

MTFD Station 1, 6777 Main Street, Williamsville, NY, 14221

FREE ADMISSION! | LIVE BAND!

FREE ADMISSION FOR CAR ENTRIES

(PRESALE PICK UP IS BETWEEN 12PM - 3PM)

BASKET RAFFLES

\$15 /DINNER

Ticket price includes:

1/2 chicken, buttered spuds,
coleslaw, dinner roll w/ butter

FOR PRESALE TICKETS PLEASE CONTACT

BOB ZEHLER (716-908-1966) | ALYSSA JAMES (585-409-9627) | MARK SEPLAKI (716-398-9533)

Sponsored by: Basil Classics | Catered by: Weidner BBQ | Live Band by: Two Towns



All proceeds benefit St. John Lutheran Church and the Main-Transit Junior Firemen



CHRISTMAS IN JULY?

Summer vacation just began, and it's not too early to start thinking about back-to-school supplies for the fall. The Depew Community Center is planning a back-to-school event for Depew students whose families will have difficulty affording the required supplies for their elementary and middle school students. The event will include free school supplies, water bottles, backpacks and haircuts for anyone who signs up and lives in Depew. Please take one or more tags off the Christmas tree in the Narthex and purchase the items listed, then bring them back to St. John no later than **July 27**.

Cash donations will be used to purchase supplies.

Questions? See Shirleen K or Pastor Debi.

The kids thank you for equipping them to succeed,
and so do we!





Book Club

It's summertime and that means delving into a good book! The St. John Book Club selected *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate as our July book and you are invited to join us for lively conversation about this beautifully written, true story based on the Tennessee Children's Home Society scandal in the 1950s. We will meet at St. John on **July 29** at 7:00. Everyone is welcome.



Please Support Our Veterans

St. John is having our annual fund drive for our Western NY Veterans. We will provide \$10.00 Tops Supermarket Gift Cards to the Packard VA Clinic in Buffalo. They are then distributed to individuals, according to their needs.

Last Year we raised \$810.00 converted into gift cards,
can we beat that amount this year?

The Collection Drive runs from July 6 through July 27

You may give any amount in the form of cash, check or purchase the \$10.00 gift cards yourself and give your donation directly to me, Deb Francis, or label the envelope "Veterans" and drop it onto the collection plate. I will convert the money into gift cards.

On behalf of our Veterans in Western New York,
Thank you for caring.

TIGER'S DEN

FEEDING LOCAL FAMILIES



TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

The need for shelf stable foods that can easily be prepared is the focus for this summer at **The Tiger's Den**. Children are most susceptible to the detriments of food insecurity.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Drop off non-perishable food items



MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Canned vegetables, beans & soup
- Rice, pasta & cereal
- Shelf-stable milk & baby formula
- Peanut butter & canned protein
- Cooking oil & spices
- Boxed mac & cheese and other mixes.
- Freezy pops
- Juice: boxes/bags/jugs



LEARN MORE:

[HTTPS://STPAULSEGGERTSVILLE.COM/TIGERS-DEN-FOOD-PANTRY/](https://stpaulseggertsville.com/tigers-den-food-pantry/)

DROP OFF LOCATION:

St. John Lutheran Church
6540 Main Street
Williamsville, NY 14221

ARMENIAN MUSIC FOR YOUR LISTENING AND DANCING PLEASURE

ST. HAGOP CHURCH ARMENIAN FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, JULY 20, 2025
12 PM

ARMENIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
322 NINTH STREET, NIAGARA FALLS NY

ENJOY GOOD FOOD

LAMB AND CHICKEN
SHISH KEBAB

VEGETARIAN KEBAB

SARMA
(GRAPE LEAVES)

RICE AND
BOULGOUR PILAF

PIAZ
(BEAN SALAD)

HOMEMADE
BAKED
GOODS!

AND MUCH MORE!

FREE ADMISSION



Gathered in Prayer



Please note:

*GIP has changed our meeting dates for the next 4 months. Please change your calendar as well. We still meet on June 19, then dates are changed to July 10, July 24, Aug 7, Aug 21, Sept 4, Sept 18, Oct 2, Oct 16 and Oct 30. November and December remain the same: Nov 6, Nov 20 and Dec 4 and Dec 18, 2025.

I'd like to tell you about St. John's prayer group, known as **Gathered in Prayer**, or GiP*, which is how you see it listed on the weekly calendar in the bulletin. We meet every other week on Thursday morning at St. John in the Conference Room and currently have ten members.

We are a group committed to praying daily on behalf of all requests from our members, friends, and families. We pray for our community issues, as well as for the sake of our country and the world. We are discreet when requests are asked to be kept private and not to be printed in the list. We also reach out to members currently on the list to ask if they need anything. This is how Gathered In Prayer is closely linked to the **Caring Hearts** program. For example, we may be praying for someone recovering from a broken leg who lives alone and needs a helping hand from Caring Hearts to mow their lawn for some weeks, and to drive them to dr appts.

BTW, you can help us keep the prayer list current by letting us know when a name may be removed. Just catch one of us as you can or call the church office or me, as noted on the bottom of the page. And, if you'd like to attend a meeting sometime, you'll be very welcome.

Please, join us in prayer by using the printed list in your weekly Sunday bulletin.

Thank you,

Deb Francis



Pastoral Acts:

Baptisms:
Everett Jackson Leach
1-Jun-25
Rhett Conrad Havas
29-Jun-25



Confirmations:

Asa Pawlowski and Carter Scorsone
22-Jun-25

Dear Friend of St. John,

Thank you so much for all the cards and calls of support during my illness. I don't know what the future holds but knowing my brothers and sisters in Christ walk with me, it somehow makes it easier to bear.

I love you all and thank you again,
Lois

Lois Robinson-Fullam
3305 Sandleheath
Sarasota, Fl 34235

Dear Caring Hearts,
Thank you for all of the beautiful sympathy Cards you sent! not two of them were alike!
Also, thank you for the delicious meal you sent to us! It was much appreciated.

With love and Hugs-
Rick & Gayle Bosch

*Thank
you!*

Dear Caring Hearts,
My gratitude for your support during my recovery is profound. The beautiful cards and flowers that cheered my heart as they arrived at my home were touching. Your generous spirit reaches out from the pews of this little church to make an enormous impact!

Thank you for all you do,
Brigid Monica

Dear Caring Hearts,
Words cannot express how loved and supported we fell from all of you, following Mom's passing. Your cards, notes, prayers and the beautiful peace lily are greatly appreciated. We are blessed to have such a caring church family. Thank you so much for all you have done!
God Bless, Barb & Larry



July

Savanah Leach 07/01
Lori Eckhardt 07/02
Marsha Irmer 07/07
Deni Krantz 07/10
Sheryl Slaper 07/10
Linda Tiffany 07/10
Kristin Zahn 07/14
Keith Parker 07/16
Virginia Hohl 07/18
Kate Olson 07/20
Benjamin Ullrich 07/20
Kenneth Manning 07/22
Tracy Wylie 07/24
Olga Ullrich 07/25
Ryan Weber 07/27
Randall Markarian 07/28
David Pawlowski2 07/29
Mary Koehneke 07/31

August

Keegan Kruszynski 08/04
Jennifer Ekberg 08/05
Elaine Dust 08/06
Angela Menzies 08/08
Susan Ott 08/08
Collin Reid 08/10
Leslie Tobia 08/11
Bob Williams 08/13
David Nitchke 08/14
Clayton Merlihan2 08/15
Megan Suszynski 08/16
Julie Johnson 08/18
Alexa Panaro 08/18
Christian McMullen 08/19
Jacob Kachelmeyer 08/21
William Bulmer 08/22
Sandra Ekberg 08/22
David Steinhilber 08/22
Bailey George 08/23
Nicholas Slaper 08/24
Donna Moore 08/25
Linda Pleban 08/26
Karen Caton 08/27
Raymond Hohl 08/27
Alaina Szykowny 08/28
Penny Favale 08/31



Gathered In Prayer (GiP)

St. John Lutheran Church Prayer List

Bereaved

Hospitalized and Homebound

Richard Galmarini (Beth), Colleen Gunning

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

**Karen Caton, Ken Reid, Judy Nitchke, Robert Turley, Grace Bosch-Krug, Bob Rosa,
Anita Rosa, Sandi Ekberg, Charlotte Carnes, Bob Tiffany, Jerry Szykowny,
Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Millie Webb, Audi Webb, Jane D'Agostino,
Christine Bosch, Russell Burning, Sr, Sheri Steinman**

Jennifer Matyjasic, friend of Peggy & Lee Dryden *
Rev. Ken Hilston, friend of Ray Hohl
George Walgrove, family of Diane & Dave McMullen
Joanna Graser, family of Jean Delamere
Quinn Staton, family of Joni Cote
Jerome Schnell, friend of Laura Kachelmeyer
Adrienne Granitz, friend of Marsha Irmer
Linda Sievert, friend of Ginny Hohl
Tom Pankow, family of Jim Pankow
Suzanne Kelly, family of Lee Dryden
Charlie Ryan, family of Kate & Jim Olson
Tomoni Steinhilber, family of Barb Tiffany
Ginger Ward, friend of Marsha Irmer
Scott Behrend, friend of Ginny & Ray Hohl
Orlando Siravo, family of Deni Kranz
Colleen O'Connor, friend of Jean Delamere &
Barb King
Marilou Taylor, friend of Lee Dryden
Pr. David Preisinger, friend of Marsha Irmer

Lois Robinson, friend of St. John
Joel Hutcheson, family of Jim & Kate Olson
Jen Diakun, family of Kate & Jim Olson
Dawn Ruettimann, family of Laura Maraschiello
Heather Miller, family of Bishop Lee Miller
Dave Rouse, family of Judy & Dave Nitchke
Miriam Benson, friend of Kate & Jim Olson
Mary May, family of Kathy Wood
Ollie & Mackenna McDonough, family of
Laura Kachelmeyer
Mark Marshall, family of Marsha Irmer
Audrey Crimian & Amy Riemenscheider,
family of Candy & Jim Pankow
Christie Guadagno, family of Bobbie & Rich Traina
Bonnie Beebe, friend of Susan Hadala
Kristine Kelly, family of Lee Dryden
Carol Dixon, family of Joni Cote
David Giertz, family of Ellen Pancoe
Phylis Dryden, family of Lee Dryden

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, Ben Hoyt, Maj. Kurt Wasilewski, Mike Ferguson, Matt Hallgren

**Contact Deb Francis with any prayer requests to add to the list at 716-512-5513
or beaconseeker52@gmail.com, or call the church office.**