

Mar/Apr
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

Ken Figel
Finance

The car got stuck right in front of my house. It was snowing quite a bit, and the roads weren't plowed. Normally, I'd run outside and help. But I didn't. We were eating dinner, and the College Football championship game was about to start. When I peeked out the window, I noticed it was a young man (probably about 25 or so). He'll figure it out, I told myself.

In between bites Kate kept prodding me.

"Are you sure you don't want to go out and help?"
"Not this time," I said. (See, this happens about every other storm.) "He's young and able. He'll get out."

Well. He didn't get out.

Eventually, cars tried getting around him and they got stuck too. When the plow finally came it cleared the road but ended up leaving that first car in even worst shape – stuck and now surrounded by a curb of snow. Kate gently pushed me out the door.

When I got to the car, my neighbor was already on the scene pushing and shoveling. The driver was in a panic. I told him not to worry. This happens ALL the time. We'll get you out. That's when he pointed to a baby in a car seat in the backseat. At that moment I felt like a fool for not rushing to help right away. I regretted being so self-centered and presumptuous. I convinced myself he was fine. He wasn't.

It only took about 10 minutes to get this kid on his way. But once he got going, he put his foot on the brakes. My neighbor shouted, "What are you doing?!" The young man replied, "I want to say thanks." My neighbor shouted even louder, "Thank us by getting home!"

For the rest of the evening, I sat in prayerful meditation (while the boring football game played in the background). I wondered...

Where else have I failed to help?
Where else have I been dragging my feet?
What presumptions am I putting on others?

But also...

When have I been bailed out of perilous situations? (literally and metaphorically)
And am I living a life that reflects my gratitude?

In the waters of baptism our God promises ultimate redemption. We are a saved people. We could stop our car halfway up the hill to say thanks to God, but I don't think God wants that (and I'm confident God doesn't need it). Rather, I think God just wants to see us all get home. So, note to self and others... if someone is stuck in the road. Help them.

In the Way,
PSDH



St. John Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting ~ January 21, 2025

Attendance: Present: Scott Hannon, Lee Dryden, Lisa Leach, Ellen Pancoe, Klansee Bulmer, Paul Swanson, Candy Scorsone, Ginny Hohl. Absent: CJ Ullrich, Brian Hirsche, Shirleen Besch

Meeting Commences: 7:06 pm

Previous Meeting's Minutes: Motion to approve

Oct and Nov minutes by Paul, Ellen seconds, all in favor

Devotions: Reflection on battling storms, literally and figuratively. Shared Psalm 46

Pastor's Report - Scott - Few Baptisms, funeral for Bill Westley. Continue to work out the kinks for the 9:30 combined service, excited for the way the youth group is going.

Executive Report - Lee - Met to approve the hiring of Alex as Youth Director for additional hours.

Community Involvement Committee Shirleen: No Report

Christian Education – Klansee – Great job on the Christmas Pageant. Thanks to everyone filling in. Numbers for Sunday School are becoming manageable, but still need volunteers to teach. Will be bringing in physical sign up sheet in addition to the online one.

Fellowship – Lisa – Would like some Bills themed treats for post-church coffee hour this week. Looking forward to Valentine's Coffee hour and Chili Cook off in February. Bring in sign up for coffee hours.

Worship and Music – Candy - Working out kinks, but seems to be well received. Nice to hear bell choir and will be hearing choir anthem this week.

Personnel – CJ - Hired Alex as youth director. May need new member to replace Bill.

Youth - Scott - Going well with Alex, more kids joining each week. Kids are enjoying Alex as the director. Plans for activities both inside and outside the church.

Building and Grounds – Paul - Electrical issue in courtyard to be addressed in spring. As a rule of thumb, when Williamsville Schools are closed, the church office is closed.

Mutual Ministry – No Report

Stewardship – Brian - No Report

Finance - Brian – No Report

Permanent endowment - Scott - Working on getting access to permanent endowment since it was going to an individual

Financial Secretary - Ginny - Ended December/year in excellent position. \$27,000+ in revenue over expenses. More money than budgeted came in, no surprises with expenses and under budget in some categories. Raised projected income after reviewing pledges. Handed out statements at church on Sunday.

Old Business – Make a push for mortgage reduction.

New Business – Request for large print bulletins and sound assistance. We've already increased the font size in the bulletin but could potentially add extra printed readings. Will confirm with requester if the larger font helps. Wondering if it's the lighting rather than the print. The Hymns in the bulletin could also be an issue. Scott will work with Brigid on the bulletin structure. Our audio assistance program is likely not functional. Added additional speaker in rear of the church. Have options within our sounds system that may be able to address. B&G will look into speakers as well.

Any recommendations for new council member to be sent to Scott or Lee.

Meeting Adjourns with Lord's Prayer at 8:04 pm

Elisabeth Leach

St. John Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting ~ Feb 25, 2025

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

Meeting Commences: 7:04. Prior to business being discussed, motion made to appoint Ken Feigl to position vacated by Brian Hershey; all in favor. Previous Meeting's Minutes: approved Devotions: Pastor asked for prayer concerns.

Pastor's Report - Scott – many visits to the hospitals, wider church events, MTFD chaplaincy, and youth events. Attended a Saturday morning conference on collaboration through the Synod and emceed the installation banquet of Fire fighter officers at Main Transit.

There has been steady Sunday morning attendance and continue to receive guests who are becoming new members. There was also one marriage and three baptisms

Executive Report - Lee – no executive meeting

Community Involvement Committee – Shirleen – On March 19th, Refugee Partnership of WNY will present during the Lenten service. Currently 731 families are in need because of the lack of federal funding.

Christian Education – Klansee – Sunday School attendance is down. Still in need of weekly teachers. See youth regarding summer program.

Fellowship – Lisa – Sign up sheet on bulletin board for Sunday fellowship as well as dinners during Lent.

Worship and Music – Candy – Positive feedback from members of the congregation regarding music and worship.

Personnel – CJ – nothing to report

Youth - Scott – Lasertron lock in Feb. 28th, over 70 youth from WNY will attend.

A new program with a Christian curriculum may be offered this summer for children in grades pre-k through five. The program will be the first two and last two weeks of the summer, with Pastor leading the first segment and Ryan L. leading the second segment. Staff from LCLC and Lutheran Youth will help staff the program.

Building and Grounds – Paul – AED machine checked, grease cleaning and exhaust hood cleaned, looking to replace lighting with LED bulbs, looking to possibly add another set of speakers in the back of church. Meeting March 15th.

Mutual Ministry – no report

Cemetery – Ken – Kyle Nichols is taking over cemetery services. The NYS Dept. of Conservation will sell saplings at a very reasonable price, 50 have been purchased to be planted at the cemetery in the spring. Ginny noted there is \$3000 in the budget for cemetery needs.

Stewardship – Ken – nothing to report

Finance - Ken – nothing to report

Permanent endowment - CJ – nothing to report

Financial Secretary - Ginny -

Old Business – none

New Business – Lent – Five agencies: Jericho Road, Depew Community Center, Lutheran Charities, ACR and Hospice, will make presentations during the Wednesday services. Each will discuss what their agency does and how our community is impacted by these agencies. Ellen made a motion to give each agency \$1,000, Lee second, all in favor.

Meeting Adjourns: 7:51

Candy Scorsone

Palm Sunday: April 13, 2025,

at 9:30am

Maundy Thursday April 17,

at 7:00pm

Good Friday April 18, TBA

Easter Sunday, April 20 at 9:30am

Holy Week

Altar Flowers for Easter

Envelopes for requesting
Easter Flowers will appear
on the table in the Narthex.

\$15.00 for one

\$30.00 for two



WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

This year our focus will be on how we can increase our engagement and support for meaningful community organizations.



FOOD.

Dinner will be served from 5-6pm. Please drop in at your convenience.

Grab a plate.

Volunteers are asked to consider bringing a soup, salad, or bread. A sign up is located in the Narthex.

PROGRAM.

The program will be held from 6:15-7:15pm. This year we will have 5 presentations from local agencies at work with those in need in our community serving those with particular needs such as poverty, homelessness, refugee services, disabilities, and end of life decisions



SAVE THE DATE.

Wednesdays in will he held on...

3/12 - Depew Community Center

3/19 - Journey.s End

3/26 - Lutheran Charities of WNY

4/2 - The Arc of Erie County

4/9 - (hopefully) Hospice





The annual
 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
 will be held at
 St. John Lutheran Church
 on Sunday March 30, 2025
 in the Fellowship Hall.*



*see a scout for
 tickets

Youth Group

**Next meeting
 is scheduled for
 Mar 11 ~ 6pm-8pm
 Early St. Pat's Day
 Green Theme**

**Wear something green,
 bring something green
 (beverage or food item),
 bring a friend.**



The kids are celebrating blueberry pancake day!




This spring's synodical ELCA World Hunger appeal leading up to Synod Assembly in June - will focus on refugee resettlement - an area of grave concern, especially now, and one for which Lutherans have long been known, from managing some of the world's largest refugee camps to leading resettlement efforts. These camps, sheltering those who have fled war and violence, care for persons facing health concerns after their long, dangerous journey to safety, and in constant need of food supplies and water. Let us not forget that Mary, Joseph and Jesus were also refugees. Our hunger dollars are a way we accompany refugees through the uncertainties and struggles of trying to build new lives.

To this end, congregations are being challenged this year to meet a goal of \$500 in support of this vital ministry.

Your gifts will coincide with St. John's Lenten mission to 'Journey's End', an agency highly regarded for its refugee resettlement work in Buffalo. More information will follow on how we will support their work, including a visit from a representative.

If you wish to write a check for world hunger, please make it out to St. John and write 'ELCA World Hunger' in the subject line; or donations may be made online. As always, your generosity of time, talent and treasures is overwhelming.



*With gratitude and blessing,
Pastor Marsha Irmer
on behalf of the Upstate NY Synod Hunger Justice Team*

Refugee welcome



Finnegan's Farewell

Mar 6-16, 2025

SUPPORT THE DEPEW COMMUNITY CENTER
AND ENJOY THE WILDEST IRISH WAKE EVER!

LANCASTER OPERA HOUSE


AND

PASTOR DEBI

(WHO HAS A SMALL PART IN THE PLAY)

AN INTERACTIVE DINNER THEATRE AT THE DEPEW COMMUNITY CENTER.

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CENTER. FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS GO TO:
WWW.LANCASTEROPERAHOUSE.CSSTIX.COM/EVENT-DETAILS.PHP?E=1443



Craft, Vendor Show & Basket Raffle:
March 15 from 9:00am -3:00pm at
St. Paul Lutheran Church
453 Old Falls Blvd,
N. Tonawanda, NY 14120
Lunch served at 11:00am.



St. John Book Club's
latest selection is
The Secrets They Left Behind
by Lissa Redmond, a former
detective and resident of Buffalo.
Our next meeting is
April 8 at 7:00 PM.
Read the book and join us!

Mortgage Fund: With your help,
St. John would like to pay off the
mortgage on the church campus.
Together we can step into a future
where we are fully equipped to fulfill
God's mission for our church and our
community. Any contribution
dedicated to the mortgage will help.
With gratitude for all you do.



Workshop Title: "The Long Journey Home - A Christian Faith-based Resource to Prepare for End-of-Life with Peace and Hope"

Where: St. John Lutheran Church Amherst, 6540 Main Street, Williamsville 14221

When: March 22, 2025, from 10 AM - 1 PM

What: Pastor Scott Hannon and Pastor Debi Turley will lead us in a discussion of crucial end-of-life decisions, funeral planning and final arrangements with an emphasis on the hope and joy of God's Resurrection promise. Few of us want to think about the end of our earthly journey. When we are open to the decisions we want to make for our own end-of-life care, and when we learn to share those decisions with loved ones, our legacy of love is passed on. The cost for the workshop is \$20 and participants will receive a notebook resource written by Pastor Debi, coffee and snacks and lunch. Reservations are needed so please call 716-632-6557. Questions? Call Pastor Scott, or Pastor Debi at 716-997-4125



Buildings & Grounds
planning meeting
March 15 at
10:00am
in the Conference
room at St. John.
All are Welcome!



Pastoral Acts

Feb 2: Baptism of Audie Anderson Webb

Feb 15: Baptism of Bennett Slyn

Feb 23: Baptism of Griffin Joseph Mueller


Feb 21: Marriage of

Ronald Christopher to Theresa Spagna

March 4: The Funeral of Carole Reid



Thank You



Thanks so much for letting us use the Fellowship Hall for South's Musical Cast Party. It was a perfect place to celebrate the student's accomplishments! They had a great time!

Regards,
Jennifer Girzone


Pastor Scott & St. John

Thank you so much for baptizing our sweet Bennett. We're so blessed and thankful to have you!

The Styn Family



Dear St. John,



Thank you so much for the awesome bag of surprises!!! I had a total knee replacement, and the gift really lifted my spirits. It was such a nice surprise and made me feel loved.

*Thank You!
Sherry Slaper*




Dear friends,

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center is truly Blessed by friends like you who give to our ministry. Through gifts such as yours, we are able to provide programs that encourage and nurture the spirit of our guests and campers.

Your generous donation will help us continue to reach out and connect with many individuals. Thank you for sharing in LCLC outdoor ministries.

Please accept this letter acknowledging your donation. We appreciate your ongoing support and are grateful for the ways you bless LCLC!

In Christ,
Kaitlyn Blend
Executive Director



Thank You!

Dear St. John Lutheran Church of Amherst, NY,

We are grateful for you! On behalf of more than 830 Individuals from our community challenged by disability, we are thankful for your kind donation to SABAH. Your contribution will serve to provide more athletes challenged by disability with the opportunity in one or more of SABAH six recreational and physical education programs.

We steadfastly believe that your support changes lives. Because of you, SABAH athletes grow stronger, healthier, and more independent as a result of their participation in SABAH. They also grow in confidence and self-esteem, creating more opportunities for them to thrive beyond their time participating in our programs.

Thank you for your contribution of \$283.20 received on 12/30/2024. Your generous donation will provide support for SABAH athletes by providing year-round adaptive recreational and physical education programs. In compliance with IRS requirements, please be advised that SABAH, a 401(c) (3) tax-exempt organization, did not provide you with any goods or services and your donation is fully tax deductible.

Thank you for enriching the lives of those in our region who are challenged, but not defined, by their disability. Your support is an encouragement to these determined individuals, as they continue to reach for greater heights and new achievements through SABAH's programs. It remains a tremendous privilege to partner with you in these rewarding efforts.

With gratitude,
Sheila O'Brien
Executive Director

On behalf of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc., its sponsors, volunteers, and bed recipients, we would like to thank you for your generous donation. Your support has played a pivotal role in our mission to see that no kid sleeps on the floor in our town!

Thanks to the dedication of 138,000 volunteers, we delivered over 75,000 beds to children in 2024, transforming their lives and improving their overall well-being. This brings SHP's all-time total beds delivered to over 256,000 kids. Yet the demand remains staggering with over 157,000 kids still waiting for the security and warmth of a bed to call their own.

Your continued support today will make a profound difference to further our ability to end child "bedlessness" in your town. Together, we will transform the lives of countless children, offering them the gift of a good night's sleep and a brighter future.

Thank you for being a crucial part of their journey.

Happy Birthday

March

Mridul Pawlowski 03/01
Colleen Gunning 03/02
Susan Hadala 03/02
Kathleen Wood 03/02
Ladonna Moreau 03/03
DeWayne James 03/05
Jessica Licht 03/05
Kristen SanFillippo 03/06
Terence Slaper 03/06
Yvette Haller 03/07
Melissa Cook 03/12
Bethany Aquilina 03/14
Brenda Burow 03/15
Kenneth Krantz 03/20
Joseph Tobia 03/21
Suzanne Aquilina 03/23
Clayton Merlihan 03/23
Robert Zehler2 03/24
Elisabeth Leach 03/25
Dave Ekberg 03/26
Daniel Rubino 03/26
Robert Rosa 03/27
Thomas Suszynski 03/27
Brielle Wark 03/27
Susan Szykowny 03/28
Gayle Bosch 03/29

April

Alan Aquilina 04/01
Patricia Pancoe 04/02
Mary Cox 04/04
Klansee Reynolds Bulmer 04/04
Alexei Goubiski 04/05
Chris Rainero 04/05
Eric Markarian 04/07
Joseph Zahn 04/08
Lilyanna Schimude 04/10
Robert Zehler 04/12
Timothy Mayer 04/13
Carter Scorsone 04/14
Michelle Licht 04/16
Andrew Menzies 04/16
Benjamin Eckhardt 04/18
Frederick Hong 04/22
Dale Menzies 04/25
Walter, Jr. Hadala 04/26
James Steinman 04/27
Jared Steinman 04/27
Jill Otterstein2 04/29
Cecilia Rubino 04/29
Madeline Reid 04/30

St. John Prayer List

Bereavement

Family and friends of Carole Reid
Simet Family of Jeff Simet's mom, Sandra
Bishop Marie Jerge and family on death of her husband, Jim

Hospitalized and Homebound

Richard Galmarini (Beth), Colleen Gunning

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

Kathy Wood, Charlotte Carnes, Iris Reese, Ellen Lohead, 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

Leah Cass, mother-in-law of James Dryden
Alice King, mother of Larry King
Jack Hambridge, family of Laura Kachelmeyer
Barb Schultheis, friend of Sue Hadala
Joe Roland, friend of Pam and Ken Figel
Marilou Taylor, friend of Lee Dryden
Pat Hughes, family of Laura Kachelmeyer
Pastor David Preisinger & Christine, friends
of Pastor Irmer
Pastor Tim Madsen, friend of Prayer group
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
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

Tomoni Steinhilber, niece of Barbara Tiffany
Makenna McDonough, family of Laura Kachelmeyer
Diane Manning, mother of Mike Manning
Charlie Ryan, nephew of Kate & Jim Olson
Joe & Ginger Ward, friends of Marsha Irmer
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

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

Sean Menzies, 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.