

**May/Jun
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

For the past several months, our council, leadership, volunteers, and general assembly have had the opportunity to participate in and assess a blended, unified, single worship service at 9:30AM. Overall, the response has been positive. Our worship attendance has not declined (in fact, it appears to have increased over 2024 averages). Participation, including youth leadership, has increased. The time change has not appeared to disrupt our individual patterned lives too dramatically.

For these reasons and others, the council has decided to continue the practice of worshipping at 9:30AM with a blended service. If you have comments (positive or negative) regarding worship at St. John you may email the office, me, or Candy Scorsone our worship & music chairperson. Contact information can be found in the church directory (which may be picked up on Sunday morning).

The most significant, and seemingly only, challenge to this blended service appears to be how to balance traditional and contemporary music. As a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America we are accustomed to a traditional form of worship. That is true of ALL of the worship at St. John. Our form follows the ancient church's practice of Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending. As an ELCA congregation we are also in the practice of keeping things contemporary (it is what it means to be Lutheran – always reforming, becoming, and relevant).

Since going to one service, we have primarily used settings from the ELW and WOV. Currently, we are borrowing a setting from our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters called the *Mass of Restoration*. The settings are always changing (every 6-10 weeks). There will be some you find familiar and some that are new. There will be some you prefer and some you do not.

To that end, I cannot guarantee that you'll prefer every song you hear when you worship at St. John on Sunday morning. Each week we will play hymns on the organ and hymns with guitar & piano. Music is subjective. As we move forward with a unified, blended, singular service, you should anticipate that you'll likely hear a hymn played too traditional or too contemporary for your taste. It's okay to not prefer every song you hear. We're trying to build a worship experience for all ages, demographics, generations, and peoples. To keep things balanced, we divide the four primary hymns each week between two from the ELW and two from our contemporary list.

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I am encouraged by our worship efforts and direction. Our guest preacher, a few weeks ago, who lives out of town and left St. John telling me, "If we lived in Buffalo, this would be our church!" I asked what she liked about it. She said: "the people, the energy, the spirit, the music, and the faithfulness". Keep it up, St. John. Be reminded of what brings us together. Be reminded of why we worship in the first place. Be reminded of Who it's all about. Be reminded of what it's all about. To God Be the Glory.

PSDH

bible study

An Easter Bible study is being held on THURSDAYS

@ 11AM

in the Gathering Space.

All are welcome & encouraged to attend.

We are discussing the depth and richness of Easter.

Bibles are provided. The study wraps promptly at
noon.

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia.

book club

The next book club meeting is Tuesday, May 13 @ 7PM.

We will be reading a fast-paced, psychological thriller titled *Bachelorette Party* by local author Sandra Block.



just read the book & join us.
all are welcome.



St. John Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting ~ April 22, 2025

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

Meeting Commences: 7:04 pm; with review of previous meeting's minutes to be done next month.
Devotions: Collectively read Easter Psalm. Hoping we can posture towards positivity since we are an Easter people, Scott prays.

Pastor's Report: Scott: Community/Wider Church: Main-Transit Chaplaincy. Visit to LCLC to discuss service projects & opportunities.

Faith Formation: Confirmation Class, Youth Group, Wed. evening outreach program, planning Easter bible Study, Day camp preparation.

Worship: Lenten Worship, Holy Week & Easter, music leadership.

Pastoral Care: Hospital visits, pastoral conversations, many thanks to all who helped and participated in our Lenten Series & worship opportunities. Please help us push the Lutheran Day Camp at St. John this summer.

I renegotiated all of our rental agreements. The ARC increased by \$250.00. Caterer increased by \$50.00. Floor Co. will refinish our floors for free in lieu of a rental increase (saves us thousands). We've also added renting an empty classroom to two photographers. In lieu of rent for the first few months they are going to take pictures for our website & church directory. Our cleaning contract with The ARC was increased by 5%.

New Members: Amy & Bob Bucholz., Luke & Bailey Galmarini., Angelo, Sandy, Olivia, & Anna Lorenzo, Alexa Panaro, Rich & Beth Galmarini, Marc & Melissa Cook, Austyn Galmarini, Ken Manning, Eric, Kristen, Sloan & Rose Weidert
Baptism: Weston Bondi

Executive Report - Lee - No Report

Christian Education – Klansee – Kate likely stepping up through Memorial Day then will break for summer

Fellowship – Lisa – looking for Mother's Day, encourage people to sign up for coffee hour. Will likely go back to committees for Wednesday dinners in lent

Worship and Music – Candy - Bell choir has been doing well. placed up front for Easter and it sounded good. Will likely keep service at 9:30 - it seems to be well received, and definitely well attended

Personnel – CJ - No Report

Youth - Scott - youth group on a hike right now, possibly looking at confirmation in June. Encourage kids to sign up for LCLC and day camp. Try to get day camp info out to community info boards.

Building and Grounds – Paul - limited success in finding someone to re-do lights in sanctuary. One quote for only chandelier lights and not the spotlights - which we'd like to do at the same time (because a lot of the cost is in getting the lift in and the bulbs are at about 75% life capacity, but we don't NEED to replace the spotlights). Job-changing over lights from CFLs to LEDs. Lawnmower should be ready to go for lawncare for the summer

Mutual Ministry – No Report

Cemetery – Ken - Chain link fence on Sugar Rd is often damaged, looking at new approach to repair. Added architectural concrete blocks in damaged areas. Will add shrubs/landscaping

Stewardship – No Report

Finance - Ken – Added church endowment to a quarterly report. Only down 2%

Permanent endowment - CJ - See above

Financial Secretary - Ginny - \$3800 revenue over expenses after first quarter - since some folks gave full year's offering in beginning of year. Would like to soon put money towards mortgage principal, but not there yet. Weekly and loose offering coming along fine. Utilities over due to cold winter. But nothing particularly notable in expenses.

Old Business – Postponing Visioning meeting for Thursday. Will get info out regarding new date in the next two weeks. Meat raffle postponed when there's less stress/pressure

New Business – N/A

Meeting Adjourns: 7:45 with the Lord's Prayer
Elisabeth Leach

St. John Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting ~ March 18, 2025

The March church council meeting was held on the 18th at 7PM via Zoom. Pastor Scott, Lee Dryden, CJ Ullrich, Ellen Pancoe, Klansee Bulmer, Paul Swanson, Candy Scorsone, Ken Figel, Shirleen Besch, and Ginny Hohl were in attendance. After the previous month's meetings were adjusted and approved, Pastor led Evening Prayer from the ELW and the council meditated on the 27th Psalm.

Pastor Scott reported on worship, Lent, Ash Wednesday, and the Wednesday Evening Program. A vision/strategic planning/fundraising committee has been formed and is working to name our assets and needs. Pastor continues to serve as chaplain at Main Transit. The executive director of LCLC is visiting St. John on May 4th. There was one funeral for Carole Reid.

The committees offered the following reports:

Community Outreach – Our Lenten outreach is to support the Refugee Partnership of WNY. There are 731 families in WNY in need because of cuts in federal funding. The Arc & Hospice are going to provide presentations this Lent.

Christian Education – a Youth Sunday will be held this spring/early summer.

Fellowship – a signup is on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space inviting folks to bring snacks/refreshments for coffee hour after worship on Sunday mornings.

Worship & Music – we continue to receive positive feedback from the transition to one service.

Personnel – Alex Dominique's contract with St. John ends at the end of May. He will work as a counselor at LCLC for the summer. We hope to hire Alex again in the fall.

Youth – A summer day camp will be held at St. John the first two and last two weeks of the summer. It will be capped at 25 kids per week. This is a ministry of Lutheran Youth WNY. Camperships are available for kids to go to LCLC.

Buildings & Grounds – A meeting was held in March. We are seeking bids to update/upgrade the lights in the sanctuary.

Financial Secretary – Our audit will be held on March 29th. Our finances are stable. We discussed the benefits of RMD donations to the church.

The meeting ended with encouragement to get involved and stay active. We concluded with the Lord's Prayer.





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





Eric & Kristen Weidert Rose & Sloan



Ken Manning with his family
New Members Reception
13 April 2025
 not pictured:
 Angelo & Sandy Lorenzo, Anna & Olivia
 Richard & Eliabeth Galmarini
 Robert & Amy Bucholtz



Kerri & Bob Zehler
 Michael & Robert



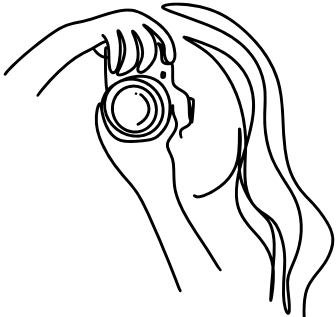
Austyn Galmarini



Bailey George & Luke Galmarini



Mark & Melissa Cook



Photos taken by
 Rebecca Nalbach
 rlnalbach@yahoo.com



YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE



MAY. 20	6-8PM
JUN. 3	6-8PM
JUN. 6- JUN. 7	5:30PM 3:30PM

Pavilion Fun!
 Gather at the pavilion for games and hanging out to enjoy the weather

Fun-filled youth group with games, food/snacks, and hanging out with friends!

All Families please join your children for the final youth group of the school year before summer break! There I will be grilling dogs and burgers with snacks for everyone to enjoy. Stay for a few hours and that will lead into an overnight into the next day where in the later morning the kids will be a part of Lutheran Youth's Field Day at our very own St. John.



Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center hosted volunteers from Trinity Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Rochester, Nativity Lutheran Church from East Aurora and our St John who worked on the adventure obstacle course at the camp to prepare for this summer's campers on May 9 & 10, 2025. The course is designed for group building and teamwork and includes a trust fall platform, island crossing, all aboard and spider web.





The Caring Hearts Ministry

The Caring Hearts Ministry has been keeping busy and growing since our first meeting on April 6th. Initially 19 volunteers showed up interested in learning how they could “care” for their fellow parishioners. We currently have 29 men and women signed up to care for our congregation in various ways. What do we do? We send cards (22 vols.)/ deliver altar flowers to shut-ins (11 vols.)/ purchase or make a meal and deliver it (14 vols.)/ take care of funeral luncheons (10 vols.)/ offer rides to church (4 vols.)/ offer rides to appointments (6 vols.) visit shut-ins or hospitalized members (2 vols.)/ send welcome cards to our new members and welcome new babies w/ a gift. Some of these activities don’t take very much time but they can make a huge impact on the recipient. The act of spreading kindness and caring for one another is a simple one. If you are in need of a ride to church or an appointment, please contact the church office. Does this sound like something you want to get involved with? If so, please contact Barb King or Laura Kachelmeyer.



Baptisms:

Quinn Richard Cretacci

10-May-2025

Javier Benjamin Schmitt

11-May-2025

Kaelyn Ava Pidgeon

18-May 2025

Pastoral Acts:

Marriages:

Ronald Christopher and Theresa Spagna

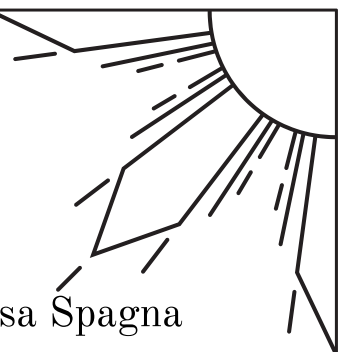
21-Feb-2025

Jeremy Reynolds and Katerine Jimenez-Camacho

3-May-2025

Funeral:

Carole Reid on 4-Mar-25





Thank you



Dear Creative Ministry Group
at St. John Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for the Birthday Celebration
Blessing kits you made for our food pantry
families! They appreciate your kindness, and we
appreciate your support of our community.

Blessings!

Hope Food Pantry in Arcade,
and
Sue Dressel



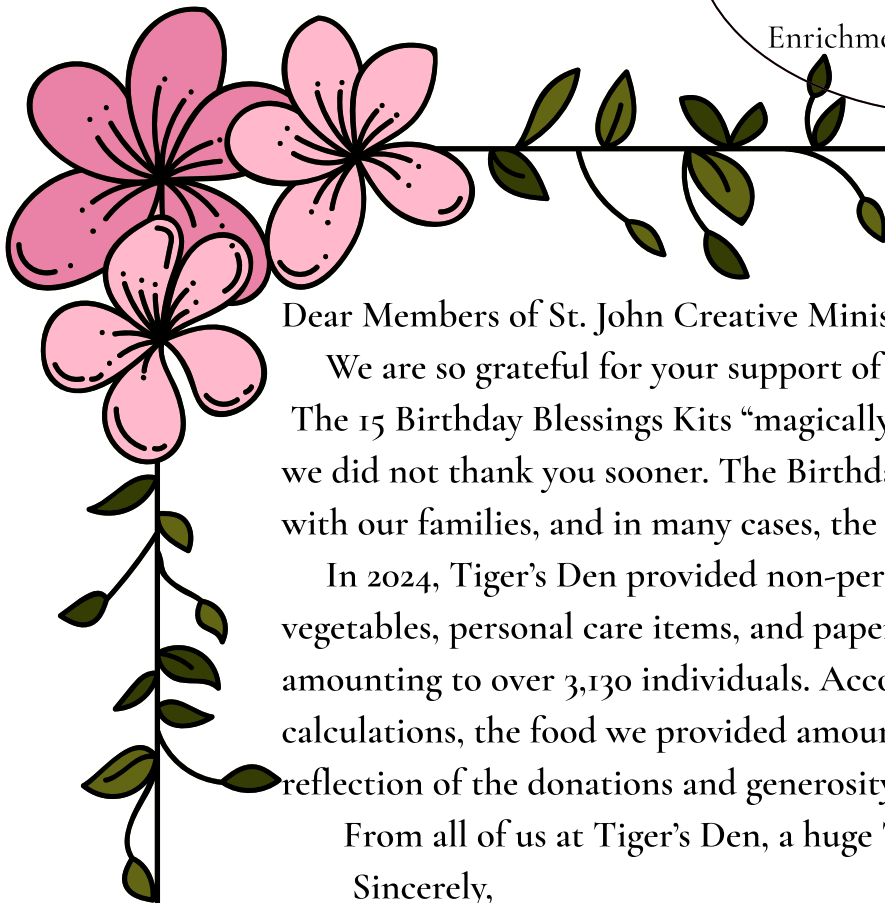
Thank you so much
for allowing our son Quinn's baptism at
St. John. The Gathering Space was perfect &
we couldn't have asked for anything more on
our son's special day. Please accept this
donation to the church on our behalf.

Ryan, Lexi & Quinn Cretacci



Thank you so much
for the cloth covered balls!
The residents love them!

Michelle V.
Enrichment Coordinator, MC



Dear Members of St. John Creative Ministry group,

We are so grateful for your support of the Tiger's Den Food Pantry.
The 15 Birthday Blessings Kits "magically" appeared here, and I am so sorry
we did not thank you sooner. The Birthday Blessing Kits are such a favorite
with our families, and in many cases, the only birthday supplies a family has.

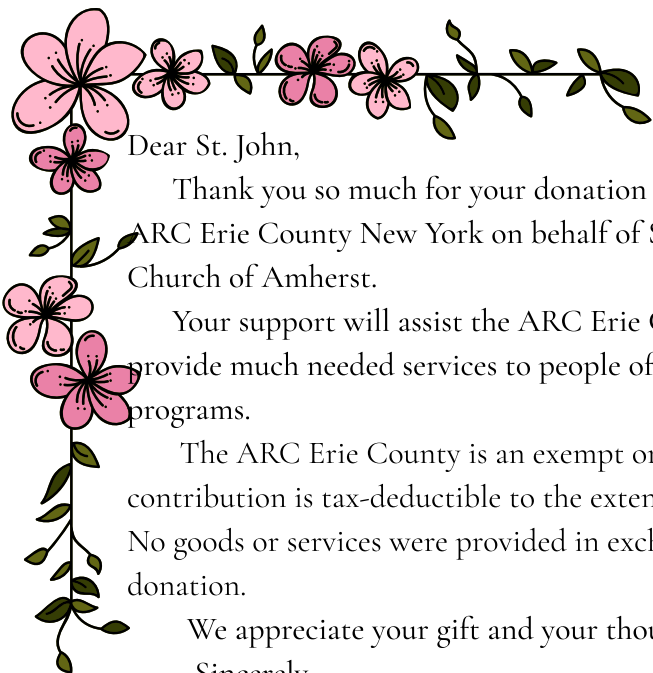
In 2024, Tiger's Den provided non-perishable food items, fresh fruit and
vegetables, personal care items, and paper products to 972 households -
amounting to over 3,130 individuals. According to FeedMore WNY
calculations, the food we provided amounted to 28, 179 meals! This is a direct
reflection of the donations and generosity of people like you.

From all of us at Tiger's Den, a huge THANK YOU!!!!

Sincerely,

Aidrianne Leno





Dear St. John,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$1000.00, to The ARC Erie County New York on behalf of St. John Lutheran Church of Amherst.

Your support will assist the ARC Erie County in continuing to provide much needed services to people of all ages in a variety of programs.

The ARC Erie County is an exempt organization... Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your generous donation.

We appreciate your gift and your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cordero

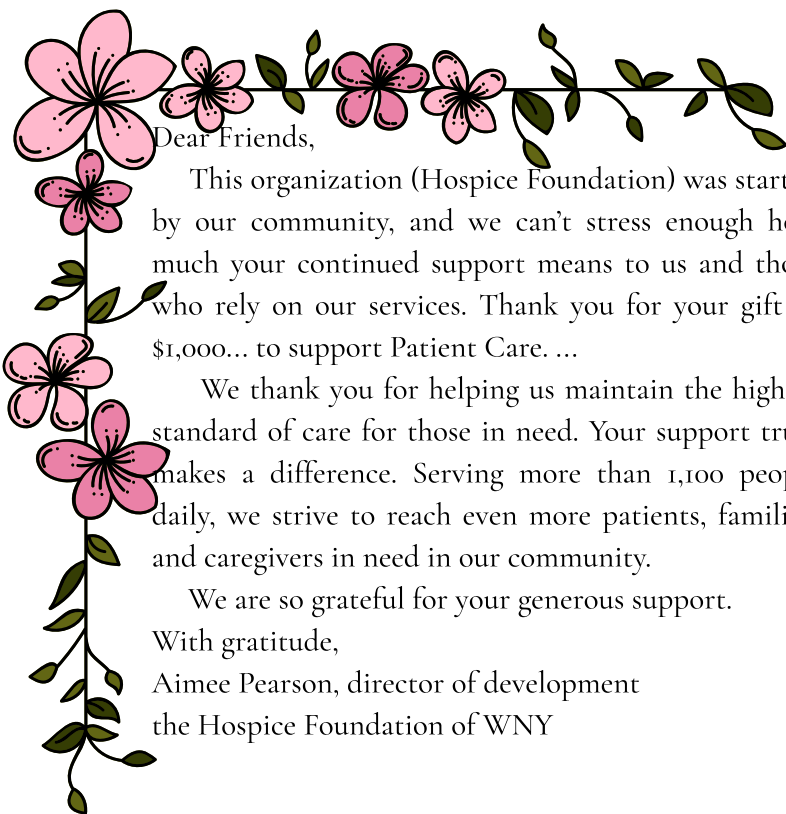
Chief Operating Officer

thank you

Dear St. John,

Thank you for your donation of port pillows and drain pockets. The patients here at Roswell appreciate your generosity and creative efforts!

With gratitude,
The Staff
of the 11 Day Power Play
Resource Center



Dear Friends,

This organization (Hospice Foundation) 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 \$1,000... to support Patient Care. ...

We thank you for helping us maintain the highest standard of care for those in need. Your support truly makes a difference. Serving more than 1,100 people daily, we strive to reach even more patients, families, and caregivers in need in our community.

We are so grateful for your generous support.

With gratitude,

Aimee Pearson, director of development
the Hospice Foundation of WNY

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 \$1000.00 as you stand with refugees with us. In this time of uncertainty, your support is more critical than ever. The indefinite suspension of refugee admissions program has created significant challenges, and your generosity ensures that we can continue to provide essential resources.

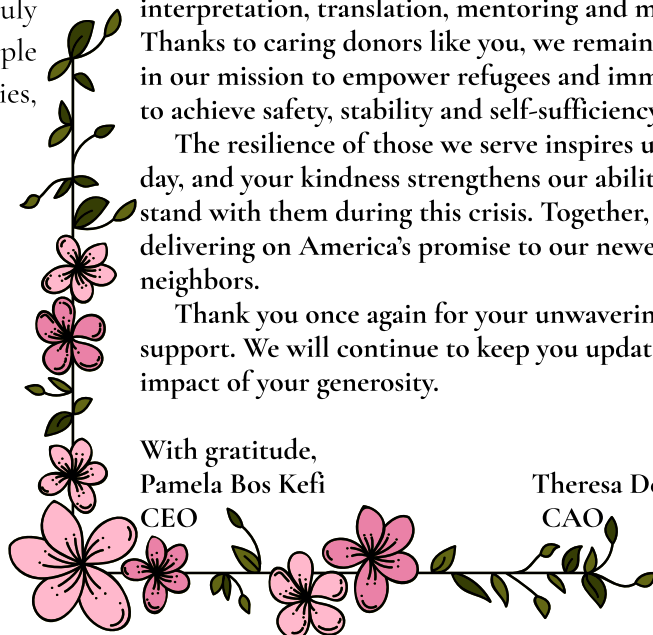
Your contribution directly helps us sustain vital programs, including English language classes, employment support, immigration Legal Services, interpretation, translation, mentoring and more. Thanks to caring donors like you, we remain centered in our mission to empower refugees and immigrants to achieve safety, stability and self-sufficiency.

The resilience of those we serve inspires us every day, and your kindness strengthens our ability to stand with them during this crisis. Together, we are delivering on America's promise to our newest neighbors.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support. We will continue to keep you updated on the impact of your generosity.

With gratitude,
Pamela Bos Kefi
CEO

Theresa DeLuca
CAO



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

May

Andrew Cordero 05/01
John Hannon 05/02
Laura Kachelmeyer 05/04
Pat Panaro, Jr. 05/04
Ellen Pancoe 05/05
Robert Turley 05/07
Kristin Weidert 05/08
Todd Johnson 05/12
Dominic Rubino 05/12
Melissa Licht 05/13
Ashley Merlihan 05/13
Robert Tiffany 05/13
Chantal Rubino 05/17
Austyn Galmarini 05/19
Heather Swanson 05/20
Barbara King 05/24
Nicole Lawniczak 05/24
Jane D'Agostino 05/27
Candy Scorsone 05/27
Charles Greene 05/28
Joan Oles 05/30
David Ekberg 05/31
Ronin Rainero 05/31
Vincent Tobia2 05/31

June

Denis Goubiski 06/09
Kristen Silveri 06/10
Owen Zdrojewski 06/10
Jennifer Goehle 06/11
Rachael Mayer 06/11
Lee Ott 06/12
Scott Hannon 06/13
Angelo Lorenzo 06/13
Richard Traina 06/13
Shirleen Besch 06/15
Mark Russell 06/15
Jay Favale 06/17
Eli Pawlowski 06/18
Daniel Kutis 06/24
Marilynn Todd 06/24
Andrew Scorsone 06/25
Deborah Francis 06/26
Dylan Parker 06/27

Prayer List

Bereavement

The Larry King Family at the loss of mother Alice
The Rick Bosch Family, at the loss of brother Mark
The Leising Family, at the loss of their son Christopher
The Hannon/Strickland Family, at the loss of Mariah

Hospitalized and Homebound

Richard Galmarini (Beth), Colleen Gunning

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

Robert Turley, Grace Bosch-Krug, Karen Caton, Bob Rosa, Anita Rosa,
Sandi Eckberg, Kathy Wood, Charlotte Carnes, Bob Tiffany, Gayle Bosch,
Jerry Szykowny, Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Millie Webb, Audi Webb
Jane D'Agostino, Christine Bosch, Russell Burning Sr., Rick Bosch, Sheri Steinman

Suzanne Kelly, sister of Lee Dryden
Mark Marshall, family of Marsha Irmer
Tom Bosch, brother of Rick Bosch
Ginger Ward, friend of Marsha Irmer
Scott Behrend, son of friends of Ginny & Ray Hohl
Gail Hasley, friend of Donna Moore
Orlando Siravo, nephew of Deni Krantz
Jack Hambridge, family of Laura Kachelmeyer
Joe Roland, friend of Pam and Ken Figel
Marilou Taylor, friend of Lee Dryden
Pat Hughes, family of Laura Kachelmeyer
Pastor David Preisinger, friend of Pastor Irmer
David Giertz, brother-in-law of Ellen Pancoe
Lois Robinson, friend of St. John
Joel Hutcheson, brother of Jim & Kate Olson
Dawn Ruettimann, family of Laura Maraschiello
Heather Miller, wife of Bishop Lee Miller

Debbie Schugardt, family of Kristin Silveri
Tomoni Steinhilber, niece of Barbara Tiffany
Makenna McDonough, family of Laura Kachelmeyer
Charlie Ryan, nephew of Kate & Jim Olson
Maria & Elissa DeNapoli, friends of Marsha Irmer
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
Mary May, cousin of Kathy Wood

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.