

December
2024

The Eagle

Dear Friends,

In last week's second lesson St. Paul said:

How can I thank God enough for you...?

This upcoming Sunday in another reading from St. Paul he says:

I am always thanking God for you.

As we embark on a new church year, while simultaneously ending and beginning a new calendar year, please allow me to echo the gratitude that St. Paul proclaims. I hope you know that I am always thanking God for you. I often wonder, how could I thank God enough for you?

Thank you for your participation and prayers. Thank you for your service and times of sacrifice. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your voice lifted up in song during worship. Thank you for your hands that help and hold. Thank you for faithfulness.

For St. Paul GRATITUDE brings people together, increases love, and strengthens hearts for the days ahead. For that reason I hope you'll join me in carving out time for prayerful gratitude over these next few weeks. As a part of your prayer life, consider stating daily:

I am grateful for... [your response here].

May our shared gratitude bring us together in worship & for fellowship.
May our shared gratitude increase our love expressed through forgiveness, reconciliation, service, and generosity.
May our shared gratitude strengthen our hearts in this season of longing, waiting, and expectation.

Thank you for being you.

peace + love, PSDH

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

Brian Hirschey
finance

November Pastoral Acts

Baptisms: 3

Funerals: 2





*O come let us
adore him*

mark your calendars

Youth Christmas Party - 12/10 @ 6PM

Christmas Sing Along - 12/13 @ 7PM

Annual Meeting - 12/15 following worship

Youth Sledding Outing (gr. 4-12) - 12/21 @ 10AM

Christmas Pageant - 12/22 @ 9:30AM

Christmas Eve Worship - 3 & 5PM

Lessons & Carols - 12/29 @ 9:30AM

Community Outreach Ministry (formally Social Ministry):

This year's "Angel Tree" project is supporting two local Depew families. One is a family of 7, who recently had four orphaned siblings come to live with them unexpectedly. The other is a family of 5, with three children ages ranging from 5-14 years old. The parents in both families work but still struggle to meet needs.

St. John is sponsoring a Christmas meal and activities. We are collecting Wegmans and Walmart gift cards and items which will be used for the family.

If anyone would like to give more, extra Wegmans and Walmart gift cards are appreciated as we know the cost of groceries and the extra activities to make the holidays special for little ones have gone up substantially.

Please bring in any donations, gift cards, or items by Sunday, December 22nd. Gift cards may be placed in the collection plate, any cash/check donations please specifically state for the Angel tree.

All may also be given to Shirleen or Pastor Debi directly.

Thank you for making this holiday extra special for these families."

COUNCIL UPDATE - NOVEMBER

Present: Lee Dryden, Pastor Hannon, Ellen Pancoe, Klansee Bulmer, Shirleen Besch, Brian Hirschey, Candy Scorsone, Ginny Hohl, (Financial Secretary – non-voting), Paul Swanson

Excused: CJ Ullrich, Lisa Leach

7:05 Call to Order. Agenda Approved. Devotions- Each member shared what they were thankful for.

Pastor's Report: I continue to serve as the MTFD Chaplain. I preached and we hosted Lutheran Church Unleashed (tv church). Finally, I participated in the service of decommissioning for Southern Seminary.

At St. John I led Confirmation Classes, participated in Youth Group, and worked to create the new 9:30AM worship service. I have made hospital and homebound visits. Many pastoral conversations are ongoing.

Pastoral Acts:

- First Communion – John Hannon, Lily Schmude, Graciella Cordero, Natalie Goubski
- Baptisms – Brooks Holler, Makena Scheck
- Funeral – Andrew Yambor

Executive Committee – no report

Social Ministry – Shirleen Besch – Motion Proposed changing name from Social Ministry Committee to *Community Outreach Committee* – Approved. Bags of Cheer are assembled and will be delivered. The Angel Tree Project will involve adopting families in need and providing a home-cooked holiday meal. Tiger's Den and FONP continue.

Fellowship – An after- church service fellowship is encouraged. A sign-up sheet will help distribute the work.

Worship and Music – Candy Scorsone – Organ repair scope will need to be considered more fully in the near future. One service on Nov 24 went well. About 185 attended. Hoping for new musical participation. Possible Christmas Carol Sing on 13 th or 14 th . Christmas Pageant on Dec. 22.

Christian Education – Klansee Bulmer – working on pageant. Many Sunday School children. Time to split (older from younger).

Youth – Pastor indicated new personnel is working well. Candy said her kids and friends like it a lot. Pastor will give acolyte responsibilities to confirmation kids.

B&G – Paul Swanson. OMC Site work and plantings continued this month. An altar plan needs to be discussed in the new year. Bell inoperable for now.

Mutual Ministry – Discussed pastoral compensation recommendation.

Finance – no report

Stewardship – Ginny indicated that pledges are coming in at a healthy rate. We will discuss “20 Practices for Growing Stewardship” at the January meeting.

Financial Secretary – Motion – Community Benevolence: Wings of Hope -\$1500; Niagara Lutheran - \$1500; Lutheran Charities – \$1500; Heritage Christian Services - \$1500; Lake Chataqua Lutheran Camp - \$1500; Journey's End Refugee Center - \$1500; Depew Community Center - \$500. All Approved.

Ginny walked through a proposed budget for 2025. Pastoral salary increases swapped for compensation for provided dental insurance. Motion – To present the proposed budget to the Annual Meeting on December 15. Approved.

New Business – Brian, CJ and Shirleen need to decide if they will continue on Council for another term. Pastor urged continuity.

Adjournment with Lord's prayer. 8:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee Dryden

Wings Flight of Hope

The Creative Ministry group would like to invite anyone who is interested to a presentation by several pilots from Wings Flight of Hope on December 11 at 10:00 am in the Gathering Space. We will find out more about this local, non-profit service to neighbors in our community needing out of town medical care. The mission of Wings Flights of Hope Inc. is to help people in need of free air transportation for medical and humanitarian purposes.

Basically, helping anyone, anytime, anyplace.

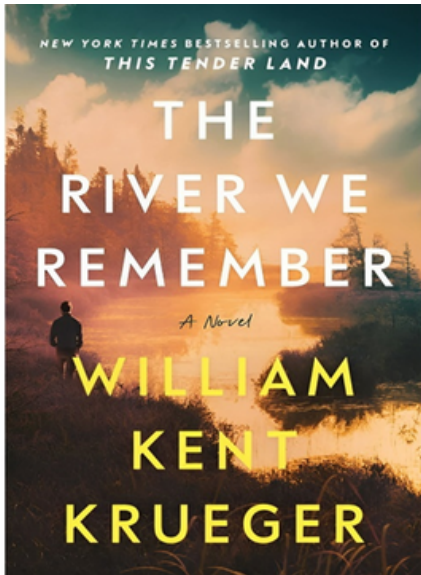
There will refreshments, the presentation and time for questions.

Pastor Scott will be presenting a donation from St. John.

For additional information contact Pam Figel.



Calling all bookworms!



Join us in the Gathering Space at St. John on January 7, 2025 at 7:00 PM. Bring a friend, refreshments will be served. Our first book selection is *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger. You can purchase it on Amazon, at online sites that sell used books, or try to borrow it from the library.

Questions? See Pam Figel or Debi Turley. Happy reading!

Celebrating the Birth of Jesus is a “Piece of Cake”

The Creative Ministry Group is planning on assembling 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. You can help by donating any of the needed items for these kits which are easily purchased at the Dollar Tree. The foil pans are already purchased. A box for donations will be available in the Narthex. Thanks for celebrating the birth of Jesus and making a child's day a celebration too. Contact Pam Figel if you need more information.



Through the waters of Baptism
St. John Lutheran welcomes:

Brooks Holler 10-Nov-2024

Makena Jeanne Sheck 16-Nov-2024

Landon Michael San Filippo 24-Nov-2024

Joining the Church Triumphant

Anna M. Henry

November 30, 2024

Andrew Yambor

November 16, 2014



PLEASE JOIN IN
FELLOWSHIP
AFTER
SUNDAY SERVICES
IN ADVENT
FOR
COOKIES, COCOA &
COFFEE!



Interested in being a Poinsettia Sponsor?

Please follow this link:

<https://sjlcamherst.com/christmas>
to dedicate the flowers.

One = \$15.00

Two = \$30.00

Dear Pastor Scott,

Thank you very much for welcoming Brooks into St. John's through his Baptism. My family and I feel so at home in St. John's and it is such a blessing to see my son officially join the church.

*With Gratitude,
Paige & Dalton Holler*

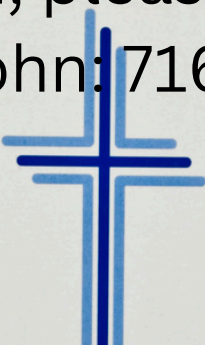
THANK YOU



The **Offering Envelopes** for 2025 are on the table in the Narthex. Please take the box even if you donate online.

If you discover that there is no box provided for you, please contact the office at St. John: 716-632-6557

My



Offering

The annual meeting for St. John Lutheran Church is scheduled for

Sunday, 15 December 2024.

After Service in the Gathering Space.



Happy Birthdays

Donald Reidell 12/04

Nicole Favale 12/05

Nancy James 12/05

Scott Lawniczak 12/09

Delaney Hannon 12/10

Paige Russell-Holler 12/10

Margaret (Midge) Davis 12/13

Victoria Lohead 12/14

Vincent Tobia 12/14

Joann Krieger 12/18

Rebecca Roll 12/21

Jared Kachelmeyer 12/25

St John Prayer List

Hospitalized and Homebound

Richard Galmarini (Beth), Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry

Loss & Bereavement

Friends & Family of Tim Kachelmeyer

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

Ellen Lothead, Ken Krantz, Kate Olson, 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,

Andy Ward, friend of Marsha Irmer
Mike Oswald, nephew of Judy Nitchke
Dave Selikowitz, friend of Marsha Irmer
Bob Koehneke, brother of Mary Koehneke
Sheylee Klaes, friend of Susan Hadala
Val and Linda Fenti, friends of Ginny Hohl
Griffin Joseph Mueller grandson of Susan Ott
Harold Weigel, father of Danielle Schmitt
Tomoni Steinhilber, niece of Barbara Tiffany
JoEllen Blickensderfer, neighbor of Laura Kachelmeyer
Mckenna McDonough, family of Laura Kachelmeyer
Freddie Roy, great nephew of Midge Davis
Diane Manning, mother of Mike Manning
Brian Smith, friend of St. John
Charlie Ryan, nephew of Kate & Jim Olson
Evelyn Ullrich, daughter of CJ and Danielle Ullrich
Joe & Ginger Ward, friends of Marsha Irmer

Jennifer Nesfield, friend of Deb Francis
David McCarty, son of Pat McCarty
Maria DeNapoli friend 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

Matt Newman, Drew Steinhilber, Ben Hoyt, Maj. Kurt Wasilewski, Mike Ferguson

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.