

The Eagle

**Spring
2024**

**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

Pastoral Acts

The Sacrament of Baptism
for twins,

Jane Laurel Saxer &
Norah Faith Saxer
on February 24, 2024

After a few minutes of silence, my uber driver (without any invitation or reason) got REAL political. It was awkward and uncomfortable. As a paying customer, it bothered me.

It wasn't his politics that bothered me (even though they aren't my politics – I know about half the country feels that way). It wasn't even the fact that he got political that bothered me (I know we're all caught up in bothersome political waters and some of us are carrying it at the top of our chests).

What really bothered me was how he began each sentence.

"You have to admit..."
[insert conspiracy theory].

"You can't deny..."
[insert half-truth].

"You agree with me that..."
[insert random theory that I absolutely DON'T agree with].

My problem with this conversation was that it wasn't one (i.e. a conversation). Rather than a dialogue, a debate, or discussion it was just one person talking without any hope of getting anywhere. The entire interaction was just one giant exercise in futility – a complete waste of his energy and my time. It made me wonder how many other conversations are happening out there where the only thing left unsaid is: "by the way, I don't care what you think, you know I'm right."

Friends, my concern for the wider world begins and ends with the fear that we have stopped listening. We've stopped listening to each other, stopped listening for the Spirit, stopped listening to voices and cries of strangers, and quite possibly even stopped listening to our own hearts and conscience.

Now I don't believe there's much hope for our society (at least not until we clear November of 2024), but I will continue to hold out hope for the church (especially our church). As we near the conclusion of Lent, the solemnity of Holy Week, and the joy of Easter I pray that we can be a people who are ready to listen. We practice this listening in worship as we gather around holy words, liturgy, and hymns. We practice this listening when we pray and carve out time for devotion and meditation. We practice this listening when we stop starting our sentences with "You have to admit..." and instead ask, "What do you think?"

James writes, "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger." James 1:19

St. Paul writes, "Faith comes from hearing..." Romans 10:17

I hope you don't hear this as a partisan political message. It sincerely is not meant to be. I just think the scriptures have a great deal to say about how we ought to handle ourselves in these mean-times and between times.

Thanks for listening.

In the Way,
PSDH

COUNCIL UPDATE - FEBRUARY

Present: Lee Dryden, Klansee Bulmer, Lisa Leach, Paul Swanson, Ginny Hohl (non-voting member), Candy Scorsone.

Absent: Brian Hirschey, CJ Ullrich, Ellen Pancoe, Shirleen Besch

The meeting began at 7:02 PM on **February 20, 2024**, with a prayer led by Pastor Scott for the council members prayer requests and healing. The Minutes of the January meeting was voted on and approved.

The committees offered the following reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastoral Acts: Funerals - Natalie Pitzer, Lamar Todd, Charles Platzer.

Worship & Music: Reports we given on Ash Wednesday worship, Lenten program planning, Sunday morning preaching and praise band leadership.

Community Outreach: Main Transit Chaplain, Installation Dinner Invocation; Benediction.

Pastoral Care: Hospital visitation, grief work, funeral planning, home communion.

Looking Ahead: Our Lenten program will be held on Wednesday Evenings. Meal from 5:45 - 6:30, with a program from 6:45 - 7:30PM. The programs will be a hodgepodge - something different each night. The hope is to cover psalms, theology of the cross, the holy land, et al.

Executive Report: Lee - Let him know when committee meetings, keep Lee in the loop of decisions.

Social Ministry: Shirleen Besch/Scott – Report on the Lenten Sock Challenge. Information coming in bulletin and on social media, benefitting Friends of the Night People.

Christian Education: Klansee Bulmer reporting. Scott connecting with Klansee on committee members. Sent out digital sign up, sent out PDF of lessons. Looking into survey, schedule, splitting class in 2. Looking forward to Easter Egg hunt (Palm Sunday - Breakfast Pizza)

Fellowship: – Lisa Leach – Valentine's Day Happy Hour well attended. Scheduling meeting with team, organizing Chili Cook-off for March 3rd and brainstorming other spring activities.

Worship and Music: Candy Scorsone reporting - Lenten dinner on 28th, music went out for Lenten season.

Personnel: CJ - No report.

Youth: Pastor Scott reporting- held Confirmation meeting; met with potential Youth Leader candidate, but he was 19, which is too young to supervise per our insurance.

Building and Grounds: Paul Swanson Reporting - There was an issue with outside door to Narthex - repaired. Paul held a meeting Saturday, 17 Feb with committee members and produced a two-page list of things to do, which was distributed among the group. A party in Fellowship Hall on Saturday left the GS messy. Rick Bosch cleaned up a bit. Concern about turn over when outside groups use church Sat. evenings. Concern - Cigarette litter outside building, since there's no disposal receptacle. Scott spoke with Brigid and Mike and added a cleaning fee to contract. Buying an ash tray for back door to help curb litter, but we don't want smoking by the outside prayer board. Kitchen exhaust is scheduled to be cleaned as per our insurance carrier.

Mutual Ministry: – No Report

Cemetery –

Stewardship – Brian - No Report

Finance - Brian – No Report

Permanent endowment - CJ - No Report

Financial Secretary - Ginny - January was typical, expenses exceed revenue by over \$4000.00. There was one Sunday without services causing our income to be almost \$5000.00 under budget. However, our building rental use exceeded budget expectations. We under sold poinsettias for the Christmas season. Paid for the second snow removal of the year - what we budgeted, but still an added expense. Being under for January is typical, but we don't want to continue this way.

Old Business – Rummage Sale? We're looking for people to step and lead organizing the Rummage Sale.

New Business – Lenten Dinners - needing to reach out to other ministries to pitch in and help. Need person to lead the Caring Hearts team for funeral meal service and need about 6 people willing to help. The next council meeting is March 19th at 7PM via Zoom.

The February Council meeting adjourned at 7:41PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Elisabeth Leach

Holy Week

Palm Sunday: March 24 8:30AM & 10:30AM

Maundy Thursday: 7:00PM

Good Friday: 7:00PM



Easter Egg Hunt

Palm Sunday, April 24, 2024

9:30AM between Services



Easter Sunday Services

8:30AM & 10:30AM



Lutheran Awards Banquet

Friday May 3, 2024, 6:00 PM at Ripa's Italian Restaurant.

Our community is invited to join the celebration of Rick Bosch & Oaklie Zdrojewski for \$55.00 a plate.

MENU

-6:00 PM SOCIAL HOUR-

Cheese & Crackers ■ Fresh Assorted Vegetables w/ Dip
Swedish Meatballs ■ Cash Bar

-7:00 PM DINNER-

Entrée Selections:

House-Seasoned Pork Chop
bone-in, extra thick

Roast Turkey Breast
with stuffing, gravy and cranberry sauce

Pasta Primavera (gf, vg)
with marinara sauce

All Entrées are accompanied by:

*Mixed Greens Salad, Mashed Potatoes,
Seasonal Vegetable Medley, Chocolate Mousse, Coffee & Tea*

*Please advise our office of any food allergies or special needs
when you RSVP.*

RSVP

Please respond by **April 19, 2024**

www.wnylutherancharities.org

or

call: 716-632-2623

or

Email: info@wnylutherancharities.org

checks payable to Lutheran Charities of WNY

Please indicate
awardee, church or
organization
affiliation for
seating

Directing **Thrivent Choice Dollars**

to St. John for 2023

March is the time of years to check if you have contributed your qualifying money to St. John.

All Thrivent Product holders, please direct your Choice Dollars to St. John for camperships for our youth. Not sure if you qualify? Call 800 847 4836 and say Thrivent Choice. Contact me if you have a question. I will to do it too.

Thank you.

Jane D'Agostino

Dagostinos@gmail.com

716 713 8716



Sportsman's Night at St. John

Saturday March 30, 2024

6pm-9pm

\$10.00 donation

Buffet Style Dinner

Raffle Baskets, 50/50, Door Prizes and more!

Contact Matt Simpson, Blue Fire BBQ

716-912-8279

Please donate baskets
to raffle,
all proceeds to benefit
St. John



Ash Wednesday Dinner



ELCA World Hunger Spring Appeal

LOAVES AND FISHES

In keeping with this year's celebration of the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, our Upstate New York Synod's Hunger Justice Team - inspired by Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 5000 with only five loaves of bread and two small fish - will encourage congregations to live out God's generosity by empowering those living with food insecurity - which is interconnected with poverty and health - for the hope of a better livelihood. To this end, we are encouraging congregations to direct their giving specifically to two areas which resonate with God's abundance: **FISH FARMING AND IRRIGATION.**

An old proverb says "Give your neighbors and fish, and they'll eat for a day". Give your neighbors a community fish farm, and they'll eat for lifetime. A fish farm starts with a pond, training and a few fast-growing fish, such as tilapia (St. Peter's fish). Soon the pond provides food rich in vitamins, minerals and protein. Irrigation systems are critical, especially for those farmers around the world who rely on rainwater to nourish their crops. When the rain doesn't fall, an entire community can be vulnerable to drought and hunger.

Your generosity funds programs around the world that address the complex and connected root causes of hunger in more than 60 countries, including ours, as we accompany companions hard at work providing food, health care, agricultural training safe water, livelihood support and more. Our challenge at St. John is to give of our resources to provide for two fish farms @ \$250 each; and, if the Spirit is particularly active, to also provide increments of \$100 to fund a portion of an irrigation project.

I know I can count on your generosity. With gratitude and hope, let us give, that all the world may be fed.

In peace,

Pastor Marsha Irmer,
on behalf of the Upstate NY Synod Hunger Justice Team



St John Lutheran Church

All proceeds will benefit Outdoor Ministry Center at St. John Lutheran Church

Biennial Rummage Sale

Saturday, April 13, 2024

08:00am -1:00 pm
St. John Lutheran Church
6540 Main Street
Williamsville, NY

**Please bring your
donations in starting
on March 31, 2024**

Get great deals on
Trinkets & Treasures,
household goods, antiques, collectibles,
toys, furniture & much more.

DO NOT bring:
Clothes, Electronics (ie: TV& Computers)
Dated or recalled baby items,
Tires or Mattresses

For More Information:

**Laura Kachelmeyer 716 906-7576 or
office@sjlcamherst.com 716-632-6557**





Thank you

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 to continue to reach out and connect with many individuals. Thank you for sharing in LCLC outdoor ministries.
In Christ,
Pastor Gail Swanson

Dear Pastor Hannon,
I wanted to thank the congregation of St. John for your ongoing support of **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** of Buffalo.

To date, we have delivered over 3700 beds throughout Buffalo. We will reach 5000 deliveries before the end of the year! This tremendous achievement is only possible because of our great partners like you!

Sincerely,
Jerry Sheblar

Dear Pastor Hannon,
St. John's Lutheran Home for Children is donating \$100.00 in memory of **Mr. Lamar Todd**, for the years of service he provided to St. John as a member of our Board of Directors.

These funds are designated for the youth program at St. John Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,
George A. Roester
Treasurer

I want to thank everyone for their encouragement and support during my continued time of recovery. I really appreciate your caring.

Love,
Jane D'Agostino



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

Mridul Pawlowski 03/01
Colleen Gunning 03/02
Susan Hadala 03/02
Kathleen Wood 03/02
Megan Weber Manning 03/04
Harvey Webb 03/04
DeWayne James 03/05
Jessica Licht 03/05
Bill Boling 03/06
Amy Martin 03/06
Lara M. Reece 03/06
Kristen SanFillippo 03/06
Terry Slaper 03/06
Yvette Haller 03/07
Brian Blake 03/08
Beth Aquilina 03/14
Brenda Burow 03/15
Becky Brock 03/17
Ken Krantz 03/20
Joseph Tobia 03/21
Suzanne Aquilina 03/23
Gregg Merlihan 03/23
Kristen Yard 03/23

April

Alan Aquilina 04/01
Patricia Pancoe 04/02
Susan Rojek 04/03
Jill Blake 04/04
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
Gretchen Bruning 04/13
Nick Santillio, 4/13
Timmy Mayer 04/13
Ethan Burd 04/14
Carter Scorson 04/14
James Lawida 04/16
Michelle Licht 04/16
Andrew Menzies 04/16
Millie Webb 04/16
Ariana Mullins 04/18
Ben Eckhardt 04/18
Frederick Hong 04/22
Thomas Schugardt 04/22
Dale Menzies 04/25
James Dryden 04/26
Walter Hadala 04/26
Derek Howe 04/27
James Steinman 04/27
Jared Steinman 04/27
Jill Otterstein 04/29
Cecilia Rubino 04/29
Madeline Reid 04/30

St John Prayer List

Hospitalized and Homebound

Colleen Gunning, Ann Henry, Wayne Yendall

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

Rick Bosch, Bob Tiffany, Gayle Bosch, Jerry Szykowny,
Jennifer Ekberg, Judy Yendall, John Sivak, Millie Webb, Rich Traina,
Jane D'Agostino

Jennifer Nesfield, friend of Deb Francis
Maria DeNapoli, friend of Marsha Irmer
David McCarty, son of Pat McCarty
Pat Tambacas, sister of Judy Nitchke
Carole Grove and Sue Pickett, friends of Marsha Irmer
Brian Fullam, brother-in-law of Lois Robinson
Audrey Crimian & Amy Riemenscheider, sisters of Candy (Jim) Pankow
Shelley Diakun, sister-in-law of Jim & Kate Olson
Carrie Eberly, Christie Guadagno, Tom Hughes, Sandy William, family of Bobbie Traina
Bonnie Beebe, friend of Sue Hadala
Nohl Michael Heitzenrsater, infant, friend of Karen Caton
Colleen O'Connor friend of Jean Delamere & Barb King
Phylis Dryden, sister-in-law of Lee Dryden
Doris Curtin, family of Emily Dryden Curtin
Suzanne Kelly, sister of Lee Dryden
Carol Dixon, sister of Joni Coté
Jill & Ken Porter, Guy & Mary Wilcox, friends of Marsha Irmer
Jen Diakun, daughter of Kate & Jim Olson
Miriam Benson, friend of Kate & Jim Olson
Charlene Ferrara, Family of Christine Ferrara

For the Sake of the World

- For wise governing dealing with political tension, suffering, and peace for our nation and the world
- Healing, comfort and strength for those seeking refuge from natural disasters.
- Those victimized by homelessness, 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.