

# The Eagle

December  
2023

**ST. JOHN'S  
CONGREGATIONAL  
LEADERSHIP**

Rev. Don Reidell  
*president*

CJ Ullrich  
*vice president | personnel*

Lee Dryden  
*secretary | mutual ministry*

Ellen Pancoe  
*treasurer*

Ginny Hohl  
*financial secretary*

Rick Bosch  
*building & grounds*

Lisa Leach  
*fellowship*

Candy Scorsone  
*worship & music*

Shirleen Besch  
*social ministry*

Brian Hirschey  
*finance*

**DEAR FRIENDS,**

Tis the season.

Tis the season for stewardship.

Tis the season for thanks-giving.

Tis the season for worship.

Tis the season for candles, Christmas lights, wreaths, & trees.

At St. John we welcome this season with open arms and an eagerness and excitement to begin another church year. While the days grow colder and darker, we hope to provide each and everyone of you a sacred space for spiritual renewal and respite from the craziness of life. To that end, please note the following events and worship times that are unique to this season...

Sunday, November 26th following both services  
**Hanging of the Greens**

Sunday, December 10th @ 9:30AM  
**Congregational Meeting & Coffee Hour**

Sundays December 17th @ 9:30AM  
**Children's Christmas Pageant (note: one worship this Sunday)**

Sunday, December 24th @ 9:30AM, 3PM, & 5PM  
**Christmas Eve Worship**

Sunday, December 31st @ 9:30AM  
**Service of Lessons & Carols (note: one worship this Sunday)**

As many of us make ready our homes for the holidays and hosting, may we also make ready our hearts for the Advent of our Lord. In addition to public worship and fellowship, I commend to you the practices of prayer and reading scripture at home. These days provide us the opportunity to not just notice how light shines in the darkness, but to cherish it.

So, come let us adore him. After all, tis the season.

peace + love,  
Pastor Scott

light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not  
overcome it.

John 1:6

**Pledge cards may be returned to the church  
during worship or to the office during the  
week. Pledges may be made online at  
[www.sjlcamherst.com/pledge](http://www.sjlcamherst.com/pledge)**



## Pastoral Acts

Baptism of Kaliana Marie Roll (7/22)

Baptism of Olivia Renee Bordonaro (9/10)

Baptism of Oliver James May (10/1)

Baptism of Eloisa Marie & Ysabella Dahlia Albuez (10/8)

Baptism of Owen Matthew Walsh (11/5)

Marriage of Sean Menzies & Abigail Lotz (8/5)

# Mortgage Fund

To construct the Outdoor Ministry Center our congregation took out a mortgage of \$250,000.

The loan has a variable interest rate that will (likely) increase in 4.5 years.

To assist with monthly payments and accelerate the payoff of the loan we have created a “mortgage fund.”

We are asking each family to prayerfully consider if you can support this effort. **Our current goal is to raise enough money to completely cover the cost of the monthly payments in 2024.**

If you are in a position to help, the cost of a monthly mortgage payment is \$1,300. To assist with half a month it is \$650. And a quarter of a month is \$325. Additionally, one time gifts in **any amount** are appreciated greatly. If you want to contribute \$10+ a week or a month to the mortgage fund, that can be set up on our website at:

[www.sjlcamherst.com/give](http://www.sjlcamherst.com/give)

Donations can be made at any time by noting “mortgage” on the memo line of the check or envelope.

Thank you for your consideration & generosity. Together, we can make a significant difference.



# COUNCIL UPDATE - SEPTEMBER

The meeting began with prayer from Pastor. After the agenda and minutes were approved, Pastor and the committees offered their reports.

Pastor Scott summarized his monthly ministry, including pastoral acts.

**Social Ministry** noted fall happenings including another year of Bags of Cheer.

**Fellowship** noted plans for the upcoming Tailgate Church when the Bills' play at 9:30AM on Sunday, October 8th. The Men's Ministry continues to meet on Saturday mornings.

**Worship & Music** met and proposed a new arrangement with Cindy Lin for her to accompany the 8:30AM service in addition to her responsibilities for the 10:30AM service. The committee continued to discuss live-streaming and the best approach moving forward.

We continue to seek a Youth Director. The few leads we pursued did not pan out.

**Christian Education** noted the ongoing need for teachers.

**Building & Grounds** reported on boiler maintenance & paint recycling.

The **financial report** indicated that we currently have a revenue over expenses thanks in large part to faithful giving. Thank you St. John! The car show made \$3,000 in profit for the OMC. The congregation donated over \$4,000 for Disaster Relief. Again, thank you St. John!

In the business portion of the meeting the OMC was discussed. We will pursue a new plan for the altar and require a plan to reduce the mortgage as quickly as possible.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.



MANY THANKS TO THE CLARENCE HS INTERACTIVE CLUB AND TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN FOR COLLECTING 100+ BAGS OF CHEER!



# COUNCIL UPDATE - OCTOBER

Pastor Scott led the meeting off with devotions. Once the agenda and minutes were approved, Pastor gave his report. He noted 4 baptisms in the past few weeks and the increasing need for pastoral conversation with members and friends of the church as many people are struggling with grief and life in this world.

The committees offered the following reports:

**Social Ministry** - we hope to partner with Sleep in Heavenly Peace for an Angel Tree Project. We are looking for a volunteer to help deliver our collected food to the food pantry. We are collecting Bags of Cheer.

**Fellowship** - Tailgate Church was a success. A chili cook-off will once again be held this year.

**Worship & Music** - Cindy Lin is now our Music Director and accompanies both services in a new arrangement coordinated with Pastor Scott & the Praise Band.

**Christian Education** - approximately 10 children have been attending.

**Youth** - new day, same story. Confirmation will resume on November 5th at 11:30AM.

**Finance** - our primary insurance company has merged with another one of our insurance companies. Brian Hirsche is looking into what benefits this might have for St. John.

**Stewardship** - a meeting has been called to get the Stewardship appeal moving.

**Cemetery** - prayers for the Breton family as they mourn the death of Bruce. Bruce has managed our cemetery service for decades (the Breton family for over 100 years). St. John has been assured that business will continue as usual.

**Finance** - our revenue over expenses dropped by \$15,000 over the month. We hope giving will rebound as we close the fiscal year. A motion was made and approved to send \$2,500 to the Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land.

In the business portion of the meeting the council set the date of our annual meeting for December 10th at 9:30AM. At this meeting, ministry will be reviewed, new council members elected, and a 2024 budget will be passed.

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Five of our confirmation youth attended a class on the sacrament of Baptism and then witnessed the Baptism of Owen Walsh.



Directing Thrivent Choice Dollars  
to St. John

It will soon be the season of giving. All Thrivent Product holders, please remember St. John and direct your Choice Dollars to St. John. Not sure if you qualify? Call 800 847 4836 and say Thrivent Choice.

Contact me if you have a question.

Thank you.

Jane D'Agostino

[Dagostinos@gmail.com](mailto:Dagostinos@gmail.com)

716 713 8716

# Annual Meeting

THE ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH AT 9:30AM.

AT THIS MEETING WE WILL REVIEW OUR MINISTRY YEAR, ELECT NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS, AND VOTE ON A 2024 MINISTRY ACTION PLAN (BUDGET).

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.



## December Worship

**Sunday, December 3rd**  
**8:30 & 10:30AM**

**Sunday, December 10th**  
**8:30 & 10:30AM**

**Sunday, December 17th**  
**9:30AM**

**Sunday, December 31st**  
**9:30AM**

**Sunday, December 24th**  
**9:30AM, 3 & 5PM**



to order a poinsettia visit:  
[www.sjlcamherst.com/christmas](http://www.sjlcamherst.com/christmas)  
or email [office@sjlcamherst.com](mailto:office@sjlcamherst.com)

The more the merrier!!!

Calling all youth!

The pageant will  
be held on 12/17  
@ 9:30AM



Pageant practice  
will be held on  
Sundays @ 9:30AM



The men's ministry will continue to meet  
in-person and via zoom on Saturdays @ 9AM.  
Breakfast is held the first Monday of the month @ 8AM.  
For details email [rickseab@gmail.com](mailto:rickseab@gmail.com)

Bible study is held  
Wednesday evenings at 7PM via zoom.  
Our current study is the Gospel of Mark.  
For the zoom link email  
[office@sjlcamherst.com](mailto:office@sjlcamherst.com)



Have you prayed  
yet today?





## Creative Ministry News

The Creative Ministry group certainly has been busy this fall. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 10:00 until about noon. Our most recent project has been to make and fill blessing bags to donate. This project was completed through a Thrivent grant submitted by Jane D'Agostino. Supplies to make drawstring bags and items to fill them were purchased with the funds. Each bag was filled with a variety of personal care items and 2 pairs of socks. In October twenty-four bags were delivered to Compass House, a shelter for homeless teens in the Buffalo area.

Our current project is making port pillows and drain pockets for patients at Roswell. The port pillows are attached to car seatbelts to protect permanent chemo ports patients have for ongoing treatments. The drain pockets are given to mastectomy patients to use after surgery. Most patients go home with one or possibly two drains to take care of and these pockets are a help. At this time 120 of these items are a work in progress and will be delivered soon.

On December 13th we will have guest speakers talk to us about Wings Flights of Hope. This organization flies patients and their families to other cities to receive medical care that may not be available for them in WNY. The pilots are volunteers and this service is free of charge to patients and their family. It will be interesting to hear more about this wonderful organization. Judy and Dave Nitchke shared information about this group after chatting with them at Erie County Fair. I have had several former students get transportation to NYC through Wings. Our group will be making "blessing bags" to be given to various patients. The bags will contain handy items to have on hand as well as puzzle books, etc. For more information check out their website, [www.wingsflight.org](http://www.wingsflight.org).

Also, if you are interested in coming to hear the talk by one of the pilots contact me for more information.

Future projects planned are clothing protectors and glasses cases for local nursing homes. Lap blankets are available those hospitalized or on the prayer list. New ideas for things to make and donate are always welcome.



**MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS, DRIVERS, THE MAIN TRANSIT JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS, AND ESPECIALLY TO BASIL CLASSICS FOR SPONSORING THIS EVENT. ALTOGETHER THE CHURCH AND FIRE DEPARTMENT JUNIORS EACH COLLECTED \$3,000 TO SUPPORT OUR ONGOING MISSIONS! NOT TOO SHABBY FOR A DAY THAT WAS FILLED WITH SO MUCH FUN & FELLOWSHIP.**



Dear Jane,  
The Creative Ministry,  
and St John Congregation,

Thank you so much for your beautiful gifts in honor of our daughter Olivia's baptism. The handmade blanket, banner, medallion and bear are so beautiful and special.

With love,

Nick, Jenna and Olivia Bordonaro

Pastor Scott &  
St John Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the baptism of our sweet Owen! We are grateful for all you do.

The Walshes

# THANK YOU

Dear Judy &  
St. John Lutheran Church,

My brother and I would like to thank you for everything you did for my mom's memorial luncheon. It was lovely and very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Christine & Marty Semrau

Dear Pastor Scott and  
Members of St. John,

We wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your continued support of the Tiger's Den Food Pantry. Your generous donation of \$100.00 will be used to provide basic needs for families suffering from food insecurity.

Your donation could not have come at a better time. We are finally recovering from the lack of food donations over the summer and the increase in the number of families in need. Your generosity allows us to continue to provide for families suffering from food insecurity.

As always, we appreciate everything you do to help us out. Thank you so much for being part of our food insecurity ministry.

Tiger's Den Team

Thank You for your generosity!  
Your contributions allow St. John to send over \$3000.00 to EICA World Hunger for emergency disaster relief for Hawaii and other threatened areas.

# Happy Birthday

## September

Paul Swanson 09/02  
Audrey Eckhardt 09/02  
Al Kaye 09/03  
Jill Rainero 09/03  
Jill Szykowny 09/03  
Matthew Rosa 09/03  
Jerry Szykowny 09/04  
Charlene Gifford 09/04  
Lisa Bogart 09/05  
Connor Wark 09/05  
Brian Roll 09/07  
Kerri Zehler 09/08  
Haley Parker 09/08  
Andy Licht 09/13  
Beatrice Lawniczak 09/13  
Judith Nitchke 09/17  
Janice Svec 09/17  
Kate Hannon 09/17  
Diana Brock 09/18  
Vikki Hirschey 09/18  
Kim Roll 09/19  
Janet Cooper 09/25  
Betty Williams 09/25  
Jean Yanik 09/25  
Marlene Hooper 09/25  
David Pawlowski 09/26  
Justin McMullen 09/26  
John Wendelin 09/27  
Thomas Leach 09/27  
Matthew Roll 09/28

## October

Shavonne Kruszynski 10/02  
Evelyn Ullrich 10/03  
Oaklie Zdrojewski 10/04  
Sean Menzies 10/05  
Mya Carson 10/06  
Conner Merlihan 10/07  
Brooklyn Gerstung 10/09  
Ashton Fink 10/10  
Kenneth Reid 10/11  
Deborah Turley 10/11  
Barbara Tiffany 10/13  
Sheryl Kutis 10/14  
Allison Goehle 10/15  
Richard Bosch 10/16  
Victoria Utz 10/16  
Sarah Reid 10/17  
Charles Crankshaw 10/18  
Michael Manning 10/18  
Zachary Mayer 10/19  
Alyssa Hong 10/19  
Andrea Goubiski 10/21  
James Olson 10/21  
Larry King 10/22  
Diane McMullen 10/22  
Jean Delamere 10/24  
Darryl Steinman 10/24  
Michael Utz 10/25  
Joel May 10/27  
Peter Menasco 10/29  
Paulette Allen 10/30  
Gail Drahms 10/31  
Kenneth Figel 10/31



# Happy Birthday

## November

LOGAN BESCH 11/03  
GIA RAINERO 11/03  
JILL LAWIDA 11/04  
WENDY BARTH 11/08  
CARLTON ULLRICH, II 11/08  
JOHN REICH 11/09  
GRADY KOZLOWSKI 11/10  
MATTHEW MARTIN 11/10  
SANDRA PARKER 11/12  
KATIE CARSON 11/14  
MICHAEL GOEHLE 11/15  
ROBERT KOHOUT 11/16  
JASON MORRELL 11/16  
SARAH MERLIHAN 11/18  
ASA PAWLOWSKI 11/18  
PETER SCHMUDE 11/18  
ARIS OHANESSIAN 11/19  
LAMAR TODD 11/19  
LEE DRYDEN 11/20  
GORDON STEINHILBER 11/20  
MICHAEL ZEHLER 11/21  
DAVID MCMULLEN 11/22  
LEAH MARTIN 11/23  
VICTORIA ALLEN 11/25  
DAVID BUROW 11/26  
NICHOLE GERSTUNG 11/26  
LILLIAN SCORSONE 11/27  
MARSHA LEWIS 11/30  
EMILY REID 11/30

## December

JUDY SWANSON 12/01  
DAVID SCHMUDE 12/02  
WILLIAM LAWNICZAK 12/04  
DONALD REIDELL 12/04  
CHARLES ROJEK 12/04  
NICOLE FAVALE 12/05  
NANCY JAMES 12/05  
MARY ELLEN UTZ 12/08  
SCOTT LAWNICZAK 12/09  
DELANEY HANNON 12/10  
MARGARET (MIDGE) DAVIS 12/13  
VICTORIA LOCHEAD 12/14  
VINCENT TOBIA 12/14  
ERIC GERSTUNG 12/21  
REBECCA ROLL 12/21  
CHARLES PLATZER 12/24  
JARED KACHELMEYER 12/25  
ANDREW EKBERG 12/27  
DANIELLE MAY 12/27



# ST. JOHN PRAYER LIST

HOSPITALIZED AND HOMEBOUND  
COLLEEN GUNNING, ANN HENRY, WAYNE YENDALL

## LOSS AND BEREAVEMENT

### HEALING, COMFORT & SPECIAL CONCERNS

JUDY NITCHEKE, JONI COTÉ, RICK BOSCH, BOB TIFFANY,  
GAYLE BOSCH, JERRY SZYKOWNY, JENNIFER EKBERG, JUDY YENDALL,  
JOHN SIVAK, MILLIE WEBB, RICH TRAINA, LAMAR TODD, LOIS ROBINSON, LARRY KING

### BRIAN FULLAM, BROTHER-IN-LAW OF LOIS ROBINSON

AUDREY CRIMIAN & AMY RIEMENSCHIEDER, SISTERS OF CANDY (JIM) PANKOW

SUE PICKETT, FRIEND OF MARSJA IRMER

### SHELLEY DIAKUN, SISTER-IN-LAW OF JIM & KATE OLSON

CARRIE EBERLY, CHRISTIE GUADAGNO, TOM HUGHES, SANDY WILLIAM, FAMILY OF BOBBIE TRAINA

CATHY TOBIA, FAMILY OF ELLEN LOCHEAD

BONNIE BEEBE, FRIEND OF SUE HADALA

NOHL MICHAEL HEITZENRATER, INFANT, FRIEND OF KAREN CATON

COLLEEN O'CONNOR FRIEND OF JEAN DELAMERE & BARB KING

PHYLLIS DRYDEN, SISTER-IN-LAW OF LEE DRYDEN

GENE OVERDORF, FAMILY OF MIKE DEMPSEY

SUE FRIEY, FRIEND OF LAURA KACHHELMAYER

DORIS CURTIN, FAMILY OF EMILY DRYDEN CURTIN

AGUSTIN BLANCO & MERY SANANES, FRIENDS OF MATT COTÉ

SUZANNE KELLY, SISTER OF LEE DRYDEN

CAROL DIXON, SISTER OF JONI COTÉ

CAROL ALLISON, SISTER OF DENI KRANTZ

GUY & MARY WILCOX, FRIENDS OF MARSJA IRMER

JEN DIAKUN, DAUGHTER OF KATE & JIM OLSON

MIRIAM BENSON, FRIEND OF KATE & JIM OLSON

PAULA ALTIERI, FRIEND OF TRIS REESE

JOYCE GEARY, FRIEND OF BARB KING

## FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD

- FOR WISE GOVERNING DEALING WITH POLITICAL TENSION, SUFFERING, AND ALL CONFLICTS IN OUR NATION AND WORLD WIDE.
- HEALING, COMFORT AND STRENGTH FOR THOSE SEEKING REFUGE FROM NATURAL DISASTERS.
- THOSE VICTIMIZED BY HOMELESSNESS, HUNGER, LONELINESS, VIOLENCE, RACISM, ANTI-SEMITISM, ABUSE IN ANY FORM, COERCION, AND ADDICTION.
- FOR THE YOUTH, WHO STRUGGLE WITH ANXIETY AND OTHER ISSUES OF MENTAL HEALTH.
- THOSE WHO GRIEVE OVER THE SENSELESS ACTS OF MASS SHOOTINGS.
- FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NO ONE TO PRAY FOR THEM.

## MILITARY

MATT NEWMAN, DREW STEINHILBER, BEN HOYT, MAJ. KURT WASILEWSKI

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.