

Sept/Oct
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

Susan Ott
social ministry

Ken Figel
finance / cemetery

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PASTOR

REV. CHARLIE GREENE
VISITATION PASTOR

BRIGID MONICA

ADMIN. ASST.

MIKE DEMPSEY
SEXTON

CINDY LIN

MUSIC DIRECTOR

ALEX DOMINIQUE

YOUTH DIRECTOR

The Eagle

Dear Members & Friends of St. John,

In the fall of 2025, our congregation will embark upon an exciting endeavor to enhance our positive momentum and address our biggest needs. We are calling this effort "Mission 200: Our Faith, Legacy, & Future." Mission 200 intends to honor our past and set us on a strategic path as we prepare for our 200th anniversary in 2033.

At St. John we have a rich history and a vibrant future. Our abundant story began with a faithful group of immigrants worshipping above a grocery store in the early 1800's. In 1833 we incorporated, called a pastor, and built a church on Hickory Street. In the decades that followed we started a cemetery and an orphanage. We "birthed" enough congregations that we earned the nickname: "The mother church of Buffalo Lutheranism." In the 1950's we moved to Main St. in Amherst. In 1964, our beautiful sanctuary was completed. In 2002, we embarked upon a campaign to create the Gathering Space and address other capital improvements. Most recently, we constructed the Outdoor Ministry Center to improve our campus and create a worship and gathering area in the midst of God's creation. These are the legacies of St. John.

As we prepare for our 200th anniversary, we rejoice in the renewed energy and growth at St. John. Our youth ministry and Sunday school continue to nourish families. Our Creative Ministry and Caring Hearts teams show the world God's love. Our men's ministry provides holy conversation, great breakfasts, and church improvements. Our worship services, including increased baptisms and celebrations, ground us in the Word. Simultaneously, our connections to the community continue to deepen in creative and life-giving ways.

To honor our past and capture the energy at St. John right now we are launching this campaign with the intention of capitalizing on our biggest opportunities and addressing our needs. We begin this ambitious endeavor trusting that our efforts will not just bless the church today but be a tremendous blessing to the future of St. John.

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In short, Mission 200 seeks to raise \$500,000 with the intent to erase debt, provide restroom facilities and an altar at the OMC, refurbish the Youth Room, provide necessary Sanctuary improvements (including organ repair and improved lighting and sound), address capital improvements like the heating system, and much more. This is a three-year campaign. We hope that when the time comes you will be able to attend one of our gatherings where more information will be shared. In the meantime, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. Thank you for playing a role in this great story of God's mission through St. John Lutheran Church. Mission 200 will not just honor our past, it will set our congregation up for a rich and vibrant future.

To God Be the Glory.

PSDH

Save the Date: 9/21/25

**St. John is embarking on a capital campaign titled
Mission 200: Our Faith, Legacy, & Future.**

**In celebration of this important event, please plan to
join us for a reception, presentation and conversation
about how to achieve the goals.**



Church | Tailgate | Football

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Join us for worship, tailgate fellowship, and a Buffalo Bills watch party. If the weather is too iffy we will fellowship inside. If the weather cooperates, we will be under the OMC.



GATHERING GOD'S GIFTS FOR GOOD

2025 Gala Event

11 October 2025 at *The Buffalo Club*

388 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

www.WNYLutheranCharities.org

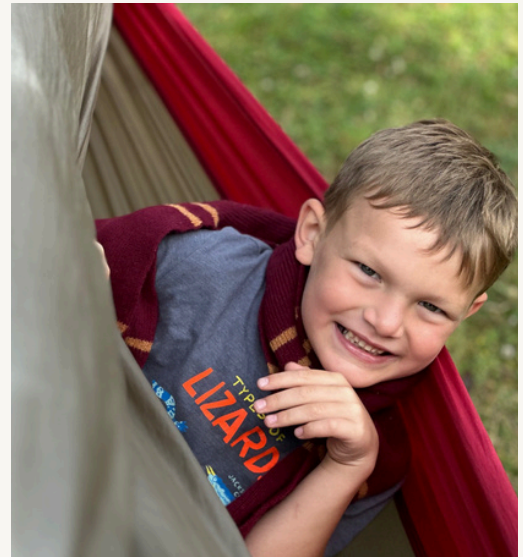
SAVE THE DATE

Food Pantry Items

We are ALWAYS collecting food for local pantries. Please consider bringing an item from your pantry to worship with you on Sundays to feel the hungry.



LIFE @ SJLC



YOUTH NOTES

NAME : ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

CLASS : YOUTH GROUP & CONFIRMATION

Youth Group resumes on
September 9th 6-8PM.

It is for youth grades 5 through 12.

We gather in the youth room for
fellowship, fun, and faith formation.

Confirmation Classes resume on October 5nd
from 11am - 12pm (after church). It is for grades
6+. Students starting this program in 6th grade
this year will be confirmed in October of 9th
grade. Confirmation Classes are held on the
1st Sunday of the month Oct to May.

We are due for another FIRST
COMMUNION Celebration. If you
feel your child is ready to receive
the sacrament, please contact
our office.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>About</u>
SEP. 9	6-8 PM	WELCOME BACK!!! @St. John For our opening Youth Group of the 2025-2026 school year. We will meet in the Pavilion for Pizza, Snacks, Drinks, Games, and a time to gather and have fun.
SEP. 23	6-8 PM	While Youth Group is all fun in games we have special plans to make some amazing changes we will be doing all the norms with some small organizing of the soon to be devotional/lounge! Dinner will be TACO IN A BAG!
OCT. 7	6-8 PM	Let's go for walk! If the weather allows us! Either way it's a Ice Cream Sunday type of day, but on a Tuesday!!! Either we are going to Andersen's or we are going to the Youth Room. Other food and snacks will be there!
OCT. 28	6-8 PM	ITSSS SPOOKY SEASON!! That means wear a costume and bring a nice little dish if possible and lets party!! The Kids will take course in a little Halloween riddle!

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a bright red, textured heart. The heart is the central focus, and the text is overlaid on it.

Caring Hearts Meeting

There will be a Caring Hearts meeting after church on September 14 in the Fellowship Hall. We would like to reconnect and evaluate how effective the Caring Hearts ministry is. We are looking for a few more volunteers to help deliver altar flowers. We would also like to plan a fun social event for the fall. Please come with your ideas!

New members are always welcome!

Please contact
Laura Kachelmeyer or
Barb King with any questions.

The Creative Ministry group will begin meeting again for the year on September 10th. We meet the second Wednesday of each month through May from 10:00 a.m. until about noon. Each month there is a project that will be donated locally to a hospital, nursing home or non-profit group. We also make items to be given to members who are hospitalized or homebound. Anyone is welcome to join the group. You do not need to sew. There is something for everyone to do each time. Come join the fellowship, good conversation and have some fun. Questions? Contact Pam Figel at kfigel@aol.com or (716) 639-0235

A graphic of a lightbulb with a yellow pencil inside it. The pencil is positioned vertically, with its tip pointing downwards. The lightbulb is glowing, and the pencil is also glowing, creating a warm, creative atmosphere.

Creative Ministry

Meeting Dates:

September 10

› **October 8**

› **November 12**

December 10

› **January 14**

› **February 11**

› **March 11**

› **April 8**

› **May 13**

Book Club

Join us for lively conversation about our next book club selection,

The Bestseller by Olivia Goldsmith.

At Davis & Dash, one of New York's most prestigious publishing houses, five new authors will be published—but only one of them will be a bestseller. They have worked long and hard to write their novels of romance and murder, drama and love, but the story behind the stories is even more exciting. And the vicious competition to get the right agent, the perfect editor, and the choice spot on the bestseller list must be seen to be believed.

Read the novel and come share your insights when we meet on September 9 at 7:00 in the Gathering Space. Everyone is welcome!

Deborah L. Turley



Pastoral Acts:

Celebrations of Life:

Mary Gilbert

Beverly Felser

Betty Kimmer

Karen Caton

Baptisms:

Charlie Bulinski

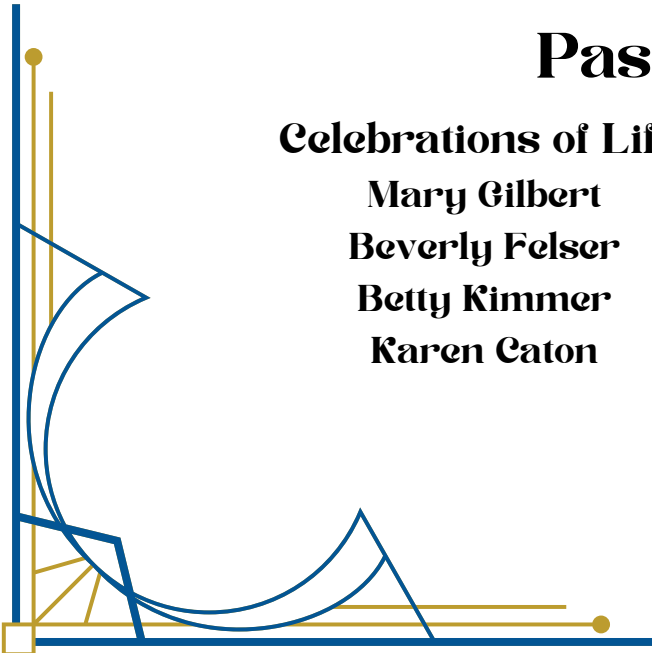
17 August 2025

Leo Assuntino Bornadaro

23 August 2025

Haley Constance Hadala

24 August 2025



Thank you

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Buffalo VA Western NY HCS (528) patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of 131 \$10.00 Tops gift cards and 3 \$20.00 Tops gift cards, a total value \$1370.00.

It is through the efforts of community partners like you that allow us to continue the quality care and services that we seek to provide for our deserving Veterans. We look forward to the opportunity to work with you again for future events.

Thank you for your continued support and advocacy,

Sincerely,

Nicholas M. LaMarca

Dear Rev. Hannon,

Thank you very much for your gift of \$1000.00 received on 7/8/2025, in support of our 2025 *Leadership Council* campaign. Over the past twenty-five years, our *Leadership Council* campaigns have raised over \$12 million dollars for the Niagara Lutheran Health Foundation!

Donor support year after year helps us to achieve our goals and grow even stronger. Niagara Lutheran continues to be blessed with so many wonderful benefactors who enable this organization to thrive, despite today's daunting financial and public health circumstances. Our heartfelt thanks go to you for making our mission of service possible.

Thank you again for your faithful support of Niagara Lutheran! Thank you again, so much for this latest expression of wonderful generosity from you and the council and congregation of St. John! Best wishes for a great summer, and best regards,

David E. McMullen

Executive Director of Marketing and Development

Thank you

Dear Friends at St John and Caring Hearts members,

Thank you for all of your kind birthday greetings! I miss being in church and singing in the choir...

It humbles me that although I am no longer able to attend services, many of you continue to ask about me and send greetings. I am grateful to Pastor Scott for his visits with the gift of Holy Communion and to Pastor Greene for his phone calls and visits. It is heartwarming to be thought of.

May God's peace be with all of you,

John Sivak

P.S. A very special thank you to Laura K. for the delicious blueberries!

Dear Pastor Hannon:

On behalf of Kevin House board of directors, staff and guests we serve, thank you for your generous in-kind donation of 25 bags of breakfast items. coffee grounds, granola bars, oatmeal, cereal, etc. valued at \$600.00.

Support from our community of donors like you plays a crucial role in helping Kevin Guest House provide a safe and supportive home away from home for more than 2,000 guests we serve each year as they travel from home for specialized and often critical medical care for themselves or a loved one. During these trying times your in-kind donation is especially appreciated.

We extend our sincere appreciation and want you to know we are grateful that you have chosen to support us. Wishing safety and good health to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Thank you for your support!

Linsey Zimdahl Weaver

Executive Director



September

Audrey Eckhardt 09/02
Paul Swanson 09/02
Jill Rainero 09/03
Matthew Rosa 09/03
Charlene Gifford 09/04
Jerry Szykowny 09/04
Lisa Bogart 09/05
Connor Wark 09/05
Matthew Krueger 09/07
Brian Roll 09/07
Haley Parker 09/08
Kerri Zehler 09/08
Beatrice Lawniczak 09/13
Andy Licht 09/13
Kate Hannon 09/17
Judith Nitchke 09/17
Diana Brock 09/18
Olivia Lorenzo 09/18
Kim Roll 09/19
Luke Galmarini 09/24
Janet Cooper 09/25
Betty Williams 09/25
Jean Yanik 09/25
Justin McMullen 09/26
David Pawlowski 09/26
Thomas Leach 09/27
Matthew Roll 09/28

October

Shavonne Kruszynski 10/02
Ann Lazroe 10/03
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
Mary McVee 10/11
Kenneth Reid 10/11
Deborah L. Turley 10/11
Alexa Yard 10/11
Larry Swindle 10/13
Barbara Tiffany 10/13
Sheryl Kutis 10/14
Allison Goehle 10/15
Richard Bosch 10/16
Victoria Utz 10/16
Sarah Reid 10/17
Michael Manning 10/18
Alyssa Hong 10/19
Zachary Mayer 10/19
Andrea Goubiski 10/21
James Olson 10/21
Larry King 10/22
Diane McMullen 10/22
Jean Delamere 10/24
Brooks Holler 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

Gathered In Prayer (GiP) St. John Lutheran Church Prayer List

Bereaved

Hospitalized and Homebound

Richard Galmarini (Barb), Colleen Gunning

Healing, Comfort & Special Concerns

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

Rev. Ken Hilston, friend of Ray Hohl
George Walgrove, family of Diane & Dave McMullen
Joanna Graser, family of Jean Delamere
Quinn Staton, family of Joni Cote
Jerome Schnell, family of Laura Kachelmeyer
Adrienne Granitz, friend of Marsha Irmer
Linda Sievert, friend of Ginny Hohl
Tom Pankow, family of Jim Pankow
Suzanne Kelly, family of Lee Dryden
Marshall, family of MarMarksha Irmer
Tomoni Steinhilber, family of Barb Tiffany
Ginger Ward, friend of Marsha Irmer
Scott Behrend, friend of Ginny & Ray Hohl
Orlando Siravo, family of Deni Kranz
Joe Roland, friend of Pam & Ken Figel
Marilou Taylor, friend of Lee Dryden
Pr. David Preisinger, friend of Marsha Irmer
David Giertz, family of Ellen Pancoe
Lois Robinson, friend of St. John

Joel Hutcheson, family of Jim & Kate Olson
Jen Diakun, family of Kate & Jim Olson
Dawn Ruettimann, family of Laura Maraschiello
Heather Miller, family of Bishop Lee Miller
Dave Rouse, family of Judy & Dave Nitchke
Miriam Benson, friend of Kate & Jim Olson
Mary May, family of Kathy Wood
Ollie & Mackenna McDonough, family of
Laura Kachelmeyer
Charlie Ryan, family of Kate & Jim Olson
Audrey Crimian & Amy Riemenscheider,
family of Candy & Jim Pankow
Christie Guadagno, family of Bobbie & Rich Traina
Bonnie Beebe, friend of Susan Hadala
Colleen O'Connor, friend of Jean Delamere &
Barb King
Phylis Dryden, family of Lee Dryden
Kristine Kelly, family of Lee Dryden
Carol Dixon, family of Joni Cote

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, addiction, coercion and abuse in any form
- ~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

Contact Deb Francis with any prayer requests to add to the list at 716-512-5513
or beaconseeker52@gmail.com, or call the church office.