

The Good News

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville, NY
July/August 2026

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

Growing up, I was a soccer player. From early on all the way through high school and during college, many an hour was spent on a soccer field. Even after I graduated from college, I played soccer recreationally with a few people I knew from college. Soccer was part of who I was, and I enjoyed playing it and watching it on television. My playing days have long been over – the abuse on my body in early years has caught up with me. And while I don't watch it on the regular, every four years my eyes are glued to the television to watch the biggest soccer tournament in the world – the World Cup. It's like the NCAA Basketball Tournament on steroids. Games are held every day for 5 weeks, and there are any number of surprises, upsets, glorious-looking goals, and heartbreaking defeats. It is no overexaggeration to say that when the World Cup comes around, literally the world is watching. The fans are dedicated, both in person and in bars and viewing parties all over the globe, some people spending obscene amounts of money to travel to the host sites and get tickets to the game, wearing their country's colors in all its glory.

Additionally, I have been watching *Welcome to Wrexham*, a docu-series on a professional football club in Wales owned by Rob MacElhane (of *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* fame), and Ryan Reynolds (of *Deadpool*, and a bunch of other movies and shows fame), which was floundering in the bottom division of English Football. The show has followed the team's meteoric rise to the 2nd highest level over five seasons, all the while getting to know the players, the fans, and the vibe of the town of Wrexham along the way. I remarked to my wife while watching the show once that the whole thing is a religion of sorts. People in the town live and die by their club, talk about it at pubs and coffee shops, attend every game (home and away!), and raise their kids to love the team. They speak about it passionately, crying with joy when the team wins, and crying with pain and frustration when they don't.

Which led me to think about how we go about our faith, and how that plays itself out at home. Whether it's every four years on the world stage or every week in the hometown, people are passionate about their football (soccer, as we call it), and share stories and sing the songs and learn the cheers, and get the merch, and support the team. Yet when it comes to the most important of things to us – salvation in Christ – we talk little of it at home at times, we come to church and don't sing along, we think it a challenge to give any significant offering to support what goes on there, and even get to the point (especially in summertime) that if we don't go think it's no big deal. And the result is coming into focus. Young adults and children outside of Sunday School age are disappearing. They don't have an interest in the church, and while they might like Jesus and know a little about him, they are probably much more versed on the starting lineup for the Knicks or Rangers.

As God speaks through Moses in Deuteronomy, what he encourages is to do what we sometimes do with many other aspects of life. And it is simple: speak to our children about Jesus and salvation and the church and its importance. Show them the way of faith by attending services regularly, and participating while you are there. Explain to them what is going on, why we do what we do, and demonstrate the joy of service. In so doing, we will be raising up the next set of leaders in our church, people who will help to ensure that the church is here

for generations to come, and will faithfully carry along what has been started. This is not to say that we should give up cheering for a team or watching a sporting event, or even knowing things about all of them. However, if that is the essence of who we truly are, then what real hope is there. After all, what is better in the end? To have someone say about you that you were a real Mets fanatic? Or that you were a child of God who is now at peace in the arms of your Savior? All of this is far too important to leave as just a piece of our life. It is the very reason why we have hope, and why there is eternal joy. It is because of God, who is one, and who loves us enough to die for us in Christ Jesus, so that we may live with him eternally.

Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!

A home that is not wholly His—How sad and poor and dark it is!

Oh, blest the house; it prospers well. In peace and joy the parents dwell,

And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless His own (LSB #862, sts. 1 & 4).

~ Pastor Noack

Holy Happy Hour – As a kickoff to the Labor Day weekend, we will once again host a Holy Happy Hour on **September 4 from 5:30-7:30pm** at Pastor's house (45 Greene Ave). Food and beverages (adult and kid-friendly) will be provided. Come for a little bit or stay the whole time, we'd love to see you. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like to assure yourself a place to sit! Hope you can join us!

Summer Book Club – Like to read? Want to pick up something a little different from your normal, summer beach read? Join us for a book discussion on **Thursday, July 30 at 7pm**, discussing the new book *Being Family* by Scott Keith. "In *Being Family*, Dr. Scott Keith offers a compelling vision of what it means to live out the Christian faith through the daily realities of family life. Drawing from Scripture, the Lutheran tradition, and pastoral experience, Keith reminds readers that the home is not a detour from discipleship—it's the very place where God shows up. With warmth, clarity, and candor, Keith explores the vocations of father, mother, grandparent, child, and friend, showing how faith is passed down not through programs or perfection, but through repentance, forgiveness, and love. This is not a book of parenting techniques. It's a theological and practical guide to embracing your calling—even when it's messy." Just buy the book, give it a read, and then join us for the discussion. You can order the book on Amazon or at 1517.org. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor. Friends are welcome to join us!

Official Acts at Saint John's (thru July 1):

Baptisms:

Brooke Gerri Rose Heyanka May 31
Emma Marsich June 28

Weddings:

Quinn/Kenn May 30

Funerals:

William J. Guterwill June 8

...let freedom ring. Those words conclude the first stanza of AMERICA (My Country 'Tis of Thee) written by Samuel Francis Smith in 1831. *Ringin'* has played a significant role throughout history. Consider a few:

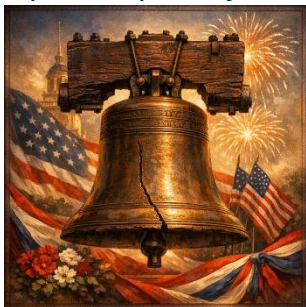
The largest of the bells at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris weighs 13 tons, sounds a sonorous F#, dates back to 1686 during the reign of Louis XIV, and is named the *Emmanuel* bell. Unlike other bells in the cathedral (which also have names,) *Emmanuel* was spared destruction during the French Revolution, was spared being melted down for its metal during the world wars, and was spared being damaged in the 2019 fire. *Emmanuel* was the first bell to ring on August 24, 1944 announcing the arrival of the first members of the French 2nd Armored Division. More bells start ringing - a first since June 1940 - joined by the largest bell (19 tons) in France, ringing from Sacré-Coeur, the basilica set on Montmartre overlooking all of Paris and heard nearly 10 miles away; the Allied forces poured in the next day, ending the German occupation of the city.

In June 1940, the bells of London and the UK were silenced, save for ringing a warning of an impending enemy invasion. The freedom to mark time via bells, the tolls, and magnificent "rings" that normally sounded around cities and country towns were silenced, as many people went off to war, and those behind tried to hold life together. The one exception was Big Ben. The lights illuminating the clock face were turned off so they wouldn't aid any incoming enemy planes, but the bell still rang – and at 9pm each evening called citizens to a "Silent Minute" of daily prayer and meditation after the ringing, and prior to the delivery of the BBC news broadcast.

Before America became a country, the *State House Bell* in the city of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, under its governor, William Penn, called the State Assembly to meetings & the townspeople to gather for important news via the then-current means of mass communication. That bell, deemed not pleasant, nor loud enough, was replaced by a newly commissioned bell in 1751 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Charter of Privileges (1701)*, a document that served as a precursor to the U. S. *Constitution & Bill of Rights*, granting, among other rights, the freedom of religion to the inhabitants of Pennsylvania. The new bell cracked on its first test. Recast and ready to use by 1753, it replaced the old state house bell, and by the 1830s, it came to be known as *The Liberty Bell*, a symbol of freedom in and for our country. Included in the cast for the bell is a quote from Leviticus 25:10 that references the biblical *Year of Jubilee* for the people of Israel, to "proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof" – a noble task for a bell, its ringers, and those who hear it! The Liberty Bell also cracked and was silenced, but our freedom to worship God lives on.

Among the celebrations of the 250th anniversary of the birth of the United States of America, there is a National Bell Festival calling for the ringing of bells nationwide at 2:50 pm on July 4. Listen for them, or pick up a bell and ring it. Pause, pray, and thank God for the freedom we have to worship Him, the One True God. May we not take that freedom, privilege, and right for granted, but rather, encourage one another to employ it! Take time for worship. Use the treasured freedom of speech to freely share the good news of Jesus Christ and His work of salvation on our behalf for all who, by faith, put their trust in Him.

My Country 'Tis of Thee concludes with the stanza/prayer:



*Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!*

May you have a safe and happy 4th of July Semiquincentennial Celebration, and also treasure the precious freedom and blessings our country offers us by God's grace!



Should you find bell ringing intriguing or infectious, ponder picking up a bell or two on Thursday evenings, come September. St. John's Eagle Eye Ringers have a fine, faithful crew. We also have more bells than the current hands! Lend an hour each week and your two hands to continue the tradition of ringing here in your church – and by it help call others to prayer! Talk to Cindy, or St. John's bell director, Rex Holden, to learn more!

Soles4Souls – Wish to thank Carla, Lloyd, and Cindy & Chris Smith for their help in transporting the 508 pairs of shoes to the depot in Huntington this past Saturday. They were thrilled with what we donated and said to thank all who contributed. THANK YOU to everyone for your help in making someone else's life better with your donation.

Mahjongg Social Club – Deanna Suckow is looking to put together a social club here at St. John's, playing the game of Mahjongg. Open to all ages! If interested, please reach out to Deanna Suckow at deannasuckow@yahoo.com or 631-316-0447 for more information.

Golf Outing – Sign up now for our annual golf outing at St. John's on **August 19, 2026 at 2pm**. We will once again be at the Timber Point Golf Course in Great River, prayerfully without the absolute deluge we had last year. Brochures are now available for registration or sponsorship information. All materials are also available on our website. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Giacoia or Kristin Noack, Golf Committee Chairs.

Tag Sale "Save the Date" – Now is the time to start putting aside those items you want to donate to our Treasure & Tag Sale on **August 8**. Please save your items at home for now. Please keep your eyes out for more information about this great event. - The Tag Sale Committee



ST. JOHN'S GOLF OUTING 2026

AUG 19
WED | 2026

TIMBER POINT
GOLF COURSE

EVENT INFO

Join us for a memorable day of golf, camaraderie, and support at the St. John's Golf Outing held at Timber Point Golf Course, located in Great River, NY.

PLAYERS & PARTICIPANTS

- Individual Player
- Group of 4 Players
- Reception & Dinner Only (*non-golfer*)

SPONSORSHIP

- Tiered Sponsorship Level Options (*Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver & Bronze*)
- Sponsor a Hole, Contest, Meal, or Tournament Activity



Info & Registration
stjohnsayville.org/2026golfouting

Register by July 19

Proceeds from the 2026 Golf Outing will benefit local outreach and ministry programs

DAILY BIBLE READING



July 2026

1 Joshua 6:6-27; Acts 10:18-33
 2 Joshua 7:1-26; Acts 10:34-48
 3 Joshua 8:1-28; Acts 11:1-18
 4 Joshua 10:1-25; Acts 11:19-30
 Sun 5 Joshua 23:1-16; Acts 13:1-12
 6 Joshua 24:1-31; Acts 10:18-33
 7 Judges 2:6-23; Acts 13:13-41
 8 Judges 3:7-31; Acts 13:42-52
 9 Judges 4:1-24; Acts 14:1-18
 10 Judges 6:1-24; Acts 14:19-15:5
 11 Judges 6:25-40; Acts 15:6-21
 Sun 12 Judges 7:1-23; Galatians 1:1-24
 13 Judges 13:1-25; Galatians 2:1-21
 14 Judges 14:1-20; Galatians 3:1-22
 15 Judges 15:1-16:3; Galatians 3:23-4:11
 16 Judges 16:4-30; Galatians 4:12-31
 17 1Samuel 1:1-20; Galatians 5:1-26
 18 1Samuel 1:21-2:17; Galatians 6:1-18
 Sun 19 1Samuel 2:18-36; Acts 15:22-41
 20 1Samuel 3:1-21; Acts 16:1-22
 21 1Samuel 4:1-22; Acts 16:23-40
 22 1Samuel 5:1-6 :3, 10-16; Acts 18:1-11, 23-28
 23 1Samuel 6:19-7 :17; Acts 19:1-22
 24 1Samuel 8:1-22; Acts 21:15-36
 25 1Samuel 9:1-27; Acts 21:37-22:16
 Sun 26 1Samuel 10:1-27; Acts 22 :17-29
 27 1Samuel 12:1-25; Acts 22 :30-23 :11
 28 1Samuel 13:1-18; Acts 23 :12-35
 29 1Samuel 14:47-15 :9; Acts 24 :1-23
 30 1Samuel 15:10-35; Acts 24 :24-25 :12
 31 1Samuel 16:1-23; Acts 25 :13-27

August 2026

1 1Samuel 17:1-19; Acts 26:1-23
 Sun 2 1Samuel 17:20-47; Acts 26:24-27:8
 3 1Samuel 17:48-18:9; Acts 27:9-26
 4 1Samuel 18:10-30; Acts 27 :27-44
 5 1Samuel 19:1-24; Acts 28:1-15
 6 1Samuel 20:1-23; Acts 28:16-31
 7 1Samuel 20:24-42; 1Corinthians 1:1-25
 8 1Samuel 24:1-22; 1Corinthians 1:26-2:16
 Sun 9 1Samuel 25:1-22; 1Corinthians 3:1-23
 10 1Samuel 25:23-44; 1Corinthians 4:1-21
 11 1Samuel 26:1-25; 1Corinthians 5:1-13
 12 1Samuel 28:3-25; 1Corinthians 6:1-20
 13 1Samuel 31:1-13; 1Corinthians 7:1-24
 14 2Samuel 1:1-27; 1Corinthians 7:25-40
 15 2Samuel 5:1-25; 1Corinthians 8:1-13
 Sun 16 2Samuel 6:1-19; 1Corinthians 9:1-23
 17 2Samuel 7:1-17; 1Corinthians 9:24-10:22
 18 2Samuel 7:18-29; 1Corinthians 10:23-11:16
 19 2Samuel 11:1-27; 1Corinthians 11:17-34
 20 2Samuel 12:1-25; 1Corinthians 12:1-13
 21 1Kings 1:1-4, 15:35; 1Corinthians 12:14-31
 22 1Kings 2:1-27; 1Corinthians 13:1-13
 Sun 23 1Kings 3:1-15; 2Corinthians 1:1-22
 24 1Kings 5:1-18; 2Corinthians 1:23-2:17
 25 1Kings 7:51-8:21; 2Corinthians 3:1-18
 26 1Kings 8:22-30, 46-63; 2Corinthians 4:1-18
 27 1Kings 9:1-9; 10:1-13; 2Corinthians 5:1-21
 28 1Kings 11:1-26; 2Corinthians 6:1-18
 29 1Kings 11:42-12:19; 2Corinthians 7:1-16
 Sun 30 1Kings 12:20-13:5, 33-34; 2Corinthians 8:1-24
 31 1Kings 16:29-17:24; 2Corinthians 9:1-15

July 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 28	29	30	Jul 1 6:00pm Basketball	2 7:00pm Judo	3	4
5 Pentecost 6 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service w/Choir	6 6:00pm Basketball	7 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	8 6:00pm Basketball	9 7:00pm Judo	10 6:00pm Basketball	11
12 Pentecost 7 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Divine Service	13 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm LIT	14 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	15 6:00pm Basketball	16 7:00pm Judo	17	18
19 Pentecost 8 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Divine Service	20 6:00pm Basketball	21 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	22 6:00pm Basketball	23 7:00pm Judo	24 6:00pm Basketball	25
26 Pentecost 9 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Divine Service	27 5:00pm Basketball 7:00pm LIT	28 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	29 5:00pm Basketball	30 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Book Club 7:00pm Judo	31 6:00pm Basketball	Aug 1

July Divine Service Assistant Schedule

July 5	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Bill Audia	Leo Rigaud
Ushers	Charlie Erb Jim Farrell	Jane Emmel & Kristin Noack
Reader	Jim Farrell	Dorothy Bauer
July 12	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Robert Bayley	Al Coppola
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Chuck & Judy Scott
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Treva Kopf
July 19	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Greg Calvano	Paul Erath
Ushers	Marcus & Annie Habeeb	Lloyd & Pam Arrasate
Reader	Jim Farrell	Paul Erath
July 26	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Charlie Erb	Al Coppola
Ushers	Steve & Janet Lindfors	Kevin Paul & Barbara Dahlgren
Reader	Pastor	Jenn Rooney

If you are unable to serve where assigned, please find someone you can switch with or someone who can take your place. Please let the Church Office know of any changes you make. Thank you.

July Readings

July 5: Zechariah 9:9-12; Romans 7:14-25a
July 12: Isaiah 55: 10-13; Romans 8:12-17
July 19: Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:18-27
July 26: Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Romans 8:28-39

August Readings

August 2: Isaiah 55:1-5; Romans 9:1-5
August 9: Job 38:4-18; Romans 10:5-17
August 16: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32
August 23: Isaiah 51:1-6; Romans 11:33-12:8
August 30: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Matthew 16:21-26

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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E-mail: pastor@stjohnsayville.org

Cindy Holden, Director of Music
E-mail: music@stjohnsayville.org

Whitney Dale, Office Administrator
E-mail: admin@stjohnsayville.org

Tom Keller & Steve Lindfors, Facilities Management

Saint John's Divine Service Schedule

Sunday 7:45am & 9:30am
Wednesday 7:00pm

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 9:30am-2:30pm

Our Mission

Rejoice in God's grace. Live as disciples. Love one another.

Our Purpose

The family of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, gathered around Word and Sacrament, enhanced by liturgy and music, exists to encourage its members in a life of discipleship in Christ Jesus and fellowship with one another. Utilizing the gifts that God has entrusted to us, we engage in acts of mercy, attending to the spiritual and physical needs within our congregation and community. We bear witness to the Grace of God through living in His Word thus demonstrating the love Christ has shown us.

A Congregation of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The *Good News* is published by the church office of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church to keep its members and friends informed of church news and activities. Newsletter deadline for the September 2026 issue will be August 15th.