



The Good News

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville, NY

April 2026

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:7-11).

I was having a conversation with a fellow pastor a few months ago and we were discussing some of the issues we see in the Church these days. One of the things we both noticed was the sporadic commitment of some families to attendance at Sunday services. Both of us grew up at a time when going to church was not optional, or only if there wasn't something else going on that morning. I well recall my family doing some really creative things on Sundays to make sure that church fit into the morning, shifting at times from early service to late service, and even me acolyting with a soccer uniform under my robe so I could head out to the field right after service. Our lament was that, at least on the surface, it did not seem as if working out such logistics, creativity, or sacrifice is on the radar of as many people today.

The conversation eventually led to the all-important question: what is the most important thing about Christianity? Why should people believe in Jesus? There are, of course, a million ways to answer that question, and some of the answers might depend upon where you are in life. But there was, and is, really just one answer that ought to be universal, for it pertains to what everyone must experience at some point. The reason why Christianity ought to be appealing, and is important, and why people should believe in Jesus is because of the resurrection. This is not to minimize things like the forgiveness of sins or the presence of Christ with us always or the strength that he supplies us with. Those things are important too. But the resurrection breaks through all of it with a hope that points us to the something greater that Christ has won for us and gives to us.

This is why Paul makes such a big deal about this in the above passage from Philippians. As he said, he would give anything to partake of the resurrection. Death is the last and greatest adversary that we all face, and for many, it is a scary thing...something to be avoided, put off, held at bay as much as possible. And while no one wants a short life (Kenny Chesney sang, "Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to go now), for Christians, death is not the fearful thing it is for others. That enemy has been defeated, and by the grace of God, we are partakers of the spoils from the battle victory that Christ has won. Just as Christ has been raised, so shall we. We are partakers in Christ's resurrection and shall attain the resurrection from the dead.

If this is, indeed, the most important thing about Christianity (and I think it is!), and if the greatest enemy has been undone for us and fear of it removed from our life, it would seem the best and most important thing we can do is to be in the place where that resurrected life is given and strengthened in us, namely in the services of God's house where the gifts of grace are lavished upon us and we are in the presence of the crucified and resurrected One. Easter is all about celebrating this resurrection victory, but in truth, every Sunday is a little Easter. As such, why would we want to miss it? What else could compare with death defeated and life eternal in the resurrection, all of it doled out week after week in Word and Sacrament? There is nothing that should stand in the way of our receiving such grace; like Paul, we should see this as the highest good and be willing to

give anything to have it. Our desire is to be partakers of the resurrection of Jesus. And you can, every week, for Jesus and his resurrected life are always here for you.

O fill us, Lord with dauntless love;
Set heart and will on things above
That we conquer through Your triumph;
Grant grace sufficient for life's day
That by our lives we truly say:
"Christ has triumphed! He is living!"
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia (LSB #465, st. 3)!

~ Pastor Noack

On behalf of Kristin and Abby, the Noack family wishes all of you a joyous and blessed Easter! May this season of celebrating Christ's victory over death and the grave be one that is filled with hope and comfort for you and your family. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Stations of the Cross - An opportunity to pray through the Stations of the Cross will take place on **Friday, April 3 at 3pm** at the St. Ann's Cemetery in Sayville off Middle Road. No RSVP is necessary, and all are welcome.

LIT – The *Lutheran Institute of Theology* is here! Beginning **Monday, April 27 at 7pm**, we will we begin the first class, The Art of Biblical Reading featuring our former vicar, The Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz. If you are interested in participating, please contact the church office, or sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex. Classes will run the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 7pm.

Broadway Cleanup – On **Saturday, April 25, beginning at 8:30am**, we will do some cleanup at the Broadway Ave property. There is weeding, trimming, and general cleanup that will be needed. Please join us and lend a hand.

LWML Convention – The 2026 Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Atlantic District Convention will be held on **Saturday, May 2** at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel in Suffern, NY. The theme this year is: Joyful, Patient, Faithful based upon Romans 12:12. Registration is now open! The convention will feature worship, a wonderful keynote speaker, information about Mission Grants, and plenty of time for fellowship and fun. To learn more, or to register, click [here](#). All women are welcome!

ST. JOHN'S



Holy Week & Easter Service Schedule

Holy Wednesday (4/1)

7pm Divine Service

Holy Saturday (4/4)

7pm Divine Service

Maundy Thursday (4/2)

12 noon & 7pm Divine Service

Easter Sunrise (4/5)

6:00am @ Sayville Marina Beach Park

Good Friday (4/3)

12 noon & 7pm Divine Service

Easter Divine Service (4/5)

7:45am & 9:30am Divine Service

Stations of the Cross (4/3)

3pm @ Saint Ann's Cemetary



☎ 631.589.3202

🌐 stjohnsayville.org

Official Acts at Saint John's (thru March 15):

Funerals:

Hildegard LaMattina	Jan 31
Frederick Karl Unz	Feb 21
Rita Martha Smith	Feb 27

My mom recently parted with some books she had read and had kept for years. One, in particular, caught my attention: In His Steps – by Charles M. Sheldon, with the question “What Would Jesus Do?” printed on the cover. It was the same phrase that was hand tooled into a leather bracelet that was a gift many decades ago from an elderly, “poor” (by worldly standards) man – who was also rich in spirit - renting space from a nearby not-so-well-off family who had a home, an extra room, generous hearts and real estate taxes to pay.

The book began on a Friday in the late 1800s with the minister of a large, “well-off” midwest church trying to, without further interruptions, finish his sermon on the text from 1 Peter 2:21. “For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example that ye should follow his steps.”

The doorbell rang, and soon after, rang again. The Minister frowned a little. “Looks like a tramp; I suppose I’ll have to go down and...” He went to open the door. The man began, “I’m out of a job, sir, and thought maybe you might put me in the way of getting something?”

They spoke briefly, but it concluded with “you will have to excuse me. I am very busy this morning. I hope you will find something. Sorry I can’t give you something to do here. But I keep only a horse and a cow and do the work myself.”

The minister’s wife had encountered the same man, they supposed, at the local school that morning.

That Sunday the morning service was going along as usual, when, just after the sermon, a man’s voice startled everyone from the rear of the church. Walking forward he said “I’m not drunk and I’m not crazy, and I am harmless, but if I die, as there is every likelihood I shall in a few days, I want the satisfaction of thinking that I said my say... I lost my job 10 months ago. I am a printer by trade,” - put out of work & replaced by the new linotype machines. “I’ve tramped all over the country trying to find something... rebuffed at every turn. He goes on to question what the sermon topic, “following in Christ’s steps” looks like? – obedience, faith, love and imitation? What *would* Jesus do? And how does that translate into the church congregants’ comfortable lives? Is there any real suffering? Denying of oneself to help others? Seeking to save lost & suffering humanity? Ethical business practices? Active and engaged concern for the poor? The questions, without placing blame, went on until he collapsed with an apparent heart issue. A doctor in the congregation attended to him, and the minister, ending the service, took the man to his study, and then to his home, where the man died later that week.

After much internal struggle and wrestling with the Holy Spirit, the minister extended an invitation to his congregation the following Sunday to have volunteers pledge themselves earnestly and honestly for an entire year to not do anything without first asking the question, “*what would Jesus do?*”, and then follow that course, no matter the consequences.

We’ve had an occasional guest at St. John’s this past winter, whose home was his car; apparently not destitute, but not able to find an affordable place to live, so a parking lot and gas to run the car heater enough to keep warm sufficed – even during the snow and single digit temperatures back in February. He spent time in the office where phone calls were fruitlessly made on his behalf, hot coffee was made available, lunch was shared, and my dog offered an abundance of love and affection that was warmly received. I’d love to say that we solved his troubles, but we didn’t and his car, now unattended, sits in another parking lot.

There is lots of conventional wisdom out there that says we can’t help everyone, we don’t really know this person, there are insurance issues and security issues and, and, and... Still, dare we to not ask what Jesus would do and can do through his followers by faith and through the power of the Holy Spirit right here in Sayville? Praying for Divine wisdom, dare we excuse away or ignore the answers? I’d challenge you to prayerfully, alongside your Bible, read In His Steps – believing that its message, putting faith into action beyond our comfort zones both as individuals and as Christians, can change us, change our world, and guide others to find new life and hope in Christ Jesus, our Lord & Savior.

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” Matthew 25:40

The Long Island Brass Guild & Organ Concert Sunday, April 19 at 3 pm

Dave Schecher from the LIBG, writes the following about this year's performance at St. John's:

Our friend and colleague Brad DeMilo passed away last Fall. We played together with Brad on French horn for close to three decades and he is both missed and very fondly remembered. Brad not only performed with us; he also wrote nearly 30 arrangements for the Long Island Brass Guild.

This year's concert is offered in his memory. It features several of Brad's mostly light-hearted arrangements by diverse composers from Leroy Anderson to Dimitri Shostakovich. Cynthia Holden joins us at the organ for Brad's arrangement of the playful and powerful *Polka and Fugue* by Weinberger. The program also includes *Fanfare for the Common Man* by Aaron Copland, Mendelssohn's *Ave Maria*, and Sousa's *Nearer My God to Thee*. Additionally, Cindy will play E. Power Biggs organ solo arrangement of *The Battle of Trenton (A Sonata Dedicated to General Washington)* by James Hewitt on this 250th anniversary year of the battle that boosted morale and helped turn the tide of the Revolutionary War.

We hope you can join us for an enjoyable afternoon of music!

Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$10 students and seniors; there is a family rate of \$25 for parents attending with school-aged children (or younger)

All proceeds from the concert benefit Mercy Haven, Inc.

LONG ISLAND BRASS GUILD

In memory of Brad DeMilo



A benefit concert
for Mercy Haven, Inc.

FEATURING:

*DeMilo's arrangements of
music by Leroy Anderson,
Shostakovich & Weinberger*

*Also featuring music by
Copland, Mendelssohn &
Sousa, with Cynthia Holden
on organ*

SUNDAY APR 3:00 PM

 19

 2026

Saint John's Lutheran Church
48 Greene Avenue | Sayville, NY

\$15 General Admission | \$10 Students/Seniors

With support from Thrivent Financial

The Ascension of
OUR LORD
Divine Service



THURSDAY, MAY 14TH AT 7:30PM

The congregations and clergy of LCMS Atlantic District Circuits 8 & 9 are cordially invited to a joint service celebrating the Ascension of our Lord. Members of the clergy are welcome to process and participate in the service. You may also participate in the massed choir bringing together singers from our various churches. Reception to follow.

Join us as we celebrate Christ's ascended triumph!

SAINT JOHN'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH | 48 GREENE AVENUE | SAYVILLE, NY 11782

Farewell to Christina Koch!



On Sunday, March 15, we said farewell to Christina Koch, who has faithfully served as a Sunday School volunteer since her confirmation. We give thanks for the many years she has devoted to this ministry and for the countless ways she has been a blessing to our church family. The seeds she has planted in the hearts of our young people will not be forgotten.

As she begins a new chapter in North Carolina at Hope Lutheran Church in Wake Forest, we pray that God richly blesses and guides her in all that lies ahead. We are deeply grateful for all she has given—her time, her energy, and her heart.

With sincere thanks and appreciation,

St. John's Lutheran Church Sunday School

Thrivent Appreciation – We’d like to thank everyone who came together to assemble the Water Filter Kits and Solar Lite Kits. Together, we completed 17 boxes, with 3 kits in each—an excellent accomplishment! Special thanks to Tom Keller for delivering the kits to the post office; they are now on their way to support those in need. We also appreciate everyone who attended the *Thrivent Choice Dollar* meeting. It was a productive gathering where several important topics were discussed, and funds were allocated to support projects within our church. We’re excited to see additional suggested projects take shape in the future.

Many have expressed interest in learning more about the opportunities Thrivent provides. In response, we are planning to schedule an informational meeting. A Thrivent representative will be present to share details about programs that can benefit both our church and individual members. Please watch for upcoming announcements with more information.

Honor Our Volunteers - The Thrivent Financial Group here at St. John’s invites you to join the coffee hour on **Sunday, April 26th**, to say “thank you” to the many volunteers here at our church. There will be a special gift for all volunteers, treats to enjoy, and information of interest about **Thrivent** and how to direct your **Choice Dollars**. Stop by and enjoy fellowship with everyone!

SOLES4SOULS Shoe & Sneaker Collection Drive

Dates: April 19 – May 24, 2026

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church (48 Greene Avenue)

Drop-off Hours: Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Contact Info: Honey Pabst – 631-897-5193

What to Donate

- Gently used or new shoes & sneakers
- For adults and children
- Please rubber band each pair together



About the Mission

This drive supports Soles4Souls, a nonprofit founded in 2006 that helps provide footwear to people in need around the world. In 2024 alone, they distributed 5.8 million pairs of shoes.

Why Participate?

Most of us have extra shoes sitting in closets—this is a simple way to:

- Declutter your home
- Help individuals and families in need
- Support a meaningful global cause

Take a few minutes to check your closets—you might make a big difference with a small donation.

DAILY BIBLE READING



April 2026

	1	Exodus 10:21—11:10; Hebrews 4:1-16
	2	Exodus 12:1-28; Hebrews 5:1-14
	3	Exodus 12:29-32; 13:1-16; Hebrews 6:1-20
	4	Exodus 13:17—14:9; Hebrews 7:1-22
Sun	5	Exodus 14:10-31; Hebrews 7:23—8:13
	6	Exodus 15:1-18; Hebrews 9:1-28
	7	Exodus 15:19—16:12; Hebrews 10:1-18
	8	Exodus 16:13-35; Hebrews 10:19-39
	9	Exodus 17:1-16; Hebrews 11:1-29
	10	Exodus 18:5-27; Hebrews 12:1-24
	11	Exodus 19:1-25; Hebrews 13:1-21
Sun	12	Exodus 20:1-24; Luke 4:1-15
	13	Exodus 22:20—23:13; Luke 4:16-30
	14	Exodus 23:14-33; Luke 4:31-44
	15	Exodus 24:1-18; Luke 5:1-16
	16	Exodus 25:1-22; Luke 5:17-39
	17	Exodus 31:1-18; Luke 6:1-19
	18	Exodus 32:1-14; Luke 6:20-38
Sun	19	Exodus 32:15-35; Luke 6:39-49
	20	Exodus 33:1-23; Luke 7:1-17
	21	Exodus 34:1-28; Luke 7:18-35
	22	Exodus 34:29—35:21; Luke 7:36-50
	23	Exodus 38:21—39:8; Luke 8:1-21
	24	Exodus 39:32—40:16; Luke 8:22-39
	25	Exodus 40:17-38; Luke 8:40-56
Sun	26	Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36; Luke 9:1-17
	27	Leviticus 9:1-24; Luke 9:18-36
	28	Leviticus 10:1-20; Luke 9:37-62
	29	Leviticus 16:1-24; Luke 10:1-22
	30	Leviticus 17:1-16; Luke 10:23-42



LWML ATLANTIC DISTRICT 27TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

MAY 1 - 2, 2026

*Crowne Plaza Hotel
3 Executive Blvd, Suffern, NY 10901*

[Click Here for More Information or to Register](#)

A graphic with a central orange cross and the text "GOD IS GOOD say so" above it. The main text reads "Mission Goal of \$90,000 Reached" and "God is good- Say So!". Below that, it says "By God's grace and your support we have reached our \$90,000 Mission Goal for 2024-2026!". The LWML logo is in the bottom right corner, and the website "adlwml.org" is at the bottom center. The graphic is framed by colorful wavy borders on the left and right sides.

GOD IS GOOD
say so

Mission Goal of \$90,000 Reached

God is good- Say So!
By God's grace and your support we have
reached our \$90,000 Mission Goal for
2024-2026!

adlwml.org

April 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 29	30	31	Apr 1 Holy Wednesday 11:00am Bible Study 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm Divine Service 7:30pm Faith Renewal 7:45pm SoLI	2 Holy Thursday 12:00pm Maundy Thursday Divine Service 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Divine Service 7:30pm Chancel Choir	3 Good Friday 12:00pm Good Friday Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 3:00pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm Good Friday Divine Service	4 Holy Saturday 7:00pm Holy Saturday Divine Service
5 The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Day) 6:00am Easter Sunrise Service 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Divine Service	6 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	8 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm Divine Service 7:30pm Faith Renewal 7:45pm SoLI	9 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	10 12:30pm N/A	11
12 Second Sunday of Easter 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	13 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	15 11:00am Bible Study 12:30pm N/A 4:00pm LIBG Rehearsal 7:00pm Divine Service 7:30pm Faith Renewal 7:45pm SoLI	16 6:00pm Thunder Girls Basketball Practice 6:30pm Bells 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:30pm Chancel Choir	17 12:30pm N/A	18
19 Third Sunday of Easter 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 3:30pm LI Brass Guild Concert	20 7:00pm Boy Scouts	21 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	22 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	23 6:00pm Thunder Girls Basketball Practice 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	24 12:30pm N/A	25 8:30am Broadway Cleanup
26 Fourth Sunday of Easter 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm LIT	28 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	29 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	30 6:00pm Thunder Girls Basketball Practice 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	May 1	2

April Divine Service Assistant Schedule

April 5 <i>*Easter Sunday</i>	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	*Robert Bayley	Leo Rigaud
Ushers	Charlie Erb Jim Farrell	Jane Emmel & Kristin Noack
Reader	Jim Farrell	Dorothy Bauer
April 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
April 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
April 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.

April Readings

April 5: Acts 10:34-43; Colossians 3:1-4
April 12: Acts 5:29-42; 1 Peter 1:3-9
April 19: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1 Peter 1:17-25
April 26: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

48 Greene Avenue
Sayville, NY 11782
(631) 589-3202 – office
www.stjohnsayville.org

Facebook: Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville NY

Rev. Brian Noack, Pastor
Cell Phone: (631) 806-7119
E-mail: pastor@stjohnsayville.org

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

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

Carolyn Holtz, Bookkeeper
E-mail: bookkeeper@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
Bookkeeper Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-3pm

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 May 2026 issue will be April 15th.