

The Good News

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

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! (Psalm 100:4).

Pastor Martin Rinkart was a German, Lutheran clergyman who was called to the ministry during a very difficult time. It was during the Thirty Years' War, a very deadly time in Europe's history. The town where he served, Eilenburg, became a place that was both cut off from other communities, and a refuge for soldiers during the fighting. As a result, there was a strain on the Eilenburg economy and food supply, leaving many people hungry. To add insult to injury, the plague also began to impact the town which led Pastor Rinkart into doing as many as 40-50 funerals a day at one point, including the burial of his own wife.

It was in the midst of this time that Rinkart could have easily given up, become angry with God, or fled elsewhere to an easier post. Instead, Rinkart sought to teach his children at home, and his congregation, that despite all the things that were happening, there was still reason to give thanks to God for his attendant mercy. Thus, as a prayer to be used initially by his children, Rinkart wrote the text of what would become the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God." Again, his hope was to pass along the idea that anything the Lord was able to provide was enough, and that God would see his people through their hardships.

As we approach a national Thanksgiving, I was struck by this story and how it is often easy for us to offer thanks when life is moving along well. On the actual day of Thanksgiving, things are usually good with food, family, friends, and football to keep us occupied and content. But what about the other times of the year, when we aren't focused on thanksgiving, and when life may not be going along swimmingly? Is it as easy for us to find reasons for giving thanks to God? Perhaps, not always.

As I reflect back on the past year, it has been one filled with the ups and downs of life lived in a fallen world. There have been tremendous highs that have made life feel like it is soaring along. And there have been extreme lows where worry, regret, fear, and doubt have taken hold for a time. And yet, no matter what, there have always been causes for thanksgiving. God has supplied us with a church to call home and a congregation that we love. He has granted us friends to share in all of those highs and lows. He has given us opportunities to explore new things, to reconnect with people, to be with those we love, and find peace in time of need. Things may not have always been easy, but God has not allowed us to fall into despair or to be overwhelmed by what we have experienced. For all of it, and so much more, thanks is due to God.

Certainly for all of us there will be moments when things don't always go as well as we had hoped. My encouragement to you is to remember Pastor Rinkart's hymn and consider what ways you might still be able to give thanks to God. The Lord has promised to supply us with everything we need, especially in those times when the challenges are before us. Consider the ways that God is hearing your cries for mercy, and addressing your needs. Rest in the assurance that Christ has carried every burden you have, and promises to walk with you through them into the joy of salvation and life with him. When we have that, we have enough, for in truth, we have everything. Happy Thanksgiving! Not just on the day we celebrate it, but every day, for God has given us all things and promises us to bring us safely to himself eternally.

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,

Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today (LSB #895, st. 1).

~ Pastor Noack

Congregational Meeting – Our next meeting is scheduled for ***Sunday, November 15,*** between the services (about 8:30am). On the agenda is the budget and other updates on church happenings. Copies of the budget are available for viewing in the office during office hours. Please make every effort to attend.

Thanksgiving Eve Service – The Divine Service for Thanksgiving will be ***Wednesday, November 25 at 7:00pm***. Please join us in giving thanks to God for all his mercies, both temporal and eternal, in Christ!

Advent/Christmas Help – A sign-up sheet has been posted on the bulletin board to help as an usher, communion steward, or acolyte for our Advent Midweek, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Eve Services. Please sign up to help, or contact the Church Office. Thank you, in advance, for your assistance in making our holiday services run smoothly.

Nativity Setup – On ***Saturday, December 5*** at 8:30am, the nativity set will be put up on the front lawn of the church (weather permitting). If you can spare a few minutes that day, help is greatly appreciated.

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

Baptisms:
Oliver Henry Kennedy October 3

St. John's Holiday Schedule

Wednesday, November 25
7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve DS

Wednesday, December 2
12 noon & 7:00pm Advent Midweek DS

Wednesday, December 9
12 noon & 7:00pm Advent Midweek DS

Wednesday, December 16
12 noon & 7:00pm Advent Midweek DS

Sunday, December 20
4:00pm Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 23
12 noon & 7:00pm Advent Midweek DS

Thursday, December 24
3:30pm & 7:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight DS

Friday, December 25
10:30am Christmas Day DS

Thursday, December 31
7:00pm NYE Divine Service

Wednesday, January 6, 2027
7:00pm SõLI (Singers of Long Island) in Concert

Music Notes *Cindy Holden, Director of Music*

News spreads quickly. People respond quickly – a short text; perhaps a quick email or call. In the swarms of information, sometimes we forget things just as quickly, and sometimes we are prompted to remember.

My mom had (still has!) a habit of keeping greeting cards. I have been going through some of the many she collected and saved for me recently – and stumbled on those she and Dad received when I was born, well before texting existed. There were 67! Noting the senders, images came to mind – those of relatives long gone, family friends, folks around town – and mostly those from members of the church I grew up in – parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents of my agemates. I found the first card my great-grandmother wrote for me and her prayer that I might have a healthy and happy life. My arrival came shortly after the death her husband and the swirl of emotions from sorrow at her loss to joy on the arrival of a new baby was apparent in her writing to *Dear Baby Cynthia Lynn*…

I also found a collection of family photos with a few newspaper clippings. Three were in Czech, recognizable as obituary notices, and one in English - thanking those who had attended the funeral of my great-grandparent's 19-year-old son who had lost his life while crewing on a scallop boat that ran aground on a sandbar in a dense winter fog off Fire Island December 22, 1929. It seems that in those days, the bereaved would thank the community for their support at the loss of a loved one via the local paper. What stood out was that, though the family had no connection I was ever aware of to the Lutheran Church, Pastor Beyer, from St. John's came to the house on Rollstone Avenue and conducted the funeral service for Frank, Jr. in my great-grandparents' living room where their son's body was laid out. I have no idea what Pastor Beyer said that day, but I was overwhelmed with thankfulness that he had taken the time to be there and officiate at an intimate service that met Bába & Gigi at one of the lowest points in their lives.

Thanksgiving is right around the corner. While we may be pondering who will cook the turkey, stuffing and pumpkin pie for dinner, let's also ponder the uncountable blessings of God and the many ways we have come to know His love through what He has done for us, and through the love of others. Those cards mentioned earlier – many of those people prayed for me year in and year out as a member of the family and the church. I was blessed to have hosts of "aunts" & "uncles," only one by blood, but many dozens via the church family (confirmed by the number of cards, prayers & well wishes in another box received when I had a tonsillectomy at age five!).

Yes, Sayville & West Sayville were smaller towns back in those days when "everybody knew everybody", but the love and support of community is no less important today. Some of those recollections make me sad for some at St. John's in 2026. If anyone has come to coffee hour, or various social activities, you've run into (or maybe been run into! by) those children who are here week after week; kids who are getting to know their church family members, and vice versa. It is a joy to have them around, and a blessing to observe and share in their growth. As they, at some point, may face challenges in own their lives, they will come to know that real people from their church family are praying for them, caring and supporting them. May that serve as an encouragement to parents (and everyone!) to be here, to give thanks, to feast on Word and Sacrament, to sing God's praise, to sing a new song, and make a joyful noise to the Lord, and to show up for fellowship at coffee hour. Those "little things", be they cards, texts, a pat on the shoulder, a hug or word of encouragement when needed, and especially prayers, can speak volumes both today and over a lifetime!

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living, the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith, ever sharing in love, ever caring, embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us, Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.
LSB 643, stz 2 Omer E. Westendorf © 1964 Word Library Publication, Reprinted by permission under One License A-700644

Coming around town & beyond!



Requiem, by master orchestrator and Romantic composer, Hector Berlioz, will be presented by the **Long Island Choral Society** and orchestra under the direction of Michael C. Haigler on Sunday, **November 22 at 4pm** in the **Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City**.

The concert is sung in memory of Peter Joss – a member of St. John's Chancel Choir for many years prior to his death in 2024. Peter was also a member and former president of the Long Island Choral Society. It was his desire that, after his passing, his estate would fund a performance of the **Requiem**. Several St. John's choir members are planning to attend; all are welcome!

Tickets are $20 ($10 for youth).

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Are you looking to get into the "Christmas spirit"?
The Choral Society of the Moriches presents **G. F. Handel's oratorio, Messiah** - a work filled with prophecy, proclamation and praise as the redeeming work of Jesus Christ is presented in song, with choir, soloists and orchestra on December 11 and December 13, under the direction of Martha Campanile.

Dates and places are as follows:

Friday, December 11 at 7:30pm - 10 pm
St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church
25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches, NY 11934

Sunday, December 13, 2026 at 2:30pm - 5 pm
St. Mark Roman Catholic Church
105 Randall Road, Shoreham, NY 11786

**There are no tickets; a goodwill offering is requested to cover the high costs for the presentations*.

Several of St. John's Chancel Choir members have been blessed in their preparation and rehearsals for these concerts, and we encourage you to set aside an afternoon or evening to take in the breadth of the "whole story" of **Messiah** in this enduring, powerful, and beautiful oratorio. You've heard the Hallelujah Chorus, but there is SO MUCH MORE to discover!

Longest Night Service – Sunday, December 20 at 4pm. Set aside time for this reflective service of readings, prayers, healing, and music – especially if you are experiencing dark days of grief, loneliness, pain, or sadness of soul.

***Looking ahead to January…*SōLI** (Singers of Long Island) offer a concert at St. John's on the Epiphany of our Lord – Wednesday, January 6 at 7 pm. More information on that next month!

St. John's Basketball League: Volunteer Director Needed – The church is looking for someone to take over the St. John's Basketball program effective immediately. Our previous volunteer has had unexpected life changes that prevent him from continuing to oversee the program. Our fall season typically starts games the first week in November, for a 6-week duration plus playoffs, and our summer league follows the same format. If you or someone you know has interest in this role, please reach out to the Church Office via email at admin@stjohnsayville.org or via phone 631-589-3202.

Operation Christmas Child

National Collection Week is November 16–23, 2026

The drop-off location is ***Gospel Community Church***, located at 138 Greeley Avenue in Sayville.

Drop-off dates & times for this location are as follows:

Mon, 11/16: 12pm-2pm; Tue, 11/17: 5pm-7pm; Wed, 11/18: 4pm-6pm; Thu, 11/19: 4pm-6pm; Fri, 11/20: 5pm-7pm; Sat, 11/21: 12pm-2pm; Sun, 11/22: 2pm-4pm; Mon, 11/23: 11am-1pm

Christmas Mail - Mary Martha will have their 3rd Annual Christmas Mailbox at church. This will be for those who attend church and would like to send Christmas cards to people in our church family. Look for more information coming your way.

ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

PARISH OUTREACH

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

We are sponsoring 30 local families this holiday season.

WE ARE COLLECTING ITEMS:



YAMS



POTATOES



STUFFING



CRANBERRY SAUCE



GRAVY



APPLESAUCE



CANNED CORN



CANNED STRING BEANS



APPLE JUICE



TEA


COOKIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

ANNIE HABEEB | 631-626-5439 | ROLLINGWOOD07@GMAIL.COM



November 2026

Sun	1	Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Matthew 21:1-22
	2	Jeremiah 1:1-19; Matthew 21:23-46
	3	Jeremiah 3:6—4:2; Matthew 22:1-22
	4	Jeremiah 5:1-19; Matthew 22:23-46
	5	Jeremiah 7:1-29; Matthew 23:1-12
	6	Jeremiah 8:18—9:12; Matthew 23:13-39
	7	Jeremiah 11:1-23; Matthew 24:1-28
Sun	8	Jeremiah 20:1-18; Matthew 24:29-51
	9	Jeremiah 22:1-23; Matthew 25:1-13
	10	Jeremiah 23:1-20; Matthew 25:14-30
	11	Jeremiah 23:21-40; Matthew 25:31-46
	12	Jeremiah 25:1-18; Matthew 26:1-19
	13	Jeremiah 26:1-19; Matthew 26:20-35
	14	Jeremiah 29:1-19; Matthew 26:36-56
Sun	15	Jeremiah 30:1-24; Matthew 26:57-75
	16	Jeremiah 31:1-17, 23-34; Matthew 27:1-10
	17	Jeremiah 33:1-22; Matthew 27:11-32
	18	Jeremiah 37:1-21; Matthew 27:33-56
	19	Jeremiah 38:1-28; Matthew 27:57-66
	20	Daniel 1:1-21; Matthew 28:1-20
	21	Daniel 2:1-23; Rev. 18:1-24
Sun	22	Daniel 2:24-49; Rev. 19:1-21
	23	Daniel 3:1-30:10; Rev. 20:1-15
	24	Daniel 4:1-37; Rev. 21:1-8
	25	Daniel 5:1-30; Rev. 21:9-27
	26	Daniel 6:1-28; Rev. 22:1-21
	27	Isaiah 1:1-28; 1 Peter 1:1-12
	28	Isaiah 2:1-22; 1 Peter 1:13-25
Sun	29	Isaiah 5:1-25; 1 Peter 2:1-12
	30	Isaiah 6:1—7:9; 1 Peter 2:13-25

November 2026

November 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 1 All Saints' Day 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts	3 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	4 11:00am Midweek Bible Study 1:30pm Mahjongg Social Club 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Divine Service 7:30pm Lutheran Institute of Theology 7:45pm SoLI	5 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Choir	6	7
8 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts	10 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	11 1:30pm Mahjongg Social Club 7:00pm Divine Service 7:30pm Lutheran Institute of Theology 7:45pm SoLI	12 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Choir	13	14
15 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Congregational Meeting 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts	17 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	18 11:00am Midweek Bible Study 1:30pm Mahjongg Social Club 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Divine Service 7:30pm Lutheran Institute of Theology 7:45pm SoLI	19 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Choir	20	21
22 Last Sunday of the Church Year 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	23 7:00pm Boy Scouts	24 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	25 1:30pm Mahjongg Social Club 7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 First Sunday in Advent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal 11:00am Nativity Setup	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts	Dec 1	2	3	4	5

November Divine Service Assistant Schedule

November 1	**Sunday 7:45am**	**Sunday 9:30am**
Communion Stewards	Bill Audia	Leo Rigaud
Ushers	Charlie Erb Jim Farrell	Jane Emmel & Kristin Noack
Reader	Jim Farrell	Leo Rigaud
November 8	**Sunday 7:45am**	**Sunday 9:30am**
Communion Stewards	Robert Bayley	Al Coppola
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Chuck & Judy Scott
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Al Coppola
November 15	**Sunday 7:45am**	**Sunday 9:30am**
Communion Stewards	Greg Calvano	Paul Erath
Ushers	Marcus & Annie Habeeb	Lloyd & Pam Arrasate
Reader	Jim Farrell	Paul Erath
November 22	**Sunday 7:45am**	**Sunday 9:30am**
Communion Stewards	Charlie Erb	Al Coppola
Ushers	Steve & Janet Lindfors	Kevin Paul & Barbara Dahlgren
Reader	Pastor	Annie Habeeb
November 29	**Sunday 7:45am**	**Sunday 9:30am**
Communion Stewards	Robert Bayley	Al Coppola
Ushers	Charlie Erb Jim Farrell	Kristin & Abby Noack
Reader	Jim Farrell	Pastor

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.

November Readings

Nov 1: Revelation 7:2-17; 1 John 3:1-3
Nov 8: Genesis 1:1-2:3; Ephesians 6:10-17
Nov 15: Micah 6:6-8; Philippians 1:3-11
Nov 22: Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Thess 5:1-11
Nov 29: Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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. The deadline for the December 2026/January 2027 issue is November 15th.