

The Good News

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

May 2024

And the LORD said to Moses, ¹³ "You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you. ¹⁴ You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵ Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. ¹⁶ Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. ¹⁷ It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.'" ~ Exodus 31:12-17

Did you catch that? The “penalty” for failing to observe the Sabbath was to have one’s soul cut off from the people, and death. That seems pretty severe to our modern ears. Granted, the children of Israel likely didn’t have lacrosse games or dance recitals, and stores definitely weren’t open on Sabbath days at that time, but death for missing out on a Sabbath? That’s harsh on God’s part.

However, the severity of the punishment was not meant to be frightening, but rather to highlight the importance of Sabbath observance. It is something so important, so beneficial – so restful and refreshing – that missing it was really a matter of life and death. On the Sabbath, God’s people heard the Scriptures, prayed together, and sang psalms and spiritual songs. Eventually, there was the sacrifice that took place to remove the sin of the people. It was a day of rest, for the manna and quail did not need to be gathered. It was about stopping life for a moment, receiving God’s goodness, and finding grace.

Today’s Sabbath observances are the same for God’s people, even if the “penalty” for missing a Sunday service is not as severe-seeming. Each Sunday, there is Absolution for our sin, God’s Word for our ears and heart to guide us in the way of Jesus, and there is heavenly food given at the Lord’s Table. While some might think skipping out in favor of other activities isn’t too big a deal, or that summer is time off from everything, the truth is that apart from Christ on the Sabbath, it is a matter of life and death. Being absent too long is detrimental to the soul and it can lead to eternal death.

Time for a rather frank conversation, if I may. It is with words like these in mind that I have an ongoing inner debate ongoing. The reality is that today’s world is not like ancient Israel in the wilderness, and for some, Sunday worship is not a possibility. Thus, should we as a congregation be sensitive to that reality and provide other alternatives? However, we are also a people who make regular commitments to things all the time – practices and rehearsals, community and committee meetings, other social obligations, etc. If something comes up to do in those times, we are more likely than not to say, “I can’t, I already have” such and such. Yet when something comes up on Sunday morning, it is easier to say “yes” to it and try to catch church next week, or another time. Some have suggested that maybe our service times are not ideal, but not unlike visiting a doctor or seeing a movie, we don’t always have the option of convenience, but must work our life around what is offered. In that regard, if Sabbath observance is a matter of life and death, why would we not want to

just block off the time to be at church on Sunday, and work the rest of the day around it? Such is the debate I have had in my mind, and have discussed with Elders on occasion.

But, I'd also like to know what you think, and I am asking honestly. If Sunday morning just could not happen for you or your family, is there another day or time that might work? If there were another option, would you utilize it (really)? In other words, if you say you'd come at a different time if Sunday didn't work, would you and your family really avail yourselves of the opportunity, or are you merely saying theoretically you would?

To give you a voice in this, a brief survey will be made available in church and online (you can access the [survey here](#)), seeking your feedback on this topic. Bear in mind that the Elders and I are merely exploring the possibility of this to see if there is interest, and are not guaranteeing that another opportunity will be offered, or given at one of the times you may suggest. At this point, it is a matter of determining need and weighing it against whether it might negatively impact Sunday mornings. Please take a look at the survey, and fill it out as we seek to meet the needs of our church community here in Sayville and beyond.

We are doing this because the Sabbath is important. It is good for our soul to gather in the presence of Christ and to be fed and nourished by him. And, it is good for the body of the Christ, the community of faith, to be together, and to share our life around Christ and his divine life. Such is what strengthens us for life in this world, and what gives us eternal hope of the life we shall have in God's kingdom forever.

Help us that we Thy saving Word
In faithful hearts may treasure;
Let e'er that Bread of Life afford
New grace in richest measure.

O make us die to ev'ry sin,
Each day create new life within,
That fruits of faith may flourish (LSB #693, st. 2).

~ Pastor Noack

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

Funerals:

Elizabeth Roche March 22

Dinner and a Movie – On **Friday, May 31st**, St. John's will host a dinner and a movie night open to all families. Weather permitting, we will be outside behind 45/55 Greene Ave. for a movie under the stars. But before the show, come and enjoy a nice dinner and fellowship with one another. A signup sheet will be posted in the narthex on the bulletin board, or you may contact the Church Office. More details to follow soon. Hope you can join us, and even bring a friend!

Faith Renewal – This class is an introduction, or a re-introduction to the basics of the Lutheran faith. It explores the six chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism and how they apply to us today. It also looks at our liturgical worship practices and why we do what we do. This class is open to anyone, and for those who are not officially members of the church, it is a means by which you are able to join. The classes will be held on Saturdays, **June 8 & 15 from 8:30am-12:30pm**. If you wish to attend, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or contact the Church Office. Questions may be addressed to Pastor.

E1HW – The next module of the *Every One His Witness* program we will discuss is "Witnessing to LGBTQ People". We will meet on **June 9** after the 9:30am service (about 11am). This is a complex topic, but one where we can have important conversations leading to opportunities to bear witness to the hope we have in Christ. A signup sheet will be posted for this module on the bulletin board in the narthex, or you may contact the Church Office. Any questions may be addressed to Pastor.

ASCENSION DAY

Divine Service

Thursday, May 9th

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

The merry month of May is jammed with joy-filled days on the church calendar!

We begin, still in the season of Easter, receiving affirmation and instructions from Christ, our Lord, preparing his disciples for that which is to come next, and giving directions for their lives, going forward – followed by a delectable **Coffee Hour** **May 5 after the 9 am service** that the Chancel Choir is pleased to offer - donations going toward *Lutheran Summer Music* in support of a St. John's Chorister.

Next we find the disciples staring into heaven as Christ, ascending, is enveloped in the clouds. They await the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, and the church is on to the celebration of The Holy Trinity before the month is out.

What a whirlwind from Good Friday to now! Despair turned to joy; once fear-filled followers of Christ are now emboldened to take on earthly authorities with the authority and power granted them in God's ever-present Holy Spirit as they bare the good news of salvation in Christ to the world – the same task that is ours, by the Spirit's power.

Thursday, May 9 St. John's celebrates the Ascension of our Lord at a 7:30 pm festive service. Bells and choir take part in the celebration and additional music makers are welcome! Rehearsal is 6:15pm for the 7:30 service (please wear white tops, dark pants or skirt). Anyone who would like to preview the music may attend the choir's "regular" rehearsal on Thursday, May 2 at 7:30. We will begin with the music planned for Ascension, after which you are welcome to stay for more, or be on your way.

"One-time" singers are also welcome to participate on Trinity Sunday - another "Fellowship" Sunday, May 26 when there is just one service at 9 am. Rehearsal on a simple but lovely setting of John 3:16, part of the gospel reading for the day, gets underway at 8:15am that morning.

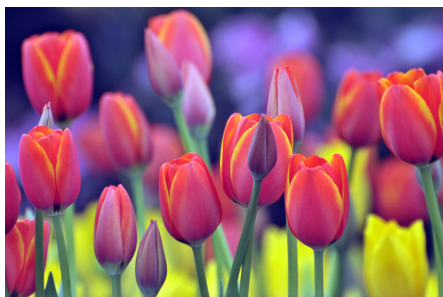
Hark, those bursts of acclamation!
Hark, those loud triumphant chords!
Jesus takes the highest station;
Oh, what joy the sight affords!
Crown Him! Crown Him! King of kings and Lord of lords!

LSB 495 stz. 4 text Thomas Kelly. In the public domain

Envision the joy in heaven as Christ, his earthly mission completed, returns in resurrected body. Know that Christ's work on our behalf continues, as from God's right hand, he continues to intercede for us. Welcome and embrace God's presence in the gift of the Holy Spirit, ever watchful, guiding and empowering us. Join in praising the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Enjoy this merry month of May – and come add your voice to those "bursts of acclamation" as Christ's Ascension is celebrated Thursday, May 9, and on each Sunday of the month!

Final Invitation

Long Island Brass Guild & Organ Concert is Sunday, April 28 at 3 pm. Join us for an afternoon of beautiful music in support of the mission & work of Mercy Haven to the homeless and less fortunate. Suggested donation \$15 general admission; \$10 students & seniors or, for a real bargain, \$25 per family!



MARY MARTHA GUILD

Scarf Sisters - The Mary Martha Guild will be knitting or crocheting scarves as part of the “SCARF SISTERS” project of the Suffolk Zone. The scarves will be given out in December so we have lots of time to do this. Adult scarves can be approximately 55-60 inches long and may be 6-8 inches wide. Children scarves can be about 43 inches long and 3-5 inches wide. There is an ample supply of yarn in our closet downstairs so please help yourself. When all the scarves are collected, we will be distributing them to several missions here in Suffolk County. For more information contact Honey Pabst at 631-589-8353 or at arthon@aol.com

Mary Martha Christian Service Award - Each year, the Mary Martha Guild presents a Christian Service Award to a graduating high school senior. We are thankful for the many young people who have received this award in the past and look forward to the many who will be recipients in the future. Applications are now available in the church office. The completed application must be received NO LATER than Monday, June 3rd.

Duck’s Game – Save the date! On **Wednesday, July 3rd** we are planning a group outing to the Duck’s Stadium, sponsored by Thrivent Financial. The tickets are \$16 each. They are giving out “\$10 Duck Bucks” to the first 150 people to spend on food, etc. Following the game is an amazing fireworks display to be enjoyed by all. There is a flyer posted on the Narthex bulletin board with instructions on how to purchase your tickets. Honey Pabst, a Thrivent Champion, is part of the team leading this event and will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Tree Planting Day – On Saturday, May 4th, volunteers will be gathering to assist in planting trees at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Island in Manorville. A Thrivent Action Team Card has been approved and we are donating two Magnolia trees, one Dogwood tree, and one Spirea. If you have never been to this site, you will be sure to enjoy it. Let’s get a group together, plant trees, and help contribute to this beautification process! Contact information for The Shrine is 631-325-0661. Contact Honey Pabst at arthon@aol.com or 631-589-8353 for more information.

Thrivent Clean Water Kits – Thrivent Financial is once again enabling us to be part of helping with this much-needed resource. Thrivent recently sent an email with instructions on how to order a complimentary water kit (one kit per person). There are three filters in each kit and takes a few minutes to assemble each of them. Check your email and order your kit today. You can make a difference by helping someone have clean water!

Accessibility at Saint John's

Did you know that Saint John's is fully accessible for those who have mobility issues? Our church certainly has a lot of steps to get into it from the front doors, and at times there are folks who have a really hard time making it. But, in fact, we have an elevator that can lead you right into the sanctuary!

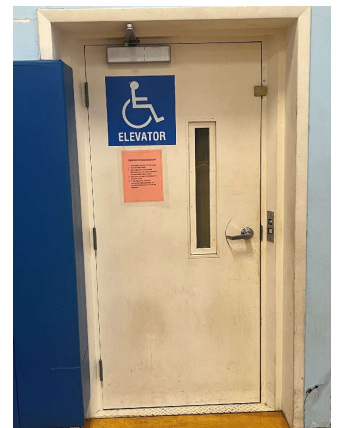
Over time, people have not wanted to utilize the elevator due to pride in being able to tackle the stairs, or fear that they might get stuck in it, or shame that they are sitting "up front". However, there is no shame in needing an easier way in to church so you are not exhausted by the time you sit down, or worse, fall on your way in! Also, our elevator is inspected twice a year to make sure it is functioning properly, so all the horror stories you've heard in the past have been eliminated. And lastly, there is no need to feel strange sitting up in the front. In fact, if two steps up and down are easier than all the steps in the front, then you can still sit in the pews. But even when sitting in the front now, you are more or less hidden from view of the folks sitting the pews. And besides, what does it matter? You are coming to hear the Word and receive the Supper. Sitting up front gets you right in the action and makes you the closest one to what is taking place!

For those who are not aware of how our elevator works, here are some pictures to make you familiar:



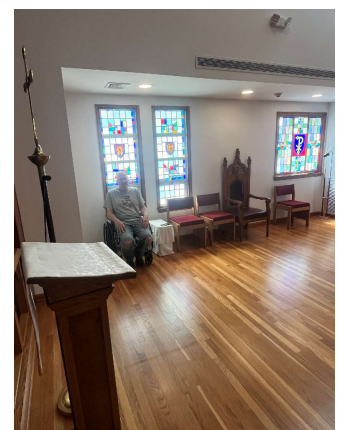
You can park by the gym entrance and utilize the ramp to get into the building.

Once in the gym, look for the elevator door next to the stage.



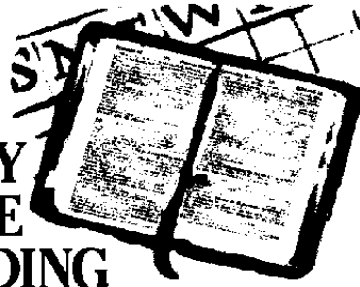
Open both the outer door, and the inner accordion door, then head on in for a smooth ride!

This will bring you to the sanctuary level where you can sit up near where the service assistants sit. You still have a great view of everything that's happening!



As you can see, people in the pews really can't see you, so there's no need to feel like you "on display". So please use this as needed, or know that it is available for family or friends you may bring with you to church. Our ushers are happy to help if you need assistance!

DAILY BIBLE READING



May 2024

	1	Leviticus 23:23-44; Luke 12:35-53
	2	Leviticus 24:1-23; Luke 12:54—13:17
	3	Leviticus 26:1-20; Luke 13:18-35
	4	Leviticus 26:21-33, 39-44; Luke 14:1-24
Sun	5	Numbers 3:1-16, 39-48; Luke 14:25—15 :10
	6	Numbers 8:5-26; Luke 15:11-32
	7	Numbers 9:1-23; Luke 16:1-18
	8	Numbers 10:11-36; Luke 16:19-31
	9	Numbers 11:1-23, 31-35; Luke 17:1-19
	10	Numbers 11:24-29; 12:1-16; Luke 17:20-37
	11	Numbers 13:1-3, 17-33; Luke 18:1-17
Sun	12	Numbers 14:1-25; Luke 18:18-34
	13	Numbers 14:26-45; Luke 18:35—19:10
	14	Numbers 16:1-22; Luke 19:11-28
	15	Numbers 16:23-40; Luke 19:29-48
	16	Numbers 16:41—17:13; Luke 20:1-18
	17	Numbers 20:1-21; Luke 20:19-44
	18	Numbers 20:22—21:9; Luke 20:45—21:19
Sun	19	Numbers 21:10-35; Luke 21:20-38
	20	Numbers 22:1-20; Luke 22:1-23
	21	Numbers 22:21—23:3; Luke 22:24-46
	22	Numbers 23:4-28; Luke 22:47-71
	23	Numbers 24:1-25; Luke 23:1-25
	24	Numbers 27:12-23; Luke 23:26-56
	25	Numbers 32:1-6, 16-27; Luke 24:1-27
Sun	26	Numbers 35:9-30; Luke 24:28-53
	27	Ecclesiastes 4:1-16; John 7:32-53
	28	Ecclesiastes 5:1-20; John 8:1-20
	29	Ecclesiastes 6:1—7; John 8:21-38
	30	Ecclesiastes 7:11-29; John 8:39-59
	31	Ecclesiastes 8:1-17; John 9:1-23

May 2024

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 28	29	30	May 1 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI	2 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	3 12:30pm N/A	4
5 6th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Coffee Hour	6 7:00pm Boy Scouts	7 7:00pm Judo 7:00pm Women's 12 Step	8 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI	9 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Ascension Divine Service	10 12:30pm N/A	11
12 7th Sunday of Easter 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School	13 7:00pm Boy Scouts	14 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo 7:00pm Women's 12 Step	15 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI	16 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	17 12:30pm N/A	18
19 Pentecost 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School	20 7:00pm Boy Scouts	21 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo 7:00pm Women's 12 Step	22 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI	23 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	24 12:30pm N/A	25
26 Holy Trinity 9:00am Divine Service 9:00am Sunday School	27 7:00pm Boy Scouts	28 7:00pm Judo 7:00pm Women's 12 Step	29 12:30pm N/A	30 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	31 12:30pm N/A 6:30pm Dinner & A Movie	Jun 1

May Divine Service Assistant Schedule

May 5 <i>*I service, PN away</i>	Sunday 9:00am	
Communion Stewards	Leo Rigaud & Bill Audia	
Ushers	Charlie Erb & Jim Farrell	
Reader	Jim Farrell	
May 12	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Robert Bayley	Al Coppola
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Judy & Chuck Scott
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Al Coppola
May 19	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Greg Calvano	Paul Erath
Ushers	Andy & Patricia Harris	Lloyd & Pam Arrasate
Reader	Jim Farrell	Treva Kopf
May 26 <i>*I service, PN away</i>	Sunday 9:00am	
Communion Stewards	Al Coppola & Charlie Erb	
Ushers	Barbara Dahlgren & Kevin Paul	
Reader	Dorothy Bauer	

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.

<p>May 5: Acts 10:34-48; 1 John 5:1-8 May 12: Acts 1:12-26; 1 John 5:9-15 May 19: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21 May 26: Isaiah 6:1-8; Acts 2:14a, 22-36</p>

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

**Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday, 9:30am-1:30pm
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 June 2024 issue will be May 15th.