

The Good News

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville, NY
October 2025

Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need. (Malachi 3:10).

This month each year, our Finance Committee works very hard to look at our church's income and expenses from the previous year, the trends in giving from the past few years, and then seeks to come up with a budget. It is a picture of what we might expect for the year ahead, and a reminder of what it takes to provide for Word and Sacrament ministry at St. John's. Typically, as budget time comes around, so too does talk of "stewardship." And the message is often the same: there's a shortfall, and if we all dug a little deeper into our pockets, we could make it up and be in the clear....every little bit helps, and it is in thanksgiving to the Lord for what he has blessed us with. As such, stewardship often boils down to what we give and how we give, and encouragement to remember the church as you look at your own spending.

What is often missing, even here and from me, is the matter of why we give. In our consumer-driven world, it is easy to view our "why" of giving as transactional: I give because I get something in return. This leads to the common reality of people contributing something to the church only when they are in attendance on Sundays because it is only then that they are getting a return on their investment. But God is not dealing in goods and services, he is **giving** grace in Word and Sacrament. Our task is but to receive it.

So then, why do we give? It is because it is what we were actually created and redeemed to do. God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the garden to work the ground and to be stewards of creation. Read Genesis 1 & 2...it's right there! It is one of the first things they were given to do! As created beings, we then give thanks to our Creator for his salvation by being stewards in service to our neighbor. When we embrace this reality – that we were, in fact, made for this – we start with our "why" which then can move us to the "what" and "how" of being a steward. Our giving – our tithes and offerings – are a part of that, and as we understand that we are God's created children and that all we have is from God, giving back to him only seems natural. It is through this giving that God tends our lives by supplying us with Word and Sacrament ministry, with a place to worship, and with a community of fellow believers, all of which aids us in our life as stewards.

The contrary side of this is when we take what is given us and we hoard our blessings and use them in service to ourselves. This is, in reality, the sin of idolatry and is something for which we need to repent. This was the issue in Malachi's day as Israel was accused of actually robbing God by withholding their tithe. And so God invites them to test him: bring in a real tithe and watch as he opens the floodgates of heaven to rain down blessings unnumbered upon them. In other words, by living as the stewards they were created to be, they will find that the divine blessings will far outweigh any loss that seem incurred by letting go of their resources.

Such an invitation is still open to us. Consider again what it is you have been created to be: a steward, loved by God and redeemed by Christ. Because you are this, you can consider your giving and your time and talent spent in the Church, and rejoice in how much the Lord is using it to bless his people with salvation. You can also let go of your idolatry in the freedom you have been given as God's stewards. And, you can watch as the Lord erases all need by pouring down his blessing upon you and his Church as he leads you to life in his kingdom forevermore.

Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine,
That gives as Christ gave, never counting cost,
That knows no barrier of “yours” and “mine,”
Assured that only what’s withheld is lost.
Open our eyes to see Your love’s intent,
To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;
May thankfulness be days in service spent,
Reflection of Christ’s life and love and light (LSB #788, sts. 4 & 6).

~ Pastor Noack

Official Acts at Saint John’s (thru September 14):

Baptisms:

Cassandra Lynne Pisciotta September 14

Atlantic District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (AD LWML) –

Join the ladies of the AD LWML for their annual fall retreat at Tuscarora Inn in Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania, on October 10-12. Don’t miss this opportunity to share a weekend filled with love, laughter, fellowship, and most importantly, a time when we can all grow closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Registration is currently being accepted and can only be done online. Should you want to attend, see Pam Kennard or Honey Pabst for more information.



Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk – The Mary Martha Guild is sponsoring the American Cancer Society’s *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk* on Saturday, October 4th at Grangabel Park on Peconic Avenue in Riverhead. The check-in time is 9am and the walk will begin promptly at 10am. Our team is called “*Willing Walkers*.” We pray you will join us and be part of the team. A sign-up sheet is available as you leave church. If you can’t walk, please place your donations in our basket on the table in the Narthex so we can support the fight against breast cancer and help with the research for a cure. Checks can be made out to *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*. See Pam Kennard or Honey Pabst for more information.

Reformation – What thoughts that come to mind?

Martin Luther and his various cohorts challenging the Pope and activities of the Roman Catholic Church in Europe? The 95 Thesis posted on Wittenberg's Castle Church door? Singing *A Mighty Fortress*? Trick-or-treating on the seemingly more culturally significant October 31 event, Halloween? No clue?

Psalm 46, appointed in the lectionary for **Reformation** comes to my mind, and two verses in particular. Verse 1 *God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.* The verse that follows names stormy seas, natural disasters, political unrest, anxiety, fears, chaos, uncertainty and more. And the Psalmist returns to the place where he began, *The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

There follows in invitation: *come and see the works of the Lord*, and then an exhortation, *be still, and know that I am God.*

Harry Bramma, former director of the *Royal School of Church Music*, in an article "Be still and know that I am God," began by a discussion of fishing in the U.K. , asserting that for many, actually catching fish is incidental; it is the solitude and silence that is sought and that brings a needed sense of peace, quiet and tranquility to the fisher folk (dinner, of course, also being welcomed!).

He leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. (Ps. 23:2b, 3a) In Psalm 46:4 we read (or sing) "*there is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.*" A walk to the bay, through the Arboretum, along the ocean shore, by the fountain at the entrance to St. Lawrence RC Church here in town, or in our own sanctuary ... finding that place of quiet – both internally and externally - settles us; it allows space to listen and heed that which God wills for us; to hear that *still, small voice* God used to get the prophet's attention and quiet the noise around him. *And in that still voice, onward came the Lord!* quotes the famous chorus from Mendelsohn's oratorio, *Elijah*. (I Kings, chap. 19).

Five hundred years ago there was turmoil; today there is turmoil. Hudson Taylor, 19th century missionary to China and founder of the *China Inland Mission* found turmoil there, as well, as have countless others, dating back to the fall from the Garden of Eden. Taylor is quoted as saying "it does not matter how great the pressure (or trials of this world), it matters only *where* the pressure lies, whether it comes between you and God, or whether it presses you closer to His heart."

The Lord Almighty is with us: the God of Jacob is our fortress, concludes Psalm 46. Receiving that Word in faith, seeking the quiet place to hear the Word God has for us, finding our purpose in *Christ Alone* (the title of the anthem the choir is preparing for Reformation Sunday) – therein begins re-formation for us; for our world.

Chancel Choir and the **Eagle Eye Ringers** are underway for the fall. We have an incoming ringer able to fill the bell ranks through the end of 2025, but remain in search of 2-3 "permanent" ringers (training is available!).

Singers are most welcome, too. We pray that the cold and flu season will spare the faithful here, but numbers do matter and more singers sharing the joy of singing and music making in our congregation would benefit the music leadership, uplift our spirits, and lighten the burden on individual singers (especially if they are potentially the only one in their section on a given Sunday morning!).

Pray about whether God might want to bless you and others through participation in St. John's music ministry!



JOIN US TO LEARN THE ART OF

designing a charcuterie board



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17 • 6PM
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
\$50 PER PERSON

Included in this 1-hour session:

- *Create edible flowers using cheese, cured meats & veggies
- *Build your own stunning cheese board to take home
- *All materials and non-alcoholic beverages provided

Join us for a fun and interactive workshop presented by *Little Cheese*, where you'll learn how to style your own cheese & charcuterie board. Let's gather together, connect, and learn a new skill—just in time for the holidays!

Registration closes October 8th. All are welcome to attend!

Questions? Contact the Church Office: 631-589-3202

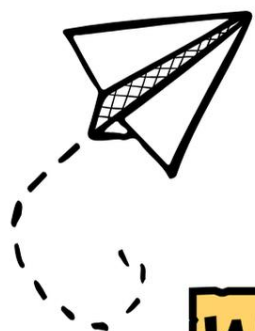


ST. JOHN'S

YOUTH

Night

Grades 6-12



Wednesday, 10/29

6pm - 8pm

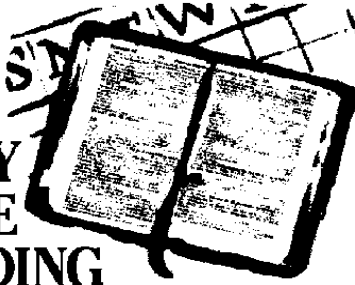
Come on down for food, games,
and fellowship with other
youth from our church.



**friends
welcome!**



DAILY BIBLE READING



October 2025

	1	Deuteronomy 2:16-37; Matthew 6:16-34
	2	Deuteronomy 3:1-29; Matthew 7:1-12
	3	Deuteronomy 4:1-20; Matthew 7:13-29
	4	Deuteronomy 4:21-40; Matthew 8:1-17
Sun	5	Deuteronomy 5:1-21; Matthew 8:18-34
	6	Deuteronomy 5:22-6:9; Matthew 9:1-17
	7	Deuteronomy 6:10-25; Matthew 9:18-38
	8	Deuteronomy 7:1-19; Matthew 10:1-23
	9	Deuteronomy 8:1-20; Matthew 10:24-42
	10	Deuteronomy 9:1-22; Matthew 11:1-19
	11	Deuteronomy 9:23-10:22; Matthew 11:20-30
Sun	12	Deuteronomy 11:1-25; Matthew 12:1-21
	13	Deuteronomy 11:26-12:12; Matthew 12:22-37
	14	Deuteronomy 12:13-32; Matthew 12:38-50
	15	Deuteronomy 13:1-18; Matthew 13:1-23
	16	Deuteronomy 14:1-2, 22-23, 14:28-15:15; Matthew 13:24-43
	17	Deuteronomy 15:19-16:22; Matthew 13:44-58
	18	Deuteronomy 17:1-20; Matthew 14:1-21
Sun	19	Deuteronomy 18:1-22; Matthew 14:22-36
	20	Deuteronomy 19:1-20; Matthew 15:1-20
	21	Deuteronomy 20:1-20; Matthew 15:21-39
	22	Deuteronomy 21:1-23; Matthew 16:1-12
	23	Deuteronomy 24:10-25:10; Matthew 16:13-28
	24	Deuteronomy 25:17-26:19; Matthew 17:1-13
	25	Deuteronomy 27:1-26; Matthew 17:14-27
Sun	26	Deuteronomy 28:1-22; Matthew 18:1-20
	27	Deuteronomy 29:1-29; Matthew 18:21-35
	28	Deuteronomy 30:1-20; Matthew 19:1-15
	29	Deuteronomy 31:1-29; Matthew 19:16-30
	30	Deuteronomy 31:30-32:27; Matthews 20:1-16
	31	Deuteronomy 32:28-52; Matthew 20:17-34

October 2025

October 2025							November 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3	4						1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7
12	13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12	13	14
19	20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19	20	21
26	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28
								30					29

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
			11:00am Bible Study 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12:30pm N/A	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sixteenth Day after Trinity 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	7:00pm Boy Scouts	6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12:30pm N/A	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Seventeenth Day after Trinity 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	7:00pm Boy Scouts	6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	11:00am Bible Study 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	6:30pm Bells 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Charcuterie Night	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Eighteenth Day after Trinity 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service w/Bells 11:00am Faith Renewal	7:00pm Boy Scouts	7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12:30pm N/A	
26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 1
Reformation Day 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Faith Renewal	7:00pm Boy Scouts	6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Youth Night 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12:30pm N/A	

October Divine Service Assistant Schedule

October 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	Leo Rigaud
October 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
October 19	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Greg Calvano	Paul Erath
Ushers	Marcus & Annie Habeeb	Pat Arrigo & Nicole Hanisch
Reader	Jim Farrell	Paul Erath
October 26	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Charlie Erb	Al Coppola
Ushers	Steve & Janet Lindfors	Kevin Paul & Barbara Dahlgren
Reader	Pastor	Elaine Whitehouse

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.

October Readings

Oct 5: 1 Kings 17:17-24; Ephesians 3:13-21 Oct 12: Proverbs 25:6-14; Ephesians 4:1-6 Oct 19: Deuteronomy 10:12-21; 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 Oct 26: Revelation 14:6-7; Romans 3:19-28
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Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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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 November 2025 issue will be October 15th.