



The Good News

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville, NY
October 2024

And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. ³ Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴ But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ~ Acts 6:2-4

But all things should be done decently and in order. ~ 1 Corinthians 14:40

This may seem like an odd article to put together, but I would like to make the case for congregational administration, and why you should not only care, but actively participate in it.

Ever since Christ ascended back to the right hand of the Father and poured out His Spirit at Pentecost, the Christian Church has been trying to figure out how to organize itself (which is why I laugh at people who say they don't follow organized religion...I mean, have you seen us!?!). In the book of Acts, the apostles were confronted with the problem of people being neglected in the daily distribution of bread. As a result, a basic Church structure was established: pastors preach, and others shall attend to the mercy work of the Church. Beyond this, and the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15, there is no divinely mandated way in which Christian congregations ought to govern themselves, let alone a group of congregations like The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or the Roman Catholic Church. And yet, as Paul says in 1 Corinthians, everything needs to be done in a good order, so even though there is no mandate, it doesn't mean that such things do not matter. They do, and the Church throughout the ages has done its level best to structure itself in a way that supports the primary work of Gospel proclamation and care for those in need.

Here at St. John's, we have a constitution and by-laws just like many organizations. We have a Church Council that works on the administrative end of "church business." We have a number of volunteers who aid in cutting what would ordinarily be expensive labor and maintenance costs. And we have you, the congregation, to make the final decisions on a number of things like officers and budgets and capital improvement projects. It may all sound very "business-like," and in a way you are right. But, this is a necessary thing, and while not mandated by Scripture, there are Scriptural principles at work behind the way we do things. Here are a few examples:

First, having a document that guides us, a team of people to "govern" us, and processes to maintain and improve things is all part of the stewardship of God's blessings to us at St. John's. Without such things, we are not just squandering assets, we are, in fact, being unfaithful to the provision that God has given us for the furtherance of His kingdom.

Second, it is budget time here at St. John's. Our Finance Committee and Bookkeeper work very hard to forecast contributions and expenses, look ahead to projects and opportunities that we have, and they put together a very realistic picture for you of what we can expect in the year ahead, financially speaking. Now, you might think this all fine, but you are not a numbers person...you know what you can give to the church, and you don't need to be bothered by this process. But consider this proposition, which I think is true: you can tell a lot about a congregation's desire to actually spread the Gospel – to do the work of mission and evangelism – based upon where they plan to spend money in their budget. Much in the same way that you can tell what is most important to a person by their bank statement, so you can tell a lot about a church by

their budget. Thus, you should not only care about the budget, but you ought to ask yourself whether it gives a picture of the church that aligns with our mission (which, in case you forgot is: Rejoice in God's Grace. Live as Disciples. Love One Another.) and what God has called us to do here on Greene Avenue.

Lastly...the Congregational Meeting. This will be announced soon, and I know for many people, their eyes glaze over. Our older members grasp the importance of this for it is at such meetings that important, historical, difficult, upsetting, and marvelous discussions and decisions have been made over the years. For our younger generations, perhaps you are averse to such things because you don't know enough about what goes on, why it matters, or maybe you do meetings all week and don't want to sit through another one. Yet, these meetings are important for all of our members, young and old. Such things shape our mission emphases, identify challenges and opportunities, and encourage us to work together to fulfill the tasks for which God has placed us here. It is also a sort of checks and balances – are the leaders you have elected continuing to serve the best interests of St. John's? Could they use a break because they have been doing it so long? Where could you lend a hand to aid in St. John's running decently, and in good order?

To bring this all together, the bottom line is that these so-called administrative tasks are not unimportant. They are part of the stewardship of God's good and gracious gifts. They are a reflection of what we truly think is important for the mission of St. John's and the wider Church. And, in many ways, your participation in some way – be it voicing concern, voting, serving in a leadership position, or praying – is not only desired, but a necessary part of belonging to the body of Christ at St. John's. Such things aid in making Christ known and caring for those around us. We need you for that. So, support and pray for our leadership here. Look through the budget and ask questions if you don't understand where we are using our resources. Don't ignore the congregational meeting, but come and listen and speak and vote so that all things may be done in good order. We are the body of Christ together, and our Lord is guiding us together as His Church here in Sayville. We aren't always going to get it right – Lord knows the Church has failed time and again over the centuries. It may be hard at times. But as our Lord promises, he will sustain us and will reveal to us far more joys, even among the burdens, so that the Word may be preached, saints may be formed, and sinners saved to life in the kingdom eternally.

Church of God, elect and holy,
Be the people He intends;
Strong in faith and swift to answer
Each command your Master sends:
Royal priests fulfill your calling
Through your sacrifice and prayer;
Give your lives in joyful service—
Sing His praise, His love declare (LSB #646, st. 4).

~ Pastor Noack

Midweek/Midday Bible Study – Based upon the congregational survey that was conducted, there seems to be enough interest to start up a new Bible Study opportunity. Again, based upon your feedback, a time of study will be offered on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays** of each month at **11am**, beginning on **October 2**. The first topic of conversation will be on the Lord's Prayer, exploring the biblical and catechetical teachings of this beloved prayer, and examine what we are praying for in these petitions. Please join us!

Broadway Cleanup, Part Deux – On Saturday, October 5, beginning at 8am, we will have a work day up on the Broadway property. We will clean up any remaining trash and debris that is still lying about, as well as do some shrub and weed trimming and pulling around the fringes of the property. There will be jobs for all kinds of skills and abilities. Bring gloves, tree/bush trimmers (we do not have electric on the property), or anything else you think might be helpful. Please consider helping for any amount of time you can. Thank you!

Ushers – Sadly, one of our regular usher teams at 7:45am, Andy and Patricia Harris, are making a permanent move to Florida. We thank them for their many years of service in this, and many other roles around St. John’s over the years. With their departure, we are in a need of a new, regular ushering team for the 3rd Sundays of each month at 7:45am. In addition, we could also use a couple of substitutes at both services for the occasional times that our regulars are away. If you are interested in either of these roles, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your consideration.

E1HW – On Sunday, October 20, at approximately 11am, another module of the Everyone His Witness program will be offered on the topic of “Witnessing to the Nones.” The “nones” are those who, in recent years, have indicated that they have no religious affiliation. Such folks may range from hostility to indifference to the Christian Church. Recent studies have shown that this is the largest growing population in the US today, and so learning how we might have a conversation with such folks is important for us in our day and age. A signup sheet has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex, or you may register by calling or emailing the Church Office. Hopefully you can join us!

Additional Service – You may recall that a few months ago, a survey was offered in services about the possibility of offering a non-Sunday worship opportunity. Thank you to all who took the time to fill that out. After reviewing the information and suggestions we received, the Board of Elders and Pastor determined that there was not enough interest in a regular additional service to warrant offering another. A great number of those who responded indicated that they would like an additional service in case they couldn’t attend on a Sunday, but very few indicated that they would participate on a regular basis. Thus, it was decided that the time, energy, practice, preparation, etc. to add another service was not needed at this time. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like more information on this decision, please speak to Pastor or one of the Elders (who can be identified by their colorful cross lapel pens on Sundays).

Senior Ministry Committee – On September 18, several congregation members met for lunch to discuss ideas on how to reach the senior population of our congregation. After some good discussion and ideas, it has been determined that there is a need there, and a desire to see some new things happen. As a result, St. John’s will form a Senior Ministry Committee to discuss these ideas, consider our congregational needs and resources, and then seek to implement some of these ideas into practice. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please speak to Pastor in person, via text, or email. A meeting will be set up in the near future in the hopes of getting something going by year’s end or early next year. Thank you for your consideration.

Official Acts at Saint John's (thru September 22):

Baptisms:

Zander Michael DuBois Sept 22

Funerals:

Cindy C. Saliani Aug 28
William Gunther Sep 6



Social Ministries - Thank you to all who have been contributing to the food pantry for the past few months! As we begin to prepare for our busy season here, we are in need of replenishing much of our supplies. Our food pantry shelves need the following: *green beans, corn, peas, dried beans, tomatoes, pasta, stuffing, gravy, instant potatoes, canned yams, mini-marshmallows, mac & cheese, apple juice, apple sauce, hot cocoa mix, cereal, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned tuna, cake mix and icing, rice-a-roni and cookies.* As always turkey donations are also helpful. Donations of non-perishable items can be left in the food box in the narthex. If you have questions, please contact Annie Habeeb at 631-626-5439 or rollingwood07@gmail.com. Thank you!

Coffee Hour – For many years, coffee hour was a regular part of the Sunday morning activities of St. John's. For many reasons this has fallen by the wayside and is now only offered on occasion. Such opportunities are enjoyed by those who participate, and the comment is often made that we should do this more often. One of the strategic goals, in fact, was to explore options for having a weekly coffee hour. Part of this is, of course, getting volunteers to assist. For now, Annie Habeeb has offered to begin to lead the charge on more regular coffee hours. If you have a special event like a birthday or anniversary, and you'd like to have a coffee to celebrate it, she is willing to assist you with that. You may contact Annie at 631-626-5439 or rollingwood07@gmail.com. But more than this, if you would be willing to serve on a coffee hour committee and perhaps be willing to set up and run coffee hour once a month or every other month, please speak to Pastor or Annie. It is not difficult to do, and can be quite a bit of fun. It is a great way for our members to connect informally with each other, and it is welcoming for people who are visiting our congregation too.



God's Son has made me free from Satan's tyranny...

The quote is the opening line from Oscar R. Overby's setting of an anthem "God's Son Has Made Me Free" by Edvard Grieg with a text by H. A. Brorson- an anthem suggested for Reformation (October 31). It is one that evokes joy – whether in the reading of it or its proclamation in song.

Bomb threats at schools, shootings, gang warfare, countries at war, drug abuse, suicide, assassination attempts, pagers blowing up – many orchestrated to do it in a single moment, boats ramming other boats in hostile waters, political corruption, natural disasters, very little clue as to what is true and what isn't when one hears or reads "the news"... it can all seem overwhelming.

In John 8:31-32 Jesus says to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 19:37-38

Given all the talk about freedom and "truth" these days, it is tempting to ask the question that Pilot did when questioning Christ prior to his crucifixion. "What is truth?"

"I (Christ) am the way, the truth and the life."

And freedom – that cherished right in our country? Yes, we are free to engage in every desire and temptation of body and mind; we are free to take another's inconvenient life, free to say "me first" on the highway, on the grocery line and elsewhere, disregarding law or common courtesies we believe everyone (else) should understand. We are free to harbor anger, resentment, guilt, greed or fear; to do as we please, when & how we please... and call it our "right" - so it seems as one looks around at Satan's tyranny and grand hold on so many lives bound up in "self".

Christ showed us a different way, inviting us to a life of reverence and submission to God, absolved of sin, we can follow him, submit to one another with mutual respect; shed anger, resentment, guilt, greed and fear; and trade all that for living lives of selfless service to one another, as if to him; loving one another.

In Christ and by his boundless grace, we are free to be all that he intended for us to be, fostering real unity and cooperation among people. Letting go of selfish, personal (or political) agendas, as well as self-doubt, we can pray for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. In His truth and His way we can find real freedom and life, both for now and for eternity. Join us Oct. 27 at 9:30 am to hear the whole anthem, *God's Son has made me free!* And praise God that we can live in it!

There is a time for everything ... but this appears to not be the time for the envisioned St. John's Arts in Mission. The hope of growing this outreach, however, remains. Music and art are among God's great gifts that bring beauty to our lives. Encouraging youth in these areas would be a privilege! If you have a passion for using these gifts for God's glory or have children who show an interest in doing so, please speak to me. The time will come!

The Great Give Back is back on **Saturday, October 19 from 10am to noon** and St. John's will, once again, participate in this community service initiative created by the Suffolk County Public Library Directors Association and the Suffolk Cooperative Library System. **Sayville Library** hosts a gathering of service organizations sharing information about their work, coupled with a complimentary brunch. Come by the third floor, stop at St. John's display table, engage in conversation with others about our church and its work, and learn plenty about what others are doing in our community, too!



Growing
IN GOD'S
grace
2 PETER 3:18

Lutheran Women *in Mission*
41ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Omaha, Nebraska
.....
June 26–29, 2025

Lutheran Women in Mission News

Save the Date for two great events coming up in 2025!!!

May 3 – LWML Atlantic District Mission Festival to be held at the Atlantic District Offices in Hastings-On-Hudson.

June 26-29 – LWML National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska!



THE ATLANTIC DISTRICT
of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS)

LCMS Atlantic District News

Save the Date:

Festival Of Workshops – March 15 @ SUNY Maritime
District Convention – July 10-12 @ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Colonie, NY

DAILY BIBLE READING



October 2024

	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
	5	Deuteronomy 5:1-21; Matthew 8:18-34
Sun	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
	12	Deuteronomy 11:1-25; Matthew 12:1-21
Sun	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
	19	Deuteronomy 18:1-22; Matthew 14:22-36
Sun	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
	26	Deuteronomy 28:1-22; Matthew 18:1-20
Sun	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 2024

October 2024						November 2024							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 29	30	Oct 1 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	2 11:00am Bible Study 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation 7:45pm SoLi	3 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	4 12:30pm N/A	5 8:00am Broadway Cleanup
6 Pentecost 20 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	7 7:00pm Boy Scouts	8 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	9 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation 7:45pm SoLi	10 6:00pm Finance Meeting 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	11 12:30pm N/A	12
13 Pentecost 21 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	14 7:00pm Boy Scouts	15 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	16 11:00am Bible Study 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation 7:45pm SoLi	17 7:00pm Judo	18 12:30pm N/A	19 The Great Giveback
20 Pentecost 22 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am E1HW	21 7:00pm Boy Scouts	22 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	23 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLi	24 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	25 12:30pm N/A	26
27 Reformation 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	28 7:00pm Boy Scouts	29 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	30 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation 7:45pm SoLi	31 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	Nov 1	2

October Divine Service Assistant Schedule

October 6	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 13	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Charlie Erb	Al Coppola
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Chuck & Judy Scott
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Treva Kopf
October 20	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Greg Calvano	Paul Erath
Ushers	Andy & Patricia Harris	Pat Arrigo & Nicole Hanisch
Reader	Pastor Noack	Annie Habeeb
October 27	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Robert Bayley	Al Coppola
Ushers	Steve & Janet Lindfors	Kevin Paul & Barbara Dahlgren
Reader	Jim Farrell	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.

October Readings

Oct 6: Genesis 2:18-25; Hebrews 2:1-14
Oct 13: Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Hebrews 3:12-19
Oct 20: Ecclesiastes 5:10-20; Hebrews 4:1-13
Oct 27: Revelation 14:6-7; Romans 3:19-28

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:
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 2024 issue will be October 15th.