

The Good News

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville, NY December 2025 / January 2026

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11-14).

Likely you've seen the movie *Christmas Vacation*. There is a scene in that movie where Clark has been anxiously awaiting his Christmas bonus to arrive because he has already put a down payment on a pool for his family. He is hoping his bonus will be enough to cover the cost of it. There is tremendous delight when a courier finally shows up at the door with an envelope. He had been late because it had fallen between the seats of his car. Clark quickly signs for the envelope, announces his plans on what to do with his bonus, and then rips it open to reveal that his bonus this year was not cash, but a subscription to the Jelly of the Month Club. A wave of disappointment, fear, and anger washes over Clark in that moment. And in his uncanny way of being unable to read a room, Cousin Eddie unhelpfully declares, "That's a gift that keeps on giving the whole year, Clark."

Christmas is a special time, and the giving of gifts is certainly part of it. There is joy in seeing the delight on the faces of friends and loved ones as they open a gift selected especially for them. But as it goes with gifts, many of them provide joy for a time, but then it fades over time. Thus, in our quest to get that perfect gift, we look for something that might give joy the whole year long and beyond. We don't want to see our gift wind up in a closet or a drawer, forgotten about and rarely used.

What we are not able to truly do with our Christmas gifts, God has accomplished for us. In giving us the gift of his Son, our Lord has not only become one like us in flesh and blood, but by his death and resurrection provides us with plentiful forgiveness and abundant life to fill our days with comfort, hope, and joy. We are, in fact, recipients of a gift that is always needed and never runs out. Every word misspoken, every careless deed, every failure to act, and every darkened misdeed we have done is all met by Christ with grace and his forgiveness comes to us from his cross. In the coming Christ we are saved, and we are purified and made holy in the sight of God.

As Titus reminds us, this gift keeps giving even more. While we are given tremendous blessing, the other half of this gracious gift is found through us as a people **who are zealous for good works**. Through us, the gift that we have been given is shared, the joy of God's salvation is made known through us to others by our words and deeds, things which seek to show a similar grace and mercy to those around us. In our labor for Christ, we needn't worry about the perfection of our witness or works of mercy, but trust that Christ will make use of whatever we say and do for his purposes, so that his salvation is made known in all the earth.

The Christ child is the gift that our heavenly Father gives to us this Christmas, and always. He is the gift that truly keeps on giving. He gives us life and salvation and light. And through us, he gives hope and salvation to the world. Behold this gift with joy and wonder this Christmas, and like the shepherds and magi, go and tell of his marvelous salvation that all the world may know that Jesus Christ is born to save us eternally!

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.
Go tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born! (LSB # 388, st. 3).

~ Pastor Noack

On behalf of Kristin and Abby, we would like to wish all of the members and friends of St. John's an expectant Advent, a blessed and joy-filled Christmas, and a happy and heathy New Year! May the Lord bless you all during this sacred and special time!

<u>Advent/Christmas Help</u> – A signup 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.

<u>Nativity Setup</u> - On *Sunday, November 30* following the 9:30am service, 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.

<u>Sanctuary Decorating</u> – At *9:00am on Saturday, December 13*, we will take some time to decorate the sanctuary with garland and tree and lights. With enough help, it takes about an hour. Please consider joining us and lending a hand!

<u>Hanging of the Greens</u> – The following day, *December 14*, part of our Sunday service will include a blessing and explanation of the many decorations that adorn churches during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please come and learn more about how these decorations point us to Christ and to the life he comes to give us.

<u>Longest Night</u> — On Sunday, *December 21 at 4pm* we will once again hold our Longest Night Service. This prayerful, meditative service gives people an opportunity to give voice to their frustrations, fears, and sorrows during this season, but do so with hope in the light of salvation that our Lord brings. Please join us and come light a candle in hope.

<u>New Year's Eve</u> – Our New Year's Eve service will be held on *Wednesday, December 31 at 7pm*. Come and receive God's gracious gifts before you head off to ring in the New Year. See you then!

<u>Sanctuary Cleanup</u> – What goes up must come down...I think Newton said that. We will take down the sanctuary decorations and the lawn nativity on Saturday, January 10 at 9:00am. This takes even less time with enough help. Please come and lend a hand!

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

Baptisms:

Ava Grace Capobianco Nov 2

Funerals:

Shannon Hole Nov 4
Beth Keating Nov 12



November 26

7:00pm Thanksgiving Eve Divine Service

December 3

12 noon & 7:00pm Advent Midweek DS

December 10

12 noon & 7:00pm Advent Midweek DS

December 17

12 noon Advent Midweek DS 7:00pm SoLI Concert: Chronicles & Carols December 21

4:00pm Longest Night Service

December 24

4:00pm & 7:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service

December 25

10:30am Christmas Day Divine Service

December 31

7:00pm NYE Divine Service



Come & See; Come & hear; Come & worship!

Music abounds as days of Advent lead us to the celebration of the Christ-Child in the manger.

Advent I hear the Eagle Eye Ringers, Chancel Choir & trumpeters gracing our 9:30am Divine Service.

Advent II we welcome a guest flutist & violinist with the Chancel Choir for the Divine Service at 9:30am

SōLI – the Singers of Long Island presents **Chronicles and Carols** for Advent, Christmas & the New Year on **Wednesday, December 17 at <u>7 pm</u>.** Included are familiar Christmas carols, spirituals, classics by Bruckner & Herbert Howells, and a Triptych of Medieval Carols featuring the 23-voice chamber choir with the organ. A festive reception follows. Suggested donation: \$15/10 students & seniors (or \$25 per family).

Advent IV a clarinetist joins in as we bid Emmanuel to come.

Evening Prayer is sung at 4 pm December 21 on the *Longest Night*. Listen to words of comfort, experience the candlelight, find rest in Christ and prepare for the coming of the *Light of the World*.

And yet more is in store for our Christmas Eve candlelit celebrations as we welcome our newborn King.

Handel's oratorio, *Messiah* will be presented by the Choral Society of the Moriches December 12 at 7:30 pm at St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church (105 Randall Road, Shoreham) and Sunday, December 14 at 3 pm at St. John the Evangelist RC Church (25 Ocean Avenue, Center Moriches) with chorus and orchestra.

These concerts are a gift to the community (no charge, but donations are gratefully accepted).

The message in the stirring music is a gift to all humankind.

Several members of St. John's Chancel Choir have undertaken singing in the chorus this year, and would love to share this experience with you, confident that it will be a blessing.

Quoting Isaiah, Handel begins, "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God; speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem; and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

The musical meditations on Biblical texts of prophecy, incarnation, Christ's atoning death, resurrection and glorification will indeed help one prepare for His coming both as an infant and for His final return – a beautiful way to take time to center oneself in this joyous season!



Merry Christmas

Promised photo: Liberty & 5 pups

OR	DE	R
H	ĎΚ	M

Your Name:	
Phone:	

Yes, I wish to place a plant at the altar for Christmas:

To the Glory of God	
In memory of	
In honor of	

Plants are \$15.00 each. Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

Please return this form to the church office by Wednesday, December 17th.

St. John's Lutheran Church 48 Greene Avenue, Sayville, NY 11782 631-589-3202





December 2025/January 2026





December 2025

January 2026

	1 Isaiah 7:10-8:8; 1 Peter 3:1-22		1 Isaiah 61:1-11; Luke 1:57-80
	2 Isaiah 8:9-9:7; 1 Peter 4:1-19		2 Isaiah 62:1-12; Luke 2:1-20
	3 Isaiah 9:8-10:11; 1 Peter 5:1-14		3 Isaiah 63:1-14; Luke 2:21-40
	4 Isaiah 10:12-27a, 33-34; 2 Peter 1:1-21	Sun	4 Isaiah 63:15-65:2; Luke 2:41-52
	5 Isaiah 11:1-12:6; 2 Peter 2:1-22		5 Isaiah 65:8-25; Luke 3:1-20
	6 Isaiah 14:1-23; 2 Peter 3:1-18		6 Isaiah 66:1-20; Luke 3:21-38
Sun	7 Isaiah 24:1-13; 1 John 1:1-2:14		7 Ezekiel 1:1-14,22-28; Romans 1:1-17
	8 Isaiah 24:14-25:12; 1 John 2:15-29		8 Ezekiel 2:1-3:11; Romans 1:18-32
	9 Isaiah 26:1-19; 1 John 3:1-24		9 Ezekiel 3:12-27; Romans 2:1-16
	10 Isaiah 26:20-27:13; 1 John 4:1-21		10 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32; Romans 2:17-29
	11 Isaiah 28:14-29; 1 John 5:1-21	Sun	11 Ezekiel 33:1-20; Romans 3:1-18
	12 Isaiah 29:1-14; Jude 1-25		12 Ezekiel 34:1-24; Romans 3:19-31
	13 Isaiah 29:15-30:14; Revelation 1:1-20		13 Ezekiel 36:13-28; Romans 4:1-25
Sun	14 Isaiah 30:15-26; Revelation 2:1-29		14 Ezekiel 36:33-37 :14; Romans 5:1-21
	15 Isaiah 30:27-31:9; Revelation 3:1-22		15 Ezekiel 37:15-28; Romans 6:1-23
	16 Isaiah 32:1-20; Revelation 4:1-11		16 Ezekiel 38:1-23; Romans 7:1-20
	17 Isaiah 33:1-24; Revelation 5:1-14		17 Ezekiel 39:1-10,17-29; Romans 7:21-8:17
	18 Isaiah 34:1-2,8-35:10; Revelation 6:1-17	Sun	18 Ezekiel 40:1-4,43:1-12; Romans 8:18-39
	19 Isaiah 40:1-17; Revelation 7:1-17		19 Ezekiel 44:1-16,23-29; Romans 9:1-18
	20 Isaiah 40:18-41:10; Revelation 8:1-13		20 Ezekiel 47:1-14, 21-23; Romans 9:19-33
Sun	21 Isaiah 42:1-25; Revelation 9:1-12		21 Joel 1:1-20; Romans 10:1-21
	22 Isaiah 43:1-24; Revelation 9:13-10:11		22 Joel 2:1-17; Romans 11:1-24
	23 Isaiah 43:25-44:20; Revelation 11:1-19		23 Joel 2:18-32; Romans 11:25-12:13
	24 Isaiah 44:21-45:13,20-25; Revelation 12:1-17		24 Joel 3:1-21; Romans 12:14-13:14
	25 Isaiah 49:1-18; Matthew 1:1-17	Sun	25 Zechariah1:1-21; Romans 14:1-23
	26 Isaiah 49:22-26, 50:4-51:8,12-16; Matthew 1:18-25		26 Zechariah 2:1-3:10; Romans 15:1-13
	27 Isaiah 51:17-52:12; Matthew 2:1-12		27 Zechariah 4:1-5:11; Romans 15:14-33
Sun	28 Isaiah 52:13-54:10; Matthew 2:13-23		28 Zechariah 6:1-7:14; Romans 16:17-27
	29 Isaiah 55:1-13; Luke 1:1-25		29 Zechariah 8:1-23; 2 Timothy 1:1-18
	30 Isaiah 58:1-59:3,14-21; Luke 1:26-38		30 Zechariah 9:1-17; 2 Timothy 2:1-26
	31 Isaiah 60:1-22; Luke 1:39-56		31 Zechariah 10:1-11:3; 2 Timothy 3:1-17

December 2025

December 2025

SuMo TuWe 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

January 2026

SuMo TuWe Th Fr Sa

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 30	Dec 1 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2 6:00pm Basketball 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	3 12:00pm Advent Midweek Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	4 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	5 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Basketball	6
7 Second Sunday in Advent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	8 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9 6:00pm Basketball 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	10 11:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Advent Midweek Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SoLI	11 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Basketball	13 9:00am Sanctuary Decoration
14 Third Sunday in Advent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	15 6:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 6:00pm Basketball 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	17 12:00pm Advent Midweek Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm SoLI Concert	18 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	19 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Basketball	20
21 Fourth Sunday in Advent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School Christmas Pageant 9:30am Divine Service 4:00pm Longest Night Evening Prayer	22 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	24 12:30pm N/A 4:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service 7:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Divine Service	25 10:30am Christmas Day Divine Service	26	27
28 First Sunday After Christmas 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	29 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	31 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm NYE Divine Service	Jan 1, 26	2	3

December Divine Service Assistant Schedule

December 7	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	
December 14	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am	
Communion Stewards	Robert Bayley	Al Coppola	
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Chuck & Judy Scott	
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Treva Kopf	
December 21	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am	
Communion Stewards	Greg Calvano	Paul Erath	
Ushers	Marcus & Annie Habeeb	Lloyd & Pam Arrasate	
Reader	Jim Farrell	Paul Erath	
December 28	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am	
Communion Stewards	Charlie Erb	Al Coppola	
Ushers	Steve & Janet Lindfors	Kevin Paul & Barbara Dahlgren	
Reader	Pastor	Annie Habeeb	

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.

December Readings

Dec 7: Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13 Dec 14: Isaiah 35:1-10; James 5:7-11 Dec 21: Isaiah 7:10-17; Romans 1:1-7 Dec 28: Isaiah 63:7-14; Galatians 4:4-7

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 February 2026 issue will be January 15th.