

The Good News

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

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:30-31).

Lent is in full swing and the Church has taken on a more intentionally somber, meditative, reflective tone in these days. Lent is 40 days in length, and in the way that the Church marks time, Sundays are not included in that count. That is because Sundays are always feast days regardless of the season. I sometimes joke with folks in my new members class that if they give something up for Lent, Sundays are a day you can slip up and not feel badly about it! But that is not the point, nor is it an excuse to let go of any Lenten discipline for the season. The feasting of Sundays is centered around the Divine Service of the Church, and although we do not sing Hallelujahs in Lent, we still rejoice in the gifts of God's unending grace given to us in Word and Sacrament.

This particular year (Series A) is one of my favorite Lenten seasons. The readings that are appointed for the Gospels are some of the most beloved and beautiful stories. March 1 will be John 3 and the story of Nicodemus visiting Jesus and asking his questions, leading Jesus to that famous passage that many of us know, **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life** (John 3:16). March 8 brings us to the story of the woman at the well in John 4. March 15 is the healing of the man born blind in John 9 when Jesus rubs mud in his eye and sends him off to wash. And finally we come to March 22 and the amazing story of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead in John 11. The readings will be lengthy, but they show the breadth of what our Lord came to do, culminating in the greatest miracle of all – resurrection from the dead.

Of course, all of these great stories point us ahead to Holy Week and all that our Lord came to do for us in his own death and resurrection, not just here, but eternally. Our Lord pours out his Spirit upon us, and has died on the cross for us so that we might have life eternal. Jesus also sees our deepest sins, and offers us living water to drink deeply of his grace and mercy. Christ opens our eyes so that we may see him and his salvation clearly. And on the Last Day, when Christ comes again in glory, like Lazarus, he will summon us forth from our graves and give us what we confess every week: the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

I invite you to participate in all of these weeks, and come and hear these beloved stories again, using them as preparation for the greatest of events of Holy Week. Even more, consider inviting someone to join you. These Lenten weeks contain some of the best stories of the Bible. What an amazing way to introduce or reintroduce folks to what the Church, and what our Lord is all about. See you there!

Here might I stay and sing,
No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King,
Never was grief like Thine.
This is my friend,

In whose sweet praise
I all my days
Could gladly spend (LSB #430, st. 7)!

~ Pastor Noack

Festival of Workshops - Registration is now open for this annual event to be held on **March 7** on the campus of SUNY Maritime. This is a great day of learning and networking with leaders and congregants from churches all over our district. Click [here](#) to learn more or to register. Plans for carpooling will also be arranged. Please consider joining us!

Wednesday Bible Study – Wednesday Bible Study picks back up on **March 4 at 11am**, and meets the first and third Wednesdays of the month. We are beginning a new series on Lutheran Spirituality around the topic of Community and its importance for the Church and for our world. Please join us as we learn more about how community not only shapes us, but supports us through the joys and sorrows of life, and why the community of the Church is as important as ever in these days. See you there!

Sunday Bible Study – Our Sunday Bible study will wrap up its conversation on Jude on March 1. Our next topic will explore the book *The Way of Salvation in the Lutheran Church* by George Henry Gerberding. This is a classic book speaking to the gift of salvation in light of American Revivalism. The book touches on topics such as Baptism, Sunday School, Christian parenting, Justification, among many others. Please consider joining us on Sundays between the services for this interesting discussion.

LIT is Coming! – On **March 22**, the Board of Elders will offer a preview of a new study opportunity here at St. John's called *Lutheran Institute of Theology*. This video based series will lead participants through a variety of topics from Spirituality, to Biblical Theology, to Church History, and much more. Come see what LIT is all about, and then join us for the sessions coming in April.

LWML Convention – The 2026 Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Atlantic District Convention will be held on **Saturday, May 2** at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel in Suffern, NY. The theme this year is: Joyful, Patient, Faithful based upon Romans 12:12. Registration is now open! The convention will feature worship, a wonderful keynote speaker, information about Mission Grants, and plenty of time for fellowship and fun. To learn more, or to register, click [here](#). All women are welcome!

Lenten & Holy Week Services

Passion History

In this worship series for Lent, we will explore the various scenes of the Passion narrative as drawn from a mix of all four Gospels. This is a wonderful way to meditate on the work of salvation that Christ has done for us, preparing us for the events of Holy Week and the joy of Easter. Please join us as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus and consider all that he has done to bring us life and salvation eternally.

Gethsemane (3/4)	noon & 7pm
The Palace of the High Priest (3/11)	noon & 7pm
The Praetorium (3/18)	noon & 7pm
Calvary (3/25)	noon & 7pm
Palm/Passion Sunday (3/29)	7:45am & 9:30am
Holy Wednesday (4/1)	7pm
Maundy Thursday (4/2)	noon & 7pm
Good Friday (4/3)	noon & 7pm
Easter Sunrise (4/5) @ Sayville Marina Beach Park	6:00am
Easter Divine Service (4/5)	7:45am & 9:30am

Official Acts at Saint John's (thru January 31):

Funerals:

Emily Teresa Finn	Dec 1
Doris Ritzmann	Jan 7
Edith Martha Birk	Jan 24

Lent is often called a journey. The cross on Calvary and ultimately, the empty tomb are destinations. There are other reflecting points along the way, one of which is Gethsemane - inspiration for the hymn: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*. LSB 436

Moravian poet, hymn writer and news editor, James Montgomery (1771-1854) observes Christ in Gethsemane and challenges the reader/singer to *learn from him* in active recognition and participation.

The invitation is to *all who feel the tempter's power*. Go. Go to that place of prayer when struggling, or sin is knocking at the door and bidding one to engage.

See our Redeemer's conflict; how he expressed his longing to find another way forward, yet accepted that which his Father required of him. *Keep watch* with him, as he bid his disciples do, knowing that sometimes in our own struggles people will let us down. Don't turn away from grief; rather, *learn from Jesus Christ to pray* (stz 1) as he pours out his heart and soul, and even his blood in agonizing conversation with his Father, knowing the hardest days of his earthly life lay just ahead.

Follow to the judgement hall and view the suffering and shame Christ endured for us. Harsh words are painful, as are scorn, beatings, and condemnation, especially when undeserved – and yet Christ endured them all. *Learn from Him to bear the cross* (stanza 2) – whatever that cross is in our own lives.

Stanza three begins: *Calvary's mournful mountain climb*. And there, we are bid to *adore* our dying Savior as he completes the work given him to do, and finally declares, "*It is finished.*" Dying to sin and living to Christ is an ongoing battle here on earth. With eyes on our Savior, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we *learn from Jesus Christ to die*.

Stanza 4 bids us to, once again, go – to *hasten to the tomb* where Christ's body was laid, and see that He is no longer there, but indeed, risen. There is yet more to learn: *Savior, teach us so to rise*.

This is just one of many Lenten hymns in Lutheran Service Book that might be used for meditation as well as singing in the days ahead. Take some time to not only sing, but also read and reflect on the artful texts that just might offer new insight into the work our Lord accomplished for us. Learn, and journey well!

Did you know? Icelander, Hallgrimur Petursson, in his collection, *Hymns of the Passion*, includes 9 poems with a total of 165 stanzas for meditation on events in Gethsemane alone. If you are attending the Atlantic District Festival of Workshops on March 7 you can hear more about his thoughtful and inspiring writing from The Rev. Robert Boehler at the 1:50pm session. To delve into the 50 poems, consider getting a copy of the recent English translation by Gracia Grindal.

Mark your calendars: **The Long Island Brass Guild** returns to offer another benefit concert for Mercy Haven. Join us on Sunday, April 19 at 3pm for an afternoon of joyous music making!

Singers sought! The Chancel Choir would benefit greatly from some additional singers, *especially* women at the moment. If you are interested or want to know more, please contact me in the church office or at coffee hour!

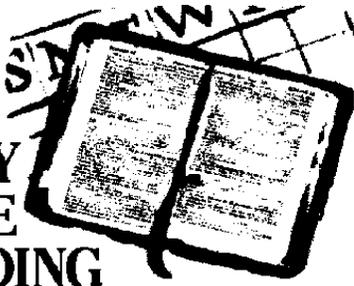
Souper Bowl of Caring – Thank you! The Mary Martha ladies would like to thank everyone for their generosity to help Sharing a Meal, the soup kitchen in Sayville. On Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, we collected \$600 in our soup pot. In the next couple of weeks, Mary Martha President, Pam Kennard, will be presenting a check to Joanne Rowland, President of Sharing a Meal. We have been blessed with all you gave, and those who are fed will be blessed, too.

Thrivent Associate Membership - Some of you have asked about Associate Membership Forms. I have these forms available for you every Sunday at church. Although you might not want to purchase a product, you might want to consider being an Associate Member for \$20 a year. This would enable you to be part of Thrivent's Generosity Program, which allows you to be able to be part of doing one Action Team and receive \$250 to spend on a project per year. Additionally, you would be eligible to obtain a Water Filter Kit or a Solar Kit free of charge that would help someone in another part of God's world to have a better life. It is what we can do with all the benefits that God has given us. I am happy to help you with this or any questions you might have about Thrivent.
- Honey Pabst, Thrivent Champion

Thrivent Events – *Be included* - I have a list of about 50 people that I know are Thrivent members here at St. John's. I am thankful for these wonderful and giving people who support what we do here by donating their Choice Dollars to us. But...I feel I am missing the larger part of our Thrivent family here and would love to have all St. John's Thrivent members be a part of what we do and have. Please let me know if you are a Thrivent member, so you will receive the email messages I send out. If you wish to join by Associate Membership, I am here to help with that, too. You can contact me at: arthon@aol.com or call me at: 631-897-5193. If I am not home, leave me a message, and I will get back to you. Looking forward to having you BE INCLUDED in all things. We are putting the Water Filter Kits together at the end of March, and it isn't too late to order yours. This way you can join in this fun event.

Thrivent Water Filter Kits or Solar Light Build Kits – I have heard back from some of you that you received your kits. I am looking to set a date towards the end of March when we can meet and assemble our kits together as we did last year. Hope you will be part of this group, so order your kits as soon as you can. I am looking forward to hearing from you and adding your name to the growing list of people who have already received their kits.
Honey Pabst arthon@aol.com

DAILY BIBLE READING



March 2026

Sun	1	Zechariah 11:4-17; 2 Timothy 4:1-18
	2	Zechariah 12:1—13:9; Titus 1:1—2:6
	3	Zechariah 14:1—21; Titus 2:7—3:15
	4	Job 1:1-22; John 1:1-18
	5	Job 2:1—3:10; John 1:19-34
	6	Job 3:11-26; John 1:35-51
	7	Job 4:1-21; John 2:1-12
Sun	8	Job 5:1-27; John 2:13-25
	9	Job 6:1-13; John 3:1-21
	10	Job 6:14-30; John 3:22—4:6
	11	Job 7:1-21; John 4:7—26
	12	Job 8:1-22; John 4:27-45
	13	Job 9:1-35; John 4:46-54
	14	Job 10:1-22; John 5:1-18
Sun	15	Job 11:1-20; John 5:19-29
	16	Job 12:1-6, 12-25; John 5:30-47
	17	Job 13:1-12; John 6:1-21
	18	Job 13:13-28; John 6:22-40
	19	Job 14:1-22; John 6:41-59
	20	Job 15:1-23, 30-35; John 6:60-71
	21	Job 16:1-22; John 7:1-13
Sun	22	Job 17:1-16; John 7:14-31
	23	Job 18:1-21; John 7:32-53
	24	Job 19:1-12, 21-27; John 8:1-20
	25	Job 20:1-23, 29; John 8:21-38
	26	Job 21:1-21; John 8:39-59
	27	Job 30:16-31; John 9:1-23
	28	Job 31:1-12, 33-40; John 9:24-41
Sun	29	Job 32:1-22; John 10:1-21
	30	Job 32:1-22; John 10:1-21
	31	Job 32:1-22; John 10:1-21
	27	Job 30:16-31; John 9:1-23
	28	Job 31:1-12, 33-40; John 9:24-41



LWML ATLANTIC DISTRICT 27TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

MAY 1 - 2, 2026

Crowne Plaza Hotel
3 Executive Blvd, Suffern, NY 10901

[Click Here for More Information or to Register](#)

A graphic with a white background and colorful wavy borders on the left and right. At the top center is a logo with a red cross and the text "GOD IS GOOD say so". Below it is the main headline "Mission Goal of \$90,000 Reached" in green. Underneath is the slogan "God is good- Say So!" and a paragraph: "By God's grace and your support we have reached our \$90,000 Mission Goal for 2024-2026!". At the bottom center is the website "adlwml.org" and at the bottom right is the "Lutheran Women in Mission ATLANTIC DISTRICT" logo.

Mission Goal of \$90,000 Reached

God is good- Say So!

By God's grace and your support we have reached our \$90,000 Mission Goal for 2024-2026!

adlwml.org

Lutheran Women in Mission ATLANTIC DISTRICT

March 2026

March 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				

April 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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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		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 1 Second Sunday in Lent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	2 7:00pm Boy Scouts 8:00pm Men's Pick-up Basketball	3 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	4 11:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SolI	5 6:00pm Thunder Girls Basketball Practice 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	6 12:30pm N/A	7 9:00am Festival of Workshops
8 Third Sunday in Lent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	9 7:00pm Boy Scouts 8:00pm Men's Pick-up Basketball	10 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	11 12:00pm Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SolI	12 6:00pm Thunder Girls Basketball Practice 6:30pm Bells 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:30pm Chancel Choir	13 12:30pm N/A	14
15 Fourth Sunday in Lent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	16 7:00pm Boy Scouts 8:00pm Men's Pick-up Basketball	17 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	18 11:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SolI	19 6:00pm Thunder Girls Basketball Practice 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	20 12:30pm N/A	21
22 Fifth Sunday in Lent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am LIT Promo 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	23 7:00pm Boy Scouts 8:00pm Men's Pick-up Basketball	24 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	25 12:00pm Divine Service 12:30pm N/A 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Divine Service 7:45pm SolI	26 6:00pm Thunder Girls Basketball Practice 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	27 12:30pm N/A	28
29 Passion Sunday 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	30 7:00pm Boy Scouts 8:00pm Men's Pick-up Basketball	31 6:00pm First Communion Class 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	Apr 1	2	3	4

March Divine Service Assistant Schedule

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

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.

March Readings

Mar 1: Genesis 12:1-9; Romans 4:1-8, 13-17
Mar 8: Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-8
Mar 15: Isaiah 42:14-21; Ephesians 5:8-14
Mar 22: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:1-11
Mar 29: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Philippians 2:5-11

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 April 2026 issue will be March 15th.