

The Good News

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

September 2026

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16).

For the longest time, whenever our church body – The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod – met in convention every three years, we chose a mission and ministry emphasis. This is a short phrase and idea that seeks to guide what we do and where we place our energy for the upcoming triennium. About 16 years ago, the ideas of *Witness, Mercy, and Life Together* were highlighted as we believed that sharing the Good News, showing Christ's love, and rejoicing in what we have in common within the Church was important. Most recently, we have been working under the emphasis of *Making Disciples for Life*, seeking to bring children up into a faith that will endure, and encouraging new members of the church at any age to be life-long learners in the faith and followers of Jesus.

The LCMS met in convention in July (in Phoenix!), and have once again sought to realign our priorities and establish a new emphasis. The new emphasis is *Tell the Next Generation*. This was the subheading for the greater theme of the convention itself which was *Christ is Risen!* Focusing on how the resurrection of Christ impacts every aspect of our lives. And with this new emphasis, we are reminded that for all the good things we have as Lutherans, it is not enough for us to simply enjoy them alone. Instead, we are called to tell the next generation...and there is much to say!

Many of the things that the Reformation stood for are still things that impact people's lives today, even those in the Christian faith. Salvation by works, living up to a standard, doing all the right things, making a decision to follow Jesus are all things that are still prevalent in our world. And, all of it is works based, it's about making our own way to heaven, and if you fall short, well, you'll find yourself on the outside looking in. This has led to tremendous stress for some, while others have felt pushed out of church because it is one more thing they feel like they have to do. As such, our message of grace in Christ, his love for sinners, and his resurrected life which is given to us is still Good News for people of all places and all ages.

Thus, we are encouraged to *Tell the Next Generation*, which begins right in our own homes. We speak of Christ's love and mercy to our own families, our own children and grandchildren, and to all who orbit our sphere of influence. From there, we can assist in making sure the children of our own church have a chance to hear of Jesus, and encourage them and their families to be involved in the life of the church so that they can be grounded in the Word and on Christ himself. Blessed by the gifts of grace we receive in church, we then can go forth in confidence and tell the next generation of people who have no church connection and no knowledge of Christ, and invite them into the hope that we share.

It is a good emphasis, and a good reminder for all of us of what we have been called to do and why what we do matters. It is about the Gospel going forth, being passed on to every generation, and speaking truth to a world that longs to hear it, even if they are resistant initially. We keep telling them, and allow opportunity for the Spirit to work, and bring us together under Christ and the joy that awaits us in his kingdom eternally.

To each coming generation Tell the truth, persuade, explain,
Till the time when time is ended, Till the Savior comes again—
Till the saints are all united Under Christ's eternal reign! (LSB #828, st. 5).

~ Pastor Noack

Holy Happy Hour – As a kickoff to the Labor Day weekend, we will once again host a Holy Happy Hour on ***September 4 from 5:30-7:30pm*** at Pastor's house (45 Greene Ave). Food and beverages (adult and kid-friendly) will be provided. Come for a little bit or stay the whole time, we'd love to see you. Bring a lawn chair if you'd like to assure yourself a place to sit! Hope you can join us!

Sunday Morning Bible Study – Classes will resume on ***Sunday, September 27*** between the two services. Our new topic will be on the Parables of Jesus. Please join us as we seek to learn and make sense of these treasured stories from Jesus and how they apply to our life with him. Class typically runs from 8:30-9:15am each Sunday.

Confirmation – Confirmation classes for 7th and 8th graders will begin on ***Wednesday, October 7 at 6pm***. This will be our orientation class, and a parent is expected to attend. Classes will meet on subsequent Wednesdays from 6-6:50pm. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor.

Faith Renewal – This class is an introduction, or reintroduction, to the Lutheran Christian faith, seeking to explain what we believe and why we do the things we do. We will meet beginning on ***Sunday, October 4***. If you are new to St. John's, or would like a refresher, please join us on Sundays after the 9:30am service. Classes will meet on Sundays from 11am-12 noon. Please contact the church office to register to attend.

Wednesday Bible Study – Our midweek, daytime study will begin again on ***Wednesday, October 7 at 11am*** and will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. The topic is still TBD, but this has been a fun group, and we welcome more to join us as we grow in our understanding of God's Word.

Lutheran Institute of Theology – This popular series will be offered once again here at St. John's, this time on ***Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm beginning on October 7***. Another change this go around is that the class will be offered on consecutive weeks through Thanksgiving. Our course this time will be on the topic *Ethics & The Christian Life*. A sign-up sheet will be posted to register. Invite and friend, and join us!

Official Acts at Saint John's (thru Sept 1):

Baptisms:

Charlotte Adelle	July 12
Giabella M. Rizzo	July 19
Nora N. Luman	July 26
Ellie N. McCarthy	Aug 16
Millie M. Martin	Aug 30

Weddings:

Shauna O'Flaherty & Seamus Burns Aug 16

Funerals:

Frank B. Olson	July 10
Katherine C. Dasch	July 12
Timothy R. Emmel	July 18
Scott A. Coppola	Aug 8
Raymond J. Keating	Aug 15
Harold B. Mosoff	Aug 17

And the walls came a-tumbling down...

When you hear the name “Joshua” - what comes to mind? For many, it may be the refrain of the 19th century African American spiritual, “Joshua fought (or “fit”) the battle of Jericho...” that tells the dramatic story of the destruction of the ancient city as the Israelites, having come out of Egypt, cross the Jordan into the promised land.

That song, along with “Go Down, Moses”, is one of the few intersections I remember between lessons learned in Sunday School and music sung at Cherry Avenue Elementary School. One of the striking parts of the story is that God used simple acts of marching and music-making – the blowing of trumpets and shouting - to do His work in leveling the walls of the city of Jericho. Fear of Israel had already spread through the land as people heard how Pharaoh’s army drowned in the Red Sea, how the Amorites were defeated at Sihon, and how God continued to act on behalf of His people. Israel followed God’s orders, given through Joshua to march around the city for six days, then seven times on the seventh day. When the horns and voices sounded, the walls came tumbling down, and the victory once again demonstrated the miraculous power and presence of God moving through His chosen people.

In August a busload of mostly Lutherans convened by Deacon Consiglio journeyed to Lancaster, PA for *Sight and Sound Theatre’s* production of Joshua – an experience I highly commend to you! The quality of the production rivaled anything I’ve seen on Broadway, and the Biblical message was equally powerful. The show brought to life many struggles and events of God’s people as they left Egypt, wandered in the desert wilderness and moved into the promised land. The challenges to Moses’ leadership of the Israelites, passed on to Joshua, were many. Internal and external battles raged, yet the faithfulness of Almighty God was at the center of it all.

Although I remembered the story of the miracle that took place at Jericho from childhood, I was surprised to discover that Joshua, chapter 6 never appears in our church’s three-year, or one-year lectionary. If you hear scripture only in church on Sundays, you may miss it, unless you happen to hear the spiritual sung by Mahalia Jackson, Elvis Presley, Hugh Laurie or one of many other artists who have recorded it - or sing it yourself. That simple spiritual has told a story of God’s creative work and deliverance through Joshua’s obedience to millions of people for 2 centuries, even as it expressed a yearning and hope for deliverance for enslaved people.

God created music to have that lasting power – combining text with melody and rhythm, making it memorable, and conveying truths. Music, be it elaborate, a retelling of a story demonstrating God’s power and faithfulness, or a simple song such as *Jesus Loves Me* or one whose notes I picked out by ear on an old upright piano as a 4 year-old - “*I will make you fishers of men...if you follow me*” - those texts and tunes become embedded in our minds and shape us throughout our lives.

If you have been quietly ignoring God’s call to join in the music making at St. John’s, now is a wonderful time to step forward as rehearsals resume and the choirs prepare to lead singing and offer gifts of music for Sunday worship. Our goal is not to bring the walls down, but to proclaim Christ crucified, risen and ascended - Christ who has conquered sin and death on our behalf - and to praise the Triune God. If we raise the rafters in song, all the better!

Parents, if you can find time in your child’s life for music making to the glory of God, please speak with me! Let the church help you as we all seek to “*tell the next generation*” of God’s love and mercy for us, passed along in psalms, liturgy and hymns of the faith. Listening to music is different from learning to make it. When children use their own breath - or hands, for bell players - they embody the music and become active participants, joining their voices with one another and even with the angels, archangels and all the company of heaven as sacred songs are offered. I would love to revive a children’s choir or music-making group to increase the impact of the

church's song on their young lives. Doing so requires both children and a family commitment to the tasks of a weekly practice and attendance at Sunday worship.

The invitation to take part in the music making at St. John's is yours – whether for you, your child or your whole family!

Chancel Choir begins Thursday, September 10 at 7:30pm in the music room (teens and adults are welcome!). Bell Choir begins a week later, on Thursday, September 17 at 6:30 in the balcony of the church.

Find me at coffee hour, call (631 589 3202 x 105) or email (music@stjohnsayville.org). I would love to speak with you about how you might get involved!

Coming in October

St. John's will be hosting the *Suffolk Chapter of the American Guild of Organists* in their annual members' recital on Sunday afternoon, October 18. The exact time and theme of the recital will be announced very soon. Keep an eye out and the afternoon free to enjoy the talents of several of Long Island's gifted musicians.

Great Give Back – On **October 17 from 10am-noon**, the Sayville Library will once again be hosting their Great Give Back. This is an opportunity for the public to come peruse information about, and meet people from various community service organizations from the Sayville area. St. John's has had a booth for this in the past and we would like to do so again this year. If you are interested in serving on a committee to come up with decorating/advertising ideas, and perhaps some kind of giveaway, please contact the Church Office.

Technology Sunday – On **Sunday, September 27**, we will have several members of Church Council available to assist members with connecting, or reconnecting with our online church directory called *Instant Church Directory* (remember that?), as well as showing you how to apply for an Action Team card from Thrivent if you are a member, or to assist in becoming a member if you are not. So, bring your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, and we can show you how to gain access to these, and other great tools available to you.

MARY MARTHA

MUM SALE



Mums need to be ordered and paid in advance. Nothing will be sold the day of pick up.

When: Orders will be accepted now through Sept. 9, 2026

Pick Up: In Parking Lot Between 12 Noon – 1:30PM
On Saturday, September 19, 2026

At: St. John's Lutheran Church
48 Greene Avenue,
Sayville, NY 11782

COST: \$9.50 for each 9-inch pot

Checks to be made out to Mary Martha Guild and sent to Pam Kennard along with order form to 46 Holmes Street, Sayville, NY 11782, postmarked no later than September 9. For more information contact Pam at 631-678-3246

COLORS: List how many of each

___yellow ___bronze ___red

___white ___pink/lav ___orange

Your Name_____

Address_____

Telephone Number_____

Tag Sale Update 2026 - THANK YOU to all who donated and especially to the Tag Sale Committee and Friends for everything you did to help make the 2026 Treasure and Tag Sale a great success! We raised \$1,225 plus donated a \$250 Thrivent Action Team Card to Scott Coppola's family for a total of \$1,475 donated.

Golf Outing Update – Thank you to all who supported the golf outing this year...it was a great success! A special thanks goes to our golf committee who worked very hard and pulled off a wonderful event that ran very smoothly. After final calculations, the outing was able to raise almost \$10,500, which will go toward Sharing a Meal, St. John – Holbrook Food Pantry, and new paraments for us here. Your support was tremendous and greatly appreciated. Save the date now for next year's outing to be held on Wednesday, August 18 at Timber Point. Thanks again! ~ Lisa Giacoia & Kristin Noack, Golf Chairs

Sunday School Rally Day & Registration - Rally Day for Sunday School will be on ***Sunday, September 13*** at 9:30am. You can register now by going to our website under the Youth/Parish Education tab, or by clicking [here](#). Please register as soon as possible as we begin ordering materials and getting ready to welcome our students!

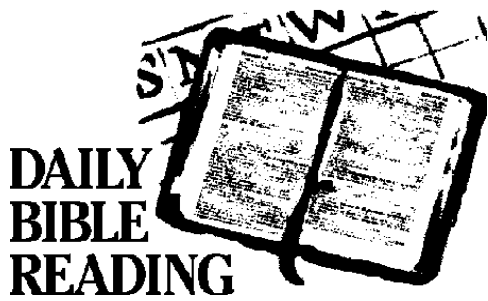
Sunday School Teachers – A special thank you to all of our teachers who generously gave their precious time last year! We are now looking to update our volunteer roster for the 2026 – 2027 school year. Our goal is to have enough teachers and assistants to ensure our Sunday School thrives each week. Materials and guidance are provided to equip you for lessons and activities. Even if you can only assist occasionally, please let us know; we are always in need of additional help.

If you are interested, please register as a volunteer on our website under the Youth/Parish Education tab, or by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor or Karen Paul.

Grandparents Day – ***On Sunday, September 13th***, Thrivent Financial will be honoring those special people in our lives at a coffee hour between services in our gym. As you leave following the early service, join us and enjoy fellowship with one another. If you are attending the later service, come early to reconnect with everyone or come after that service. What a great time to honor all our grandparents and enjoy coffee and conversation with each other. There will be a little gift to take home along with new Thrivent shirts to take home and enjoy wearing. If you have any questions about Choice Dollars, monthly reflections, or anything else Thrivent, I will be happy to help you. Honey Pabst, Thrivent Church Champion: arthon@aol.com

Mary Martha Mum Sale – The Mary Martha mum sale is in full effect and now taking orders! The mums are in a 9-inch pot and cost \$9.50 each. Color options include yellow, bronze, red, white, pink/lavender, and orange. All orders must be prepaid and postmarked to Pam Kennard no later than ***September 9, 2026***. Pick up will be in the church parking lot on ***Saturday, September 19th from 12pm–1:30pm***. All orders and checks made out to Mary Martha Guild are to be sent to Pam Kennard at 46 Holmes Street, Sayville, NY 11782. For more information, please call Pam at 631-678-3246.

Mahjonn Social Club –Deanna Suckow has put together a social club here at St. John's playing the game of Mahjonn. This group meets every ***Wednesday at 1:30pm*** here at St. John's and is open to all ages and skill levels. Feel free to join; all are welcome! If interested in learning more, please reach out to Deanna Suckow at deannasuckow@yahoo.com or 631-316-0447.



September 2026

	1	1 Kings 18:1-19; Ephesians 1:1-23
	2	1 Kings 18:20-40; Ephesians 2:1-22
	3	1 Kings 19:1-21; Ephesians 3:1-21
	4	2 Kings 2:18; Ephesians 4:1-24
	5	2 Kings 2:1-19—25, 4:1-7; Ephesians 4:25—5:14
Sun	6	2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37; Ephesians 5:15-33
	7	2 Kings 4:38—5:8; Ephesians 6:1-24
	8	2 Kings 5:9-27; Philippians 1:1-20
	9	2 Kings 6:1-23; Philippians 1:21—2:11
	10	2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29; Philippians 2:12—30
	11	2 Chronicles 29:1-24; Philippians 3:1-21
	12	2 Chronicles 31:1-21; Philippians 4:1-23
Sun	13	2 Chronicles 32:1-22; Colossians. 1:1-23
	14	2 Chronicles 33:1-25; Colossians 1:24—2:7
	15	2 Chronicles 34:1-4,8-11, 14-33; Colossians 2:8-23
	16	2 Chronicles 35:1-7, 16-25; Colossians 3:1-25
	17	2 Chronicles 36:1-23; Colossians 4:1-18
	18	Nehemiah 1:1—2:10; 1 Timothy 1:1-20
	19	Nehemiah 2:11-20, 4:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:1-15
Sun	20	Nehemiah 4:7-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-16
	21	Nehemiah 5:1-16, 6:1-9, 15-16; 1 Timothy 4:1-16
	22	Nehemiah 7:1-4, 8:1-18; 1 Timothy 5:1-16
	23	Nehemiah 9:1-21; 1 Timothy 5:17—6:2
	24	Nehemiah 9:22-38; 1 Timothy 6:3-21
	25	Malachi 1:1-14; Matthew 3:1-17
	26	Malachi 2:1—3:5; Matthew 4:1-11
Sun	27	Malachi 3:6—4:6; Matthew 4:12-25
	28	Deuteronomy 1:1-18; Matthew 5:1-20
	29	Deuteronomy 1:19-36; Matthew 5:21—48
	30	Deuteronomy 1:37—2:15; Matthews 6:1-15

September 2026

September 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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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			

October 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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Aug 30	31	Sep 1 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	2 1:30pm Mahjongg Social Club 7:45pm SolI	3 7:00pm Judo	4 5:30pm Holy Happy Hour	5
6 Pentecost 15 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Divine Service	7	8 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	9 1:30pm Mahjongg Social Club 7:45pm SolI	10 6:30pm Finance Meeting 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Choir	11	12
13 Pentecost 16 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service 11:00am Grandparents Day Coffee Hour	14	15 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	16 1:30pm Mahjongg Social Club 7:45pm SolI	17 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Choir	18	19 12:00pm Mum Sale Flower Pickup
20 Pentecost 17 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School Rally Day 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	21	22 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	23 1:30pm Mahjongg Social Club 7:45pm SolI	24 6:30pm Bells 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Choir	25	26
27 Pentecost 18 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service	28	29 7:00pm Judo/12 Step	30 1:30pm Mahjongg Social Club 7:45pm SolI	Oct 1	2	3

September Divine Service Assistant Schedule

September 6	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	*Robert Bayley	Leo Rigaud
Ushers	Charlie Erb Jim Farrell	Jane Emmel & Kristin Noack
Reader	Jim Farrell	Dorothy Bauer
September 13	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	*Greg Calvano	Al Coppola
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Chuck & Judy Scott
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Al Coppola
September 20	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	None Needed	None Needed
Ushers	Marcus & Annie Habeeb	Lloyd & Pam Arrasate
Reader	Jim Farrell	Leo Rigaud
September 27	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.

September Readings

September 6: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:1-10 September 13: Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12 September 20: Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 September 27: Ezekiel 18:1-14, 25-32; Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Karen Paul, Bookkeeper
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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**

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 October 2026 issue will be September 18th.