



# St. John News

December 8, 2024

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & School  
North Tonawanda, New York

School founded 1846  
Church founded 1853

St. John is a Christian community called to **worship** and sent to **serve**,  
welcoming all to **walk** with Christ and **grow** in faith.

School: Nurturing children academically and spiritually toward a life of witness and service in Christ.

## UPCOMING Events

### Sunday, December 8

- Handbell Practice – 8:00 AM
- Worship – 9:00 AM
- Choir Practice – 10:00 AM
- Bible Study/Sunday School – 10:15 AM
- Confirmation Class – 6:30 PM

### Monday, December 9

- Caroling – 6:30 PM

### Wednesday, December 11

- Worship – 7:00 PM

### Thursday, December 12

- Council Meeting – 6:30 PM

### Friday, December 13

- All School Musical – 1:00 PM and 6:00 PM

### Saturday, December 14

- Church Decorating – 9:00 AM

### Sunday, December 15

- Handbell Practice – 8:00 AM
- Worship w/Communion – 9:00 AM
- Sunday School – following worship
- Voters Meeting – following worship
- Choir Practice – following meeting
- NO Adult Bible Study
- Confirmation Class – 6:30 PM

### Wednesday, December 18

- Worship w/ Communion – 7:00 PM



Scan this QR code when you attend worship  
to fill out our *electronic* Connection Card.

**THANKSGIVING:** WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 7:00 PM

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

\*ADVENT 1: DECEMBER 1ST, 9 AM & 4TH, 7PM  
ADVENT 2: DECEMBER 8TH, 9 AM & 11TH, 7 PM  
\*ADVENT 3: DECEMBER 15TH, 9 AM & 18TH, 7 PM

SCHOOL MUSICAL: LITTLE DRUMMER DUDE  
DECEMBER 13, 1 PM AND 6 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM  
DECEMBER 22, 9 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE:  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24  
MUSICAL REFLECTIONS 5:30 PM  
WORSHIP 6:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY:  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25  
WORSHIP 10:00 AM

*Come, O Come Emmanuel*

\* Indicates a communion service.

Office Hours: 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Worship: Sundays at 9:00 AM  
Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

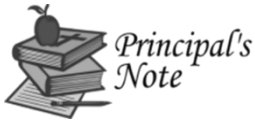
6950 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120  
(716) 693-9677

(option 1-School, 2-Church, 6-Principal, 7-Pastor)  
churchoffice@stjohnnt.com • office@stjohnnt.com

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

St. John Lutheran School

*Nurturing children academically and spiritually  
toward a life of witness and service in Christ.*



Greetings,

Happy Advent! "Lift up your heads and open your eyes, for He is coming. Who is coming? The King of glory! Blessings on Him who comes in the name of the Lord." As we anticipate the birth of Jesus, we check our hearts and realize our need for a Savior. May the Joy of Jesus be our celebration as we approach the most wonderful season of all, Christmas!

Did you know:

- Several church and school families are participating in the annual Christmas caroling event on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> (see next page). Join us in bringing smiles to many faces. Thank you to Terrie Licht for coordinating this church/school opportunity.
- Our students will perform our school musical, "Little Drummer Dude" this coming Friday, Dec.13 at 1 PM and 6 PM. All members, friends and family are encouraged to attend.
- Our Kindergarten and 7th grade students will share the Christmas story in a special Chapel service on Friday, December 20th.



Blessings,  
Katie Gundell

**PRAYER 12:13** Set your reminder for 12:13 PM each weekday and join in 30 seconds of prayer for the school from wherever you are. **Why 12:13?** The Scripture for this school year is Hebrews 12:1-3. Feel free to pray according to the Spirit's leading, but here are some ideas to guide your prayer this week.

Topics of Prayer for this week:

**Monday** – Christmas preparations of heart and mind

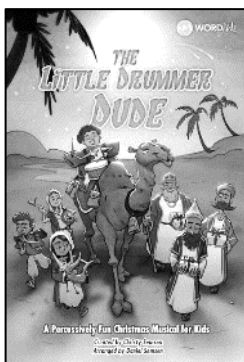
**Tuesday** – Teachers and students as they focus on academics

**Wednesday** – Thanksgiving for our many volunteers from both our church and school

**Thursday** – Preparations for the school musical

**Friday** – All of our families to know the peace and hope found in Christ, especially this Christmas

**\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\* SPRING AUCTION** is scheduled for March 29, 2025 at St. Johnsbury Fire Hall. Start collecting your donations of baskets, wine, and other special items or services now. For more information, contact Katelyn Fontana (716-245-9094) or Lynn Willis (716-523-8589).



St. John Lutheran School presents  
**THE LITTLE DRUMMER DUDE**  
Friday, December 13 at 1 pm and again at 6 pm

Support our St. John students in this all-school production of *The Little Drummer Dude*, where we will journey with Persia's Traveling Band as they follow the Magi to find the new King.

ABOUT THE CHURCH

GIVING REPORT:

October 27: \$3,969.00
November 3: \$5,176.00
November 11: \$6,640.00

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE

You can give online. Go to stjohnt.com, click "Worship With Us), and scroll down to click "Give Online". Or scan this QR code:



ORGAN RENOVATIONS The first phase will modernize the organ's circuitry: replacing the 1966 wiring and upgrading for MIDI and physical playback capabilities. We continue raising money toward our Phase 1 upgrade. Find more information about this project in the Information Center.



December 15th & 18th 25th

FOOD PANTRY

This month The North Tonawanda Inter-Church Food Pantry is asking for shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and condiments. See more information on the Information Center bulletin board.



Your 2025 offering envelopes are in your Flock Box. If you are missing a set of envelopes that you are expecting, if you do not have a Flock Box, or if you would like to request envelopes for the first time, please contact the church office or write your contact information on the sheet near the boxes.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PreK through 5th grade meet at 10:15 am on Sundays following worship. The kids are preparing for helping to lead worship on December 22nd. Visitors are still welcome.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY Study the day's readings with Pastor Mike in the Meeting Room. Grades 6 through adult.

MEN'S GROUP will resume Saturday, January 4th.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS A link to your seasonal devotional is available through our website, courtesy of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Limited print copies are available in the Information Center.



LCMS YOUTH GATHERING 2025

Continue to pray for our youth who are going to New Orleans this summer as they prepare for additional fundraising in the new year, and as God prepares their hearts for all He has in store.



Monday, December 9 at 6:30 pm

We'll go a-wassailing to our church shut-ins and bring them treats and Christmas hope. Sign up on at the Information Center or contact the church office to let us know you're coming!

We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 14, at 9:00 AM The more, the merrier (and the faster it goes)!



"Wreaths Across America", a non-profit organization, honors veterans by placing wreaths on their graves. On Saturday, December 14, National Wreaths Across America Day, a wreath donated by a member of the congregation will be placed to recognize all the veterans who are buried in the St. John Cemetery.

OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- Please **ask permission** to publish prayers that are not for yourself.
- **Private prayers** – [pastormike@stjohnnt.com](mailto:pastormike@stjohnnt.com) or 716-693-9677 option 7
- Contact the church office: [churchoffice@stjohnnt.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnnt.com) or phone: 716-693-9677 option 2

**Short-Term Prayers** – *There is one week left on the prayer list for people marked by the filled circle. Please use the back of your Connection Card or contact the church office if you would like to submit new prayers.*

- Herb Meissner – Healing from surgery
- George Barnett – Ongoing health issues
- Maria Palma-Nunez – Ongoing health issues
- The family and friends of Kim Sova (sister-in-law of Kath Schultz) at her passing
- Doris Wollaber – Health and healing
- Karen Hermann – Recovery from surgery
- Michele DiCarlo (friend of Terrie Licht) – Cancer treatments
- Daniel Kusch (son of Pastor Matthew Kusch) – Thanksgiving for returning home from the hospital
- April Smith – Seeking treatment options



✚ For places of conflict: Ukraine & Israel

✚ That we might proclaim the Word of God to the lost, so they can see their need for a Savior and know Him

**Long Term Prayers**

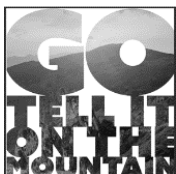
Frank Cornell, Doug Rich, Rick Hamilton, Donna Martin, Shelly Erwin, Mary Schlegl, Jaycee Schmitz, Annie Kelly, Barb Manning, Doreen & Larry Damba, Marty Darlak, Jason Barry, Dean Scirri, Rosemary Siegmann, Elsbeth Kaus, Doris Wollaber, Paul Greinert, Ken Musall, Owen Arizmendi, Kim Snell, Donald Licht, Jr., Matthew Wallace

**In the U.S. Military:** David Hoppe, Stephen Marshall, Chaplain Ben Bahr

**The Bereavement Department at Niagara Hospice** provides grief support groups in Lewiston, Sanborn, and North Tonawanda. Please see the posting on the bulletin board for locations and times.

**Please note:**

- Short-Term prayers are kept on the prayer list for 4 weeks.
- Updated prayer requests will be considered renewed.
- If you would like your prayer request to be moved to the Long-Term Prayers, please contact the office.



**THE CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT VESPERS**

Sunday, December 15, 2024 | 4:30 pm Carol Sing; 5:00 pm Vespers  
First Trinity Lutheran Church, Tonawanda

*Many of our St. John family are participating. Come worship together.  
See more on the bulletin board.*