

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL**

Sunday, February 2, 2025



**NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK**  
**2025**



**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL** exists:

To nurture children academically and spiritually toward a life of witness and service in Christ.

**AS WE GATHER**

National Lutheran Schools Week is an opportunity to celebrate the more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod that provide excellent academic preparation and the opportunity to share Jesus’ amazing love with children and their families. The 2024-2025 theme “Endure” is based on Hebrews 12:1-3. As we navigate the various challenges and triumphs of our faith journey, we are reminded of the steadfast love and enduring presence of our Lord Jesus Christ, who encourages us to run with perseverance the race marked out for us. He endured so we can endure!

*Welcome to worship at St. John. All words are displayed on the screens. If you want musical notation for the hymns, it can be found in the books in the rack in front of you. “LSB” is the red book; “OAR” is the multi-color book.*

**PRELUDE**

*Student Players*

**INVOCATION & OPENING PRAYER**

**HYMN: “SEEK YE FIRST”**

*LSB 712*

**ENDURE LITANY**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Luther’s Morning Prayer*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*Hebrews 12:1-3*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

*John 14:1-6, 25-27*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**SPECIAL MUSIC: “YOUR LOVE IS AMAZING”**

*St. John Lutheran School Students*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**HYMN: “WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS”**

*LSB 770*

**SERMON**

**OFFERING**

*“In Christ Alone” John Bahr*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**BENEDICTION**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & SCHOOL VIDEO**

**HYMN: “IN CHRIST ALONE”**

*OAR 241*

## TODAY'S READINGS

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Jeremiah 1:4-10*

<sup>4</sup>Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

<sup>5</sup>“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

<sup>6</sup>Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to me,

“Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak.

<sup>8</sup>Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.”

<sup>9</sup>Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me,

“Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.

<sup>10</sup>See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **NEW TESTAMENT READING** *Hebrews 12:1-3*

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set

before us, <sup>2</sup>looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **HOLY GOSPEL READING** *John 14:1-6, 25-27*

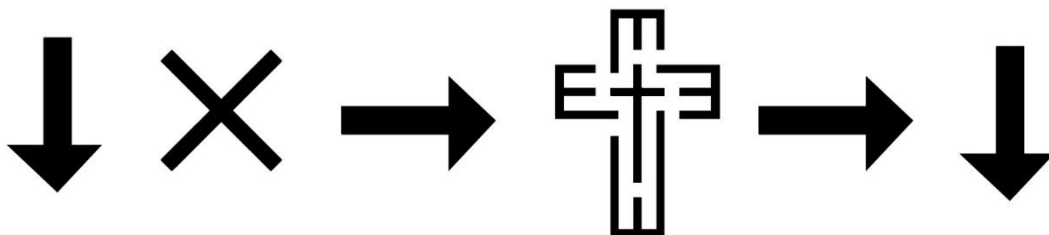
<sup>1</sup>“Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

<sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

<sup>25</sup>“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



## St. John Lutheran School 2024-2025 Staff

<b>Pastor</b>	Michael Borgstede
<b>Administrator</b>	Katie Gundell
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Terrie Licht
<b>Pre-K 3</b>	Katie Marzano
<b>Pre-K 4</b>	Jessica Chambers
<b>Kindergarten</b>	Heidi Sue Mumm
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	Adrienne Orłowski
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	Kathleen Ward
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	Julianne Kropczynski
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Jill Lauck, Jaime Christ (Religion)
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Maria Stainsby
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Connie Craig (Math)
<b>6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> ELA/ AIS</b>	Carol Szalach
<b>7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Rick Lyons (Science, Religion, History, PE)
<b>Instrumental/Band</b>	Dave Manth
<b>Piano</b>	Steve Parisi
<b>Choirs</b>	Lacey Bahr, Bill Cook
<b>P.E.</b>	Sal Ciffa (grade school); Erin Greene (middle school)
<b>Art</b>	Bonnie Nevans
<b>Spanish</b>	Wendy Clark
<b>Teacher Assistants</b>	Abby Camp, Katelyn Pantano, Bekah Borgstede, Valerie Nicholas, Melanie Richards
<b>Latchkey Director</b>	Valerie Nicholas
<b>Latchkey Assistants</b>	Donna Black, Virginia Markel, Sandy Watt, Jane Schulz, Mary Redding, Makayla Keating
<b>Lunch Staff</b>	Sandra Gannon; Nikki Volz

**Class Sponsors**  
 Randy DeVantier, Peggy Meyer,  
 Cheryl Oliver, Lorrie Weir,  
 Frank and Kathy Wendt



SERVANTS OF GOD

*Blessed by their service:*

<b>Liturgist/Preacher:</b>	Rev. Michael Borgstede	<b>Organist:</b>	Doreen Sutherland
<b>Elders for February:</b>	Bob Borgstede & Bruce Sutherland	<b>Acolyte:</b>	Charlotte Willis
<b>Reader for Next Week:</b>	Ben Willis		
<b>Counting Team Today:</b>	Lynn Willis, Don Schroeder, Matt Schultz		
<b>Counting Next Week:</b>	Cathy Schultz, Dan Schultz, Kathy Wendt		
<b>Altar for February:</b>	Patti Norris	<b>Greeters for February:</b>	Jim and Cheryl Oliver
<b>Hospitality Today:</b>	Lynn & Ben Willis, Sara Borgstede, Kathy Wendt, Michelle Steiner		
<b>Hospitality Next Week:</b>	Chery & Jim Oliver, Doreen Sutherland, John Rosebrock, Diana Harder		
<b>Education Hour Teachers:</b>	Liz Schultz and Pastor Mike		
<b>Special Music: Piano:</b>	Daniel Bahr, Piper Christ, John Bahr	<b>Organ:</b>	John Bahr, alumnus
<b>Special Leaders:</b>	Daniel Bahr, Audrey Markel, Susanna Reed		
<b>Special Readers:</b>	Ms. Heidi Sue Mumm, Mrs. Adrienne Orłowski		



# St. John Lutheran School Parent Teacher League

## St. John's Purpose Statement:

To nurture children academically and spiritually  
toward a life of witness and service in Christ.

**Dear St. John Family and Friends,**

We are all so blessed to have such an amazing school where our children can be nurtured in their faith and challenged in their academics. The St. John Lutheran PTL would like to thank you for your support of our school, and we would like to invite you to participate in our Spring Auction this March. This year's event is helping to offset the cost of classroom updates, security improvements, and playground/outdoor space upgrades. We hope to come together as a community to support our school as we make a positive impact in the daily lives of our children.

Mark your calendars!                      March 29, 2023, doors open at 5pm  
St. Johnsburg Fire Hall  
7165 Ward Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

We have a great evening planned – dinner, dessert, silent auction, live auction, wine pull with a chance at the grand prize drawing, gift card grab, and lots of fellowship! The auction is adults only, so please plan accordingly.

To help make this event as successful and fun as possible, we are reaching out to you, our St. John friends and families.

- ☼ Attend the auction – and invite your family and friends! The auction will be fantastic, and we are so excited about the donation items we've received already for the silent and live auctions, but people are what make the event great! We also are offering a discounted table pricing, so get your friends together and make it a fun evening out for everyone.
  
- ☼ Donate **(Drop at church/school office by February 28th)**
  - \$20+ value gift card
  - Wine (valued at \$10+)
  - Baskets
  - Big ticket items
  - Cash donations – used to offset some of the auction costs

Our student classrooms are all getting ready for the big event as well – they're each assembling a themed basket, as well as creating a group art project that will be part of our silent auction. **We're asking that all donations be dropped off by Friday, February 28th** so our auction team can organize and prepare all of the items for the big day.

Ticket request forms are available now. Additional tickets and tickets for church members or alumni can be requested from the office or purchased after church on Sundays. **All ticket orders need to be in by March 7th** for the caterer to have the final head count.

Sincerely,

St. John Lutheran School PTL  
Lynn Willis, PTL President  
716-523-8589



# St. John News

February 6, 2025

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.

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



We're so glad  
**YOU'RE  
HERE!**

### WELCOME, SCHOOL FAMILIES AND GUESTS

Today is a special day in our year when we intentionally  
join together as school and church family to thank our God,  
who has given us St. John Lutheran School.  
Thank you for participating!

Following worship, please stay for  
refreshments, fellowship, and  
Bible education time. (more information on page 7)

### AUCTION: DONATIONS AND TICKET SALES

See page 4 for more information on how you can participate  
in and support this fun fundraiser for our school.

**SUB ORDERS DUE TODAY** Order forms are at the  
Information Center for your February 9<sup>th</sup> meals. See page 7  
for more information.

**LUNCH MONITORS NEEDED** Serve one day a month,  
once a week, or be a substitute. See page 6.

## UPCOMING Events

### Sunday, February 2 – National Lutheran Schools Week Sunday

- Worship (No Communion) – 9:00 AM
- Bible Study/Sunday School – 10:15 AM
- Confirmation – 6:30 PM

### Monday, February 3

- Board of Education Meeting – 6:30 PM

### Wednesday, February 5

- Worship (No Communion) – 7:00 PM

### Thursday, February 6

- Elders Meeting – 6:30 PM

### Saturday, February 8

- Men's Group – 7:00 AM

### Sunday, February 9

- Handbell Practice – 8:00 AM
- Worship w/Communion – 9:00 AM
- Bible Study/Sunday School – 10:15 AM

### Tuesday, February 11

- School Open House – 6:00 PM

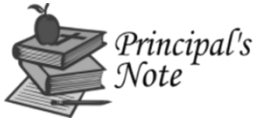
### COMING SOON

Ash  
Wednesday  
March 5

## ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Greetings,

Happy Lutheran Schools Week!! Our theme this year is Endure, based on Hebrew 12:1-3, "We endure, because He endured!" Today the students will sing and participate in the service. It is so good to celebrate with the 1,850 Lutheran Schools across the nation.



Did you know:

- We had an assembly with the Buffalo Zoo this week on Monday. Our students participated in a scavenger hunt as Chapel families on Thursday. On Friday, we gathered for Eagle Olympics! It was a fun and memorable week. Highlights will be shown at the church service today.
- Our first Open House, although delayed due to weather, was a big success. Our next one is from 6-7:30 PM on **February 11<sup>th</sup>** (which is also featuring STREAM projects throughout the school), as well as March 11th. Be sure to invite people you know to visit the school. Our best advertisement is our church/school families and members.
- PTL is collecting items for the Spring Auction. Secure a table of 8 friends and family for this auction and let's enjoy some fun and fellowship at this LIVE event, "Denim and Diamonds" on March 29th. More information about tickets can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.



Blessings,  
Katie Gundell

### LEGO Club

Volunteers for the school LEGO club are wanted – no experience required. Four Thursdays: Feb 20-March 13. Contact Pastor Mike (pastormike@stjohnnt.com) if interested.

LEGO donations wanted - We are taking donations of new and used LEGO bricks/pieces/sets to add to our school resources. Contact Pastor Mike (pastormike@stjohnnt.com) and he will arrange pick-up.

Lunch Monitors are an enormous blessing to the teachers, giving them a break to eat and plan. If you have availability between 11 am and 12:30 pm any weekday, and are willing monitor the lunch room, please contact Terrie Licht in the school office: 716-693-9677, option 1.

### CHURCH AND SCHOOL INVITATION



Card Ministry Patti Norris is beginning a ministry to create cards for various uses at both the church and the school. If you are interested in crafting, fellowshiping with others, or learning a new skill, please contact

Patti at 716-288-0791 or norris362@roadrunner.com.

When to meet and frequency will be determined by those interested.



**Prayer 12:13** Thank you for praying over our school family at 12:13 pm each weekday. We will begin a walk through each room:  
**Monday** – PreK 3 students, Miss Katie Marzano, and Miss Bekah Borgstede  
**Tuesday** – PreK 4 students and families, Mrs. Jessie Chambers, Mrs. Katelyn Pantano, Mrs. Melanie Richards  
**Wednesday** – Kindergarten students and families, Miss Heidi Sue Mumm, Miss Abby Camp  
**Thursday** – 1<sup>st</sup> grade students and families, Mrs. Adrienne Orłowski, Ms. Val Nicholas  
**Friday** – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students and families, Mrs. Kathleen Ward

## ABOUT THE CHURCH

### GIVING REPORT:

**December 15:** \$3,776.01  
**December 22:** \$3,969.00  
**December 29:** \$12,815.05

### ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE

You can give online. Go to [stjohnnt.com](http://stjohnnt.com) and click the yellow "Donate Today" button in the top right corner. Or scan this QR code:



**Our December donations were 9 Bags of food. For the year 2024, we were able to give 126 bags of food. Thank you for your generous support!**

If you are interested in contributing to the North Tonawanda Inter-Church Food Pantry, they are looking for non-perishable items, especially coffee/tea/hot chocolate, pasta and rice side dishes, and canned meats (chicken, tuna, corned beef, SPAM). Thank you for your continued support.



February:  
9<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>

### LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

Training for and dedication of the new large print center will take place NEXT weekend, February 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> at St. Mark. St. John and other local congregations are partners in this ministry, helping to start the center. If you have questions or would like to participate, please contact Terry Hoffman at 716-225-2612.

Not everything makes the Printed News edition. To see more of what is happening in our community and in our Synod, be sure to receive and read the weekly e-news.



LCMS World Relief's *Sharing* newsletter for the end of 2024 is now available at the Information Center and in the glass entryway.



The Vocal Choir will rehearse after church on February 16 to sing on March 2 Transfiguration Sunday.

Handbells will practice February 9 & 16 and March 2, and will continue each Sunday until May 4.

If you would like to participate in either worship activity, contact Doreen Sutherland (716-523-9474).



### LCMS YOUTH GATHERING 2025

2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING  
HEBREWS 12:1-3

**Please pray for:** Pastor and Zakary Borgstede; Payton, Charlie, and Lorrie Weir, Addie and Lynn Willis of St. John; John, Daniel, and Lacey Bahr and Audrey Markel of Grace NF; and Christina and Cayden Hicks-Wilhelm of Mt. Olive Lockport.

**\*\*\*Super Subs:** Pre-order your sub sandwich meal for Sunday, February 9. Forms are available in the Information Center and due by **February 2**. Turn them in to the church office, or one of the "Endurers" listed above. You can pick up your meals after service next Sunday.



Students PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade adventure through the entire Bible this year. Meet in the Cafeteria.

5<sup>th</sup> grade-adults discuss the day's readings in-depth and in an applicable way with Pastor Mike. Meet in the meeting room.



**Men's Group** Bible Study continues this Saturday at 7 am. Bring a friend and dive deeper into God's Word, supporting one another through this life.

**Eastern District Convention News:** Our delegates for the 2025 convention are John Rosebrock and Pastor Mike; Doug Meyer is our alternate. The convention is June 20-21, please keep preparations in your prayers.

## 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 open 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
- Denis McManus – Known to God
- Hunter Matthew Rogers, new son of Dad and Mom, Matt and Lindsey Rogers
- Bobbie Landers (neighbor of June Sutherland) – Cancer treatments
- Darlene Hathway – Recovering from a stroke
- Michele DiCarlo (friend of Terrie Licht) – Cancer treatments
- Cathy Schultz – Healing from surgery
- April Smith – Receiving cancer treatment
- Olivia (St. John Preschooler) – Hospitalized
- Karen Herman – Healing from surgery

- ✝ Lutheran Early Response Team traveling to North Carolina
- ✝ Those affected by fires in California
- ✝ 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.