

# St. John News

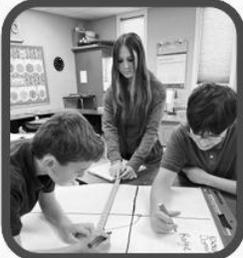
February 15, 2026



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.*



**St. John's Purpose Statement:**  
To nurture children academically  
and spiritually toward a life of  
witness and service in Christ.



## ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

PK-Grade 8

Tuesday, January 27, 6-7:30 pm  
Tuesday, February 10, 6-7:30 pm  
Tuesday, March 3, 6-7:30 pm



**PROGRAM FEATURES :**

- ✓ Faith, Character, and Academic Excellence
- ✓ Friendly and Caring Environment
- ✓ Nationally Accredited
- ✓ Family and School Partnership
- ✓ Daily Christian Instruction

716-693-9677  
www.stjohnnt.com

6950 Ward Road  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

## Lego Club

Thursdays - February 26, March 5 & 12 from 3-4 PM

We are looking for a few volunteers to come and have fun with our 3rd-5th graders as they build with Lego. No Lego experience required. Contact Pastor Mike (pastormike@stjohnnt.com) if you are interested in more details.

## Fowler's Chocolate

Find a St. John School student to get your Easter chocolates *and* support the school! Sale ends February 27, and chocolate will arrive on or before March 27. If our school reaches \$7,000 in sales, we'll receive 40% of sales! We can do it, with your help.

## UPCOMING Events

### Sunday, February 15

- Worship w/Communion – 9:00 AM
- Education Hour – 10:15 AM

### Tuesday, February 17

- Youth: Mardi Gras – 6:00 PM

### Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday

- School Chapel – 8:30 AM
- Confirmation – 3:00 PM
- Worship w/Communion – 7:00 PM

### Thursday, February 19

- Church Council – 6:30 PM

### Saturday, February 21

- Men's Group – 7:00 AM

### Sunday, February 22

New Member Sunday

- Worship – 9:00 AM
- Education Hour – 10:15 AM

### Wednesday, February 25

- School Chapel – 8:30 AM
- Family Fellowship – 6:00 PM
- Worship – 7:00 PM

### Saturday, February 28

- Men's Group – 7:00 AM
- Pickleball Tournament – 9:30 AM

### Sunday, March 1

- Worship w/Communion – 9:00 AM
- Education Hour – 10:15 AM

## At the Church

### **A/V Help Wanted- No experience necessary**

We are looking for additional help on our audio/visual team for Sunday mornings. Training is available! Want to dip your toe in, or want to be a young helper? We'd love to have an assistant team do some of the more beginner elements. For more information, or to receive training, contact Pastor Mike at [pastor@stjohnnt.com](mailto:pastor@stjohnnt.com).

### **Serving Through the Reading of Scripture in Worship**

A central Lutheran tenet is that all Christians share in the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:9) and have direct access to God's Word. All Christians are encouraged to share in the ministry of the Church through their God-given gifts and abilities.

The reading of Scripture during a worship service is one way a Christian, male and female, may serve the Church. The LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) states in its 1985 document *Women in the Church* that: "The public reading of the Scriptures in the worship service may properly be done by laypersons, both men and women, when it is understood as the reading of God's Word and not as the authoritative proclamation of the Gospel (preaching)." (p.44-45)

Under the supervision of the Pastor, both men and women are able to read selected lessons from the Bible during the worship service at St. John.

Thank you to our current volunteer readers. We are seeking additional readers, who can be any confirmed member, both men and women. If you would like to serve the Church in this way, please contact the church office ([churchoffice@stjohnnt.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnnt.com) or 716-693-9677).

Pastor Mike and the Board of Elders:  
John Rosebrock, Bruce Sutherland, Roger Carr, Terry Haseley,  
Robert Borgstede, Dennis Gauda and Paul Salefske

### **The North Tonawanda Inter-Church Food Pantry**

In the months of November and December, we gave 23 bags of food to our local food pantry. For the year of 2025, 80 bags of food came from St. John. They are sincerely appreciative on behalf of the families receiving this support.

You can give any time by putting items in the large crate under the Information Center Table.

### **Youth: Mardi Gras**

Tuesday, February 17, 6:00 PM

Another taste of New Orleans. Whether you call it Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday, or Fastelavn, the Tuesday before Lent begins is an opportunity for celebration. All youth 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to celebrate, eat, learn and play. Dinner will be provided. Bring your favorite treat (sweet, savory, or salty) to share.

### ***Blessed by their service in worship today:***

<b>Liturgist/Preacher:</b>	Rev. Michael Borgstede	<b>Organist:</b>	Doreen Sutherland
<b>Elders for February:</b>	Bob Borgstede & Bruce Sutherland	<b>Acolyte:</b>	Lucy Schultz
<b>Reader Today:</b>	Roger Carr	<b>A/V:</b>	Roger Carr
<b>Children's Message:</b>	Bekah Borgstede		
<b>Counting Team Today:</b>	Lynn Willis, Don Schroeder, Matt Schultz		
<b>Greeters for February:</b>	Jim & Cheryl Oliver		
<b>Hospitality Today:</b>	Lynn & Ben Willis, Sara Borgstede, Kathy Wendt, Michelle Steiner		
<b>Education Hour Teachers:</b>	Liz Schultz, Pastor Mike		

## AT THE SCHOOL



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



Greetings St. John families,

Welcome to February...The second half of our school year is underway! 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because God first loved us." May the joy of showing love to God and others this week fill your hearts and minds.

Did you know...

- This is the season of Open Houses. Our final Open House is scheduled on March 3rd, 6-7:30 PM. If this date doesn't work, I am happy to set aside time to meet families individually. Our hope is to offer a quality, Christian education to all who are interested in our community. Keep sharing information about St. John Lutheran School to friends and family. It is so rewarding to offer a place where children are nurtured and hear the Word of God daily. Our talented teachers and staff are eager to greet new students.
- Our 3rd and 4th graders heard from a panel of church workers from Grace Lutheran, First Trinity, Pilgrim Lutheran, and St. John about a variety of ways that people serve in their churches. The children were so receptive. Could it lead to a commitment of serving in a similar capacity when they grow up? It'll be fun to see what God has in store for each one. 😊
- St. John will be partnering with the American Heart Association at the end of February to raise awareness for Heart Healthy decisions and actions in an initiative called Kids Heart Challenge. More information will be shared later this month.
- On February 28th, our PTL is sponsoring a pickleball tournament and basket raffle. Mark your calendar and look for more information in the next week or so to support this school fundraiser. Church and/or school members are encouraged to sign a team up for this event. This is one of many opportunities to bring our church/school members together for fun and fellowship.
- Our accreditation Self-Study is wrapping up. In just a couple of weeks, we will pass the study off to the LCMS site visit team and they will come in March for 3 days, March 18-20, to validate our report. This is a big endeavor led by the Board of Christian Education, pastor, teachers, staff, committee members, and me. The accreditation process takes place every five years and keeps our St. John school ministry focused on our purpose statement, a healthy school climate, commitment to leadership, quality personnel, rigorous and faith-based curriculum, a variety of student services, a safe and well-maintained facility, and a focus on good financial stewardship. Continue to keep our school community in your prayers as we celebrate the blessing of sharing the Gospel of Jesus each day through a quality, Christian Education.

Blessings,  
Katie Gundell  
Principal

### AT FIRST TRINITY, TONAWANDA

We will have open gym time for parents or caregivers to come play with their children February 16-17. Come anytime between 9 a.m. and 12 noon. Invite a friend or play together as a family! We'll have dodgeballs, basketballs, and other toys available. You can bring your own toys/games as well.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

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**– *Items with an open circle are on their final week on the prayer list.* Please use the back of your Connection Card or contact the church office if you would like to renew prayers or submit new requests.

- Donald Carr (Father of Roger) – Health concerns
- Cosimo Capozzi (Father of Sandra Gannon) – Health concerns
- Stacey Vogel (Worker at Potter’s Field) – Health concerns
- Laura Ciffa (Wife of P.E. teacher, Sal) – Health concerns
- Donald Schultz (Grandpa of Ava) – Health concerns

† For our St. John 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers: Kathleen Ward, Hannah Evert, Jill Lauck, Maria Stainsby

† For places of conflict

† For more unity in our homes, community, and nation

† 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

Owen Arizmendi, George Barnett, Jason Barry, Frank Cornell, Doreen & Larry Damba, Carol Donner, Shelly Erwin, Emma Gauda, Paul Greinert, Rick Hamilton, Bev Harder, Elsbeth Kaus, Annie Kelly, Barb Manning, Dennis Martin, Donna Martin, Ken Musall, Doug Rich, Rosie Siegmann, Mary Schlegl, Jaycee Schmitz, Donald Schultz, Kim Snell, Matthew Wallace, Doris Wollaber

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

**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.

**Serving next week (February 22<sup>nd</sup>):**

<b>Acolyte Next Week:</b>	Charlotte Willis	<b>A/V Next Week:</b>	Dennis Kelly
<b>Reading Next Week:</b>	Ben Willis		
<b>Counting Next Week:</b>	Cathy Schultz, Dan Schultz, Kathy Wendt		
<b>Hospitality Next Week:</b>	Cheryl & Jim Oliver, Doreen Sutherland, John Rosebrock, Diana Harder		