

# St. John News

February 22, 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 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



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



**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

## 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.

## Family Fellowship

Wednesday, **January 25<sup>th</sup>**, 6 PM. Jesus and Jammies pizza party! All ages welcome; pajamas encouraged.

## UPCOMING *Events*

### 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

### Tuesday, March 3

- School Open House – 6:00PM
- Elders Meeting – 6:30 PM

### Wednesday, March 4

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

### Saturday, March 7

- Men's Group – 7:00 AM

### Sunday, March 8

- Worship – 9:00 AM
- Sunday School – 10:15 AM
- Readers Discussion – 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

### Reading Scripture in Worship - Why, What, How and Who?

Sunday March 8, 10:15 AM

Pastor Mike will lead a discussion on the differing viewpoints concerning the use of Scripture in worship, and how this affects who can and cannot publicly read.

**Signs of Lent 2026**

Sundays at 9:00 AM  
Wednesdays at 7:00 PM,  
Ash Wednesday through Easter.

**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
Wednesday, February 18

**HOLY WEEK**  
PALM SUNDAY  
Sunday, March 29 9 AM  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
Thursday, April 2 7 PM  
GOOD FRIDAY  
Friday, April 3 7 PM  
EASTER  
Sunday, April 5 9 AM

Applying road signs and their messages to our life in Christ.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
6950 WARD RD., NORTH TONAWAND  
STJOHNNT.COM  
716.693.9677

Limited copies of LHM's Lenten devotion are available on the Information Center table. You can also receive them in your email box daily by subscribing here:



## AT THE SCHOOL



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



Greetings St. John families,

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7. May the Love that God sent in His Son Jesus, be a reminder of what love is, as we share it with each other.

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.
- 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. Come on Saturday at **9:30 am** to cheer on your favorite teams!
- 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.
- Check out our **school newsletter** that is sent to school families weekly.

Blessings,  
Katie Gundell  
Principal



### 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.

## 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.

- Amy Weir – Continued healing
- 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

† For our St. John PreK-1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers: Katie Marzano, Jessica Chambers, Heidi Sue Mumm, Adrienne Orlowski

† 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 (March 1<sup>st</sup>):*

<b>Acolyte Next Week:</b>	Lucy Schultz	<b>A/V Next Week:</b>	Matt Schultz
<b>Reading Next Week:</b>	Bruce Sutherland		
<b>Counting Next Week:</b>	Peggy Meyer, Mike Scive, Mike Scive II, Matt Scive, Sharon Muir		
<b>Hospitality Next Week:</b>	Donna & Roger Carr, Annie Kelly, Liz Schultz, Mary Redding		