

St. John News

March 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.

A Special Thank You to our Wednesday worship service volunteers, who make every week run more smoothly.

Usher/acolyte: Mike Scive

Greeter: Christie Scive

Elder: Bob Borgtede

Thank you for your service!



Christ in the Passover

March 28, 5:30 PM

Come discover where Christ is shown in this age-old traditional feast.

Sign up on the Information

Center or online here by March 21st:



Ladies Aid meeting will follow the **Voters' Meeting**, which follows the worship service, on **Sunday March 15th**.

Cemetery decorations, flower containers, etc...

To facilitate spring cleanup, the cemetery maintenance crew requests that all winter, Christmas wreaths/decorations should be removed by April 15. The cemetery guidelines are available at the church office.

Thrivent Choice Dollars If you have any Choice Dollars left for 2025, your deadline to direct them to St. John is March 31st.

Please take a few minutes to log into your Thrivent account or call Thrivent to designate your Choice Dollars to support our church and school. It's a simple way to turn benefits you already have into a blessing for our students, families, and ministry.

UPCOMING Events

Sunday, March 15

- Worship w/Communion – 9:00 AM
- Sunday School – 10:15 AM
- Voters' Meeting – 10:15 AM
- Ladies Aid – 10:30 AM

Wednesday, March 18

NLSA visit begins

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

Saturday, March 21

- Men's Group – 7:00 AM

Sunday, March 22

- Choir practice – 8:00 AM
- Worship – 9:00 AM
- Education Hour – 10:15 AM

Wednesday, March 25

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

Friday, March 27

- Family Fellowship – 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 28

- Men's Group – 7:00 AM
- Alumni Basketball – 11:30 AM
- Christ in the Passover – 5:30 PM

Sunday, March 29

- Choir practice – 8:00 AM
- Worship – 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.

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 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

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

ROAD WORK AHEAD

YIELD

DEAD END

STOP

ONE WAY

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 9AM

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

You can also receive LHM's Lenten devotion 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,
As we continue in the season of Lent, we remember the goodness of God shown in His Son, Jesus. Ephesians 2:8, "For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith -- and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift of God.**"

Did you know...

- Our Self-Study has been submitted to the National Lutheran School Accreditation Validation team. They will come on-site this Wednesday-Friday to celebrate the work taking place in our school ministry and to guide future planning so that St. John can continue to offer a quality Christian education for our students/families.
- LEGO club is a huge success again this year. We thank Pastor Mike and Bekah, Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Chambers, for providing this opportunity to encourage creativity in building with Legos.
- Volleyball season is underway. Our first HOME game will be March 26th, beginning at 4 PM. We have two St. John teams who are competing in the league.
- St. John will be hosting Grandparents Day on April 2nd this year. This annual event is a special day for our school community.
- Check out our weekly school newsletter:

Katie Gundell
Principal



St. John supports **The North Tonawanda Inter-Church Food Pantry**

They are requesting hygiene products: *shampoo, deodorant, feminine care, toothpaste/brush, soap, etc.*
Thank you for your help.

ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME

When: Saturday, March 28, 2026
11:30am - 3:30pm

Where: St. John Lutheran School
6950 Ward Rd.
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

RSVP: Please register by March 18

- Check in at 11:30
- Women's game 12:15
- Men's game 1:30

Contact Erin Greene with questions or concerns:
704-998-8183 or ekgreene13@gmail.com

Scan QR Code to Register!

SPRING FAMILY FELLOWSHIP

UPCOMING EVENTS

St. John Lutheran Church & School

FRI 3/27	JOIN US AT 6PM TO KICK OFF SPRING WITH A BUNNY HOP DANCE! <small>*SNEAKERS MUST BE WORN IN THE GYM*</small>
WED 4/29	6-7PM FAMILY FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY TBA!
WED 5/27	6-7PM FAMILY FELLOWSHIP WEATHER PERMITTING, WE WILL BE BACK ON THE PLAYGROUND!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please **ask permission** to publish prayers that are not for yourself.

Private prayers – pastormike@stjohnnt.com or 716-693-9677 option 7

Contact the church office: churchoffice@stjohnnt.com or phone: 716-693-9677 option 2

Short-Term Prayers– *Items with a closed 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.

- Olyvia (daughter-in-law of Suzette Drenko) – Healing from surgery
- Eileen (Annie Kelly’s mom) – Ongoing health concerns
- Sandra Carr – Safe travel
- The Norris family at the sudden death of Bob’s brother
- Mother of Claire Newton – Cancer diagnosis
- Stacey Vogel (worker at Potter’s Field) – Health concerns
- Laura Ciffa (wife of P.E. teacher, Sal) – Health concerns
- Ryan (friend of Jim Oliver) – Cancer treatments
- Karl Haeussler – Recovering from car accident
- Amy Weir – Continued healing



- † The church and school office: Terrie Licht, Katie Gundell, Pastor Mike, Lacey Bahr
- † 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.