

St. John News

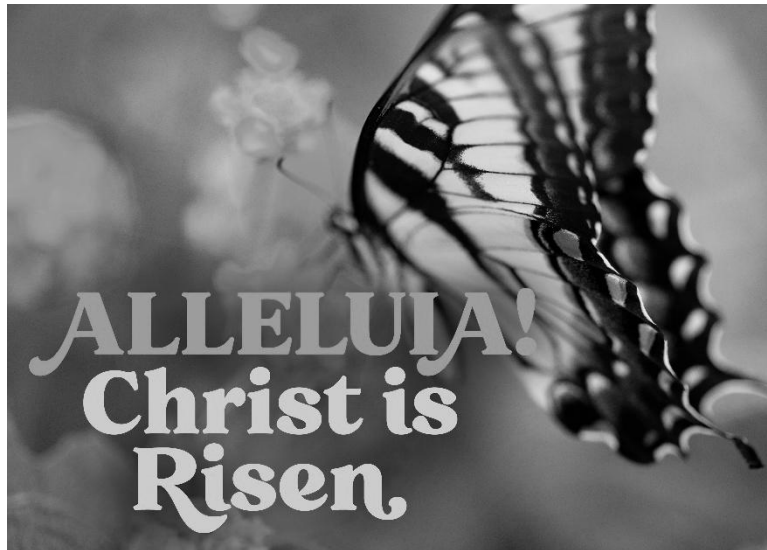
April 5, 2026



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.



After weeks of reflecting on the sin – our sin – that sent Jesus to the cross because of His great love for us, we CELEBRATE the resurrection of our Savior!

His resurrection is His declaration of victory over sin, death, and the devil. He truly is who He claimed to be and did what He said He would.

JESUS LIVES

THE VICTORY'S WON!

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UPCOMING *Events*

Sunday, April 5

Easter Sunday

- Worship w/Communion – 9:00 AM
- NO Education Hour

Tuesday, April 7

- Elders' Meeting – 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 8

- Worship w/Communion – 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 11

- Men's Group – 7:00 AM
- Mowers' Meeting – 10:00 AM

Sunday, April 12

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

Monday, April 13

- School Chapel – 8:30 AM
- Board of Ed. Meeting – 6:30 PM

Wednesday, April 15

- Worship – 7:00 PM

Thursday, April 16

- Church Council – 6:30 PM

Saturday, April 18

- Men's Group – 7:00 AM

Sunday, April 19

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

First St. John Lutheran School Alumni Basketball Games

On Saturday, March 28, our gym was filled with excitement, laughter, and familiar faces as we welcomed back alumni for a special Alumni Basketball Game. With nearly 40 participants representing graduating classes from 1969 through 2025, the event brought together generations for an afternoon of friendly competition and connection.



Both men's and women's games showcased not only athletic talent, but also the strong bonds and shared memories that continue long after graduation. It was a joy to see former players reconnect, share stories, and relive their time on the court.



Thank you to all who participated and supported this memorable event. It was a wonderful celebration of community, tradition, and fellowship.



Palm Sunday Joy & "Palm Sundaes"!

What a beautiful and joy-filled Sunday we shared together! On March 29 our school-age children (ages 3-grade 5) lifted their voices in church for Palm Sunday, reminding us all of the excitement and praise that filled the streets as Jesus entered Jerusalem.



After worship, the celebration continued with a sweet twist: "Palm Sundaes!" The children enjoyed a fun and festive treat together.

This is just one example of what makes our Children's Education Hour so special each week. Just as Jesus gathered a small group of disciples to learn together and grow in faith, for our Sunday school children, each week is an opportunity for them to build their relationship with Christ and with one another.

Christ in the Passover

On Saturday, March 28 over 30 people gathered to hear Jews for Jesus representative Laura Barron present the Passover Seder. Attendees experienced the special meal, while learning about God's story of redemption in Christ as it is shown in the ceremony. Many then celebrated the Lord's Supper in the sanctuary.

We intend to host this event again in 2028.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Family Fellowship has been serving St. John Lutheran church and school for a year! Children of all ages and their caregivers get together for an hour once a month, usually on Wednesdays, to get to know one another and connect through play. Activities range from organized dances to arts and crafts to open playground and field time.

You are welcome to participate!

INDOOR GARAGE SALE & BAKE SALE
with VENDORS, Too!

School Kids selling hotdogs!
Gift Card Raffle!

SATURDAY, 16 MAY, 2026, 9:00AM – 2:00PM
St. John Lutheran Church (gymnasium),
6950 Ward Rd. N. Tonawanda, NY 14120
(corner of Ward Rd & Niagara Falls Blvd)

Please call Susan (315) 729-3725 to reserve a \$20 table.
Table Reservations by May 2nd.
Checks must be received by May 8th.
Make payable to: "St. John Church Women", and mail to
St. John Lutheran Church at the above address.
Sellers set up Fri. 5/15 at 5:00pm; clean up 5/16 at 2:00pm

The flyer has a decorative border of leaves and a textured background.

Upcoming events (continued):

Ladies Aid Game Night Saturday, May 4 in the multi-purpose room at 6:00 PM. Ladies, bring your cards for Euchre, Hand and Foot, Pinochle, etc. Bring your board games - Scrabble, Monopoly, Taboo, Yatze, Trivial Pursuit, etc. Bring your spouse or significant other.

We're looking for a few volunteers to bring snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Susan Kenyon (skenyon101@gmail.com) and Cheryl Oliver (coliver3338@gmail.com) are hosting. Contact one of us to *RSVP by April 26* and to sign up for refreshments!

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

LADIES AID January 2026 marked the 101st anniversary of the St. John Ladies Aid. Our organization meets every other month for fellowship and to raise funds that support projects in our church, school and community. We invite any and all women in St. John and the surrounding community to join us. We are a lively and dedicated group looking to grow and serve the Lord with gladness! Our next meeting is *May 17*, following the worship service. Please contact any of our officers for more information: Susan Kenyon: skenyon101@gmail.com, Cheryl Oliver: coliver3338@gmail.com, Shelley Andrees: reesno12@hotmail.com, and Ann Kelly: ann86443@gmail.com

TRUSTEES Easter break is a great time to get into the school building and make some repairs. If you have time this week to help with simple repair tasks such as putting up blinds, replacing hinges, or replacing light bulbs, please *contact Dennis Kelly (talk or text) at 716-425-7521*. He will help you find a job that suits you, and help you get into the building with the supplies needed to do the task. Helpers needed for larger tasks, too. All skill levels welcome!

MOWERS Now that spring is here and the cold and snowy winter is behind us, our thoughts turn to the outdoors. Our properties here at the St John church, school, and cemetery are large - almost 10 acres. A lot of work is required to maintain our property and do it in a way that shows the community the pride we have in our facilities. Volunteers do most of the work, but we can always use more. So, if you like being outdoors, the smell of a freshly mowed lawn, the thrill of operating power equipment, want to further improve the appearance of your church, school, and cemetery, or just want some camaraderie, consider volunteering. ALL adults are welcome, and schedule challenges can be met. If you would like to help or want more details, please *contact Jeff Manning at 716-754-9583*.

HANDBELLS We are looking for two musically inclined individuals to join our enthusiastic handbell choir. We play during special holiday services, with rehearsals on select Sundays, 8:00–9:45 AM (before the service).

If you enjoy making music and would like to be part of a fun and uplifting group, come ring with us! Contact Doreen Sutherland (doreen0519@hotmail.com OR 716-523-9474).

ALTAR GUILD The Altar Guild is a team of ladies responsible for preparing the sanctuary, altar, and sacred vessels for worship services, especially Holy Communion. At St. John, you would prepare for either Sunday or Wednesday services, committing to one month at a time. Training and support are provided. Contact Donna Carr (716-743-8895) or Annie Kelly (716-908-2360).

HAVE ANOTHER IDEA? Contact the church office: 716-693-9677 or churchoffice@stjohnnt.com.

EDUCATION AT ST. JOHN

Sunday Mornings:

Child and adult education are offered most Sunday mornings at about 10:15 AM, following the worship service. Children (ages 3-grade 5) meet in the cafeteria/latchkey room, where they learn about God's love through songs, crafts, and the accounts from the Bible. Grades 6+ and adults are invited to the meeting room to take a deeper look at the readings from the service.

Real Life Faith (RLF) Women's Groups are wrapping up their spring session. This first year has seen wonderful growth from one to six groups, with around 50 women participating in small group Bible study. Many women have felt a deeper connection to God's Word and strong mutual support within their groups. Part of RLF groups is mutual accountability, which can be challenging but is designed to help women move from simply hearing the Word to actively living it out (being doers of the Word). Another core value of RLF is disciples making disciples. RLF groups are always encouraged to multiply either by inviting new women to join or by raising up new leaders to create more groups. This too is a challenge but is essential to the ongoing growth of the Church.

Looking ahead, RLF will take a break for the summer and resume later in 2026 following the same format with sessions in the fall, winter (with a break for Christmas), and spring. For more information check out <https://stjohnnt.com/rlf/> or email rlf@stjohnnt.com.

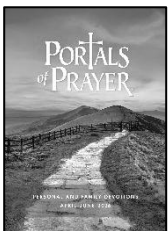
Check out the videos about RLF groups on St. John's YouTube channel <https://youtube.com/@stjohnlutheranwheatfieldny>.

Thank you Terrie, Nicole, Patti, Lynn, Katie and Sara, present leaders of RLF groups.



Men's Group Meets most Saturdays at 7 AM. Gather with other men to study God's Word (Listen and Explore) and apply it to life (Connect, Obey, Meditate, and Reflect). This is an opportunity to let the Word of God work in you, so you can live it out daily.

Resources:



The second quarter **Portals of Prayer** are now out and available to pick up, on the Information Center table or in the glass entrance.

You can also find the new LCMS World Relief *Sharing Newsletter* and Concordia St. Catherine's' second quarter newsletter at the Information Center table.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Flowers adorning our church have been placed to the Glory of God by the following:

In Memory Of:

Our Parents
Bill & Dolores Andrees
Michael Sonnen
Herb & Jan Meissner
Our Parents
June Werth

Colleen Syruws
Loved Ones
Rich & Nancy Musall
Mom & Dad
Ron Harder, John Watt

In Honor Of:

Loved Ones
Our St. John Kindergarteners

For Blessings Received:

Robert & Jeanne Borgstede
The Scive Family
The Weir Family

By:

Jeff & Barb Manning
Sue Kenyon
Linda Sonnen
The Gundell Family
Jim & Cheryl Oliver
Marvin Werth
Bruce, Doreen & Luke Sutherland
The Weir Family
Sandra Carr
The Drenko Family
Heidi Sue Mumm
The Harder Family

By:

Sandra Carr
Heidi Sue Mumm



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.

Care from the Pew

Sitting in the pew may remind you of someone you haven't seen in a while, or who is ill, or who could be in need. On the Information Center table, you will find a church directory, cards, and other supplies to help you reach out to that person. Write down a phone number or email, take and address a card; make a connection and let someone know you care.

Do you or someone you know need a meal, need a visit from Pastor or an elder, or want to receive communion? Email Pastor Mike at pastormike@stjohnnt.com.

At the School:



Greetings St. John families,

Jesus. What a gift! Our Savior was willing to take the sins of the world so that we can be forgiven and have eternal life. Praise God for His Son! Praise God for His resurrection! "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." Ephesians 2:9

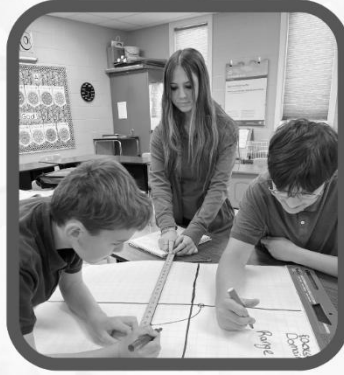
Did you know...

- The Alumni Basketball game was an afternoon of fun and fellowship on March 29th. We look

forward to making this an annual event.

- St. John hosted about two hundred grandparents on Grandparents Day on Thursday, April 2nd.
- Our 3rd quarter just ended. It's hard to believe there are only 10 more weeks to this school year.
- Our teachers, staff, and students are enjoying a well-deserved Easter/Spring Break this week.
- Check out our weekly school newsletter here:

Blessings,
Katie Gundell, Principal



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT

PK-Grade 8

CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT
TODAY!



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





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

SUPPORT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN SCHOOL PTL TREICHLER GREENHOUSE GIFT CARD SALE

Purchase a \$30 Gift Certificate to Treichler Greenhouse

TREICHLER GREENHOUSE
 Address: 2687 Saunders
 Settlement Rd, Sanborn, NY
 Phone: (716) 731-9390
 Hours:
 Mon-Sat: 8 AM - 8 PM
 Sun: 9 AM - 5 PM

SHOP FOR ALL YOUR SPRING NEEDS:

- Hanging Plants • Annuals
- Perennials • Vegetables
- Herbs • Stone • Mulch
- Shrubs • Seeds

Plan ahead for Mother's Day, Memorial Day and all your spring planting!

Gift certificates will be delivered the week of May 4th

\$5 from each gift card supports St. John PTL

DETACH & RETURN TO SCHOOL OFFICE

Order Form
(Order due by 4/22)

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Number of Gift Cards: _____ x \$30 = _____

Cash or checks accepted
 Make checks payable to: St. John Lutheran PTL

Questions? Contact Lynn Willis @ 523-8589
 Not valid with any other discounts

SKATE-A-THON 2026

On your mark, get set, skate!

Our upcoming Skate-A-Thon to support the PTL will take place on Saturday, May 2 at St. John. Registration begins at 9:30 AM, with skating from 10:00–11:30 AM. Participants can join the fun using roller skates, rollerblades, or non-electric scooters.

This is a pledge-style fundraiser, encouraging students to stay active while raising support for our school. Proceeds from this event will help support campus property maintenance. It's a great way to combine fitness, fun, and community spirit!



Keep an eye out after break for more details and pledge information!