

St. John News

July 26, 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.

Women: Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 AM, we're kicking off the women's ministry year at St. John with a fall brunch. It's a potluck, so plan to bring a dish to share. Free-will offering, casual and laid-back, all women welcome. More details coming soon.

Real Life Faith

Ever feel like worry is running the show? This fall, Real Life Faith groups of 6-8 women will explore "God's Peace When Life Gets Overwhelming" through a short passage of Scripture, honest conversation, and real support. Groups meet in homes September through November. No homework and no Bible knowledge required. There's a spot for you. Details at <https://stjohnnt.com/rlf/>

UPCOMING Events

Sunday, July 26

- Worship – 9:00 AM

Wednesday, July 29

- Family Fellowship and
- Terrie's Thank You Party – 6:00 PM
- Worship – 7:00 PM

Sunday, August 2

- Worship w/Communion – 9:00 AM

Tuesday, August 4

- Elders' Meeting – 6:30 PM

Wednesday, August 5

- Worship w/Communion – 7:00 PM

Sunday, August 9

- Worship – 9:00 AM

2027 Men's Picnic

Saturday, August 15 at 2:00 pm all men are invited to bring a friend to Five Senses Nature Park for Food and Fellowship.

Please RSVP by August 14 by signing up at the Information Center table or by calling or texting Dennis Gauda at 716-228-7765.

REAL LIFE FAITH

Women's Small Groups
2026 - 2027

Katie's Group
Addie - Youth Leader
High School & College Age

Cathy & Annie's Group
All Women
Welcome

Terrie's Group
All Women
Welcome

Lynn's Group
Moms of School Age Kids

Learn More:
www.stjohnnt.com/rlf

Wednesday Worship

During the months of July and August, Wednesday worship will be held in the Meeting Room of the middle school wing due to summer heat. During this time, Wednesday live stream will be unavailable, but will return in the fall. If you need to worship online, Sunday services will continue to stream throughout the summer.

Roof Repair

This past December the flat roof over the lobby, lunchroom and kitchen developed major leaks. As the voters were informed in March, emergency temporary repairs were done by Healing Restoration, who is working with our insurance company, Brotherhood Mutual, to cover much of the cost of repairs.

The Church Council met on July 5th after worship to discuss the progress on the roofing needed at St. John. While Healing Restoration is repairing the roof on the east side of the gym, the Council decided will have them also replace the flat roofs over the storage area in the gym and the small rooms off either side of our Sanctuary, as these have reached well beyond their life expectancy. These are not covered by insurance. Replacing these roofs will cost approximately \$45,000.

The Church Council approved a plan to use \$20,000 of savings and fundraise the remaining \$25,000. We have set a goal of raising this amount by October 2026. We will have more information soon, but if you would like to help now, you can send donations to the church office marked "Roof Fund". We hope the repairs/replacement will be accomplished before the start of school in September. If you have any questions or concerns before our next voters meeting feel free to ask any Church Council Member.

Thank you, Roger Carr



The poster is titled "SUMMER FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENTS" in a large, stylized font. Below the title, it says "St. John Cutharan Church & School". There are five sun icons. The events are listed for June 24, July 29, and August 19, all from 6-7pm. The June event is "Summer Send Off Celebration" with ice cream cones. The July event is "Beach Bash" with beach towels. The August event is "Outdoor Worship" with refreshments and play time. At the bottom, it says "ALL ARE WELCOME!" and includes a note about contacting Cynn Willis for sprinklers or water toys.

June 24
6-7pm
Summer Send Off Celebration
Ice cream cones on the playground!

July 29
6-7pm
Beach Bash
Bring your own beach towels & be ready to get wet!

August 19
Worship @ 6pm
Fellowship to follow
Outdoor Worship
Join us for an outdoor worship service followed by refreshments & play time!

ALL ARE WELCOME!
**Please contact Cynn Willis on Fast Direct if you have any sprinklers or other water toys to share during the Beach Bash!

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS are now available for allocation to an organization of your choice. Please consider St. John Lutheran Church and School as a recipient.

Church Office Closed

Pastor will be out of the office this week.

For pastoral care, please contact one of the elders below:

Bruce Sutherland: (716) 998-0225

Dennis Gauda: (716) 228-7765

Paul Salefske: (716) 983-5981

The church secretary will be out the following two weeks. Please have all newsletter submissions through August 21 into the office by **Wednesday, July 29.**

Camp J.O.Y. and LEGO Time

Thank you to all who have sponsored and volunteered for this year's partnership with Camp J.O.Y. Because of you, we are ready to serve the children attending and gift them each with LEGO sets. This year's volunteers are Robert Borgstede, Bekah Borgstede, Annie Kelly, Audrey Markel, Virginia Markel, and Pastor Mike.



On August 6th and 13th, please keep these helpers and those they serve in your prayers as they attend Camp J.O.Y. and share the love of Christ with their children.

The following is a letter that went out to school families on Monday, July 6th. Please attend the celebration scheduled for Wednesday, July 29th at the school playground.

Dear St. John School Families,

We hope your summer has been filled with opportunities for rest, time with family, and enjoyment of God's many blessings. Although the school hallways are a little quieter during these summer months, preparations for another exciting school year are already well underway. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the fall and partnering with you as we continue to nurture our students academically and spiritually toward lives of witness and service in Christ.

We would also like to share an important staffing announcement.

After 19 years of faithful service to St. John Lutheran School, Terrie Licht has made the

decision to resign from her role as Administrative Assistant to pursue other opportunities. Throughout her years at St. John, Terrie has been a welcoming and caring presence for our students, families, faculty, and visitors. She has faithfully served our school ministry with kindness, dedication, and a genuine love for those entrusted to our care.

We are deeply grateful for the many ways Terrie has supported our school community over the past nineteen years. Her commitment to serving Christ through her work has been a blessing to our staff and countless families, and we thank God for the gifts she has shared with St. John. We wish Terrie God's richest blessings as she begins this new chapter.

We would like to invite all families to attend a "Wish you well celebration" in honor of Terrie on Wednesday, July 29th, in partnership with the Family Fellowship event, from 6-7 PM on the playground.

As we thank Terrie for her years of service, we have also begun the process of seeking the individual whom God is calling to serve as our next Administrative Assistant. We are confident that the Lord will provide the right person to continue supporting our students, families, and staff in this important ministry. We appreciate your prayers during this transition.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of St. John Lutheran School. We pray you continue to enjoy a safe, relaxing, and blessed summer, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

In Christ,
Mrs. Katie Gundell

For more coverage of upcoming events, including area VBS programs, sign up for our e-news. Contact: churchoffice@gmail.com.

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– *It is the final week for prayer requests with an empty square.* Please use the back of your Connection Card or contact the church office if you would like to renew prayers or submit new requests.

- Karen Herman – Upcoming tests and ongoing medical concerns
- Wendy (aunt of June Sutherland) – Cancer diagnosis
- The family of Raymond Keating (father of Pastor Keating) at his passing on July 11
- The family of Jack Turner (uncle of Roger Carr) at his passing
- The family and friends of Barbara Lyons (mother of teacher Rick Lyons) at her passing
- Kim Clark (friend of Val Nicholas) – Health and other concerns
- Judy and Pastor Vogler – Health and wellbeing
- Anita Garito – Health concerns
- Jerry Mante – Severe health issues
- April Smith – Cancer treatments



- ✠ St. John School: Continued faith growth of our families and staff through the summer
- ✠ For beloved family members to be brought to faith
- ✠ For places of conflict, especially Iran and Ukraine

Long Term Prayers

Owen Arizmendi, George Barnett, Jason Barry, Emma Clancy, Frank Cornell, Doreen & Larry Damba, Carol Donner, Shelly Erwin, Paul Greinert, Rick Hamilton, Bev Harder, Elsbeth Kaus, Annie Kelly, Barb Manning, Dennis Martin, Donna Martin, Ken Musall, Doug Rich, Mary Schlegel, 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.