

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

The Crossbeam

A NEWSLETTER FOR OUR ST. JOHN'S PARISH MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS



*Sunday, September 21, 2025
15th Sunday after Pentecost,
Year C*

AS WE ARE INVITED TODAY TO CONSIDER WHAT IT MEANS TO BE MANAGERS (RATHER THAN OWNERS) OF ALL THAT WE HAVE, IT IS CRUCIAL TO RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE BOUGHT WITH A PRICE. "CHRIST JESUS, HIMSELF HUMAN, . . . GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL." APART FROM THE GENEROSITY OF GOD WE HAVE NOTHING—WE ARE NOTHING. BY GOD'S GRACIOUS FAVOR WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED.



From the Pastor's Desk

PSALM 113

1 HALLELUJAH! GIVE PRAISE, YOU SERVANTS | OF THE LORD;
PRAISE THE NAME | OF THE LORD.
2 LET THE NAME OF THE | LORD BE BLESSED,
FROM THIS TIME FORTH FOR- | EVERMORE.
3 FROM THE RISING OF THE SUN TO ITS | GOING DOWN
LET THE NAME OF THE | LORD BE PRAISED.
4 THE LORD IS HIGH A- | BOVE ALL NATIONS;
GOD'S GLORY A- | BOVE THE HEAVENS.
5 WHO IS LIKE THE | LORD OUR GOD,
WHO SITS EN- | THRONED ON HIGH,
6 BUT STOOPS | TO BEHOLD
THE HEAVENS | AND THE EARTH?
7 THE LORD TAKES UP THE WEAK OUT | OF THE DUST
AND LIFTS UP THE POOR | FROM THE ASHES,
8 ENTHRONING THEM | WITH THE RULERS,
WITH THE RULERS | OF THE PEOPLE.
9 THE LORD MAKES THE WOMAN OF A | CHILDLESS HOUSE
TO BE A JOYFUL MOTHER OF CHILDREN. | HALLELUJAH!

"MOST EVERY DAY I TALK TO SOMEONE WHO IS AFRAID OR ANXIOUS (WHICH IS GENERALIZED FEAR).

MAYBE YOU FEAR WHAT PEOPLE THINK OF YOU? NOT HAVING ENOUGH MONEY ... PUBLIC SPEAKING, FLYING, BEING FAR FROM HOME, OR SPIDERS ... FAILURE OR REJECTION ... LOSING A LOVED ONE ... DISEASE OR PAIN ... DEATH ... THESE ARE COMMON FEARS.

WE ALL LONG TO 'FEAR NOT,' TO BE FREE TO LOVE AND BE LOVED. WE ALL LONG FOR MORE OF GOD'S PEACE IN THE MIDST OF STRESS, DANGER, AND UNCERTAINTY. ...

THE PSALMIST OFTEN LEADS US IN A 'FEAR NOT' PRAYER. THE PSALMS ARE THE BIBLE'S GREAT SOUL BOOK, MEANT TO TRAIN US TO RESPOND TO ALL DIFFICULT FEELINGS AND LIFE SITUATIONS THROUGH EMOTIONALLY HONEST PRAYER IN COMMUNITY. WE'RE TRUSTING THE LORD AS WE LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

THE BELOVED DISCIPLE JOHN SUMMARIZES THE BIBLE'S PROMISE TO 'FEAR NOT': 'DEAR FRIENDS, SINCE GOD SO LOVED US, WE ALSO OUGHT TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER ... THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE. BUT PERFECT LOVE DRIVES OUT FEAR, BECAUSE FEAR HAS TO DO WITH PUNISHMENT. THE ONE WHO FEARS IS NOT MADE PERFECT IN LOVE'" (1 JOHN 4:11, 18).

—BILL GAULTIERE, "'FEAR NOT!' 365 DAYS A YEAR."

SOMETHING TO PONDER TODAY.
PEACE AND BLESSINGS THIS DAY.
PASTOR V.



IN-PERSON WORSHIP

THE HOLY SPIRIT GATHERS PEOPLE AROUND THE MEANS OF GRACE—
THE SAVING WORD OF GOD AND THE SACRAMENTS.

FEATURED THIS WEEK:
SATURDAY SPOKEN WORD
5 P.M. - IN-PERSON

THE SUNDAY ASSEMBLY
9A.M.-IN-PERSON SERVICE W/ SCS
10:30A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM
BROADCAST ON OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



[This Weeks Bulletin \(click here\).](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 22ND @ 2:30PM
ALTAR GUILD
NOTICE TIME AND DATE CHANGE!!!**

**OCTOBER 2ND, 9TH, 16TH @ 6PM
BIBLE STUDY**

**OCTOBER 12TH @ 10AM
SOUP SALE**

**OCTOBER 19TH @ 12PM
TRUNK OR TREAT**



**FOR CHRIST'S BLESSINGS
UPON US ALL
*DEB AND TOM***

YOU CAN REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION BY ORDERING A FLORAL ARRANGEMENT USING THE ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 @ 5P.M.
VICKY WIENKE- ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 @ 9 A.M.
TOM AND DEB FOX- ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 @ 10:30 A.M.
KAREN ROTHENBERGER- ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 @ 9 A.M.
LEE DELANEY- USHER

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 @ 10:30 A.M.
LAURA LOEHR- USHER

ALTAR GUILD FOR SEPTEMBER
RHONDA DREZEK
CONNIE ARNOLD

THIS WEEK 9/21 - 9/27

TODAY:

9 A.M. WORSHIP W/ SCS
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

MONDAY:

10 A.M. SPROUTS
1 P.M. ARTHRITIS WALKING GROUP
2:30 P.M. ALTAR GUILD
6 P.M. SPROUTS
6:45 P.M. ZUMBA
7:30 P.M. AL-ANON

TUESDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. TAI-CHI
6:30 P.M. SA BUFFALO

WEDNESDAY:

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS EXERCISE GROUP
7 P.M. CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. NA
5 P.M. ZUMBA
7 P.M. NA

FRIDAY:

10 A.M. ENJOY LIFE (NA)
10 A.M. SPROUTS
7:30 P.M. GARDENVILLE GROUP (AA)

SATURDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
10 A.M. GIRL SCOUTS
5 P.M. WORSHIP

THANK YOU

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR PRAYERS, FOOD, FLOWERS AND
CARDS DURING MY MOST RECENT ILLNESS. I HOPE TO BE BACK SOON.

SINCERELY,
PAT LIPKA

UPCOMING AGAPE MEAL DATES:

OCTOBER 5

NOVEMBER 2

DECEMBER 7

LOOKING FOR EXTRA HANDS TO HELP WITH THE AGAPE MEAL.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING WITH AN AGAPE MEAL SERVICE
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE FOYER.

SIGN UP SHEETS

PLEASE TAKE A LOOK IN THE FOYER AND SIGN UP FOR ANY AND ALL
EVENTS THAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN.
SO MANY FUN AND EXCITING THINGS GOING ON HERE AT ST. JOHN'S!!

ACOLTYE

TRUNK OR TREAT

AGAPE MEAL

DINING OUT

LABYRINTH PRAYER

BURRITTO PROJECT

OUR NEXT TREK TO FEED AND CARE FOR THE HOMELESS IN DOWNTOWN
WILL BE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH. TO PREPARE FOR IT, WE NEED
TO REPLENISH OUR SUPPLIES. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE DO.

SADLY, WE HAVE RECENTLY LOST TWO PEOPLE THAT WERE VERY
GENEROUS TO THE BURRITTO PROJECT. THAT LOSS WILL BE FELT.
WHATEVER YOU CAN DO TO PROVIDE AID IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED
BY THE HOMELESS PEOPLE WE SERVE. THE GREATEST NEEDS ARE FOR
THESE ITEMS:

CHAP STICK
HAND WIPES
PONCHOS

TOOTHPASTE
SHAMPOO
LADIES UNDERWEAR

SANITARY PADS / TAMPONS

THERE WILL BE A COLLECTION BOX IN THE FOYER TO RECEIVE YOUR
DONATIONS.
THANK YOU.

DINING OUT

DINING OUT WILL START BACK UP. WE WILL BE GOING TO FIELDSTONE COUNTRY INN IN LOCKPORT ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH AT 5:30PM.
PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE FOYER.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

PRESCHOOL

ST JOHN'S COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL IS CURRENTLY ENROLLING 3 YEAR OLDS FOR ITS TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY CLASS.
PLEASE CALL 716-668-3584 TO ENROLL.

A HUGE SHOUT OUT & THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS @ BURCHFEST '25!

YOUR HARD WORK, DEDICATION, AND POSITIVE ENERGY MADE THE
EVENT RUN SMOOTHLY & SUCCESSFULLY!
THE LIST OF INDIVIDUALS IS LONG!

THANK YOU TO THE PROPERTY CREW: RUSS, RICK & RON! THE PROPERTY CREW PREPPED OUR PROPERTY BUT ALSO FINISHED TEAR DOWN DURING THE WEEK. THANK YOU TO CONNIE, MARY, NANCY AND JODIE FROM DIRECTING VENDORS TO SPACES, TO ANSWERING QUESTIONS, TO BEING THE ENTHUSIASTIC FACE OF ST. JOHN'S TO THE PUBLIC! THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS NATALIE, XANDER, JACK, LILY & GIA! THESE STUDENTS FROM THE WEST SENECA COMMUNITY SPENT THE WHOLE DAY WITH US AND DIRECTED PEOPLE TO SPACES, PICKED UP GARBAGE, CLEANED UP THE GROUNDS AND HELPED TEAR DOWN!

LASTLY THANK YOU, THE CONGREGATION (PAST & PRESENT!) FOR SUPPORTING OUR BURCHFEST CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW! WE SAW YOU!
WE APPRECIATE YOU & WE LOVED VISITING WITH YOU!

THIS EVENT COULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT EACH AND EVERY
ONE OF YOU!

BLESSINGS, KATHY M

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Finance Committee Report
August 2025
Attendance For month of August averaged 100

Accounts:

M&T advanced business checking available Balance - \$20,511.80
M&T Youth Fund Balance \$5,690.15
M&T Pastors discretionary Fund \$1,315.06
M&T Commercial Savings - \$34,740.17
Citizens Building Savings - Business Green Checking -1315 - \$100.00
Citizens Building Transfer - Business Green Checking -4616 - \$100.00
Citizens MIF - Clearly Better Business Checking -7073 - \$7,922.01
Citizens Youth Savings - Business Green Checking -7057 - \$465.01

Mission Investment Funds

DCK2284/StJohn's Lutheran Church Savings

\$11.85

TF3YR6959/StJohn's Lutheran Church Altar Guild	\$1,728.19	1.244%	01/24/26
TF6YR7784/StJohn's Lutheran Church Cornerstone	\$20,083.91	2.967%	04/25/26
TF6YR7776/StJohn's Lutheran Church Cemetery	\$33,224.72	2.967%	04/25/26
TF4YR4436/StJohn's Lutheran Church Cornerstone	\$5,124.32	4.087%	03/20/26
TF7M2546/StJohn's Lutheran Church Cemetery	\$31,189.74	2.967%	04/05/28

August 2025 total Expenses \$ 33,155.75

August 2025 total Income \$ 51,155.75 ****

Mortgage MIF. \$206,039.19 3.875%

Principal payment \$4000.00

Interest Payment. \$688.00

Total Monthly Payment. \$4688.00

Note: ****

Our revenue continues to be down, if not for an IRS settlement of \$18,073 and a generous memorial donation, we would have had another month of negative numbers. If the winter is anything like last year, the gas bill will go through the roof! It will be here before you know it. The \$10,000 taken from savings has been returned.

Please remember your commitment to tithe. Tithing is a great convenient to give to the church on a regular basis. If you would like more info on it see a council member or Rick. We are doing everything to hold costs in line but this year is proving difficult with increased costs. Be assured your designated funds are going directly to their needs. As you can see the mortgage is steadily decreasing! Awesome work. Let's keep it up. The mortgage needs to be eliminated as soon as we can. In January the interest rate changes. Currently we are in line for it to be paid off in 3 years 6 months..

Respectfully submitted

Rick Lipka
Treasurer