

MARCH 22, 2026

# *The Crossbeam*

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



*Sunday, March 22, 2026*  
*5th Sunday in Lent,*  
*Year A*

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL JESUS REVEALS HIS POWER OVER DEATH BY RAISING LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD. THE PROPHET EZEKIEL PROPHESES GOD BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO DRY BONES. TO THOSE IN EXILE OR LIVING IN THE SHADOWS OF DEATH, THESE STORIES PROCLAIM GOD'S PROMISE OF RESURRECTION. IN BAPTISM WE DIE WITH CHRIST THAT WE MIGHT ALSO BE RAISED WITH HIM TO NEW LIFE. AT THE EASTER VIGIL WE WILL WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED AS WE REMEMBER GOD'S UNFAILING PROMISE IN OUR BAPTISM.



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

PSALM 130

1 OUT | OF THE DEPTHS

1 CRY TO | YOU, O LORD;

2 O LORD, | HEAR MY VOICE!

LET YOUR EARS BE ATTENTIVE TO THE VOICE OF MY | SUPPLICATION.

3 IF YOU WERE TO KEEP WATCH | OVER SINS,

O LORD, | WHO COULD STAND?

4 YET WITH YOU | IS FORGIVENESS,

IN ORDER THAT YOU | MAY BE FEARED.

5 I WAIT FOR YOU, O LORD; | MY SOUL WAITS;

IN YOUR WORD | IS MY HOPE.

6 MY SOUL WAITS FOR THE LORD MORE THAN THOSE WHO KEEP WATCH | FOR  
THE MORNING,

MORE THAN THOSE WHO KEEP WATCH | FOR THE MORNING.

7 O ISRAEL, WAIT FOR THE LORD, FOR WITH THE LORD THERE IS | STEADFAST  
LOVE;

WITH THE LORD THERE IS PLEN- | TEOUS REDEMPTION.

8 FOR THE LORD SHALL | REDEEM ISRAEL

FROM | ALL THEIR SINS.

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"SUCCESS IS HOW HIGH YOU BOUNCE WHEN YOU HIT BOTTOM."

—GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON

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



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



SATURDAY MARCH 21 @ 5PM  
VICKY WIENKE - ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY MARCH 22 @ 9AM  
NADINE BROWN- ASSISTING MINISTER

SUNDAY MARCH 22 @ 10:30AM  
KAREN ROTHENBERGER- ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY MARCH 22 @ 9AM  
LEE DELANEY- USHER

SUNDAY MARCH 22 @ 10:30AM  
SANDY STANGO- USHER  
IVY DELANEY - ACOLYTE

ALTAR GUILD FOR MARCH:  
DEB FOX  
RHONDA DREZEK



**ANNOUNCEMENTS &  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> @ 6PM  
PALM CROSS MAKING**

**MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> @ 2PM  
EASTER EGG HUNT**

**APRIL 2ND  
MAUNDY THURSDAY  
SPOKEN WORD SERVICE @ 11AM  
TRADITIONAL SERVICE @ 7PM**

**APRIL 3RD  
GOOD FRIDAY  
TRADITIONAL SERVICE @ 7PM**

**BIBLE STUDY @ 6PM  
APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>, 16TH**

**UPCOMING AGAPE MEAL DATES:  
MAY 3RD**

**UPDATED ADDRESS:**

DIANA SLOMA  
1185 ISABELLE PLACE  
THE VILLAGES, FLORIDA 32163

# **THIS WEEK 3/22 - 3/28**

## **TODAY:**

9 A.M. WORSHIP W/SCS  
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP  
12PM NA EVENT  
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

## **MONDAY:**

10 A.M SPROUTS  
1 P.M. ARTHRITIS WALKING GROUP  
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 P.M. ROCK VOICES  
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  
6 P.M. ROCK VOICES  
7 P.M. NA

## **FRIDAY:**

10 A.M. ENJOY LIFE (NA)  
10 A.M. SPROUTS  
5 P.M. GIRLS SCOUTS  
6 P.M. PALM CROSS MAKING  
7:30 P.M. GARDENVILLE GROUP (AA)

## **SATURDAY:**

9 A.M. ZUMBA  
2 P.M. EASTER EGG HUNT  
5 P.M. WORSHIP

## **PALM CROSS MAKING**

WE WILL BE MAKING PALM CROSSES ON  
FRIDAY MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> @ 6PM IN THE PARISH HALL  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!  
PLEASE BRING SCISSORS!



**PASTOR VALERIE SUGGESTS WE PAUSE THE WEEKLY ALTAR FLOWER'S  
DURING THE LENTEN SEASON . WE WILL RESUME WITH FLOWERS AT  
EASTER SYMBOLIZING THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION AND THEN  
EVERY SUNDAY AFTER.**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR SUPPORT AT THAT TIME WITH OUR  
THANKS.**

## **KNITTING MINISTRY**

THE KNITTING MINISTRY HAS REBRANDED THEMSELVES TO THE  
HANDMADE & HEARTFELT CREW. DO YOU KNIT, CROCHET, SEW OR  
MAKE FLEECE BLANKETS? WE CREATE ITEMS FOR DISTRIBUTION  
FOR THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER SHAWLS, HATS, SCARVES,  
MITTENS OR BLANKETS. PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR AN EVENING  
OF CREATING AND SOCIALIZING. WE MEET ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup>  
MONDAYS (WEATHER PERMITTING) YEAR ROUND. OUR NEXT  
MEETING IS MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 6PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP ROOM. NO  
EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

## READERS NEEDED

WE COULD USE MORE LITURGY READERS FOR THE 5PM SATURDAY SERVICE. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU DO RECEIVE THE READINGS AHEAD OF TIME TO PRACTICE AND HELP IS AVAILABLE IF YOU NEED IT FOR PRONUNCIATION PURPOSES.

## COLLECTION FOR BOOK AND JIGSAW PUZZLE SALE

WE ARE NOW COLLECTING BOOKS AND PUZZLES FOR THE SALE IN APRIL. LAST DAY TO DONATE WILL BE APRIL 5TH. THEY CAN BE LEFT ON THE PEW IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. ALSO, NO ENCYCLOPEDIAS, MAGAZINES OR MEDIA.

### "Let the children come unto me...."

The UNYS Hunger Justice team has designated this spring's ELCA World Hunger synodical appeal for ministries focused on the care and feeding of orphans and vulnerable children. Each congregation is challenged to bring a gift of \$500 or more to our UNYS Spring Assembly, May 26-27.

As Jesus welcomed and embraced children, despite the Disciples' disapproval, so we, too, are called to respond to the plight of those whose families have been fractured, leaving children vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. Through our support of ELCA ministries of feeding, nutrition and health care, we are demonstrating Jesus' compassion for "the least of these", those alone and with no means to care for themselves.

We who serve on the UNYS Hunger Justice Team count on your faithful generosity and thank you for your advocacy of ELCA World Hunger in your congregation. Working together, we live in hope "that all the world may be fed".

Grace and peace,

Your Hunger Justice Team



The poster features a white background with various colorful illustrations. In the top left, a blue bunny is surrounded by pink and yellow flowers. In the top right, a yellow bunny is surrounded by pink and purple flowers. In the middle left, a yellow egg is decorated with pink and purple flowers. In the middle right, a pink egg is decorated with pink and purple flowers. In the bottom left, a yellow bunny is surrounded by pink and blue flowers. In the bottom right, a blue bunny is surrounded by yellow and pink flowers. In the bottom center, a green egg is decorated with a pink heart. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

HOP INTO FUN!  
**EASTER  
EGG  
HUNT**

**MARCH 28 | 2PM-3PM**

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
3512 CLINTON STREET  
WEST SENECA NY 14224**

## **EASTER FLOWERS**

THE ALTAR GUILD IS OFFERING EASTER FLOWERS TO BEUATIFY  
OUR EASTER ALTAR.

YOU CAN REMEMBER OR HONOR A LOVED ONE BY USING THE  
ORDER FORMS FOUND ON THE COUNTER IN THE FOYER OR  
ONLINE. THANK YOU!



### **EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM**

RED TULIPS \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_

PURPLE HYACINTHS \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_

WHITE LILLIES \$11.00 \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT

IN LOVING MEMORY OF : \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF : \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDERS DUE BY MARCH 29TH  
CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO ST. JOHN'S ALTAR GUILD

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Finance Committee Report  
February 2026  
Attendance For month of February averaged 91

Accounts:

M&T advanced business checking available Balance- \$11,223.61  
M&T Youth Fund Balance \$7,042.15  
M&T Pastor Discretionary Fund \$2,565.14  
M&T Commercial Savings - \$ 13,802.69  
Citizens Building fund -4616- \$85.00  
Citizens MIF – Cornerstone Fund-7073- \$8,592.01  
Citizens Youth Savings – Youth Fund-7057- \$565.05

Mission Investment Funds

DCK2284/St John's Lutheran Church Savings	\$11.85		
TF3YR6959/St John's Lutheran Church Altar Guild	\$1,762.51	1.244%	01/24/26
TF6YR7784/St John's Lutheran Church Cornerstone	\$20,385.43	2.967%	04/25/26
TF6YR7776/St John's Lutheran Church Cemetery	\$33,975.72	2.967%	04/25/26
TF4YR4436/St John's Lutheran Church Cornerstone	\$5,229.86	4.087%	03/20/26
TF7M2546/St John's Lutheran Church Cemetery	\$31,835.65	2.967%	04/05/28

February 2026 total income \$15,237.41 February 2026 total Expense \$ 23,571.30

Note:

Congratulations! The mortgage has been eliminated. BUT.....

We need a commitment from you, that you will continue to give at or above the level you have been. While the mortgage has been paid, we still have a facility, programs and outreach that need continued funding.

This month, to ensure that we continued to sustain our programs, services, and outreach efforts, we have had to make some difficult decisions.

In order to keep up with our commitments, we temporarily utilized some of our existing assets. Please understand that we plan on this is a being temporary measure, and we remain committed to transparency and responsible stewardship.

We kindly ask for your continued prayers and support during this time. Your gifts—whether financial, time, or talent—are vital to maintaining and strengthening our congregation. Together, we can navigate these challenges and emerge even stronger.

Notable expense, over \$3,000 in National fuel and NYSEG cost combined.

Respectfully submitted  
Rick Lipka/ Treasurer