

AUGUST 30, 2026

The Crossbeam

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



Sunday, August 30, 2026
14th Sunday after Pentecost,
Year A

THE PROPHET JEREMIAH SPEAKS OF THE INCURABLE WOUND OF HIS SUFFERING YET FINDS IN GOD'S WORDS THE DELIGHT OF HIS HEART. WHEN PETER DOESN'T GRASP JESUS' WORDS ABOUT SUFFERING, JESUS TELLS THE DISCIPLES THEY WILL FIND THEIR LIVES IN LOSING THEM. SUCH SACRIFICIAL LOVE IS DESCRIBED BY PAUL WHEN HE URGES US TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE LOWLY AND NOT REPAY EVIL WITH EVIL. IN WORSHIP WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY THAT WE MIGHT OFFER OURSELVES FOR THE SAKE OF OUR SUFFERING WORLD.



From the Pastor's Desk

CHRISTIANS SEE THE WORLD AS IT IS- PHYSICALLY DECAYING AND SPIRITUALLY INFECTED WITH SIN. BUT WE DON'T NEED TO BE PESSIMISTIC, BECAUSE WE HAVE HOPE FOR FUTURE GLORY. **SOMETHING BETTER IS TRULY ON THE WAY!**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH THAT GOD HAS PROMISED, AND WE WAIT FOR GOD'S NEW ORDER THAT WILL FREE THE WORLD FROM SIN, SICKNESS, AND EVIL.

I ONCE HEARD OF A NEW MOTHER WHO DESCRIBED THE MOMENT HER FIRST CHILD WAS BORN, SHE SAID THE HOURS LEADING UP TO IT WERE SOME OF THE MOST PAINFUL IN HER LIFE- WAVES OF LABOR CONTRACTIONS THAT SEEMED ALMOST UNBEARABLE. BUT THE MOMENT SHE HEARD HER BABY CRY AND HELD THAT NEW LIFE IN HER ARMS, THE PAIN SUDDENLY FADED INTO THE BACKGROUND. SHE DIDN'T FORGET IT, BUT IT NO LONGER DEFINED THE EXPERIENCE. THE JOY OUTWEIGHED THE SUFFERING.

PAUL SAYS CREATION IS GROANING "AS IN THE PAINS OF CHILDBIRTH."

THESE AREN'T THE GROANS OF DESPAIR; THEY ARE THE GROANS OF ANTICIPATION. THE WORLD'S BROKENNESS, THE TRAILS WE FACE, AND EVEN OUR OWN SUFFERING ARE NOT MEANINGLESS- THEY ARE THE CONTRACTIONS BEFORE THE DELIVERY OF SOMETHING FAR GREATER AND BEYOND WHAT YOU AND I CAN EVER DESCRIBE IN DETAIL.

IN THE MEANTIME, CHRISTIANS GO FORTH WITH CHRIST INTO THE WORLD WHERE, THROUGH THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD, LIVES ARE HEALED AND RESTORED TO WHOLENESS.

WE ARE NOT ABANDONED TO ONLY DREAMING ABOUT BETTER DAYS AHEAD, BUT WE CAN HAVE GREAT DAYS IN CHRIST NOW!

IF WE ARE IN GOD'S IMAGE, THEN WE MUST REALIZE THAT WE ARE GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES WHILE HERE ON EARTH.

SOMEONE SAID ONE TIME: **"AS BELIEVERS, WE ARE THE ONLY BIBLE SOME IN THIS WORLD WILL EVER READ"**. I LIKE TO ADD TO THAT STATEMENT, THESE WORDS, **" LET'S LIVE OUR LIVES IN LARGE PRINT!"**



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

9:45A.M. - IN-PERSON SERVICE AND LIVESTREAM
BROADCAST ON OUR [FACEBOOK PAGE](#) AND ON OUR WEBSITE!



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



SATURDAY AUGUST 29 @ 5PM
VICKY WIENKE- ASSISTING MINISTER



SUNDAY AUGUST 30 @ 10AM
NADINE BROWN- ASSISTING MINISTER
LAURA LOEHR- USHER

ALTAR GUILD FOR AUGUST:
SONI SCHNITZER
DEB FOX

**SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN. PLEASE
REGISTER YOUR CHILD HERE:
[HTTPS://TITHELY-5ED939B212C2C-
1939424.ELVANTO.NET/ADMIN/FORMS/FORM/?ID=0DF741C1-
58BF-4FE5-9A2A-B2917176CEA2](https://tithely-5ed939b212c2c-1939424.elvanto.net/admin/forms/form/?id=0df741c1-58bf-4fe5-9a2a-b2917176cea2)**

**OFFICE CLOSED
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED AFTER 12PM ON FRIDAY
AUGUST 28TH THRU MONDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH.
I WILL BE BACK IN THE OFFICE ON TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8TH.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

**SEPTEMBER 3RD
SEPTEMBER 17TH
BIBLE STUDY @ 6PM**

**SEPTEMBER 13TH
RALLY DAY
9AM SERVICE W/SCS
10:30AM SERVICE**

**SEPTEMBER 19TH @ 2PM
CANDY BAR BINGO**

**OCTOBER 3RD
BURCHFEST**

**OCTOBER 15TH
PENNY SALE**

**AGAPE MEAL DATES:
SEPTEMBER 6TH
OCTOBER 4TH
NOVEMBER 1ST
DECEMBER 6TH**

**WEST SENECA COMMUNITY OF CHURCHES CROP WALK/ROLL &
WEIDNER CHICKEN DINNER
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, FROM 11AM-3PM OR SOLD OUT.
ST DAVID'S CHURCH
3951 SENECA ST (BEHIND SOUTHGATE PLAZA)
TAKE OUT AND CASH ONLY - \$16.**

THIS WEEK 8/30 - 9/5

TODAY:

10 A.M. WORSHIP
7 P.M. TRY AGAIN (AA)

MONDAY:

1 P.M. ARTHRITIS WALKING GROUP
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

THURSDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
12 P.M. NA
1 P.M. CEMETERY MEETING
5 P.M. ZUMBA
6 P.M. BIBLE STUDY
7 P.M. WORSHIP & MUSIC
7 P.M. NA

FRIDAY:

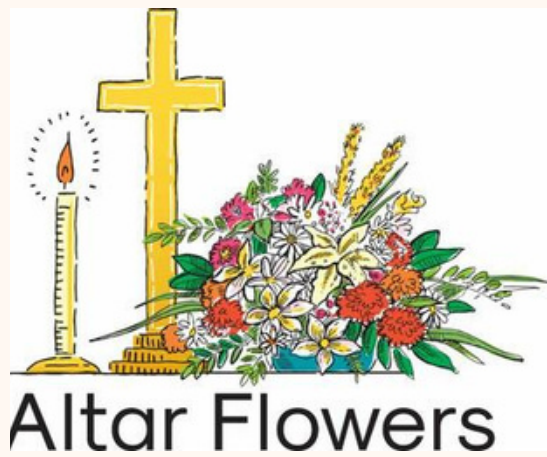
10 A.M. ENJOY LIFE (NA)
7:30 P.M. GARDENVILLE GROUP (AA)

SATURDAY:

9 A.M. ZUMBA
5 P.M. WORSHIP

**ST. JOHN'S IS IN NEED OF SOMEONE WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO COLLECT
THE GARBAGE AND TAKE THE TRASH CANS OUT TO THE CURB EVERY
WEDNESDAY EVENING.**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW OR RICK LIPKA.
THANK YOU!**



**WAYNE AND CHRIS CHARNOCK'S
63RD WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

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.

ITEMS NEEDED

ST. JOHN'S WILL BE HOSTING A TABLE AT BURCHFEST. THIS TABLE WILL CONSIST OF GARAGE SALE TYPE ITEMS TO SELL. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE WE ARE ACCEPTING ITEMS.

PLEASE NO CLOTHING!!!

LOOKING FOR NICE ITEMS.

ANY DONATIONS CAN BE PLACE ON THE BENCH IN THE SCHOOL HALL. ANYTHING NOT SOLD AT BURCHFEST WILL BE DONATED TOWARDS THE PENNY SALE.

PLEASE HAVE ANY ITEMS IN BY SEPTEMBER 20TH

PRAYER LABYRINTH

PRAYER LABYRINTHS HAVE BEEN USED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS BY MANY RELIGIONS AND CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS AS A SPIRITUAL, MEDITATIVE, AND PRAYER TOOL.

OUR LABYRINTH IS A SEVEN-CIRCUIT LABYRINTH MODELED AFTER THE CHARTRES STYLE. IT IS 30' IN DIAMETER AND MADE FROM LASER CUT VINYL TILE, LOCATED IN OUR PARISH HALL. THE LABYRINTH WAS LAID WITH THE HELP OF SAINT JOHN'S CONGREGATION IN 2008. OUR LABYRINTH IS 100% HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE.

TO SCHEDULE A TIME TO WALK THE LABYRINTH, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO:
PRAYERLABYRINTH@GMAIL.COM.



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S NEWEST CORNER. EVERY WEEK WE WILL HIGHLIGHT A DIFFERENT MEMEBER OF THE CONGREGATION. SEND TO THE OFFICE A SHORT BLURB ON WHAT MAKES YOUR LIGHT SHINE ALONG WITH A PICTURE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING ON HERE. LET'S SEE WHAT MAKES YOUR LIGHT SHINE!

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DON'T KNOW ME, I AM **VICKY WIENKE**, THE CARD LADY! I AM THE ONE WHO MAKES AND SENDS OUT CARDS TO THE PEOPLE ON OUR PRAYER LIST. I HAVE BEEN MAKING CARDS FOR ABOUT 50 YEARS AND ENJOY THIS PAST TIME IMMENSELY. MY HUSBAND BUILT ME A CRAFT ROOM IN THE BASEMENT AND THIS IS MY HIDING PLACE!



BURCHFEST '26

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR BURCHFEST 2026!

BURCHFEST IS BACK, AND WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS!

ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026, ST. JOHN'S WILL WELCOME HUNDREDS OF SHOPPERS, ARTISANS, AND VENDORS FOR OUR ANNUAL BURCHFEST – FALL INTO THE ARTS! THIS COMMUNITY WIDE EVENT IS ONLY POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, YOUTH (COUNTS TOWARDS COMMUNITY SERVICE), AND FRIENDS TO HELP WITH TASKS SUCH AS:

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SET UP TABLES
LABEL VENDOR SPACES
VENDOR SET-UP AND CHECK-IN
WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE
HOSPITALITY FOR VENDORS
GENERAL EVENT SUPPORT
GARBAGE PICK UP
SECURITY
CLEAN-UP AT THE END OF THE DAY

WHETHER YOU CAN VOLUNTEER FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS OR THE ENTIRE EVENT, YOUR TIME AND TALENTS WILL MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE. BURCHFEST RUNS FROM 10AM TO 2PM. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT FROM 8AM TO 3PM.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HELPING, PLEASE CONTACT KATHY AT 716-208-9043 (TEXT OR VOICEMAIL) OR SIGN UP AT CHURCH.

WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU AS PART OF THE BURCHFEST TEAM!

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK—AND TOGETHER WE'LL MAKE BURCHFEST ANOTHER WONDERFUL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION!