



St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church & School  
North Tonawanda, New York



## The Next Big Challenge

There are numerous challenges in this pandemic. Medical. Economic. Educational. Political. With plans for re-entry slowly unfolding, I see a bigger underlying challenge: *People*.

People are thinking about how they will transition to a new normal, and I've already seen the tension. Fear, anger, and arrogance will exacerbate the health and financial hurdles we're already facing.

There are different views about the right course of action. Some say, "They can't tell me what to do. I'll do what I want. It's my right!" Others say, "I'm not going out for two years. And if you do, you're wrong!"

St. Paul gives us a helpful posture as we all prepare to reenter. (Phil. 2:3-4)

*"In humility count others more significant than yourselves.*

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others."*

In a crisis, it's easy to think only of yourself. Self-preservation and survival are human defaults. We ask, "What about me? What about my rights? What about my future?"

Humility is when it's not about you. Or, it's not about you first. We ask, "What about them? What about his rights? What about her future? What do they need?"

As we begin to return, I ask you to do it with humility. Christian humility says, "Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Just because you have the right, doesn't mean it's right."

"Consider the interests of others." It's one thing to be healthy, financially secure, and able to work from home. Consider:

Those most vulnerable to the virus.

Those disproportionately affected by health and economic factors.

Those who have to go to work in high risk places.

Those who live in densely populated urban centers.

Those who live in rural and agricultural regions.

Those overlooked and left behind.

Be safe. Be wise. Be patient. Be gracious.

Be humble enough to "consider the interests of others." Philippians 2:1-11



By Jeff Cloeter, Senior Pastor at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO, taken from his blog [www.sixthgen.com](http://www.sixthgen.com) (<http://www.sixthgen.com/blog/the-next-big-challenge>)

**Office Hours:** 8:00 am-3:00 p.m.

**Worship:** Sundays at 9:00 AM

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

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**Phone:** 716-693-9677 (voicemail) Messages will be checked regularly.  
option 2: Church • option 7: Pastor Mike

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These accounts are checked regularly.

**Website:** [www.stjohnnt.com](http://www.stjohnnt.com)

**Email Newsletter:** We send out information related to St. John by email regularly. Sign up at our website or contact the Church Office.

**Offerings/Donations:** *Mailed* to St. John or *Give Online* at our website

**Streaming Video:** Worship services are available at: [facebook.com/stjohnnt/live](https://facebook.com/stjohnnt/live)

You can watch live or view the video at another time. You **do not** need a Facebook account to view these videos. And whenever possible, we will also post the videos on our website at [stjohnnt.com/worship](http://stjohnnt.com/worship)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/stjohnnt](https://facebook.com/stjohnnt) See ongoing activities at the School and Church.

## THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

May 3 - 9

**No in person/large group activities until further notice**

Worship is live streamed and recorded at [facebook.com/stjohnnt/live](https://facebook.com/stjohnnt/live)

## GIVING REPORT

**Reminder:** You can mail in your contributions anytime.

### Weekly Contributions Received:

March 29 & April 5: \$4125

April 12: \$6,175 (Holy Week/Easter)

April 19: \$4075

April 26: \$8095

## ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE

We now offer a way for you to **give online**. It is simple, convenient and safe. You can make a one time gift or set up an ongoing contribution to St. John. Go to [stjohnnt.com](http://stjohnnt.com) and click on “**Give Online**,” follow the directions to set up your account TODAY. Not only can you donate to St. John you can pay *school tuition*, give to the *Building Fund* or give to the *Financial Aid Donation* which helps families with tuition cost at St. John School. Setting up an account also allows you to track your giving history and change/update your information anytime.

## CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWS

**Food Pantry:** Collections are scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month. *The Food Pantry will remain open as long as possible during the pandemic.* Most-needed items: quick meals, rice, pancake mix/syrup, canned fruit, cereal, oatmeal, jello, jelly, peanut butter, peas, personal care items/toiletries, soup, spaghetti sauce, ramen noodle soups (in cellophane). Monetary donations are also appreciated. *Anyone needing food assistance can come to the Pantry once a month.* They are located at 100 Ridge Street, N. Tonawanda and are open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **Items can be brought to St. John and placed in our entryway – please label them “Food Pantry” and call or email the church office that you are bringing them.**

**Easter Part 2 & Confirmation** – We weren't able to meet April 12 in person for Easter, but we are planning on an in-person Easter celebration when we can safely gather together. We are also planning an in-person Confirmation service for our four Confirmands this year. (Confirmation was to be held this Sunday, May 3, but is postponed due to large group gathering restrictions.)

**Easter Butterfly Project** – The butterfly has traditionally been used as a symbol of resurrection and used at Easter. From caterpillar to cocoon to butterfly mirrors Jesus' life to death/tomb to resurrection. **For our in-person Easter this year let's FILL the building with BUTTERFLIES!** On our website, [stjohnnt.com](http://stjohnnt.com), there is a **downloadable butterfly coloring sheet** – print off the sheet, color it, and bring it to St. John when we worship together, in-person, again. Color as many as you want – the more the better!



**Family project or a boredom buster activity.** Create your own butterflies to bring to St. John. Look up ideas online, come up with your own ideas – be creative. *The more butterflies we have will make our building look awesome for Easter!*

**Vacation Bible School 2020** – Plans are underway for VBS this Summer. **July 13- 17, 2020** is the date set for VBS which will meet from **9:00 am to Noon**. The theme: *“Rocky Railway – Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through.”* We have a new director – Rebekah Borgstede, please contact Rebekah ([bekahborgs@gmail.com](mailto:bekahborgs@gmail.com)) if you are interested in helping. **VBS may be done differently this year so stay tuned for more information.**



## **FUNDRAISERS**

- **Script Cards** are available for sale after our Sunday services. Cards can be ordered (see the list of all participating businesses in the rack to the left of the table in the narthex; some cards are also available in the office). Order deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. **Contact the Office and leave a message if you are interested in purchasing a script card. We will get back to you as soon as we can.**
- **Gotsneakers.com: PLEASE NOTE THE CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR.** Please save your donations and bring them when the large gathering ban is lifted. Thank you for continuing to support this project.
- **Remember our on-going School fundraisers:** [TopsMarkets.com/Education](https://www.TopMarkets.com/Education): register your Tops BonusPlus card and select St. John Lutheran School. [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazon.com): Amazon will donate a portion of the price of your purchases to St. John Lutheran by using the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/16-0844810>

## IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

If you would like a prayer added to this list (or a change) please contact the Church Office  
716-693-9677, option 2 or [churchoffice@stjohnnt.com](mailto:churchoffice@stjohnnt.com)

Private prayers – leave a voicemail at 716-693-9677, option 7 or [pastormike@stjohnnt.com](mailto:pastormike@stjohnnt.com)

### Short-Term Prayers

- Kerry Warner – Recovering from surgery
- Ron Kroening – Ongoing health issues
- JoAnn Durick – Undergoing tests
- Pat Barber – Broken elbow, shoulder, compressed fracture in back
- Frank Wendt – Health issues
- Janet Herman – Testing at Roswell
- Rosemary Siegmann – For ongoing healing at home
- Anita Garito – Health issues
- Don Proefrock – Health issues
- Marty Darlak – At home
- Elena Galvano, daughter of Terra and Anthony, hospitalized after premature birth on March 29
- Carol (Sister of Mary Salefske) – Caring for husband with Alzheimers
- Gertrude Hamilton (Sister of Anita Garito) – Hospitalized last week
- Claudette Lemieux (Daughter of Marty Darlak) – Health issues and further testing
- Chris O’Lay (Friend of Estella Bullwinkle) – Recovering at home
- Camille – Cancer diagnosis
- Della Williams (Aunt of Jackie Johnston) – Health concerns
- Gail Gadomski – General health
- Jim Garito
- Prayers for the lost, that they may hear the Word
- For families who have been impacted by a diagnosis of COVID-19
- For all workers on the frontline of dealing with this pandemic

### Long Term Prayers

Fred Scherrer, Richard Siegmann, Bill Andrees, Jan Meissner, Allene Horack, Clarice Poerschke, Jay Siegman, Menerva Calvaneso, Pat Barber, Wayne Herman, Elsbeth Kaus, Doris Wollaber, Vilma Green, Estella and Taylor Bullwinkle, Paul Greinert, Ken Musall, Owen Arizmendi, Kim Snell, Jennifer Korte, Genevieve Jakubek, Mary June Bartlett, Amy Poland, Olive Bester, Carl Myers

### In the U.S. Military

Rick Skorik, David Hoppe, Stephen Marshall

