



St. John News

December 18 - 24, 2022

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

School founded 1846
Church founded 1853

We are a Christian community called to **worship** and sent to **serve**,
welcoming all to **walk** with Christ and **grow** in faith.

THIS WEEK ^{at} GLANCE



Sunday, December 18

- Bell Choir Practice – 8:00 am
- Worship – Children’s Christmas Program - 9:00 am
- Choir Practice – 10:00 am
- Bible Study – 10:15 am
- Confirmation Class – 6:30 pm

Monday, December 19

- Christmas Caroling

Tuesday, December 20

Wednesday, December 21

- Advent Worship – 7:00 pm

Thursday, December 22

Friday, December 23

Saturday, December 24

- Christmas Eve – 6:00 pm Worship
Hymn Sing/Special Music – 5:45 pm

Sunday, December 25

- Christmas Day Worship – 10:00 am

UPCOMING EVENTS



❁ Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship at 6:00 pm,

Hymn Sing/Special Music at 5:45 pm

❁ Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship at 10:00 am

No Wednesday Worship **December 28** due to flooring installation.



Serving This Week

Liturgist/Preacher: Reverend Michael Borgstede

Organist: Doreen Sutherland

Elders for December: Jim Oliver, Roger Carr

Reader for Sunday: Bruce Sutherland

Sunday, January 1: Herb Meissner

Counting Team: Cathy & Dan Schultz, Kathy Wendt

Next Week: Peggy Meyer, Mike Scive, Mike Scive II, Matt Scive, Sharon Muir, Donna House

Altar Guild for December: Sandy Dworzanski, Annie Kelly, Kathy Wendt

Office Hours: 8:00AM - 3:00PM

6950 Ward Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Worship: Sundays at 9:00 AM

(716) 693-9677

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

(option 1-School, 2-Church, 6-Principal, 7-Pastor)

churchoffice@stjohnnt.com • office@stjohnnt.com

THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN

December 18 - 24, 2022

**Onsite & Online Worship
Sundays at 9 am & Wednesdays at 7 pm**

GIVING REPORT

Weekly Contributions Received:

Thank you for your contribution!

October 16-23: \$7,526.00

October 30-November 6: \$7,243.00

November 13-27: \$8497.00

December 4: \$5967.50

ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE

You can **give online**. It is simple, convenient and safe. Go to stjohnnt.com and click "Give Online," follow the directions to set up your account TODAY. You can also use the app on Apple or Android phones.

SCHOOL: When school is in session we ask that you **call ahead** if you need to visit St. John.

The **church secretary** is in the office on *Thursdays and Fridays* each week. For other times please leave a message or choose option 7 for Pastor Mike.

FUNDRAISERS

- **Scrip Cards** are available by order if handed into the office by the 15th of each month.
- **TopsMarkets.com/Education:** register your Tops BonusPlus card and select St. John Lutheran School.
- **Amazon Smile:** 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>

Food Pantry: Remember our continuing Food Pantry project. Monetary donations are also appreciated. In addition to food donations, personal care items such as shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors are also needed. Thank you for your continued support.



December

Sundays the 4th & 18th

Christmas Day the 25th

Wednesdays the 7th & 21st

No Worship Wednesday the 28th

Bible Study and Sunday School

Sunday mornings at 10:15am



Children – PreK-5th Grade

Digging Into the Heart of God brings a fresh approach to growing a lifelong relationship with God. As kids explore God's character throughout the Bible, God transforms them from the inside out.

Adult Bible Study

We will continue in our journey through Genesis as we follow Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph all the way to Egypt and how God was with them, even when they failed Him.

Led by Pastor Mike

Coffee & Goodies being served!

Time to enjoy some treats and spend time with others after worship.



If you would like to help by making goodies or coffee, please sign up for a specific date on the sheet on the table in the narthex underneath the television screen. Any questions, contact Cheryl Oliver at 716-909-7938. Your help is greatly appreciated!

Inclement Weather – In the *rare event* that we would not be able to have in-person worship (Wednesday or Sunday) due to safety concerns, we will announce it:

- through an **email alert**, you need to be signed up through our website to receive regular news from St. John.
 - and it will be announced through Channels 7 (WKBW) and 2 (WGRZ) closing lists.
- We will provide **online worship** whether we cancel in-person or not.
- **Please be safe** during these winter months and stay home if you don't feel safe traveling – you can join us online for worship!

Advent 2022

Come gather round the *Advent wreath* for our **Flames for the Faithful** worship series. Each week (Sundays at 9am, Wednesdays at 7pm) takes its themes from traditional designations of the four candles:



FLAMES
for the
FAITHFUL



- **Prophecy Candle** – through the prophets of old, God announces a promise that the Light of Christ would one day shine and save. *11/27 and 11/30*
- **Bethlehem Candle** – in a little town, God prepares the world for the coming of the Christ Child. *12/4 and 12/7*
- **Shepherds' Candle** - on the night when the Christ Child was born, fear gave way to joy for the shepherds, who experience a promise fulfilled. *12/11 and 12/14*
- **Angels' Candle** – all of heaven breaks open to shine the glory of God as angels announce the good news of great joy for all people. *12/18 and 12/21*

St. John Christmas Carolers: Please email office@stjohnnt.com or call Terrie at 693-9677, option 1 if you are interested in providing Christmas joy to homebound people. The date is **tomorrow, December 19**; carolers will meet at the Assisted Living Building at Elderwood at Wheatfield at 5:30 p.m. The group will also visit as many St. John shut-ins as possible.

Church Readers: The reading schedule for the first six months of 2023 is in your flock box. Please pick it up as soon as possible.

Church offering envelopes are in the flock boxes. Please check your box, and thank you for your gifts.



Principal's Note

From Principal Katie Gundell:

We are disciples ... **Be One. Make One.**

Greetings!

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel

... God with us.” Mathew 1:23. What a message! Our Savior, sent for you and me. May the joy of this season be a blessing.



Did you know?

- Our students performed our Christmas musical on Friday. It was so awesome to see our student body proclaim the message of Jesus in such a confident and joyful way.
- New floors in the entryway and main hall will be installed during the week of Christmas break.
- Our first open house and enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year will be on January 24, from 6-7:30 p.m. Encourage friends and family to check out St. John.

Blessings,
Katie Gundell

St. John Lutheran School

Nurturing children academically and spiritually toward a life of witness and service in Christ.

Save the Date: Euchre Tournament on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at St. John Lutheran Church and School. More information to follow. Stay tuned!!!!

If you would like to watch the Candlelight Christmas Vespers from First Trinity Lutheran Church, the YouTube link is Candlelight Christmas Vespers – First Trinity in Tonawanda, NY <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tdiXxclSjbQ>

OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- Please **email or call** St. John with any additions or updates to our Prayer List.
Please ask permission to publish prayers that are not for yourself.
Our email: churchoffice@stjohnnt.com or phone: 716-693-9677 option 2
- Private prayers – pastormike@stjohnnt.com
- We ask that you update our **Military List** with members' names or names of relatives serving our country.

Short-Term Prayers

- Sharon Muir and family, at the death of her husband Lee on December 10
- Doug Meyer – Recovering from surgery
- Jennifer Reynolds – Recovering from surgery
- Karin Rogers – Recovering from surgery
- Barbara Manning – Health issues
- Ruth Schultz – Wheatfield Commons
- John Licht III
- Wayne Herman – Ongoing medical issues
- Bill Nelson – Ongoing medical issues
- Estella Bullwinkle – Ongoing health issues
- Dennis Kelly – Ongoing health issues
- Sharon Sutherland (mother of June Sutherland) – Recovering from Covid
- Ed Lilly (friend of Barb & Jeff Manning) - Hospitalized
- Roxann (sister of Kathy Wendt) – Healing after surgery
- Mark Parker – Facing cancer surgery and treatment
- Joann Meyer – Health issues
- Kim Sova (sister-in-law of Cathy Schultz) – Recovering from surgery
- April Smith – Diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer
- Sue Shultz – Upcoming surgery
- Jeff McCoy – Health issues
- Janet Mumm (mother of St. John teacher Heidi Sue McCormick) – Health issues
- Matthew Wallace (former St. John member)
- Joyce Lasch (sister-in-law of Herb Meissner and aunt of Katie Gundell) – Stage 3 cancer
- Profé Maria - Ongoing health issues
- Jessica Gauda-Lane (daughter of Dennis Gauda and sister of Estella Bullwinkle) – Cancer treatment
- Gail Gadomski – General health



- † For the lost or those who have strayed from the faith, that they may hear the Word of God.
- † For St. John as we re-commit ourselves to the ministry God has given to us – encourage all to be actively participating and involved in meaningful ways to the glory of Jesus Christ.

Long Term Prayers

Alaina Licht, Marty Darlak, Jason Barry, Dean Scirri, Rosemary Siegmann, Menerva Calvaneso, Pat Barber, Wayne Herman, Elsbeth Kaus, Doris Wollaber, Estella and Taylor Bullwinkle, Paul Greinert, Ken Musall, Owen Arizmendi, Kim Snell, Donald Licht, Jr., Jim Garito, Marilyn Licht

In the U.S. Military: David Hoppe, Stephen Marshall