



THE JOURNAL

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 2012



Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr.
Pastor

Mrs. Lois Will

Organist and Music Director

Mr. Brad Lynch

Contemporary Music Leader

Mrs. Nancy Sweeney

Administrative Assistant

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday Evenings
at 4:30 PM

Sunday Mornings
at 8:30AM Traditional

& 11:00AM Contemporary
Sunday School and Adult Bible
Class 9:45AM



St. John's Lutheran Church
Depew, New York

From the Pastor....

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

As you may already know, this year Ash Wednesday falls on February 22nd. Similar to previous years we will gather for a worship service that evening at 7:30pm. Ash Wednesday is the kick off, if you will, to the season of Lent. I have often described Lent as a rollercoaster ride. It begins with the solemnity of Ash Wednesday, it peaks on Palm Sunday when Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem with shouts of Hosanna, it hits gut wrenching lows on Maundy



Thursday and Good Friday. And the end of the ride brings us to the glorious celebration of Easter where we encounter our victorious Savior who rose on the third day, just as he said, to free us from sin death and the devil!

Each of us played are part. And so, this year during the Sundays in Lent we are going to journey together through a worship and sermon series called "By My Hands.... For My Sake." Each Saturday and Sunday we will consider our role in the suffering and death of Christ by looking at various biblical figures who actually did have a hand in the crucifixion of Jesus.

Here's What you can expect:

- Ash Wednesday
- Lent 1– Nicodemus
- Lent 2– Judas
- Lent 3– Barabbas
- Lent 4– Pilate
- Lent 5– The Thief's Father
- Maundy Thursday
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday–

I am also excited to announce that the Buffalo North Circuit will once again host a mid-week Lenten series. Stay tuned for schedule and location details!!

And... the Depew Lancaster Ministerium will once again host the noon hour Lenten worship and "soup sandwich lunch."

There is a lot happening in the coming weeks! I hope you take advantage of these helpful worship and fellowship experiences.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Gal +

Worship Assistants

ELDERS & LECTORS

Date	Elder 4:30pm (Sat)	Lectors 4:30pm (Sat)	Elders 8:30am (Sun)	Lectors 8:30am (Sun)	Elders 11:00am (Sun)	Lectors 11:00am (Sun)
Feb 4 & 5	John Preston	John Preston	Tom Sprankle	Cantor	John Sweeney	John Sweeney
Feb 11 & 12	Rob Tomac	Rob Tomac	Tom Sprankle	Susie Bluhm	John Sweeney	Joe Kyle
Feb 18 & 19	John Sweeney	John Sweeney	Tom Sprankle	Tom Sprankle	John Sweeney	Dave Pesch
Feb. 25 & 26	Joe Kyle	Joe Kyle	Tom Sprankle	Tom Sprankle	John Sweeney	Joe Kyle

ACOLYTES

Date	4:30pm (Sat)	8:30am (Sun)	11:00am (Sun)
Feb 4 & 5	Tyler Deuschle	Angel Bushey	Jared Wahl
Feb 11 & 12		Glenn Stever	Bradley Barnes
Feb 18 & 19		Kyle Tirone	Nathaniel Cousins
Feb 25 & 26		Max Castiglione	Hope Cousins

ALTAR GUILD

**Helana Geisen,
Millie Sietsma**

WORSHIP NOTES

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD (February 19th)

Jesus took the disciples Peter, James and John up a mountain where they saw him transfigured into his heavenly glory in the company of Moses and Elijah. The Transfiguration of our Lord commemorates this event and is celebrated on the Last Sunday after the Epiphany. It is a natural lead-in to the penitential season of Lent since Jesus went down from that mountain to begin his journey to Jerusalem to suffer and die. The color for the Transfiguration of our Lord is white.

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22nd) and lasts 40 days (excluding Sundays which are always feast days celebrating the resurrection). The word LENT originally meant “spring” and is to be understood as a time to reflect on Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent is therefore a time for rebirth and a renewal in preparation for the celebration of Easter. The traditional color of Lent is purple, to suggest somberness and solemnity.

ASH WEDNESDAY (February 22)

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten Season. It takes its name from the custom of daubing the foreheads of worshipers on that day with ashes of the previous year’s palms. This was done as a reminder of the biblical sign of penitence and human mortality. The daubing of ashes is still practiced by most Roman Catholics, and many Lutherans have returned to this practice in recent years. At St. John’s we will not use ashes, but members will have the option of remembering their baptism where the ashes of their sins were washed away by coming to the baptismal font and receiving a blessing of forgiveness. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this service.

LENTEN JOURNEYS: MIDWEEK WORSHIP WITH OTHER CHURCHES

Once again this Lenten season we will have two opportunities each Wednesday in Lent (following Ash Wednesday) to gather with other Christians to meditate on one of the themes of Lent. At 12:00 Noon churches from Lancaster and Depew will open their doors to all to hear a meditation on the theme “Christ in the Strangest Places” A free will offering will be received for the Lancaster and Depew Pantries. (food or monetary offerings are welcome. Make checks payable to “Lancaster-Depew Ministerium”-memo line “Lent”.) The host church will serve a light lunch following the service.

At 7:30PM Lutheran churches of the Buffalo North Circuit will welcome us to a worship service based on the theme “The Trials of Jesus” A soup supper will precede the services beginning at 6:00PM. A pre-service “hymn-sing” will begin each week at 7:15. Loose offerings from these services will be given to support Deacon Ministry in India. The complete schedule follows.

“The Trials of Jesus” Hosted by the Churches of Lancaster-Depew

- Feb. 29 Faith United Methodist, 5505 Broadway, Lancaster - Speaker: Rev Kirk Langset
March 7 Lancaster Presbyterian Speaker 5461 Broadway Lancaster - Rev. Chris Baldwin
March 14 St. Mary of the Assumption RC Church, 1 St. Mary’s on the Hill, Lancaster Speaker
Rev. Kelly Negus
March 21 St. John’s Lutheran Church, 55 Pleasant Ave, Lancaster Speaker- Bishop Thaddeus
Peplowski
March 29 Blessed Mother of Theresa R. C. Church, 496 Terrace Blvd., Depew Speaker Rev. Paul
Steller

“The Trials of Jesus: Hosted by Buffalo North LCMS Churches

- Feb 29 “Judas” at Holy Cross, 8900 Sheridan Drive, Clarence
March 7 “Annas” at Pilgrim Lutheran Church 44 Chapel Rd. Kenmore
March 14 “Caiaphas” at Salem, 10 McClellan Circle, Buffalo
March 21 “Peter” at St. Luke, 900 Maryvale Drive, Cheektowaga
March 28 “Herod” at St. John, 67 Litchfield Ave. Depew

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL DINNER AND MEETING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 FOLLOWING THE 11:00 SERVICE: All members are encouraged to attend. Dinner this year will include salad bar, rolls, roast chicken, double baked potatoes, corn & string beans. dessert, and beverages. Tickets are only \$3.00 per person and may be purchased following services through Feb19. Annual Reports will be distributed and members will have an opportunity to ask questions of congregational leaders.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS: Again this year we will be ordering daily devotional booklets for adults. This booklet features a unique blend of some of the earliest and some of the last published works of Henri J. M. Nouwen, one of the most popular and profound spiritual writers of the past century. The Adult book is \$1.50 Each. The children’s devotion is a centerpiece mobile. This mobile grows throughout Lent as Jesus journeys through Jerusalem on his way to the cross and beyond. A daily thought and Scripture passage are included. The price is \$1.10. Please place cost for each book ordered in an envelope marked Lenten books in the offering.

RADIO AND FLOWER CHARTS FOR 2012- have been posted on the bulletin board. Cost of sponsoring a radio broadcast in 2012 is \$40 per line or \$160 per Sunday (full sponsorship 4 lines). Cost of sponsoring flowers is \$15 per line (shared sponsorship) or \$25 per Sunday (full sponsorship). Thanks to all who are willing to sponsor flowers or the radio broadcast and so enrich our ministry.

CONTRIBUTIONS ENVELOPES AND STATEMENTS - There are still envelopes and contribution statements on the table in the narthex. Check them out as you leave. If you have received your envelopes for 2012, please make sure you use them for your regular offering. If you forget your envelope and need to use a pew envelope, please make sure your full name and envelope number (if possible) is listed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT—Heifer project raised a total of \$361.98. We supplied: Pig, Goat, Flock of ducks, Trio of rabbits, Flock of chickens, Two shares of tree seedlings. Great job!!

LIBRARY NEWS— The Narthex library has some wonderful easy Bible story books. Parents, grandparents, check them out. Let your proud new leaders enjoy reading them to you, siblings, pets, and anyone who will listen while they learn about Jesus or Bible heroes. If you have any questions, please contact Pat Suhr, St John’s Librarian.

LENT SELF DENIAL COIN FOLDERS— Once again this year Lenten Coin folders will be available in the narthex for members who wish to make a special “sacrificial” gift to mission. All proceeds collected will be sent to Camp Pioneer to support their various ministries.

JANUARY 2012 Council Meeting High Lights
JANUARY 2012 COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLITES

- ✦ **Mike Brown welcomes new Council members: Rod Lorenz, Kim Richardson, Chris Sugg, and Ross Contella.**
 - ✦ **It was decided to split the 10% of net revenue over expenses (\$4807.90 = \$490) from the 2011 budget 50/50 and give the additional amount of \$245 to each of the Mission 2011 designees; Resurrection Health Center and Tri-Community Food Pantry.**
 - ✦ **Annual Congregational Dinner will be on 2/26 after the 11 AM service. It was suggested that we have Beth Lasky ask Sister Johnice of The Response to Love Center be our guest speaker.**
 - ✦ **Nancy Sweeney has graciously volunteered to organize the “Potluck Luncheon” for the Congregational Meeting. Tickets for the luncheon will be \$3.**
 - ✦ **Council has approved a Chicken BBQ for May 22nd and the Spring Plant Sale (Lois and Paul Will). No designees for these benefits as of yet.**
 - ✦ **Financial Review Team being recruited by Mike Brown, to be done some time in late January.**
 - ✦ **Pastor Galen reports the District is working with Haniniah Church to call a new minister. Meanwhile their head Elder has stepped up and will oversee until someone is found.**
 - ✦ **Pastor Galen has been appointed the Buffalo North District Circuit Counselor.**
- Pastor Galen shared some of his hopes and plans for this congregation in 2012 and discussed with the Council their hopes. All agreed we have much to be thankful for and look forward to 2012!**

	Actual	Budget	Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance
Revenue	\$22,245.38	\$19,951.84	\$2,293.54	\$227,623.24	\$239,419.00	(\$11,795.76)
Expenditures	\$15,652.49	\$19,953.71	\$4,301.22	\$222,815.34	\$239,419.00	\$16,603.66
Over Expense	\$ 6,592.89	(\$ 1.87)	\$6,594.76	\$ 4,, 807.90	\$0.00	\$4,807.90

OFFICIAL ACTS

FUNERAL	BAPTISMS
Donald G. McCarthy	Braxton Michael Doxey 1/1/2012
1/13/2012	Brooke Cecelia Mayback 1/22/2012

RADIO SPONSORS

St. John's Lutheran Church
to the glory of God
(January 8, 2012)

Families of John & Millie Sietsma
In celebration of John & Millie Sietsma's 59th
wedding anniversary
(January 15, 2012)

Janet Erickson, Carol Pleban, & Granddaughters
In loving memory of Larry Erickson and in honor of
what would have been his 75th birthday on January
28th. You are loved and sadly missed. Our thanks to
God for his many blessings.
(January 22, 2012)

John & Cathy Fragale
as they celebrate their 43 years together. We give
thanks to the Lord for his many blessings
(January 29, 2012)

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

St. John's Lutheran Church
to the glory of God
(January 8, 2012)

St. John's Lutheran Church
to the glory of God
(January 15, 2012)

Ernie Reitzel
in honor of Susan Reitzel's birthday and all God's
many blessings.
(January 22, 2012)

John & Cathy Fragale
as they celebrate their 43 years together. We give
thanks to the Lord for his many blessings.
(January 22, 2012)

Lori & Doug Pearce
In remembrance of Marion Egloff
(January 29, 2012)

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Lena Brown
6/2/2011
By: Karen Shafer

Larry Erickson
10/7/2011
By: Karen Shafer
St. John's Senior Choir
Richard Thurnherr Sr.



February Birthdays

1	Shirley Christ	11	Mildred Sietsma	19	Barbara Kaderli
2	Esther Ratajczak		Donna Best	21	Gary McFarland
	Mischelle Sharpe	12	Alberta Romesburg	22	Marilyn Sulzbach
	Joyce Meyer		Michael Mayback	24	Deborah Saelzler
3	Terence McNatty	14	Ella Doktor	28	Nicholas Beardi
	Sarah Gorski		Kyle Sharpe		Paul Rowell
4	Raymond Bernfeld		Keith Wahl		David Miller
	Debra Dziengielewski		Nicole Farelli		Anna Ellis
5	Taylor Thurnherr	15	David Coffed		
6	Ryan Cumbo		Randy Fassel		
7	Gillian Harla	17	Bonnie Capozzi		
	Janice Brown		Kathleen Herman		
9	Dorothy Walters		Connor Payne		
	Cindy Cappello	18	Frances Lorenz		
10	Karen Burckhart		Richard Kicak		
	Alana Alicea		Joe Oppee		
11	Barbara Long		Wendy Garbutt		
	Kathryn Ponosny	19	Harold Hutchinson		

Anniversaries

- 12 Richard Schafer & Jan Engelbach Schafer
- 18 Mr. & Mrs. Ted Goga



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FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6:30- H2H 7:00pm- Choir 8pm- A.A.	2 10am- ECH	3 Pastor Galen's Day Off	4 8am- Men's Grp. 4:30pm- Worship H/C 8pm- A.A.
5 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship H/C	6 7:15 Elders' Mtg.	7 7:00pm Praise Band Pastor Galen @ Conference	8 7:00pm- Choir 7pm- Adult Info. 8pm- A.A.	9 10:00am- ECH 7:30pm LCES Delegate Mtg.	10 Pastor Galen's Day Off	11 12p- Deacon Mtg. 4:30pm- Worship 8pm- A.A.
12 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship	13 7:30pm-Council	14 12:00pm Women's Bible Study 7:00pm Praise Band	15 6:30pm H2H 7:00pm- Choir 8pm- A.A. DEADLINE FOR JOURNAL ARTICLES	16 10:00am- ECH	17 Pastor Galen's Day Off	18 8a- Men's Grp. 4:30pm- Worship H/C 8pm- A.A.
19 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship H/C	20	21 7:00pm Praise Band	22 7:30pm Worship H/C Ash Wednesday 8pm- A.A.	23 10:00am- ECH 5:30p- C.A.F.E	24 Pastor Galen's Day Off	25 4:30pm- Worship 8pm- A.A.
26 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 12p- Annual Dinner	27	28 7:00pm Praise Band	29 12pm- Lent worship @Faith Methodist 6pm- Lent Worship @Holy Cross			

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Depew, New York 14043

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Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr, Pastor

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The Mission of St. John's is grounded in the presence of Christ in God's Word and in the Sacraments. We are called by the Holy Spirit to spread the Kingdom of God through ministering to all of our members and sharing the love of Christ with all people by preaching the true Word of God, providing ongoing Biblical education for spiritual growth and reaching others with God's love in all we say or do.



President of the Congregation: Mike Brown

Board of Elders:

Tom Bluhm Betty Cavaleri, Harold Duetschlander, Joseph Kyle, Rod Lorenz, David Pesch, John Preston, Ken Schabert, Tom Sprankle, John Sweeney, Rick Thurnherr, and Rob Tomac

Board of Trustees: Ross Contella, Edwin Lorenz, and Jim Sugg

Finacial Director: Grace Stever

Secretary of the Church Council: Kathy Beck

Shepherd 's Staff: Christine Sugg

Board of Education: Candi Possinger

Chair, Youth and Family Ministries: Kim Richardson

Chair, Stewardship Team: Brad Lynch

Sunday School Superintendent: Chandra Jagielo

Acolyte Coordinator: Mike Brown, **Altar Guild Chairperson:** Betty Cavaleri,

Usher chairperson: Tom Bluhm,

Communion Assistants: John Sweeney, Paul Will and Tom Bluhm

Erie County Home Lutheran Fellowship: Karen Shafer,

Cradle Roll: Unassigned, **Prayer Chain:** Beth Lynch, **Organist/Choir Director:** Lois Will

Radio Announcers: Sue Bluhm, Beth Lynch, Karen Pelton, Gary Smith,

Administrative Assistant: Nancy Sweeney

Saturday Musicians: Brad Lynch, Rudy and Sue Tichy, Paul Blackwell, and Carol Adragna

Communion Deacons—Karen Shafer, Deann Surface, Brad & Beth Lynch