



# THE JOURNAL

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*October 2011*



**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 5:30 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**

Dear Fellow Redeemed,

I know this sounds strange, but October always gets me thinking about how undeserving we are. Just think about it... Do we really get what we deserve from our God? With sins presence in our live we certainly don't! Truth is, we really only deserve pain, death and everlasting condemnation.

Now I know, this doesn't sound like any way to begin a newsletter article, but there is a point! At the end of October we will once again celebrate Reformation Day and a significant part of that observance is the recognition of the necessity of God's grace. Because we are so undeserving and because we are regularly falling into sins, we depend solely upon God' underserved love for us... his GRACE!

And what exactly is that grace? None other than God' charitable act of sending Jesus to the cross for our sake. Through Christ Jesus God has poured upon us forgiveness and eternal life— things that we could never work for and things that we could never deserve from God.

On Reformation day we are reminded of just how much we need that grace in our lives. We are reminded that when it comes to our salvation, well, there is no other way! GRACE ALONE!



As we think about the sainted reformer Dr. Luther and his ministry in the 16th century, what we can learn from him is that it's all about God in the person of Jesus. It's all about the undeserving action of the cross and the empty grave and the promises we receive because of it. And its all about how we are to bold in the proclamation of "saved by grace."

Lastly, as we think about all this, there is an action principal. we are reminded that grace moves us into action as merciful servants in the world. Our human nature sometimes finds revenge, hate and the like more appealing; it's easier! But, by faith, knowing just how graciously God has responded to us, we to can look into the faces of those around us and see the face of Christ... letting his love move us into action!!

Peace,

Pastor Galen

WORSHIP NOTES



**REFORMATION DAY** Reformation Day (October 31) commemorates the day in 1517 when Dr. Martin Luther posted 95 Theses (or sentences) on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, setting in motion the forces that began the Protestant Reformation. Luther’s call for reform and renewal, centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation before God, is always a necessary reminder of what our real task as the Church is all about. When October 31st is not on a Sunday we have traditionally celebrated this event on the Sunday before October 31st. On Saturday

October 29th and Sunday October 30th we will be following a special order of service in observance of the Lutheran Reformation



**ALL SAINTS DAY-** All Saints' Day is the day Christians give thanks for all the good people God has placed in their lives, especially those who are already with God in heaven. It is also a day when Christians give thanks for the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in the lives of all people. It is not because people are special in and of themselves that we call them saints, but it is because they are ordinary, everyday people who allow the Holy Spirit to work through them, doing the mighty deeds of the Lord. Martin Luther writes, "the Holy Scriptures call Christians saints and the people of God. To forget that we are saints is to forget Christ and to

forget our baptism." All Saints is a day for remembering and giving thanks, as Christians remember the good people they have known and give thanks for the unending goodness of God. All Saints is celebrated the first Sunday in November (This year– November 6th), during the season of Pentecost. This year we will follow a special order of service and we will remember all the “saints” from St. John’s who were called to the church triumphant since last November. ***In addition, this year you are invited to give Pastor Galen a picture of any “departed saint” from your life so that they might be included in a special all saints day video which will be used that weekend. Please have these pictures to Pastor Galen by Sunday October 23rd!***

THOSE SERVING IN OCTOBER....

ELDERS			
Date	5:30pm (Sat)	8:30am (Sun)	11:00 (Sun)
October 1 & 2	Betty Cavaleri	Betty Cavaleri	Dave Pesch
October 8 & 9	Harold Deutschlander	Betty Cavaleri	Dave Pesch
October 15 & 16	Rod Lorenz	Betty Cavaleri	Dave Pesch
October 22 & 23	Donna LaPlante	Betty Cavaleri	Dave Pesch
October 29 & 30	Dave Pesch	Betty Cavaleri	Dave Pesch

ACOLYTE & CRUCIFER			
Date	5:30pm (Sat)	8:30am (Sun)	11:00am (Sun)
October 1 & 2	Tyler Deuschle	Kyle Tirone	Hope Cousins
October 8 & 9		Evan Herbold	Trey Esquilin
October 15 & 16		Travis Kilanowski	Thomas Farry
October 22 & 23		Angel Bushey	Emma Harla
October 29 & 30		Glenn Stever	Johathan Lasky

ALTAR GUILD: KEN & CINDY MCKEE, CEIL & PAUL ROWELL



## Announcements



**TRUNK-N-TREAT** - On Saturday October 29th, 2011 from 12-2pm we will be hosting a Halloween outreach event at the church. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please consider decorating your trunk with tasteful Halloween décor and handing candy or other gifts to participants. **WE HAVE OVER 50 PARKING SPOTS TO FILL!** Children from our church and community will be invited to dress up and “trunk-n-treat” in a safe and fun environment. Hot dogs, hamburgers and other activities are planned. We will also have Christian Halloween gifts for the children to help them learn the message of Jesus during a time that so often seems to be dominated by a “ghouls and goblins theme.” Prizes will be awarded for best decorated vehicles and best costumes.

**CHICKEN BBQ**— October 9, 12:00noon - 3:00pm, to benefit the Frank Licursi Family. Tickets will be on sale today for \$8.50 after all services. Sign-up posters are available on the bulletin board for help with cakes, take out, kitchen, and clean-up. Questions?, Please see Nancy.



**TASTE OF ST. JOHNS**—Join us Friday, October 7th, 2011 from 6-8 pm for the first ever Taste of St. John’s. Get a little taste of some of the favorite dishes made by the people of St. John’s. You are invited to sign up and bring your favorite dish. If you don’t cook... no problem! Come and eat! Prizes will be awarded for the best dishes. Sign up sheet is in the narthex.

**DINNER & A MOVIE**— Thursday, November 10th, 2011 at 5:30pm. Looking for a night out? Join us for a catered dinner and then sit back and enjoy a nice show. Details and price to be announced. Contact the church for more details

**PRAISE BAND**– do you have a musical talent? Would you like to serve your Lord and the people at St. John’s by utilizing your talent? The St. John’s praise band is looking for volunteers to sing or play in instrument on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am. The band rehearses once a week on Tuesday evening at 7:00pm. Please contact Brad Lynch in you are interested in helping out.

**AN OPPORTUNITY TO SAY “THANK YOU” TO ORGANIST LOIS WILL**— We give thanks to the Lord by celebrating 30 years of service from Lois as Director of Music & Organist. She continues to use her gift for music by leading the Jr. & Sr. Choirs as well as being on the Worship Team. Through Our Sunday worship service Lois has introduced us to different liturgies and a variety of old and new hymn. For many of our families she has played for our weddings and funerals. At this time we are fulfilling a congregational promise made to Lois ion 2006 to have a piece of music commissioned for her. This piece is being accomplished through music writer and composer Joseph Martin. **You now have the opportunity to say “Thank You” to Lois by contributing to the cost of producing this.** Once completed it will be performed by the Choir. Checks can be denoted “St. John’s– Anniversary Fund.”

**CHURCH PICTURE DIRECTORY**– We are considering having a picture directory developed for the church. Our last directory was completed in 2005. If you are interested in helping with this project please speak to Pastor Galen.

**PASTOR’S E-MAIL**– If you need to contact Pastor Galen through e-mail please send your message to [pastor.galenp@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.galenp@gmail.com) The Verizon account ([stjohndepew@verizon.net](mailto:stjohndepew@verizon.net)) is still active, but is no longer used as a primary account.

### FINANCIAL DIRECTOR’S REOPRT– JUNE-AUGUST 2011

	Actual	Budget	Variance YTD	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Revenue	\$51,949.58	\$59,854.68	(\$7,905.10)	\$151,925.74	\$159,612.48	(\$7,686.74)
Net Revenue	\$54,844.85	\$59,854.17	\$5,009.32	\$155,792.31	\$159,611.12	\$3,818.81
Over Expense	(\$2,895.27)	\$0.51	(\$2,895.78)	(\$3,866.57)	\$1.36	(\$3,867.93)

## PARTNER IN MISSION St. John's Radio Ministry

*Each month this year we wish to focus on one of the areas of mission supported by St. John's either at the present or in the past. We will have a brief article about the mission in the St. John's Journal, in the bulletin and we will include that mission in the prayers each week for that month.*



During the month of October our focus is on the St. John's Radio Ministry. For over forty years St. John's has been touching lives with the Gospel through the broadcast of our 11:00 AM service over radio WXRL. Beginning as a round robin with a number of other churches who would tape their service for broadcast the following week, St. John's was soon the sole participant left, and within a few years we switched to a live broadcast of the service via phone line to the station. About twenty years ago, a Marti transmitter was purchased to transmit the service directly to the studio.

For most of those years, volunteer lay people served as the radio commentators who would sign on and off the air as well as lead the listeners through the worship service. Currently serving in that role are Beth Lynch, Sue Bluhm, Gary Smith, and Karen Pelton.

Throughout the years the broadcasts have been underwritten by members of St. John's and listeners who have sponsored the broadcasts to honor family members or friends or to celebrate God's grace in their life. So loyal have our sponsors been, that only seldom in those forty years have we had to take other funds from our resources to cover the cost of the broadcast, but because many weeks this year have not been fully sponsored, we have had to begin to dip into reserves to pay for those weeks. Please consider sponsoring all or part of a broadcast in the near future."



### LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM A RADIO LISTENER

Dear Mrs. Will:

I was glad to hear your second surgery went well, and your on the mend. You have been in my prayers. I have been meaning to write to you for a number of years, believe it or not. I don't remember how long ago it was when I first came across St. John's Radio Broadcast, but I have been listening regularly since. One of the reasons I have enjoyed the service so much is the way you play the music. You are the best organist I've heard. I am rather severely disabled so I only attend church occasionally, weather permitting when one of my two local churches has a later service. It seems like all the other organists play so slowly, but you play at a lovely pace, that makes it more fun to sing. I can't wait to be able to listen to you full time again.

Sincerely, Lynne Schultz

### THANK YOU!!!



Many thanks to Carol Adragna who donated funds making it possible to purchase air conditioning for the sanctuary, the mother's room and the narthex! What a remarkable blessing and generous gift!

The work for the air conditioning will begin within the next few weeks!!!!

**SEPTEMBER**  
**RADIO SPONSORSHIPS**

**Charles Blackwell's Children**

With thanks to God on Dad's 90th birthday, and in gratitude for the wonderful Christian father he has been in our lives.  
(September 4, 2011)

**Tichy Family**

*In thanksgiving to God for Mary Sue's 20th birthday.*  
(September 4, 2011)

**Harold Hutchinson**

In loving memory of my wife Nova and mother Eleanora.  
(September 11, 2011)

**Members of St. John's**

To the glory of God  
(September 18, 2011)

**Members of St. John's**

To the glory of God  
(September 18, 2011)

**SEPTEMBER**  
**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR**

**Shane Garrison and Cody Lewis**

In memory of their father Marc Garrison. Love never fades. Happy birthday daddy, we love you.  
(September 4, 2011)

**Terry Holtz**

In loving memory of her father Robert Holtz on his birthday September 9, 1919.  
(September 11, 2011)

**Dylan, & Tyler Pesch & Allyson Bluhm**

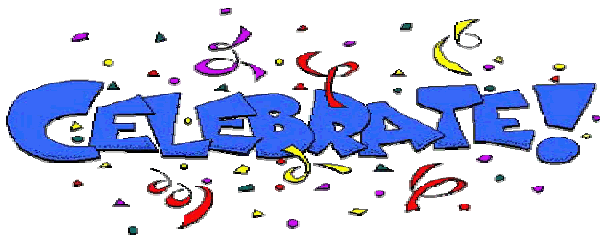
In honor of their mom's birthday & the many blessings received!  
(September 18, 2011)

**Scott McIlhagga & Eileen Collins**

in celebration of Scott's father William McIlhagga on September 27th.  
(September 25, 2011)

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

2	David & Nicole Miller	12	Paul & Ceil Rowell
4	Harold & Patty Hutchinson	13	Curt & Rebecca Doktor
5	Daniel & Susan Vriesen	15	Rick & Rebecca Mayback
6	John & Nancy Sweeney		Justin & Dana Besch
7	Robert & Andrea Irvine	17	Hans & Irmgard Hartung
8	Laurel & Patrick Schunk		Arthur & Carol Mapes
	Kevin & Nina Wright	22	Joe & Betty Cavaleri
11	Gerald & Jean Radder		Greg & Pam Harla
12	Kim & Craig Richardson		



**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

1	Carol Adragna	9	Patricia Dwyer	16	Cheryl Esquilin	25	Evan Herbold
	Richard Brandenburger Jr	10	Eric McNatty	17	Donald Kelm		Cynthia McKee
	Todd Sweeney	12	Amy Krupa	19	Ryan McKee	27	Dianna Kozlowski
2	Kayla Borowski		Maureen Sweeney	20	Michael Stever		Steven Szczepanowski
3	Craig Keating		Paul Varga	22	Daniel VanDewark		Alex AfterBuffalo
4	Renee Matuszak		Rebecca Hojnacki		Bryan Delano	29	Joanne Kistka
6	James Sugg	14	Kyle Tirone	23	Thomas Farry		James Pandolfe Jr.
			Lauren Yaskow		Patrick Berry	31	Shelly Matthews
7	John Kozlowski Jr.		Daniel Hojnacki	24	Lillian Schultz		
8	Erika Ekstrum	15	Brett Dyke		Nicholas Ellis		
9	Ernie Reitzel		Terri Holtz				





# October



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<p>1 8am Men's Group</p> <p>5:30pm Worship H/C</p> <p>8:00pm A.A.</p>
<p>2 8:30 &amp; 11:00am Worship H/C</p> <p>12:15pm Leaders Huddle</p>	<p>3 7:15pm Elders' Mtg.</p>	<p>4 7:00pm Praise Choir</p>	<p>5 6:30-8pm H2H</p> <p>8:00pm A.A.</p>	<p>6 10:00am ECHI</p>	<p>7 Pastor Galen's Day Off</p> <p>6-8pm "Taste of St. John's"</p>	<p>8 5:30pm Worship</p> <p>8:00pm A.A.</p>
<p>9 12:00-3:00pm Chicken BBQ &amp; Chinese Auction</p> <p>8:30 &amp; 11:00am Worship</p>	<p>10 7:15pm Council Mtg.</p>	<p>11 7:00pm Praise Choir</p>	<p>12 8:00pm A.A.</p>	<p>13 10:00am ECHI</p>	<p>14 Pastor Galen's Day Off</p>	<p>15 8:00am Men's Group</p> <p>5:30 pm Worship H/C</p> <p>8:00pm A.A.</p>
<p>16 8:30 &amp; 11:00am Worship H/C</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 7:00pm Praise Choir</p>	<p>19 6:30-8pm H2H</p> <p>8:00pm A.A.</p>	<p>20 10:00am ECHI</p>	<p>21 Pastor Galen's Day Off</p>	<p>22 5:30pm Worship</p> <p>8:00pm A.A.</p> <p>Bake Sale after Service</p>
<p>23 8:30 &amp; 11:00am Worship</p> <p>12:15pm SS Meeting</p> <p>Bake Sale after services</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 7:00pm Praise Choir</p>	<p>26 8:00pm A.A.</p>	<p>27 10:00am ECHI</p> <p>530pm- Café Grp.</p>	<p>28 Pastor Galen's Day Off</p>	<p>29 5:30pm Worship</p> <p>8:00pm A.A.</p> <p>12-2:00pm Trunk n Treat</p>
<p>30 8:30 &amp; 11:00am Worship</p>	<p>31</p>					

### September Council Meeting High Lights 2011

- ✦ Mike reviews the 2011 Missions Support, keeping in mind how thankful for all we have and those we are able to help.
- ✦ The giving has remained steady throughout this summer.
- ✦ The commissioned music piece for Lois Will is still in the works. Donations will be accepted from the congregation to acknowledge Lois' many years of faithful service to our church.
- ✦ A member of our church has indicated they would like to donate funds for air-conditioning for our worship area. The Council and Elders were very appreciative of this generous offer. The Trustees will move forward with plans to investigate the installation and logistics of this project..
- ✦ Many thanks to Tom Bluhm for taking on the project of restoring stones in the Saints Walk of Hope. New engraved stones were also added.
- ✦ Many thanks to Donna and Frank Licursi for cleaning and painting the Sunday School classrooms. They have put in many hours of hard work.
- ✦ Resurrection Health Center will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> year of operation with a special service at Resurrection Church on 10/2 at 10:15 AM. Several members from our church will attend at their invitation.
- ✦ Plans are progressing on the Pictorial Directory for this winter. Considering the options from Olan Mills and Life Touch Photography.
- ✦ Pastor Galen's Adult Info class to begin 9/28.



**TRUNK-N-TREAT**

St. John's Lutheran Church

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 29th**  
**12:00-2:pm PM**

Come to the church to decorate your trunk and hand out candy to kids from St. John's and our community!

Food, Fun, Games, Bounce House, and

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

67 Litchfield Ave.  
Depew, New York 14043

Phone: (716) 683-3947  
Fax: (716) 683-3295  
E-mail: stjohndepew@verizon.net

Rev. Galen M. Purpura Jr, Pastor

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

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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:**

Peter Blackwell, Tom Bluhm Rick Thurnherr, Betty Cavaleri, Harold Duetschlander, Donna LaPlante, Rod Lorenz, David Pesch, Tom Sprankle, John Sweeney, and Paul Will

**Board of Trustees:** Edwin Lorenz, Rob Irvine, and Jim Sugg

**Finacial Director:** Grace Stever

**Secretary of the Church Council:** Kathy Beck

**Shepherd 's Staff:** Wendy Garbutt

**Board of Education:** Candi Possinger

**Chair, Youth and Family Ministries:** Jen Flanders

**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:** Peter Blackwell, Paul Will and Tom Bluhm

**Erie County Home Lutheran Fellowship:** Karen Shafer,

**Cradle Roll:** Mary Warner **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