

The Good News

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville, NY

April 2025

Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself (Luke 24:26-27).

April brings us to one of the holiest times of year in the Christian Church as we conclude Lent and move into Holy Week and Easter. It is a beautiful, yet busy time in the Church. It is also an important time as we make our way with Christ from his entrance into Jerusalem to the garden, then to the judgment hall and Pilate's headquarters, all the way to Golgotha and the tomb and back out again – rehearsing yet again the wonderful story of our salvation won for us by Jesus.

I have noticed a trend over the years, however. Not just here at St. John's, but in churches in general. Even though these days of Holy Week are some of the most important for us as Christians, fewer and fewer people are making their way to observe them in God's house. Palm Sunday is usually a big day – everyone loves to get their palms and make their crosses. Holy Thursday is usually very poorly attended. For a Church that holds so sacred the gift of the Lord's Supper, and does not like when the Lord's Supper isn't offered, it would seem that remembering the day on which our Lord instituted it would be filled with people. Good Friday is typically okay. Yet here again, this is the day that Christ laid down his life for us, died so that we might live – is the very essence of God's grace toward us sinners – and yet, there are many who miss out on observing it and meditating upon so great a love for us. Then comes Holy Saturday and what is called the great Vigil of Easter, a time of crossing over from the darkness of Good Friday to the joy of Easter dawn. It is a service devoted to light and life, both of which Christ has won for us eternally, and yet hardly anyone attends. Easter is, of course, usually full between the beach and our two services at the church, celebrating Christ's resurrection victory. As such, there are a great many who jump from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday and do not experience anything in between.

This is not a complaint, just an observation that for those looking on, they might get the impression from us Christians that these days are not as important as we make them out to be. Admittedly, as a child, our family did not always attend all these days, and Holy Saturday wasn't even a thing in the church I grew up in. Saturday was prep day for the youth group for the Easter breakfast the next day. But as an adult (and not just because I am a pastor), I have found these days to be wonderfully beneficial, marking the time between Palm Sunday and Easter by hearing and doing the same things that Jesus did. During COVID, and last year when we did not have the Saturday service, it was obvious that something was missing from Holy Week. These days and the services at church help us to keep our hearts and minds focused upon all that Christ has done for us and what it all means for our faith and hope in him.

This year, I invite and encourage you to attend every day of Holy Week and not miss out on any of it. I think you will find the days fulfilling as you do. It is a lot of work to put the services together, and it is a lot of work to attend them, setting aside the time to walk with Christ through these days. It is exhausting in many ways –

physically, emotionally, and spiritually. And yet, that is part of what makes Easter so joyful – we have endured with our Lord through it all, and now we celebrate his ultimate liberation from death and grave and the life that he gives to us. It was, as he said, necessary for him to go through all these things to win our salvation. Dare I say it, but it is necessary for us to join the saints of Christ’s Church this holy season to listen in again on this sacred story, to feast on Christ at his Supper, to behold the life-giving tree of his cross, to await the light of Easter dawn to break, and to declare boldly with all Christians on Easter morning, “Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

The strife is o’er, the battle done;
Now is the victor’s triumph won;
Now be the song of praise begun. Alleluia (LSB 464, st. 1)!

~Pastor Noack

On behalf of Kristin, Abby, and myself, we want to wish each and every family a blessed Holy Week and a joyous Easter. May this season bring you comfort and renew your hope, for Christ has won the victory over death and the grave for us, and we have life in his kingdom eternally!

Coffee Hour – An effort is being coordinated to try and have coffee hour as often as possible. That being said, a sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board through June to offer you the opportunity to host one week in the future. If you are having a celebration of some kind (baptism, birthday, anniversary, etc.), why not celebrate it a little with your church family? If you would like help with this, Annie Habeeb has graciously offered to assist in any way you might need. Please take a look at the signup sheet and prayerfully consider hosting coffee hour one week. It will be a blessing to others and a joy for you as well.

Stations of the Cross – A service of readings and prayers on the Stations of the Cross will be offered on **Thursday, April 17 at 3:00pm**. This brief, yet powerful service, will be held at the St. Ann’s Cemetery. Enter off of Middle Road and go behind the rectory to the cemetery, then park just inside the gate...the stations are on your right hand side.

Ascension Service – Save the date of **Thursday, May 29** for our Ascension Day Divine Service. The other Lutheran Churches from Suffolk County have been invited to participate in this service, and not only is it an important day on the calendar, it is also a great way to interact with members from other local congregations. A light reception will be held afterward. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us!

Official Acts at Saint John’s (thru March 15):

Funerals:

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Carol Gustafson | February 26 |
| Joyce A. Keller | February 27 |





The Long Island Brass Guild joined me in a concert for the benefit of Mercy Haven, Inc. on March 23. **Thank you to everyone who supported the program with your prayers, presence & donations!** Nearly \$1600.00 was raised to assist the homeless and less fortunate in our community.

The AGO Hymn Festival



March 2 was a grand occasion, bringing together 100 singers (including St. John's Flo & Samantha Wagner) from twenty LI churches at St. Patrick's, Huntington. Several others from our parish attended, heartily singing in the congregation.

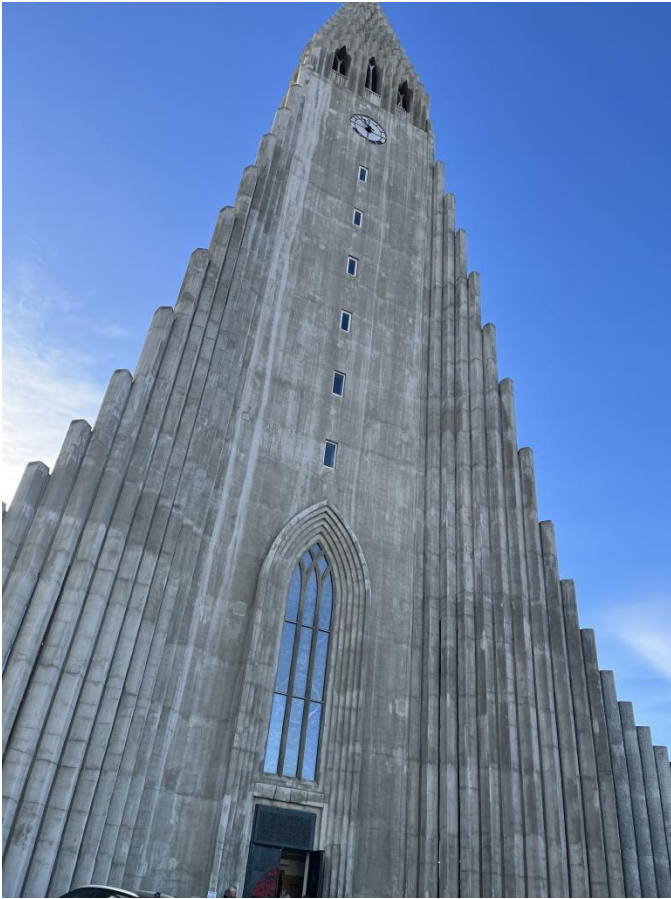
The afternoon included prayer, hymns, anthems, organ solos, and more hymns ... almost no talking – but beautifully chosen, sung, played and “dressed” hymns with descants, altered harmonizations, brass and timpani. Most of the hymn settings were written by chapter members to inspire their respective congregations. Those composers served as conductors and accompanists for the event, sharing the podium, the organ bench, and in the singing when they were neither up front or at the console...working together (humbly) to serve – not to “shine”, but to be of the best possible service to the music which in turn directed the people's song, including that of an eager congregation, to God, moving many to tears. Recalling the festival nearly a month later still makes the eyes water as people united their voices filling the church with singing that threatened to lift the rafters. That the congregation was uplifted and inspired is an understatement.

“We need to do this again,” was heard repeatedly.

The thing is, we *do* get to do it again ... every time we gather – not on the massive scale of the festival and not to the exclusion of the spoken word, but worship, prayer, praise and singing is everyone's privilege, a natural outgrowth of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. It is meant, together with the sacraments, to feed our souls, to inspire us and bring us together for a shared experience, a focusing of energies, an alignment of an over-arching purpose as a people of God, called to His service, to praise and glorify him, and to be ambassadors for Christ, our risen Lord.

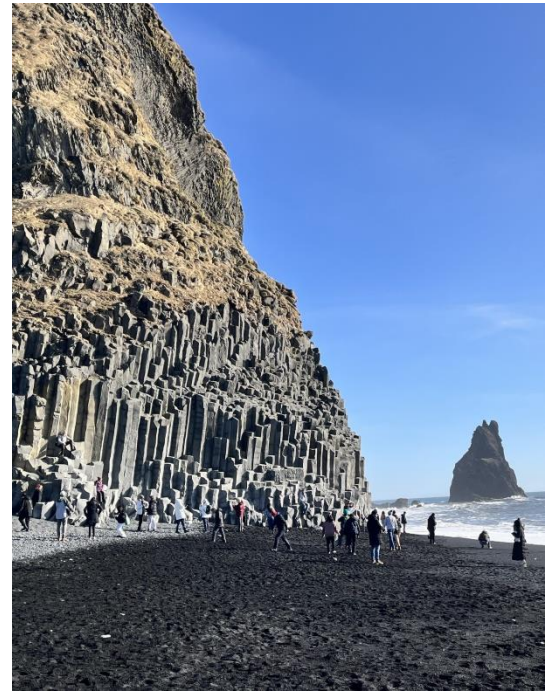
Blessed to travel to Iceland recently, beauty of another God-created sort stole breath away. Rex and I, along with the Lindfors scaled a glacier to explore a glacier cave on a “perfect” day. The words of Psalm 51:7, sung on Ash Wednesday, overwhelmed as the “whiteness” of the snow struck our eyes. *“Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean, wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.”* That is what Christ is doing for us with his blood as we, once again remember his death on the cross, and his glorious resurrection.





In my heart, O my dear Savior
 I am guilty, soiled with sin
 Let your blood cleanse every blemish
 Cleanse it, make it clean again.
 O with your great love's compassion
 Heal my passion and my pain!

Let my heart, its inmost feelings
 Love and praise and worship you!
 May your hearts' blood and your bruises
 Bless, restore and cheer me, too.
 Great thanksgivings now and ever,
 Rise to you in gratitude. Amen! (#48, stz.18 & 19)



from *Hymns of the Passion* by Hallgrímur Pétursson, 1614-1674 (English translation, 2024, by Gracia Grindal).

This is a collection of 50 poems retelling Christ's passion with the author as an onlooker and participant, also involving the reader.

The work is considered some of the best European religious poetry of its time and, to this day, is read in many Icelandic homes, on the State Radio (& now in Sayville, as well) during Lent. It is heard in its entirety on Good Friday in the monumental **Hallgrímskirkja** (see photo above) – a Lutheran church - in Reykjavik which is named for Hallgrímur Pétursson, Lutheran pastor, author and poet.

Note also the basalt columns along the black sand beach of Iceland that inspired the church architect ↑

Coming next month, **SŌLI** won't be singing at St. John's this spring, but if you would like to attend the concert, it takes place at the Church of St. Patrick in Bay Shore on May 4 at 2:30 pm.

Vocal Music for a Spring Afternoon

Sunday, May 4, 2025 - 2:30 p.m.
 Church of St. Patrick
 9 No. Clinton Avenue, Bay Shore

Suggested donation:
 \$15 adults / \$10 students & seniors

SŌLI is a chamber choir of accomplished musicians from Suffolk County on Long Island, NY. The choir performs music from a wide variety of styles and cultures including Madrigals, Spirituals and Jazz.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

LENT, HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICE SCHEDULE

You are invited you to join us for Lent, Holy Week, & Easter services at our church.

Experience the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus through song, prayer, and reflection.

Wednesdays in Lent

Services at noon and 7pm

3/12: The Ten Commandments

3/19: The Apostles' Creed

3/26: The Lord's Prayer

4/2: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

4/9: Confession & The Office of the Keys

4/16: The Sacrament of the Altar

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13th

Services at 7:45am & 9:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 17th

Services at noon & 7pm

Stations of the Cross: Thursday, April 17th

3:00pm: Service held at St. Ann's Cemetary

Good Friday, April 18th

Services at noon & 7pm

Easter Vigil, April 19th

7pm

Easter Sunday, April 20th

6:00am: Sunrise Service at Sayville Marina Beach Park

7:45am: Easter Divine Service

9:30am: Easter Divine Service

Sachem Adult Home - The Mary Martha Guild is once again making up bags for the 36 residents at the Sachem Adult Home in Holbrook. We have some items that we are providing and hope you will consider adding to our bag of “goodies” for the residents. Donating a single-packaged toothbrush, toothpaste, a comb and brush and other travel-size toiletries would be helpful. All donated items are due by **Sunday, April 13th**. Thank you for helping us make others have more of these needed items. For more information contact Mary Martha Guild President, Pam Kennard at 631-678-3246.

Volunteer Appreciation - On **April 27th** we will be thanking our volunteers for all that they do. Are you one of them? if so we thank you. There are many we don't even know who go about quietly doing things for their church, community, and others. Let's keep all of these people in our prayers. The ones we know about and those we don't know about. So how can you thank them? Maybe a telephone call or maybe a note to tell them they are appreciated. Maybe if you need to go out, you can leave a flower on their doorstep. These are just some ideas that you might think of. Think about some of those that you would like to thank – maybe the Altar Guild members, the Ushers, the Communion Stewards, the Readers, and even the people who provide the video each Sunday. There are others who take care of Sunday School, the food pantry, our council members, and our webmaster. We have many who work hard to see that all things go smoothly each Sunday and there are others who work behind the scenes we do not always know who they are or what they do. There are people who just do things especially. Finally, we thank our Pastor who goes above and beyond for us. Thrivent Financial has a small gift for you to say “thank you”, you are appreciated.

Souper Bowl of Caring - The Mary Martha ladies would like to thank everyone for their generosity in helping Sharing a Meal, the soup kitchen in Sayville. On Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, we collected \$585 in our soup pot. In the next couple of weeks, Pastor Noack and Mary Martha President, Pam Kennard, will be presenting a check to Joanne Rowland, President of Sharing a Meal. We have been blessed with all you have given, and those who are fed will be blessed, too.



Growing
IN GOD'S
grace
2 PETER 3:18

Lutheran Women *in Mission*
41ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Omaha, Nebraska
.....
June 26–29, 2025

Lutheran Women in Mission News

Save the Date for these great events coming up!

April 5 – Spring event at St. John, Holbrook; 9am.

May 3 – LWML Atlantic District Mission Festival to be held at the Atlantic District Offices in Hastings-On-Hudson.

May 16-17 – Women’s Retreat at Immaculate Conception Seminary.

June 26-29 – LWML National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska!



May 3, 2025
Mission Festival

at
The Atlantic District of
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
7 Farragut Ave, Hastings-On-Hudson, NY 10706



THE ATLANTIC DISTRICT
of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD (LCMS)

LCMS Atlantic District News

District Convention – July 10-11 @ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Colonie, NY

DAILY BIBLE READING



April 2025

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| | 1 | Exodus 15:1-18; Hebrews 9:1-28 |
| | 2 | Exodus 15:19—16:12; Hebrews 10:1-18 |
| | 3 | Exodus 16:13-35; Hebrews 10:19-39 |
| | 4 | Exodus 17:1-16; Hebrews 11:1-29 |
| | 5 | Exodus 18:5-27; Hebrews 12:1-24 |
| Sun | 6 | Exodus 19:1-25; Hebrews 13:1-21 |
| | 7 | Exodus 20:1-24; Luke 4:1-15 |
| | 8 | Exodus 22:20—23:13; Luke 4:16-30 |
| | 9 | Exodus 23:14-33; Luke 4:31-44 |
| | 10 | Exodus 24:1-18; Luke 5:1-16 |
| | 11 | Exodus 25:1-22; Luke 5:17-39 |
| | 12 | Exodus 31:1-18; Luke 6:1-19 |
| Sun | 13 | Exodus 32:1-14; Luke 6:20-38 |
| | 14 | Exodus 32:15-35; Luke 6:39-49 |
| | 15 | Exodus 33:1-23; Luke 7:1-17 |
| | 16 | Exodus 34:1-28; Luke 7:18-35 |
| | 17 | Exodus 34:29—35:21; Luke 7:36-50 |
| | 18 | Exodus 38:21—39:8; Luke 8:1-21 |
| | 19 | Exodus 39:32—40:16; Luke 8:22-39 |
| Sun | 20 | Exodus 40:17-38; Luke 8:40-56 |
| | 21 | Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36; Luke 9:1-17 |
| | 22 | Leviticus 9:1-24; Luke 9:18-36 |
| | 23 | Leviticus 10:1-20; Luke 9:37-62 |
| | 24 | Leviticus 16:1-24; Luke 10:1-22 |
| | 25 | Leviticus 17:1-16; Luke 10:23-42 |
| | 26 | Leviticus 18:1-7, 20—19:8; Luke 11:1-13 |
| Sun | 27 | Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37; Luke 11:14-36 |
| | 28 | Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27; Luke 11:37-54 |
| | 29 | Leviticus 21:1-24; Luke 12:1-12 |
| | 30 | Leviticus 23:1-22; Luke 12:13-34 |

E A S T E R L I L I E S

ORDER
FORM

Your Name: _____

Phone: _____

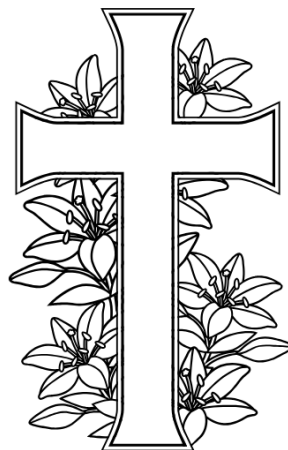
Yes, I wish to place a plant at the altar for Easter:

- To the Glory of God
- In memory of _____
- In honor of _____

Plants are \$15.00 each. Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church.

Please return this form to the church office by Wednesday, April 9th.

St. John's Lutheran Church
48 Greene Avenue, Sayville, NY 11782
631-589-3202





Suffolk Zone
Spring 2025 Event

Knit together in Love

April 5, 2025

9:30 a.m. registration,
10 a.m. service with brunch and brief meeting following

St. John's Lutheran Church
1675 Coates Avenue
Holbrook, NY 11741
631/588-6050

Come and learn how to knit
and crochet
while enjoying great
fellowship and refreshments!

To RSVP text
Marilyn at 631-355-6585

To support St. John's Food
Pantry, please bring one or two
of the following: canned soups,
vegetables, pasta, cereal,
hygiene items such as
shampoo, soap, toiletries,
toilet paper, etc.



April 2025

| April 2025 | | | | | | | May 2025 | | | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa | Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|
| Mar 30 | 31 | Apr 1 7:00pm Judo/12 Step | 2 11:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Lent Service 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm Lent Service 7:45pm SoLI | 3 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 4 12:30pm N/A | 5 9:30am LWML Spring Event |
| 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service | 7 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 8 7:00pm Basketball 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step | 9 12:00pm Lent Service 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm Lent Service 7:45pm SoLI | 10 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 11 12:30pm N/A | 12 |
| 13 Palm Sunday 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service | 14 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 15 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo/12 Step | 16 11:00am Bible Study 12:00pm Lent Service 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm Lent Service 7:45pm SoLI | 17 Holy Thursday 12:00pm Holy Thursday Service 3:00pm Stations of the Cross 7:00pm Holy Thursday Service 7:00pm Judo | 18 Good Friday 12:00pm Good Friday Service 12:30pm N/A 7:00pm Good Friday Service | 19 Holy Saturday 7:00pm Holy Saturday Service |
| 20 Easter 6:00am Sunrise Service at Sayville Marina Beach 7:45am Easter Divine Service 9:30am Easter Divine Service | 21 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 22 7:00pm Judo/12 Step | 23 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI | 24 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir | 25 12:30pm N/A | 26 |
| 27 Second Sunday of Easter 7:45am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School 9:30am Divine Service | 28 7:00pm Boy Scouts | 29 7:00pm Judo/12 Step | 30 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI | May 1 | 2 | 3 |

April Divine Service Assistant Schedule

| April 6 | Sunday 7:45am | Sunday 9:30am |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Communion Stewards | Bill Audia | Leo Rigaud |
| Ushers | Charlie Erb Jim Farrell | Jane Emmel & Kristin Noack |
| Reader | Jim Farrell | Leo Rigaud |
| April 13 <i>*Palm Sunday</i> | Sunday 7:45am | Sunday 9:30am |
| Communion Stewards | Robert Bayley | Al Coppola |
| Ushers | Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter | Chuck & Judy Scott |
| Reader | Christine Kirschenheiter | Treva Kopf |
| April 20 <i>*Easter Sunday</i> | Sunday 7:45am | Sunday 9:30am |
| Communion Stewards | Greg Calvano | Paul Erath |
| Ushers | Marcus & Annie Habeeb | Lloyd & Pam Arrasate |
| Reader | Jim Farrell | Paul Erath |
| April 27 | Sunday 7:45am | Sunday 9:30am |
| Communion Stewards | Charlie Erb | Al Coppola |
| Ushers | Steve & Janet Lindfors | Kevin Paul & Barbara Dahlgren |
| Reader | Pastor | Jenn Rooney |

If you are unable to serve where assigned, please find someone you can switch with or someone who can take your place. Please let the Church Office know of any changes you make. Thank you.

April Readings

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| April 6: Genesis 22:1-14; Hebrews 9:11-15 April 13: Zechariah 9:9-12; Philippians 2:5-11 April 20: Job 19:23-27; 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 April 27: Ezekiel 37:1-14; 1 John 5:4-10 |
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Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Sayville, NY 11782
(631) 589-3202 – office
www.stjohnsayville.org

Facebook: Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville NY

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E-mail: music@stjohnsayville.org

Whitney Dale, Office Administrator
E-mail: admin@stjohnsayville.org

Carolyn Holtz, Bookkeeper
E-mail: bookkeeper@stjohnsayville.org

Tom Keller & Steve Lindfors, Facilities Management

Saint John's Divine Service Schedule

Sunday 7:45am & 9:30am

**Church Office Hours:
Tuesday - Friday, 9:30am-2:30pm
Bookkeeper Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-3pm**

Our Mission

Rejoice in God's grace. Live as disciples. Love one another.

Our Purpose

The family of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, gathered around Word and Sacrament, enhanced by liturgy and music, exists to encourage its members in a life of discipleship in Christ Jesus and fellowship with one another. Utilizing the gifts that God has entrusted to us, we engage in acts of mercy, attending to the spiritual and physical needs within our congregation and community. We bear witness to the Grace of God through living in His Word thus demonstrating the love Christ has shown us.

**A Congregation of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

The *Good News* is published by the church office of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church to keep its members and friends informed of church news and activities. Newsletter deadline for the May 2025 issue will be April 15th.