One of the realities of the pastoral ministry is that there are moments of feast and famine. One moment things are very quiet and you go about your normal routines of ministry and check things off the to-do list. The next moment, a single phone call or the opening of the office door can change everything, and then your usual rhythm is upset and your focus changes. There is also the reality that on any given day, you can go through a cycle of emotions: the joys and the sorrows of life lived among a group of redeemed sinners.

This reality hit home to me once again at the end of July into August which were, in many ways, not just some of the toughest days of my ministry, but also of life. And yet, in God’s strange way of doing things, they were also days filled with some of the greatest blessings as well. The obvious joys came from the opportunity to baptize three children, all of whom have connections to families that I have had the privilege of knowing and growing with in my years here (in other words, these weren’t just families who thought we had a nice church to “get their kid dipped,” as some are saying today – yikes!). Of course, joy also comes in the weekly liturgy with the congregation, and gathering at the Lord’s Table together with you. Mixed in with all of that came, what many people saw as unpleasant things at best, or downright tragic and upsetting events at worst. During that time we experienced the death and funerals for two very prominent people in our congregation – again, people who I have known well through my years here, and in many ways also consider them friends, not just congregants.

Truly, the baptisms were a joy, the services were a joy, and the funerals were hard. I heard from many of you throughout those days expressing your own sorrow over the situation, but also inquiring as to my status in the face of such events, wondering if I was okay even as I hoped to bring some comfort to families in need. And, I greatly appreciate that! But believe it or not, what was hard to do I also consider one of the great joys, blessings, and privileges of the pastoral ministry and of our shared life together at St. John’s. The Lord has called me to an office, and to a congregation, that is like no other. It is a blessing to pour water on the head of a child in the Triune name of God. It is a blessing to stand in the pulpit and preach the Word of God, and to stand at a podium or sit in a group and teach that same Word. I count it a true blessing to place the body of Christ into your hands each week, and to pour the blood of Christ across your lips as we gather together at the rail. And yes, I count it a joy and a blessing to help usher the saints of God into His kingdom when that time comes, for that is what all of the prior things have been leading toward. It is a casting aside of mortality so that we can be clothed in the immortality of Christ’s righteousness and life. It is a commending of this saint into the care of our Savior until He comes again to bring us all back together in the Church Triumphant forever.

The longer I am here, the more joyous things I know I will see: the weddings of children I have baptized, the baptisms of children whose parents I confirmed, etc. I will also see transitions of the congregation as people come in and go out for various reasons. And, I will go through the bedside commendations and funerals of longtime parishioners and friends, things which are hard and yet a blessing at the same time. This is what life in a congregation is like, this is what John means when he talks about the
fellowship we live in together and the family that our congregation is. We are a group of sinners that find our faults and failures washed clean in the blood of Jesus, and by His Spirit, He leads us to walk in the light of His truth one step at a time, all leading to the light of the endless day that has been promised us eternally with all the saints of God, dwelling in an eternal, perfect fellowship. My prayer is that you feel that kind of fellowship here and know that kind of joy in being together around God’s gifts of grace. The more you are here and the longer you are here, the more joyous things you will see. Even the hard things, like funerals, will be for you a joy, for even in sorrow and loss, we rejoice in what Christ has done to rescue us from sin and death, and deliver us safely into the life and light of His kingdom eternally. As I have said on many occasions, it is a blessing for me to serve as your pastor here, to be with you in the joys and sorrows of this mortal life, and to live in the shared hope we have in Christ. Thank you for the privilege of a long pastorate among you, and thanks be to God who grants us hope and joy in our life together here and eternally!

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.
From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity (LSB 649, sts. 1 & 5).

~ Pastor Noack

**Confirmation 2023-2024** – Registration is now open for Confirmation classes for this school year. Information and a link to sign up can be found at our website.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** – We will resume with our study of the Gospel according to St. Matthew on September 10 at 8:30am. Chapter 11 is where we will pick back up and would love for you to join us. New attendees are welcome! Coffee will be served. Hope to see you there!

**Service Assistant Workshop** – Now that everything has been finished in our sanctuary and we’ve had some time to live in our space, the time has come to finalize some of processes and procedures formally. All current service assistants – ushers, communion stewards, musicians, and others – please plan to join us for a workshop day on **Saturday, September 30 at 8:30am**. Breakfast will be served before our sessions begin. Also, if you have ever wanted to assist with services but weren’t sure how or what’s involved, you also are invited to attend! Come learn about each of these vital roles in our congregation’s life and how you can be part of it! Watch for more details soon!

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

**Baptisms:**
- Myles William Paul August 6
- Dominic Christopher Fiero August 13
- Madelyn Marsich August 13

**Funerals:**
- Joanne F. Smith July 20
- Arthur Pabst August 6
- Jean Ellen Roth August 12
Music Notes: Cindy Holden

St. John’s strategic planning gets underway to revisit and perhaps rework our mission statement, to discern a vision statement and set goals for our future, both near and long range. Even as that process unfolds, the Divine Services continue as we, the church and body of Christ, gather for Word and Sacrement. Plans for music are to continue leading the church’s song, proclaiming the good news of Christ, our Lord in our music-making while involving all who are willing to share their gifts and talents!

The Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday, September 7 from 7:30 – 9:15pm with a great group of people who enjoy singing, praying and praising God together – and who would love to share the experience with more of you! We will be revisiting some older gems and exploring brand-new pieces to stretch us and enrich our song. If you are interested in taking part, please contact me at church or via email: music@stjohnsayville.org

The Eagle Eye Ringers (handbell choir) will also be getting underway, starting on Thursday, September 14 at 6:30pm. There are at least two spots in the choir we are looking to fill this fall – with either youth or adults. Rex Holden would be the contact person (631 567 8913 or aam2001reg@aol.com). He is happy to do small group coaching to help new ringers successfully find their way, if desired!

It has been several years since we have had a Treble (high voice) or Youth Choir. If you have a child with an interest in singing, please contact me. All it takes is a few singers to form a core group and only the Holy Spirit knows where it can go from there!

Finally, if you are feeling unequipped to sing or ring, but desire to do so, please be in touch, and keep an eye on the September 30 Workshop Day announcements when there will be a time slot for music making – a time to learn a bit more about singing or ringing and making a joyful & tuneful noise to the Lord!

Heard around town: July 4 St. John’s Carillon was programmed to play The Star-Spangled Banner at noon. At its conclusion, Pastor Noack reported hearing cheers in the neighborhood! Proof that people do listen!

Chancel Choir member, Mary Eylmann, attended Lutheran Summer Music at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana in July, assisted by donations and fundraisers that took place earlier this year at St. John’s. Mary writes the following about her time at the sacred music academy:

Lutheran Summer Music was an experience like no other. Being fully immersed in music and faith within a community so dedicated and welcoming is something I will never forget. I got to meet so many amazing musicians and teachers that taught me so much in my instrument and singing, and even ways to express my faith through the music, not only that which I made as an individual, but the music we all made together as a group.

During the times we weren’t focused on music we got to get together and played games, watched movies, or just hung out and talked with one another. It is such an amazing space to make new friends and share with one another, to learn of other’s experiences, and find people to be friends with long after you leave the campus.

I’m so overwhelming glad to have gotten to attend such a fantastic program. The donations that were collected during the many concerts held at St. John’s to support my tuition were such a great help in allowing me to go and I couldn’t be more thankful. I’m so glad that LSM was brought to my attention, and I had the church supporting my attendance. It was an experience unlike any other and I can’t wait to go back next summer!!
We are called to gather as God’s people; we are also called to service, which can take many forms – sometimes that means “doing”, other times it can mean encouraging and supporting others in their “doing”. This November we will have the opportunity to gather for an organ concert, honor our veterans and support a mission that serves those emotionally or physically disabled in the course of their military or 1st responder service by providing highly trained service dogs to assist in daily activities, help manage debilitating post-traumatic stress syndrome, and much more.

**Save the Date:**  *Piping for Vets & Vetdogs* 11/12/2023

Organist, Michael Kaminski plays an organ recital at 3 pm Sunday, November 12 on Veteran’s Day Weekend when we honor our veterans and, together with *Friends of America’s Vetdogs*, seek to raise $3000. toward a future service dog.

*Friends of America’s VetDogs* is an all-volunteer community service group founded here in Sayville in 2015 with the sole and express purpose of helping honorably discharged veterans get a service dog through *America’s VetDogs* – an accredited partner organization with the *Smithtown Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind*.

*Friends of America’s VetDogs* works to raise awareness and generate funds to sponsor new assistance dogs for veterans and first responders with disabilities. As sponsor, one donates $6000 per dog and has the privilege to name the sponsored canine. *Friends of America’s VetDogs* raises funds to honor an unsung hero of our military, someone who has brought great honor or credit to our military; or someone (or place) who has significantly helped a veteran-in-need. One of their best-known dog sponsorships is *Sully* who served President Bush in his final days and now resides and works at Walter Reed Hospital. The dog was named in honor of “Sully” Sullenberger III, a former American fighter pilot who used his military training and skills to successfully land his aircraft in the Hudson River in 2009, after a disabling bird strike took out the Southwest flight 1549 plane’s engines resulting in no fatalities.

As of January *Friends of America’s VetDogs* has sponsored and named 31 dogs, raising more than $188,000. through local fund-raising efforts. Your participation in this fund raiser will help to complete the sponsorship for Dog #34, “Livingston”, before the end of 2023.

Please plan to join us for the concert and reception to honor our veterans and support that next canine who will faithfully serve one who has unselfishly given much for our country!

If you can’t attend but would like to support the fund raiser, watch for the coming link to make a contribution to *America’s Vetdogs* through Thrivent and the project’s action team so your donation counts toward the sponsorship of “Livingston” – whose story will be in next month’s *Good News*.

Volunteer Opportunity: assistance is needed with the post-concert reception. If you would like to help, please contact Cindy Holden ([music@stjohnsayville.org](mailto:music@stjohnsayville.org)).
MARY MARTHA

MUM SALE

Mums need to be ordered and paid in advance. Nothing will be sold the day of pick up.

When:  Between now and September 13, 2023

Pick Up:  In Parking Lot Between 12 Noon – 1:30PM
On Saturday, September 23, 2023
At:  St. John’s Lutheran Church
48 Greene Avenue,
Sayville, NY 11782

COST:  $9.00 for each 9-inch pot

Checks to be made out to Mary Martha Guild and sent to
Pam Kennard, 46 Holmes Street, Sayville, NY 11782, postmarked no later than September 13. For more information contact Pam at 631-678-3246.

COLORS: List how many of each

___yellow   ___bronze   ___red
___white    ___pink/lav  ___orange

Your Name_____________________________

Address____________________________________

Telephone Number__________________________
TAG SALE: We wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your invaluable assistance during our tag sale on August 5! Your support made all the difference, and we truly appreciate your time, effort, and enthusiasm!

Whether it was providing donations, setting up, interacting with customers, cleaning up, delivering the remaining donations or simply being there to offer a helping hand, your willingness to assist was truly remarkable. Thanks to your involvement, we were able to achieve our goal by raising over $900 for the missions of the Mary Martha Guild here at St. John’s.

Thank you again to all of those who contributed and made the Tag Sale a success!

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY & REGISTRATION - Rally Day for Sunday School will be on Sunday, September 24 at 9:30am. You can register now by going to our website under the Youth/Parish Education tab, or by clicking here. Please register as soon as possible as we begin ordering materials and getting ready to welcome our students!

Sunday School Teachers – A special thank you to all of our teachers who generously gave their precious time last year!! We are now looking to update our volunteer roster for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Our goal is to have enough teachers and assistants to allow our Sunday School to thrive on a weekly basis. Materials and guidance are provided so that you are equipped for lessons and activities. Even if you can only assist occasionally, please let us know, we are always in need of additional help.

If you are interested, please register as a volunteer on our website under the Youth/Parish Education tab, or by clicking here. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor or Karen Paul.

GRANDPARENTS’ DAY – On Sunday, September 10, 2023, Thrivent Financial will be honoring these very special people in our lives. Following each service there will be a little something for all the grandparents to take home. And as always if you have any questions about Choice Dollars, monthly reflections or anything else Thrivent, I will be happy to help you. You can call me at 631-589-8353 or use my email: arthon@aol.com God Bless, Honey Pabst
STRATEGIC PLANNING TEAM AT ST JOHNS:

Our church is embarking on an exciting journey of strategic planning, and we invite you to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our congregation.

Why Join the Strategic Planning Team?

As a member of our strategic planning team, you will contribute to the development and execution of a forward-thinking roadmap for our church. Your insights will help us identify key priorities, set achievable goals, and implement strategies that will guide our actions for years to come. This is your chance to make a lasting impact on our community, ensuring that we continue to thrive and fulfill our mission in a rapidly evolving world.

As a member of the strategic planning team, you can anticipate:

- **Collaborative Brainstorming**: Engage in thought-provoking discussions and brainstorming sessions with fellow team members to craft a comprehensive strategic plan.
- **Goal Setting**: Work together to define clear and achievable goals that align with our church's core values and vision.
- **Action Planning**: Develop actionable strategies that will guide our decisions and initiatives to achieve our vision.
- **Flexibility**: We understand your commitments and will work together to find meeting times and modes that work best with everyone's schedules.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, you are invited to our next Council Meeting on **Tuesday, September 26 at 7:00 PM**. We will start the meeting with a short informational session followed by Q&A for those who are interested.

Your participation in our strategic planning team will shape the legacy of St. John's for generations to come. If you're excited about being part of this transformative journey, please sign-up online at: [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A45A4AB2BA1FC1-strategic#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A45A4AB2BA1FC1-strategic#).
September 2023

1  1 Kings 18:1-19; Ephesians 1:1-23
2  1 Kings 18:20-40; Ephesians 2:1-22
Sun 3  1 Kings 19:1-21; Ephesians 3:1-21
4  2 Kings 2:18, Ephesians 4:1-24
6  2 Kings 4:8-22, 32-37; Ephesians 5:15-33
7  2 Kings 4:38—5:8; Ephesians 6:1-24
8  2 Kings 5:9-27; Philippians 1:1-20
9  2 Kings 6:1-23; Philippians 1:21—2:11
Sun 10 2 Kings 9:1-13; 10:18-29; Philippians 2:12—30
11 2 Chronicles 29:1-24; Philippians 3:1-21
12 2 Chronicles 31:1-21; Philippians 4:1-23
13 2 Chronicles 32:1-22; Colossians 1:1-23
14 2 Chronicles 33:1-25; Colossians 1:24—2:7
15 2 Chronicles 34:1-4,8-11, 14-33; Colossians 2:8-23
16 2 Chronicles 35:1-7, 16-25; Colossians 3:1-25
Sun 17 2 Chronicles 36:1-23; Colossians 4:1-18
18 Nehemiah 1:1—2:10; 1 Timothy 1:1-20
19 Nehemiah 2:11-20, 4:1-6; 1 Timothy 2:1-15
20 Nehemiah 4:7-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-16
21 Nehemiah 5:1-16, 6:1-9, 15-16; 1 Timothy 4:1-16
22 Nehemiah 7:1-4, 8:1-18; 1 Timothy 5:1-16
23 Nehemiah 9:1-21; 1 Timothy 5:17—6:2
Sun 24 Nehemiah 9:22-38; 1 Timothy 6:3-21
25 Malachi 1:1-14; Matthew 3:1-17
26 Malachi 2:1—3:5; Matthew 4:1-11
27 Malachi 3:6—4:6; Matthew 4:12-25
28 Deuteronomy 1:1-18; Matthew 5:1-20
29 Deuteronomy 1:19-36; Matthew 5:21—48
30 Deuteronomy 1:37—2:15; Matthew 6:1-15
Lutheran Women’s Missionary League
Suffolk Zone Fall Event

BRANCHES

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
93 Yaphank-Middle Island Road
Middle Island, NY
Saturday, September 16, 2023

Registration begins at 9am
Devotion Service starts at 9:30am

Our guest speaker will be a representative from Branches, a non-profit organization located in Middle Island. Started in 2019, Branches offers counseling and classes to those people in need.

Refreshments will be served. We are collecting the following for an ingathering: baby wipes, baby food, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, small laundry detergent, toothbrushes, toothpaste, women’s sanitary pads and tampons, deodorant, bar soap, body wash, razors. Please RSVP to Kim Mokarry at erichris1@aol.com.

We will also be holding elections for the future officers of the Suffolk Zone. Open positions are PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT and SECRETARY. If you would like to nominate or be nominated, please contact Durinda Dalton at durinda.dalton@gmail.com. If you would like more information regarding these positions, please contact Susanne Zimmerman at cotnclc@aol.com.

Perseverance Fall Retreat

Date: October 13-15, 2023
Location: Tuscarora Inn and Conference Center
3300 River Rd, Mt Bethel, PA 18343

Retreat Leader: Donna Snow
Theme: Perseverance: A Nehemiah Battle Plan
Registration opens September 1, 2023.
Pray for
Rev. Eric and Johanna Stinnett
Theological Educator
Serving the Lord in Ethiopia

Rev. Eric and Johanna Stinnett serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Ethiopia. Eric teaches at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This seminary is dedicated to training faithful Lutheran pastors and other church workers to serve in Ethiopia.

Eric was born in Great Falls, Mont. He earned a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy from the University of Montana. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Prior to becoming a missionary, Eric worked as a hospital clinical staff pharmacist and as a triple parish pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Stanford, Mont., Our Savior Lutheran Church, Denton, Mont., and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lewistown, Mont. In his free time, Eric enjoys woodworking, reading and bow hunting.

Johanna was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She earned bachelor’s degrees in biology and nursing from the University of Windsor and is a registered nurse. Before heading to Ethiopia, Johanna served as an obstetrics nurse at Hutzel Women’s Hospital, Detroit, and with Benefis Health Systems, Great Falls, Mont. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, reading, playing the piano, being an organist and teaching choir. Eric and Johanna have four beautiful children – Rachael, Naomi, Luke and Levi – who join them on the mission field.

Pray for Eric, Johanna and their children as they serve in Ethiopia. Pray God gives their entire family strength and peace as they continue to adjust to life overseas, learning the culture and the language. Pray for the church in Ethiopia and for the students attending Mekane Yesus Seminary. Ask God to give Eric His wisdom and guidance as he teaches these students and helps them prepare to become faithful Lutheran pastors, lay evangelists and other professional church workers. Let us give thanks to God that Eric, Johanna and their family have answered the call to serve His people in Ethiopia.


• ANNIVERSARY: May 29 • HOME DISTRICT: Montana

• Pray daily for Eric and Johanna — and how you can support and tell others about their ministry. Visit lcms.org/stinnett
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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>7:00am Judo</td>
<td>7:00am Sunday School</td>
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<td>15th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
<td>7:45am Divine Service</td>
<td>7:00am Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00am Women’s 12 Step</td>
<td>7:40pm Soil</td>
<td>8:15pm Eagle Eye Ringers</td>
<td>7:30pm Chancel Choir</td>
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<td>7:00am Bible Study</td>
<td>7:00am Women’s 12 Step</td>
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<td>8:15pm Eagle Eye Ringers</td>
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<td>17th Sunday after Pentecost</td>
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<td>7:00am Women’s 12 Step</td>
<td>7:40pm Soil</td>
<td>8:15pm Eagle Eye Ringers</td>
<td>9:00am Service Assist. Workshop</td>
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# September Divine Service Assistant Schedule

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<tr>
<th>September 3</th>
<th>Sunday 7:45am</th>
<th>Sunday 9:30am</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communion Stewards</td>
<td>Bill Audia</td>
<td>Leo Rigaud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Andy &amp; Patricia Harris</td>
<td>Jane Emmel Kristin Noack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Jim Farrell</td>
<td>Dorothy Bauer</td>
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<tr>
<th>September 10</th>
<th>Sunday 7:45am</th>
<th>Sunday 9:30am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communion Stewards</td>
<td>Robert Bayley</td>
<td>Al Coppola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Brian &amp; Christine Kirschenheiter</td>
<td>Chuck &amp; Judy Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Christine Kirschenheiter</td>
<td>Annie Habeeb</td>
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<tr>
<th>September 17</th>
<th>Sunday 7:45am</th>
<th>Sunday 9:30am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communion Stewards</td>
<td>Greg Calvano</td>
<td>Paul Erath</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Charlie Erb Jim Farrell</td>
<td>Lloyd &amp; Pam Arrasate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Pastor Noack</td>
<td>Elaine Whitehouse</td>
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<th>September 24</th>
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<td>Communion Stewards</td>
<td>Charlie Erb</td>
<td>Al Coppola</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ushers</td>
<td>Steve Lindfors &amp; Dianne McPartland</td>
<td>Kevin Paul &amp; Barbara Dahlgren</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reader</td>
<td>Jim Farrell</td>
<td>Al Coppola</td>
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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.

September 3: Jeremiah 15:15-21; Romans 12:9-21  
September 10: Ezekiel 33:7-9; Romans 13:1-10  
September 17: Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12  
September 24: Isaiah 55:6-9; Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30
Saint John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church

48 Greene Avenue
Sayville, NY 11782
(631) 589-3202 – office
www.stjohnsayville.org
Facebook: Saint John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville NY

Rev. Brian Noack, Pastor
Cell Phone: (631) 806-7119
E-mail: pastor@stjohnsayville.org

Cindy Holden, Director of Music
E-mail: music@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, 8:30am-12:30pm
Bookkeeper Hours:
Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-3pm

MISSION STATEMENT

The family of Saint John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church is called, gathered and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament to confess and proclaim the gospel and love of Jesus Christ to our congregation, community and world.

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 October 2023 issue will be September 15th.