St. John's Lutheran Church & Pre School

The Good News Gazette

March 2026

315-986-3045
Office M-FRI 8:30am-12:30pm
www.pumpkinhook.org
Phone: (315)986-3045

Worship:
Sundays 9:45AM live & streaming
Wednesdays 7PM live & streaming

'I am the Resurrection and the Life!'

President's Message

Steve Maier



Over these past months, I've been continually encouraged by the way our congregation has stepped forward with energy, generosity, and a shared sense of purpose. Whether it's helping with worship, supporting ministries, offering ideas, or simply showing up with a willing heart, you have shown what it looks like when the Body of Christ works together.Thank you for the many ways you've contributed to the life of St. John's. Your efforts are noticed, appreciated, and deeply valued!

As we continue moving toward the new organizational structure we've been discussing, I want to highlight something especially meaningful from our last workshop: two people who are not on Council chose to attend, and they brought thoughtful insights and meaningful contributions to the conversation. That's exactly the kind of open, collaborative spirit we hope to cultivate. This process belongs to the whole congregation, and every voice helps shape our future.

With that in mind, I invite everyone to join us for our next workshop on Saturday, March 21. We'll continue exploring how this new structure can help us serve more effectively, support our ministries, and strengthen our mission. Whether you've been deeply involved so far or are just beginning to follow the conversation, you are welcome. Your presence matters!

As we look ahead to Easter, we're reminded that God is always bringing new life out of what seems ordinary or uncertain. The Resurrection is our promise that renewal is not only possible—it's already underway! May this season fill us with hope, courage, and joy as we continue walking forward together.

A Reminder from the Elders



As we continue to search for a pastor to shepherd us, the elders want you to know that we are here for any needs you may have. Any of us would be willing to meet with you, pray with you or just listen. You can reach us at any time by emailing elders@pumpkinhook.org. In addition to the Elders being available to support you, other local clergy are also available to talk to you. If you would like to meet with a Pastor, please contact the church office and Lance will help arrange a time for you to meet with a Pastor or Vicar. Thank you!

Board for Worship, Music and the Arts

Linda Braun

Psalm 96 vs.1-3. "1Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. 2 Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. 3 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples"

LENT: Wednesday night services will continue to be lay led.The messages will be based on skits. We invite anyone who is interested to help us in these presentations.

Holy Week services: will be led by Pastor Muller: 3/29 Palm Sunday, 4/2 Maundy Thursday, 4/3 Good Friday. We are planning to hold our traditional Seder Dinner on Maundy Thursday.

Easter Sunday 4/5 – Join us in celebrating our Lord's Resurrection at our 9:45am service.

SIGN UP Sheets for: Seder Dinner, Easter Flowers **(Easter Flower order due by March 26th)**

Financial Secretary

Max Hogenes



Our Financial Health as of February 22, 2026

YTD Giving Comparison
Giving = $28,684
Prior Year = $34,172
$ (5,488)

YTD Giving vs. Expenses
Giving = $28,684
Expenses = $15,622
$ 13,062

	YTD	Weekly
2026 YTD Giving	$ 28,684	$3,586
2026 Approved Expense Budget	$226,383	$4,354
		$ (768)

Anyone interested in converting to EFT giving, the enrollment form is in the Financial Secretary mailbox located outside of Lance's office.Thank you!

2 Corinthians 9:7

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Encouragement in Prayer March 2026

Martha Barmaster



I have been watching the Winter Olympics on television. Most athletes have spent their entire lives practicing figure skating, downhill skiing, cross-country, half pipe skiing, slalom skiing, hockey, basketball, soccer and so many others. Most have been "running their race towards the National Winter Olympics for the prize of a gold, silver or bronze medal. Some have crashed and failed, never to start over. Others have crashed and then have vowed to press on in determination to enter the next Winter Olympics in four years.

As Christians we each have a life, a journey a race to run, with the goal of hearing our Savior Jesus say to us in Heaven, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." We will receive crowns which Jesus will give us, and then we will put them at His feet in praise and thanksgiving for His Cross.

Let's talk about this: The Bible speaks clearly about running the race. Ecclesiastes 9:11" The fastest runner doesn't always win the race, and the strongest warrior doesn't always win the battle. The wise are often poor, and the skillful are not necessarily wealthy. And those who are educated don't always lead successful lives. It is all decided by chance, by being at the right place at the right time. Isaiah 59:7 "Their feet run to do evil and they rush to commit murder. They think only about sinning. Wherever they go, misery and destruction follow them. "Proverbs 6:18 (says from verse 16 this is one of six things the Lord hates, no detests) "A heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong. "Psalms 119:32" If, Lord, You help me, I will run to follow your commands." Proverbs 18:10, "The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly(man or woman) run to Him are safe." St. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:24-26 "Remember that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize. You also must run in such a way that you will win. All athletes practice strict self-control. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. So, I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step! I am not like a boxer who misses his punches." Hebrews 12:1-2 "let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jeus, on Whom our faith depends from start to finish."
James 1:12, "God blesses the people who patiently endure testing. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." 1st Peter 5:4," And when the Head Shepherd comes, your crown(reward) will be a never-ending share in His glory and honor.'And finally, Revelation 3:11, :Look , I am coming quickly. Hold on to what you have so that no one will take away your crown.:"
In Summary, (I am a very amateur runner😊), make sure you are running in the right direction. Keep your eyes on Jesus. In heaven, we will cast our crowns at His feet and hear Him say," Well done, thou good and faithful servant!" Remember, there is always mercy, His grace, His strength to lean on, in His name, Amen!

Portals of Prayer

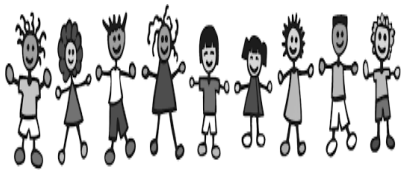
... they are back!
After hearing many of you missed the portals of prayers, copies were ordered and are now available at church! If you would like a copy brought to you please leave a message at the church office and someone will bring you a copy! Thank you!

Children's Messages



Special thank you to Barb Zoller for creating the messages for our children's messages. We are inviting more people to present these messages. Please see Linda Braun if you are interested in serving in this special way!

Pre School News





Cheryl Power

Hard to believe we're already halfway through month of March. The 4's class had their parent teacher conferences where the teachers had the opportunity to address any concerns they may have while giving the parents the same opportunity to address any concerns they may have. It's also a wonderful opportunity to let parents know what wonderful children they have!

The 4's class have been learning about the five senses, health and beginning to prepare for Easter. On Friday, March 13th, Wildlife Rockstars will be brought some of their rescued animals to present to our preschoolers and their families. The fours class have also been learning the letter ZQG and S this month. Many students are also learning some sight words along with many other activities.

The 3's class have also been learning about their five senses, celebrating St. Patrick's Day and preparing for Easter all while doing many fun projects and activities.

On the 3rd and 4th of March, Todd Jennings from the Country Studio came and did individual and group pictures of our preschoolers. He always does such a nice job with our students.

We are still accepting registrations for fall classes for the 2026-27 school year. We have had many inquiries and are filling up nicely. If anyone has any questions, or would like to schedule a meeting/tour, please feel free to contact me anytime.

We pray for God's blessings for our preschoolers and their families. We are so blessed at St John's Christian Preschool!

Cheryl Power, Director (585)315-1819

Reading Glasses For Africa



This is a huge favor in a short amount of time! If you have extra reading glasses or collected them before you got your prescription glasses please bring them to church this Sunday.Whatever glasses that are collected will be sent with Tim and Trudy Kelly to Tanzania! They leave March 15th so want to get as many pairs as we can to them before they leave! Please put all glasses in the crate in the family room! Thank you!

Soup & Sandwich Suppers



They are held at 6pm on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Check out the sign-up sheet, or just come and join us.

Altar Flowers after Easter

They are now being supplied by Hopper Hills Florist. The flowers are expected to last 2 weeks. If anyone is interested in ordering flowers, please sign up in the entryway.

Soaring With God

Women of St.Johns: would you be interested in getting together for a day of fun? Or a few hours of bible study? Or maybe a time away? Well, a few women were on a retreat at the end of February and we realized that we need to start taking time for ourselves and spend it with other Christian women. We would like to start with doing a monthly bible study. This will start some Saturday in April - the date will be determined once we find out who is interested. Thanks!

Board of Christian Education



Linda Braun

- Sunday School classes meet at 8:45 each Sunday
- Bible Studies on Tuesdays at 11am. All are welcome!

Woman of Joy Cruise



Would you like to spend time with other Christian woman, listening to speakers, hearing some great Christian music and get away from the cold during the winter? Then maybe the Woman of Joy Cruise is right for you! The dates are: Jan 25- 29th on the Oasis of the Sea, there is a small group of us planning on going but would love to have more people join in the fun! If you are interested in learning more, just google: Women of joy cruise 2027 or talk to Jen Barnes. There is a discount on the price if we reserve a cabin before the end of May so if you are interested please let Jen know by April 30th so we can make plans!

Kingdom Bound



For those of you who are not aware of what Kingdom bound is -- it is a 3-day Christian concert event held at Darien Lake every year. This year it will be held July 27-29th. The day that was chosen to go is July 29th. Scheduled to play that day is: "We are Messengers" "Rachael Lampa ", " for King + Country" . More than likely, other artists will also be added as the event gets closer. Tickets are $75 and that includes admission to the park for the day. If you like amusement parks and love good music this is the event for you! If you would be interested in going, please see Nicole Kirsch or Lisa Maier. We would like to order tickets by the end of April. Thank you!

Holy Week

Please join us in person or via live streaming on Facebook or YouTube for the remainder of our midweek Lenten 7PM Wednesday services and also during Holy Week:



Palm Sunday: Sunday March 29, 9:45 AM worship service live & streaming.

No Service: Wednesday, March 1

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 5:30PM Seder Dinner 7:30PM worship live & streaming.

On Maundy Thursday, we will again celebrate Seder before the holy communion service. Why come? Besides to spend time with others from your church family and have wonderful meal? Because Seder is an important part of the Old Testament and our Holy communion got its start from the Passover that Christ celebrated with His disciples. Sign up for your seat at the table and if you can sign up to bring a food item or to volunteer to help as needed. The meal will begin promptly at 5:30pm so please plan on arriving by 5:20pm!

Good Friday Tenebrae: April 3, 7PM worship live & streaming.

Easter: Sunday: April 5, 9:45 AM worship service live & streaming.

Upcoming Activities

Kim Baxter

Here are the activities planned into spring. We hope some fun and fellowship plans will help us as we get into the warm Spring months! Blessings!

March 21- Saturday, at the church, Organizational Meeting/Church retreat time:TBD

Maundy Thursday: April 2, 5:30PM Seder Dinner.

More Events to come! Please keep checking you bulletins!

Sign up sheets with price information are available at church.

Please join in the fun & fellowship available her at St. John's!

Church Directory

Thanks to all who have worked hard to help collect information for our membership list. Now that it has been gone through, we will be putting together a basic directory. Copies will be emailed to people when it is put together. If you would like a paper copy, please email membership@pumpkinhook.org and we will arrange for a paper copy to be sent to you.

Long Term Prayer List- March 2026

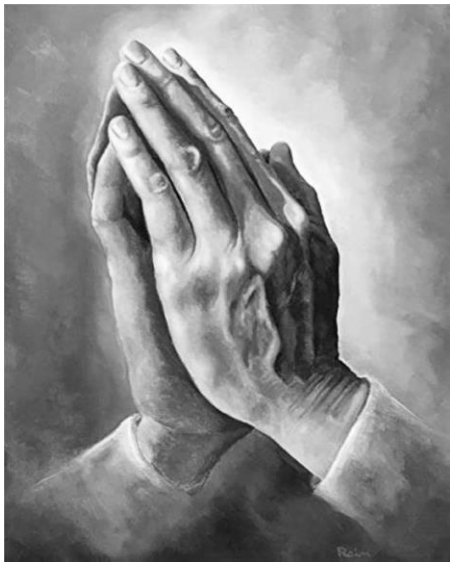
Members of St. John's

Gordon Hill	Doug Snyder	
Karen Carey	Mia Howie	Chuck Thomas
Helen Schwartz	Kay Minwell	Emily Vokes
Heidi VanAken	Sandy Bastian	



Family & Friends

Nadine Printup & Blaise Readon (Mary Meade)
David & Debbie Kuehnert (Don Kuehner's siblings)
Don Nugent (Chuck Thomas' father)
Wayne Grewe (brother of the Buckinghams & Sharon Jenkins)
Jane Barmaster, Autumn, Emily, Charlene, & Katie (Martha Barmaster)
The Cole family (family of Vicky Cole)
Kathleen Goodberlet (granddaughter of Jack & Maryann Bauer)
Joe Davenport (friend of Sharon Green & Candy Aldrich)
Bob & Lynn Steamer (sister & brother-in-law of Roger Carpenter)
Jeff, Peggy & the Coons children (family of Pat Coons)
Jo Donahue (Shawn Patience)
Pete Poulakis (family of the Plumbs)
Keshap grandchildren (Bob & Barb Leisten)
Carl Ellerman (Candy Aldrich)
Amy Klino (Lisa Maier's friend)
Erik (David Heckman's friend)
Sharon Evans (friends of Barnes and Smiths)
Minister to Family (Betty & Rick Carr)
Gary & Carol (friends of Mary Ballou)



Military and their Families

ET3 Adam Hopseeker (the Barnes family)
SS Brian Heckman (the Heckman family)
LT Paul Kuehnert (Don Kuehnert
LC Mercedes Buckingham (Sharon Jenkins)

For additions or changes please call the church office (315) 986-3045.

Founded 1968

153 Church Avenue,
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preschool@pumpkinhook.org
315-986-3045



Director: Cheryl Power

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TREE HEALTH
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March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday March 1, 2026 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** church service	2	3 **11a** Bible study **7p** Adult Choir	4 WOW! March 4, 2026 **7p** WOW worship	5	6	7
8 Sunday, March 8/2026 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** church service led **11a** Card Ministry	9	10 **11a** Bible study **7p** Adult Choir	11 WOW! March 11th, 2026 **7p** WOW worship	12	13 Blue and Gold **7p** euchre	14
15 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** church service led by **11a** Pizza and Games	16 *Lance Vacation*	17 **11a** Bible study **7p** Adult Choir	18 **7p** WOW worship	19	20	21 Church retreat
22 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** church service	23	24 **11a** Bible study **7p** Adult Choir	25 **7p** WOW worship	26	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** church service led by	30	31 **11a** Bible study **7p** Adult Choir	1	2 **5:30p** sedar super **7:30p** Maundy Thursday ser	3 **7p** Good Friday Tenebrae se	4
5 EASTER SUNDAY **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Easter Morning churc	6	7 **11a** Bible study **7p** Adult Choir	8 **7p** WOW worship	9	10 **7p** euchre	11

St. John's Lutheran Church

153 Church Ave. Farmington, NY 14425

*"Walking together in **faith**"*

St. John's Lutheran Church

The Good News Gazette—**March 2026**

*"Growing God's **family** through Jesus "*



"I am the Resurrection and the Life!"