



From the Pastor

How are you? How are you *really*?

In a [video message](#) released this past week, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton poses this very question – inviting us to check in with ourselves and to check in with one another, to notice the burdens we are carrying and the fears and worries that weigh on us. For many of us, these are heavy and life-draining times – drowning in the daily swirl of constantly changing headlines in the national and global news cycles, not to mention the more personal struggles of illness, grief, loneliness, and depression closer to home.

As you are reading this, take time to check in with yourself: *How are you doing?*

As you are reading this, we also stand on the cusp of the church's season of Lent – a season of lengthening days, of the paradoxical journey to the cross *and* toward the new life of Easter.

For many of us, Lent is a season synonymous with "giving up." Giving up *something* (chocolate? soda?) in order to be more spiritually grounded. Or perhaps "taking on" – the giving up of time ordinarily spent on something else for the sake of making time for more intentional spiritual practices.

If that works for you, great! Keep doing those things. But if the traditional Lenten disciplines of "giving up" or "taking on" feel less fulfilling and more like *one more thing* to do, *one more thing* to keep track of, *one more burden* ...

Good news: You don't *have* to do any of those things.

There's nothing that says you have to give up or take on anything during Lent. There's also nothing particularly special about Lent that restricts such spiritual disciplines to this one special season. (You really *can* read that devotional book in the middle of July, or try out fasting for a week in October.)

Lent is not meant to be about life restricted, but **life renewed**.

In our Northern Hemisphere, "Lent," from an Old English word meaning "spring," overlaps with the coming of, you guessed it, *spring* – a season of much-anticipated and welcome warmer days, shorter nights, and more sunshine. Spring, like its liturgical counterpart in Lent, is a season of renewal – indeed, the renewal of creation itself.

There's a theological lesson in there, as Mary Louise Bringle poetically reminds us in her Lenten hymn text:

As the winter days grow longer,
drawing short the hours of night;
as our eager expectation
waits for Easter's dawning light –
yearning people, here we gather,
turning watchful eyes to you:
God who blesses earth with
springtime,
shine within our world anew!
(*All Creation Sings*, #924)

This Lent, I invite you, first, to check in with yourself – *how are you?* – and then to notice *where you are longing for renewal*. In this season at St. John's, we have an abundance of opportunities to be renewed in community – in the special liturgies of Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, in group Bible study and personal devotions, in fellowship with Albany Lutherans Together, and more.

How can you experience **Life Renewed** in these Lenten days?

In hope,
Pastor Josh +



NOTE: The Easter Memorials form is attached to this newsletter. Please submit your Easter Memorials online by clicking [HERE](#) or by tearing off the back page and sending it to the church office by Friday, April 4. Thank you!

Our Mission: Worship God. Serve Faithfully. Reach Out.

Phone: 518.465.7545 | Website: stjohnsalbany.org

Street Address: 303 Sand Creek Road, Albany, NY 12205

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Life Renewed: Lent 2025 at St. John's

Welcome to Life Renewed: Lent 2025 at St. John's. Lent is a season of lengthening days, the gift of time stretching toward life. Time to prepare to be born anew by water and the Spirit. Time to practice the way of Jesus, to tend the earth, to remember the poor, to do the things that make for peace. Time to turn and return to God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. *(adapted from Worship Guidebook for Lent and the Three Days, Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2009, page 17)*

This Lent, **be renewed** in worship, Bible study, and fellowship opportunities with your St. John's family and our ministry partners and friends in Albany Lutherans Together.

Lent & Holy Week

Wednesday, March 5

Ash Wednesday

Worship at noon & 7 pm

Wednesdays, March 12-April 9

Midweek ALT Supper & Worship

Locations listed on page 3

Sunday, April 13

Palm/Passion Sunday

Worship at 9:30 am

Thursday, April 17

Maundy Thursday

Worship at noon & 7 pm

Friday, April 18

Good Friday

Worship at noon & 7 pm

Saturday, April 19

Easter Vigil

Worship at 7 pm

at Good Shepherd

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday

Worship at 9:30 am, followed by Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt

See Holy Week details on page 4



Ash Wednesday + March 5



On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world. *(from Sundays & Seasons)*

12:00 pm ~ Holy Eucharist

A shortened, spoken liturgy (approx. 30 minutes) with the imposition of ashes. This service is designed especially for those who need a "lunch hour" option and may not otherwise be able to attend an evening service. A light lunch will be served after the service for those who are able to stay. *(in person only)*

7:00 pm ~ Holy Eucharist

A full liturgy with special music by Saint John's Collegium and the imposition of ashes. *(in person and livestreamed on YouTube)*

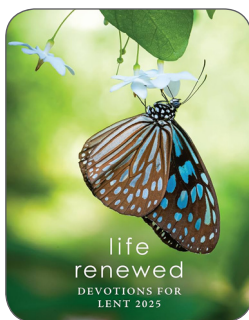
Sundays in Lent + March 9–April 6

Journey with us through the wilderness of Lent in community as together we hear the sacred stories of scripture, this year told primarily through the lens of Luke's gospel, testifying to the persistence of God's mercy despite the stubborn obstacles that get in the way.

9:30 am ~ Holy Eucharist with Saint John's Collegium

(in person and livestreamed on YouTube)

Life Renewed: Devotions for Lent 2025



God brings new life in unexpected ways and in the most unlikely situations. This devotional reflects on how God does this in the creation of all things, the Israelites' rescue from slavery in Egypt, the dry bones and Ezekiel, the fiery furnace, the big fish and Jonah, and more.

Life Renewed provides devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (March 5–April 19).

The devotions begin with evocative images and brief scripture readings drawn from traditional Easter Vigil texts. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

Pick up a copy at church, [purchase the e-book](#), or contact the [office](#) to request a mailed copy.



Lent Wednesdays with ALT: March 12-April 9

Gather with the congregations of Albany Lutherans Together (ALT) this Lenten season for supper and worship. Each Wednesday in Lent, supper will be served beginning at 6:00 pm (vegetarian and gluten-free options available), followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 6:45 pm (in person and on Zoom*).

March 12

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit
57 Hurlbut Street, Albany

March 19

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
510 Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville

March 26

First Lutheran Church
181 Western Avenue, Albany

April 2

St. John's Lutheran Church
303 Sand Creek Road, Albany

April 9

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
510 Albany Shaker Rd, Loudonville

*Connect to worship on Zoom at firstlutheranalbany.org/zoom or by phone at 929-436-2866 (input meeting ID 518-463-1326 and passcode 1 when prompted).

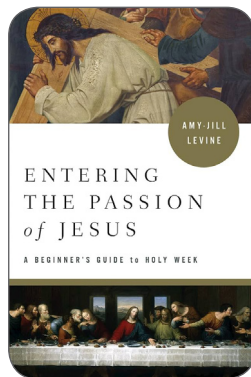
Can you help with St. John's meal on April 2? Help is needed to make soup, provide bread and desserts, set up, and clean up. Contact [Maggie](#) if you're available!

All hands on deck for April 9!

Good Shepherd hosts us for supper and worship, and all congregations will contribute to our potluck meal. Details to come.



Bible Study for Lent: *Entering the Passion of Jesus*



This Lent, we are joining forces with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Bellerose (Queens), NY, for a book and video-based study *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by New Testament and Jewish Studies professor Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

Jesus' final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges. In *Entering the Passion of Jesus*, Dr. Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Sessions will be held on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm via Zoom, beginning March 3 for six weeks. Contact [Pr. Josh](#) to sign up and get the Zoom link. Purchase the participant book here: [paperback](#) or [Kindle edition](#).

ALT Lent Offering Appeal: Global Refuge

This year, ALT will again support the vital work of Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service). Give directly to Global Refuge [online](#) or by check (payable to Global Refuge) to P.O. Box 17467, Baltimore MD 21297-1467.

Since 1939, Global Refuge has provided welcome and hope to more than 750,000 refugees, witnessing to God's love for all people, advocating for immigrants and refugees, and transforming communities through ministries of service and justice. Learn more at globalrefuge.org — and thank you for your generosity. *Please read the message from Global Refuge on page 7.*

Lent Wednesdays
with
Albany Lutherans Together

6:00 p.m. Supper
6:45 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer

March 12 Holy Spirit
March 19 Good Shepherd
March 26 First
April 2 St. John's
April 9 Good Shepherd (potluck)



Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion + April 13

Today we follow Christ from triumphal entry to the cross, each waypoint of the journey marked by Jesus' compassion for those who would betray, mock, accuse, or do violence to him. Though persecuted and beaten, Jesus the Son of God is not disgraced; instead, he asks forgiveness for those who put him to death. We have walked the Lenten pathway these forty days, each of us invited through baptism to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." We enter this holy week accompanying Jesus to the cross with both grief and thanksgiving in our hearts, trusting in God's redeeming love. *(from Sundays & Seasons)*

9:30 am ~ Holy Eucharist

With palm procession, the passion according to Saint Luke, and special music by Saint John's Collegium. *(in person and livestreamed on YouTube)*



Holy Wednesday + April 16

12:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross

A brief spoken contemplative liturgy following the Way of the Cross through scripture reading and prayer. *(in person only)*

Maundy Thursday + April 17



This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are

transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days. *(from Sundays & Seasons)*

12:00 pm ~ Holy Eucharist

A shortened, spoken liturgy (approx. 30 minutes), designed especially for those who need a "lunch hour" option and may not otherwise be able to attend an evening service. A light lunch will be served after the service for those who are able to stay. *(in person only)*

7:00 pm ~ Holy Eucharist

A full liturgy with the laying on of hands, footwashing, stripping of the altar, and special music by Saint John's Collegium. *(in person and livestreamed on YouTube)*

Good Friday + April 18



Life and death stand side by side as we enter into Good Friday. In John's passion account, Jesus reveals the power and glory of God, even as he is put on trial and sentenced to death. Standing with the disciples at the foot of the cross, we pray for the whole world in the ancient bidding prayer, as Christ's death offers life to all. We gather in solemn devotion, but always with the promise that the tree around which we assemble is indeed a tree of life. We depart silently, and we anticipate the culmination of the

Three Days in the Easter Vigil. *(from Sundays & Seasons)*

12:00 pm ~ Ecumenical Service

With the Capital Area Council of Churches – Hosted at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (10 North Main Avenue, Albany). The service is based on the last seven words of Christ on the cross. Clergy and laity from a variety of denominations will offer reflections. This service will also be livestreamed on the [CACCC Facebook page](#).

7:00 pm ~ Liturgy of Good Friday

A full liturgy with the passion according to Saint John, veneration of the cross, and special music by Saint John's Collegium. *(in person and livestreamed on YouTube)*

Holy Week info continues on the next page with the Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Sunday!



Great Vigil of Easter + April 19



7:00 pm – This is the night! And this is our **THIRD** annual shared Easter Vigil with Albany Lutherans Together (ALT), hosted again this year at Good Shepherd (510 Albany Shaker Road, Loudonville). Join us as we light the new fire, hear the sacred stories of our faith by candlelight, celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter, and partake in a festive potluck reception. You absolutely don't want to miss this service, "the Queen of Feasts!" (*in person only*)

Easter Sunday + April 20



Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with **astonishment and joy**. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! (*from Sundays & Seasons*)

9:30 am ~ Festival Eucharist

With Saint John's Collegium (*in person and live-streamed on YouTube*), followed by a festive Easter Brunch coffee hour and Egg Hunt in the cemetery for children of all ages.

Sponsors Needed for Altar Flowers

Are you able to sponsor Altar Flowers? It's a wonderful way of honoring the memory of a loved one or commemorate a life passage (such as an anniversary or birthday), while beautifying our worship space on Sunday mornings with fresh-cut flowers. Sign up on the flower chart on the bulletin board in the kitchen (or [email us](#)). **Suggested donation: \$25.** You can [give online](#) (choose the "Flower Contributions" fund) or send your donation to the office (please specify "Flower Contributions" with your gift).



"Marked by Ashes" ~ by Walter Brueggemann

Ruler of the night, Guarantor of the day . . .
 This day — a gift from you.
 This day — like none other you have ever given,
 or we have ever received.
 This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and
 newness and possibility.
 This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of
 the day, for we are already halfway home
 halfway back to committees and memos,
 halfway back to calls and appointments,
 halfway on to next Sunday,
 halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant,
 half turned toward you, half rather not.
 This Wednesday is a long way
 from Ash Wednesday,
 but all our Wednesdays
 are marked by ashes —
 we begin this day with that taste of ash
 in our mouth:
 of failed hope and broken promises,
 of forgotten children and
 frightened women,
 we ourselves are ashes to ashes,
 dust to dust;

we can taste our mortality
 as we roll the ash around on our tongues.
 We are able to ponder our ashness with
 some confidence, only because
 our every Wednesday of ashes
 anticipates your Easter victory
 over that dry, flaky taste of death.
 On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way
 to you —
 you Easter parade of newness.
 Before the sun sets,
 take our Wednesday and Easter us,
 Easter us to joy and energy and courage
 and freedom;
 Easter us that we may be fearless
 for your truth.
 Come here and Easter our Wednesday
 with mercy and justice and peace
 and generosity.
 We pray as we wait for the Risen One
 who comes soon.

*From Prayers for a Privileged People
 (Nashville: Abingdon, 2008)*





Please Keep These People In Your Prayers

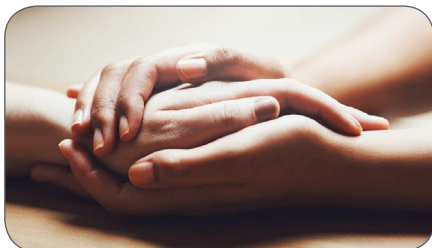
For whom or what shall we pray?

- **Family and friends of Sharon Mack** (sister of Carolyn Lander, aunt of Maura), who died on January 21
- **Sarah (wife of Bob Curtis)**
- **Bill Shuster**
- **Dianne Guarneri**
- **Levi** (Dianne Guarneri's grandson)
- **Diane Mead**
- **Teri Rogers**
- **Freddy Boyzer**
- **Peter A. Westgard**, cousin of Pr. Analyse Triolo Lewis (close friend of Pr. Josh Evans), in hospital with a serious infection

*Dear St. John's Friends,
Thank you for the beautiful card and prayers of healing for me and my grandson, Levi. We are so thankful for your support and well wishes.
~ Dianne Guarneri*

Need Pastoral Care? Please Let Us Know

Hospitalized? Undergoing or recovering from surgery? Grieving a loss? *Feeling alone or stressed?* Please let us know. We care about you and want to accompany you in difficult times. **If you or a loved one would like a pastoral call or visit, please call or text Pastor Josh Evans at 518-250-9098, or schedule a time to meet using calendly.com/revjoshevens.** If you would like communion brought to you, let us know that as well. Remember: *you are never alone.*



Extending Our Heartfelt Thanks!

Special thanks this month to ...

- **Karen Bielinski and Lindsay Stannard** for providing delicious pulled pork *and* chicken, coleslaw, pasta salad, cookies, and beverages for our Food & Faith meal at Cornerstone Campus Ministry on February 4.



We Are In Need of Coffee Hour Hosts

One of the things we value about being in community with one another is our weekly fellowship opportunity over coffee (or tea, juice, etc.) and treats following the liturgy every Sunday. **Are you able to help with that?** Providing treats for coffee hour is a simple way to volunteer and foster community. Sign up online on our [SignUpGenius](#) page or on the bulletin board in the kitchen.



Shrove Tuesday Supper: Good Shepherd, March 4

Come out and fill up on pancakes, sausage, and applesauce before your Lenten fast begins! **Join us for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, March 4, from 4-6 pm at Good Shepherd** (510 Albany Shake Rd., Loudonville). The cost is \$7 (\$4 for ages 6-12, free younger than 6), and a portion of the proceeds benefit the St. Peter's Family Health Clinic in Albany's South End neighborhood. We encourage you to invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come out and enjoy some great pancakes, great fellowship, and the chance to support a great cause.



CACC Homeless Shelter Dinner on March 16/18

The Capital Area Council of Churches Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter opened on Monday, February 3, and is located at First Church in Albany: 110 N. Pearl St. We will continue to help provide meals: a main entrée, a starch, a vegetable or salad, and a dessert. Casseroles make a good choice. **St. John's will prepare a meal after worship on Sunday, March 16, to be delivered on Tuesday, March 18.** To help, contact Karen Bielinski at 518-461-3650 or kbielins@nycap.rr.com.





Stand with Refugees. Please Read Urgent Update from Global Refuge

Below is an urgent message from Pastor Dan Beirne, Dir. for Mobilization & Faith Relations, Global Refuge:



On January 24, 2025, Global Refuge received a stop-work order from the government calling for us to immediately stop serving the nearly 6,000 newly arrived refugees in our care. This stop-work order means that government funding that provides food, housing, education, job placement, healthcare, and basic needs has come to an immediate halt. **These children and families fled war, violence, or persecution and came to the United States lawfully through the official U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. They arrived with little more than the clothes on their backs and now the support they rely on – the support they'd been promised – is being pulled out from under them. Food. Housing. Schooling. Healthcare. All stopped.**

With this abrupt and unprecedented cutoff of federal funding, we must now rely solely on the generosity of private donors and supporters to fill in the gaps. **We must stand with these families to let them know that when promised protections for them fail, communities like ours rise.** It is possible to continue supporting a number of these 6,000 refugee clients if we receive enough support to offset the cuts from the government. Please consider supporting and helping to spread the word.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Support Refugees with a Gift:** If you or communities you're connected with are willing to support financially, please use/share this link.
- **Write to Your Representative:** Ask representatives to pull back on this ban on supporting refugees.
- **Learn More and Advocate:** Explore resources with more information about executive orders and accompanying actions.
- **Know Your Rights:** Our partners at AMMPARO have a resource for communities to read about rights and those of immigrants in their care.

No matter what shape it takes, we are grateful for your support and solidarity. Global Refuge has been doing this work for 85 years, and it's thanks to partners like you that we're able to be agile with grand changes like this. *We can do this.* Thank you for your partnership.

PLEASE NOTE: *This year's Albany Lutherans Together (ALT) Lent Offering Appeal will go toward Global Refuge. See page 3 for more info.*

Cornerstone Campus Ministry on April 8

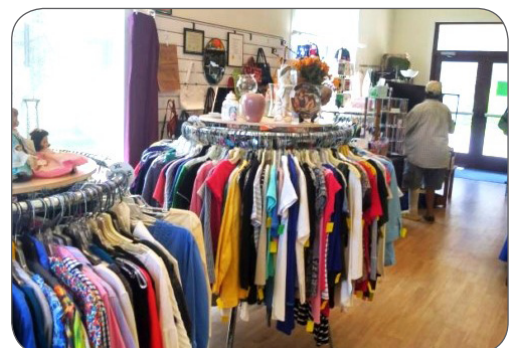
Serve a meal and worship with Cornerstone Campus Ministry at UAlbany on Tuesday, April 8, from 6:00-7:30 pm. The location is 1400 Washington Ave., Room CC375.

- St. John's provides food for 25-30 students (plus any St. John's folks who are eating), including the main course, sides/salad, and dessert. Cornerstone provides beverages, plates, glasses, and silverware. Vegan and vegetarian options are encouraged.
- Dinner is served in CC375 from 6:00-6:45 pm. We begin with prayer and then serve buffet-style and eat like a big family around our table in the community room.
- During the meal, folks are asked to make introductions; we encourage conversation. It's a great opportunity for us to get to know the students and for them to get to know us, their congregational partners.
- At 6:45 pm, St. John's leads approx. 30 minutes of interactive worship/devotions/reflection, etc.
- At 7:15 pm, we clean up and are out the door by 7:30 pm.

Help is needed to provide food, help serve, and plan devotions. If you can lend a hand (or two!), please contact [Pastor Josh](#).

Donate Your Stuff to The Shop at St. Andrew's!

Spring cleaning? If you have stuff to donate, please consider giving it to The Shop at St. Andrew's! It's a vital service of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church to the community and provides an environmentally helpful way of recycling items you no longer use and making them available to other users at a price they can afford. Donations are always needed. Items in good condition appropriate to the season can be brought in during shop business hours only. Please click [here](#) to view details regarding donations. Questions? Call St. Andrew's Parish Office at 518-489-4747. St. Andrew's is located at 10 North Main Avenue in Albany.





Considering Matthew Shepard on March 9

Albany Pro Musica proudly presents the Capital Region premiere of *Considering Matthew Shepard* on Sunday, March 9, at 3 pm at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. This transformative work, by acclaimed composer Craig Hella Johnson, reflects on the life, death, and legacy of Matthew Shepard, a young man whose brutal murder in 1998 became a catalyst for social change and a pivotal moment in the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights. Through deeply moving music and thought-provoking storytelling, *Considering Matthew Shepard* explores themes of inclusion, resilience, and hope. It invites us to reflect on our shared humanity and challenges us to imagine a more compassionate and just world. [Get details HERE](#); [buy tickets HERE](#).



Happy Birthday!

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| March 3 | Ivy Pierle |
| March 3 | Linda Schwab |
| March 4 | Joseph Pierle, Jr. |
| March 7 | Melissa Savage |
| March 8 | Doreen Ryan |
| March 13 | Diane Conley |
| March 17 | Janet Malenfant |
| March 19 | Peg Rendert |
| March 31 | Judy Klapp |

"Don't let aging get you down. It's too hard to get back up."
~ John Wagner



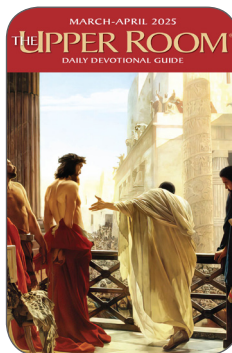
Next Faith on Tap on March 12 @ 7:45 pm

You're invited to join us for good conversations about faith and life, as well as delicious local brews. **This month, we'll gather on the SECOND Wednesday after our first midweek Lent supper and worship at Holy Spirit on March 12.** If you're coming to supper and worship, walk over with us to **Delaware Supply** (292 Delaware Ave., Albany), or meet us there **around 7:45 pm.** Come tap into a good time of faith and fellowship with us!

Note: April's Faith on Tap will be on April 2 at 7:45 pm, following supper and worship at St. John's; location TBD. (It will be somewhere near St. John's, so watch for that to be shared.)

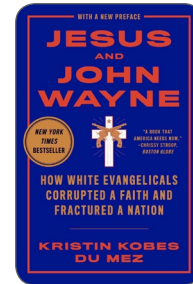


Your Daily Devotions



Don't forget about an important resource we have for your spiritual enrichment, especially during the Lenten season. You can pick up the **March-April edition of The Upper Room** at church or [read it online](#). Want us to mail you a copy? Please contact [Maggie](#).

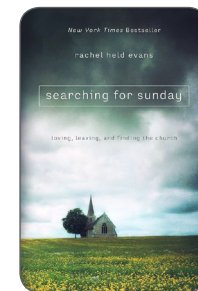
First Lutheran Book Club on March 25



First Lutheran Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 25, at 6 pm to discuss *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. Location TBA.



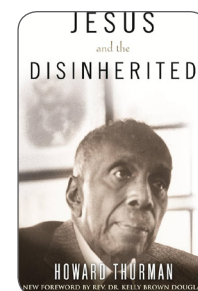
First Lutheran Book Club on April 22



First Lutheran Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 22, at 6 pm to discuss *Searching for Sunday, Loving, Leaving, and Finding the Church* by Rachel Held Evans. Watch for location TBA in emails.



First Lutheran Book Club on May 27



First Lutheran Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 27, at 6 pm to discuss *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman. Location TBA.

Books are always available on the book club shelf at the Book House of Stuyvesant Plaza.



Council Corner

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held on Sunday, January 26. Twenty-one voting members were present, satisfying the necessary quorum. Below are some highlights:

- **Jerry Schwab** was recognized for his years of service on the congregation council as his second term will expire in June.
- **Karen Bielinski** was elected to a new three-year term on the congregation council.
- The **2025 Financial Plan for Mission** was approved without amendment.

You can always view our [2024 Annual Report](#), found on our [News & Announcements web page](#). Thanks again to all who attended our Annual Meeting!

Your Church Leaders

The Rev. Josh Evans, Pastor
pastorjosh@stjohnsalbany.org

Dan Foster, Director of Music
danfoster@stjohnsalbany.org

Maggie Anderson
Community Care Coordinator
parishsec@stjohnsalbany.org

Paige Pierle
Sunday School Teacher
ppierle@nycap.rr.com OR
sundayschool@stjohnsalbany.org

Lindsay Stannard
Council President
lindsaymstannard@gmail.com

A reminder that all winter decorations must be removed from gravesites in St. John's Cemetery by Tuesday, April 1. Thank you!

New WiFi Password!

Since Verizon was installed to improve our live-streaming capability, *please note the Chapel's new WiFi info:*
Network: StJohn-Guest
Password: sandcreek



Stay Connected!

- Facebook:
facebook.com/StJohnsAlbany
- Instagram: *(NEW!)*
instagram.com/saintjohnsalbany/
- Website:
stjohnsalbany.org
- YouTube:
youtube.com/@StJohnsAlbany
- Email:
office@stjohnsalbany.org



INSTA NEWS: St. John's is now on INSTAGRAM! Check out the link above!



Photo above and lower left: On Sunday, February 2, we gathered at Holy Spirit with our partners from Albany Lutherans Together for an afternoon of singing at "All Creation Sings," a workshop led by Julie Grindle.

Photo at lower right: On Wednesday, February 5, we gathered for Faith on Tap. Our next one is on Wednesday, March 12 at 7:45 pm at Delaware Supply.



Church Office Hours

Monday
Pastor Josh Evans
10 AM–4 PM
Maggie Anderson
12 PM–4 PM

Tuesday–Thursday
Pastor Josh Evans
10 AM–4 PM

Friday
Maggie Anderson
10 AM–4 PM

Please call ahead before you go to ensure someone is in the office.



Eagle Deadline

Please note: Submissions for the April 2025 edition of *The Eagle* are due by **Friday, March 21**. Send your announcements to barb.hegna@samepagecom.com or contact the church office.



We Need Your Help to Make Worship Happen!

There's a role for everyone in Sunday worship, and we eagerly welcome new volunteers. Whether front-and-center as an assisting minister or behind-the-scenes on altar guild, there's a role for you! [Contact Pastor Josh](#) for details. **Can't make your date?** Contact BOTH [Maggie](#) AND [Pastor Josh](#). **Please help us prepare the April schedule.** Notify us of dates you are NOT available by **Friday, March 14** through [Planning Center Services](#) or by emailing [Pastor Josh](#).

NOTE: We are no longer publishing the Worship Volunteer Schedule in *The Eagle*. Since volunteers often swap with each other, any printed schedule is usually out-of-date as soon as it's printed. We encourage all volunteers to use [Planning Center Services](#) to view the most up-to-date schedule, block out dates, and sign up for needed slots. If you need help using Planning Center, contact [Pastor Josh](#).



Calendar ~ March-April 2025 ~ Special Edition

Sunday, March 2

Transfiguration Sunday/Pulpit Swap
9:30 am: WORSHIP with Pr. Lowell
10:30 am: Coffee Hour

Monday, March 3

7:00 pm: Lent Bible Study via Zoom

Tuesday, March 4

4:00 pm: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Good Shepherd

Wednesday, March 5

ASH WEDNESDAY
12:00 pm: WORSHIP & Lunch
7:00 pm: WORSHIP

Sunday, March 9

Daylight Saving Time Begins
9:30 am: WORSHIP
10:30 am: Coffee Hour
3:00 pm: *Consid. Matthew Shepard*

Monday, March 10

7:00 pm: Lent Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, March 12

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper & Worship at Holy Spirit
7:45 pm: Faith on Tap: Delaware Sup.

Thursday, March 13

7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 14

Deadline: Block Worship Volunteer.

Sunday, March 16

9:30 am: WORSHIP
10:30 am: Coffee Hour

Monday, March 17

7:00 pm: Lent Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, March 19

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper & Worship at Good Shepherd

Thursday, March 20

7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 21

Deadline: *The Eagle* submissions

Sunday, March 23

9:30 am: WORSHIP
10:30 am: Coffee Hour

Monday, March 24

7:00 pm: Lent Bible Study via Zoom

Tuesday, March 25

6:00 pm: First Lutheran Book Club

Wednesday, March 26

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper & Worship at First Lutheran

Thursday, March 27

7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 30

9:30 am: WORSHIP
10:30 am: Coffee Hour

Monday, March 31

7:00 pm: Lent Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, April 2

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper & Worship at St. John's

Sunday, April 6

9:30 am: WORSHIP
10:30 am: Coffee Hour

Monday, April 7

7:00 pm: Lent Bible Study via Zoom

Tuesday, April 8

6:00 pm: Campus Cornerstone Min.

Wednesday, April 9

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper & Worship at Good Shepherd

Friday, April 11

Deadline: Block Worship Volunteer.
Deadline: *The Eagle* submissions

Sunday, April 13

PALM SUNDAY
9:30 am: WORSHIP with Palms
10:30 am: Coffee Hour

Wednesday, April 16

HOLY WEDNESDAY
12:00 pm: Stations of the Cross

Thursday, April 17

MAUNDY THURSDAY
12:00 pm: WORSHIP
7:00 pm: WORSHIP

Friday, April 18

GOOD FRIDAY
12:00 pm: Ecumenical Service with CACC at **St. Andrew's**
7:00 pm: Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday, April 19

GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER
7:00 pm: Easter Vigil: Good Shepherd

Sunday, April 20

EASTER SUNDAY
9:30 am: FESTIVAL EUCHARIST
10:30 am: Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt

Tuesday, April 22

6:00 pm: First Lutheran Book Club



Easter Memorials

Please fill out a new form for each memorial.
All memorials must be received by Friday, April 4.

Donations may be made online (using the fund "Flower Contributions") or by cash/check in the church office. *(Suggested donation: \$25 per memorial)*



Scan to donate

Given by:

Please write your name as you would like it printed, or write "anonymous" if you do not wish to appear by name.

In memory of In honor of Other: _____

Please write your memorial as you would like it printed.

Return completed form to the church office or mail to:
St. John's Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 5085
Albany, New York 12205



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