



From the Pastor

At the center of Craig Hella Johnson's moving and poignant oratorio [Considering Matthew Shepard](#) – which I was privileged to hear sung by Albany Pro Musica earlier this month at the Troy Music Hall – is **the fence**. The fence to which Matthew Shepard, then a 21-year-old student at the University of Wyoming, was tied and left to die, after being brutally beaten – the victim of a hate crime simply because Matthew was gay. The fence which became a pilgrimage site in the days and weeks after Matthew's death – a place to pray, to grieve, to pay respects.

The words of a poem by Lesléa Newman (whose 2012 collection *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* forms the basis of much of Johnson's piece) are sung as the fence is torn down and removed from the stage. **From "The Fence (after)" ...**

prayed upon
frowned upon

revered
feared

adored
abhorred

despised
idolized

splintered
scarred

weathered
worn

broken down
broken up

ripped apart
ripped away

gone
but not forgotten

Matthew's story, as told through Johnson's oratorio and Newman's poetry and remembered by history, is a passion story, as the middle movement – "Passion" – is so simply and aptly titled. Passion – from the Latin for "suffering."

As our Lenten pilgrimage continues, we inch ever closer to Holy Week – another passion story. And at its center, not a fence, but **the cross**. The cross on which Jesus of Nazareth, the radical first-century Jewish revolutionary who preached good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom for the oppressed, was hung and left to die – the victim of a self-serving empire that saw anything less than complete devotion (idolatry) as a threat to be exterminated. (Certainly no room for any of that "love thy neighbor" stuff.)

The cross which has become the subversive emblem of our faith. The cross around which we will gather on Good Friday in veneration, in prayer, in remembrance. The cross – "prayed upon / frowned upon / revered / feared / adored / abhorred..."

This Holy Week, I invite you to gather with us at St. John's to hear again this passion story, to remember the meal, the garden, the trial, the suffering, the abandonment, the cross. To dwell in the mystery of the cross *before* the empty tomb.

This Holy Week, I invite you to bear witness to *this* passion story and *all* passion stories, to stand in solidarity and prayer with all those in our world who have been and continue to be subjected to the forces of hatred and violence. To see, in the midst of it all, *the tree of life* "whose leaves hold forth the healing of the nations" (ELW 342).

In hope,
Pastor Josh +



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

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Life Renewed: Lent 2025 at St. John's

We continue **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 our ALT friends.



Lent Into Holy Week

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
Maunder Thursday
Worship at noon & 7 pm

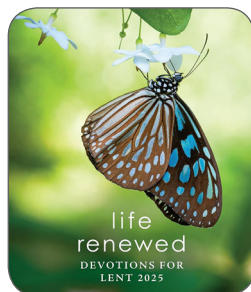
Friday, April 18
Good Friday
Worship at noon & 7 pm

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



Life Renewed: Devotions for Lent 2025



God brings new life in unexpected ways and in the most unlikely situations. This Lent 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.

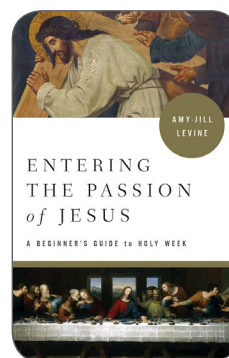
Life Renewed provides devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to the Resurrection of Our Lord/Vigil of Easter (March 5–April 19).

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. *We've gone through our stock at church, but you should still be able to [purchase the e-book](#) online.*

ALT Lent Offering Appeal: Global Refuge

This year, ALT is again supporting 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. Checks payable to Global Refuge and loose cash may also be dropped off on Wednesdays at our midweek supper and worship gatherings, and we'll get them where they need to be. *Thank you!*

Bible Study: *Entering the Passion of Jesus*



It's not too late to join us for the final two sessions of our Lent Bible study with our friends at Holy Trinity Lutheran

Church in Bellerose (Queens).

Each night, we'll dive into a chapter from Amy-Jill Levine's book *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, as well as a short video from the author herself. Don't have a copy of the book? Buy it on [Kindle](#) or get in touch with [Pr. Josh](#) for a scan of the chapter(s). Join us on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm via Zoom by clicking [HERE](#). **Come for our last two sessions:**

March 31: "The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends"
Monday, April 7: "Gethsemane: Risking Temptation"

Sundays in Lent + Through 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)

Find details on Holy Week services on pages 4 & 5.



Lent Wednesdays with ALT: Through April 9

Continue gathering with the Albany Lutherans Together (ALT) congregations this Lenten season for supper and worship. Each Wednesday in Lent, supper is 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*).

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).

Your help is needed with suppers! St. John's will host on April 2. Help is needed to make soup, provide bread and desserts, set up, and clean up. Good Shepherd will host a potluck supper on April 9. All congregations are encouraged to contribute. To help with either or both, please sign up on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Thank you!



On Wednesday, March 12, at Holy Spirit, we enjoyed the first night of midweek supper and vespers with Albany Lutherans Together.

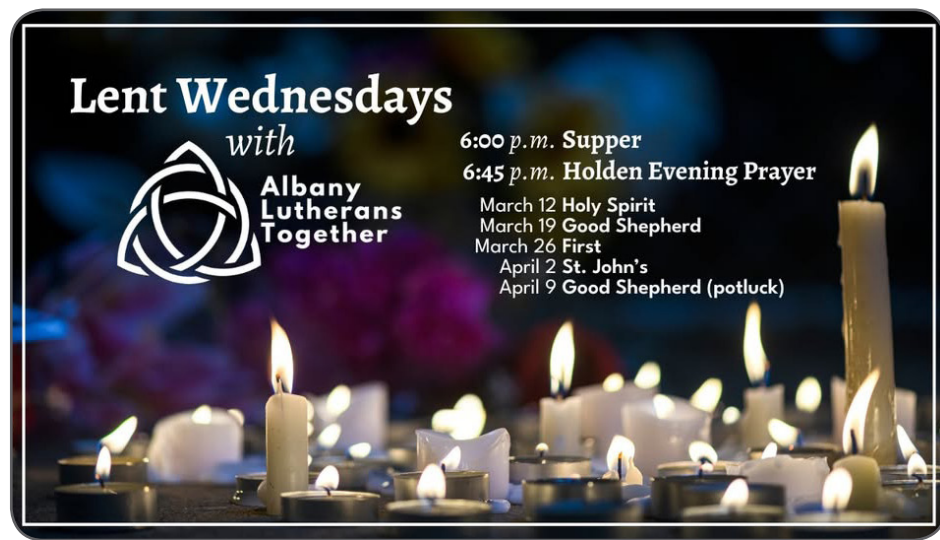
Stations of the Cross at St. Andrew's

Join us for Stations of the Cross liturgies on Thursdays during Lent through April 10 at 11 am at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (10 N. Main Ave., Albany). These services will be led by several different lay leaders. Those who attend are also welcome to bring a lunch with them and join others for a fellowship lunch in Carmichael Hall. During Holy Week, the Stations of the Cross service will take place at St. Andrew's on Wednesday, April 16, at 6:30 pm. *(A Stations of the Cross liturgy will be held at St. John's on Wednesday, April 16, at noon.)*



Maundy Thursday: New Music ~ by Dan Foster

In his [Ash Wednesday sermon](#), Pastor Josh read *A Hymn to God the Father* – a beautiful poem by English cleric John Donne (1572-1631). Recalling a hymn setting by John Hilton (c. 1599-1657), I decided to compose a full verse anthem in early 17th Century British polyphonic technique on this perfect poem. **We'll sing the new work during the evening service on Maundy Thursday.** After years of hearing Saint John's Collegium sing beloved motets of William Byrd and Orlando Gibbons, our congregation is familiar with the sound world of the Jacobean Era. I pray my piece reminds you of these two great composers and enriches worship as we commemorate Jesus' Last Supper on April 17.

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 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)*

See page 3 for info on Stations of the Cross at St. Andrew's held on Thursdays at 11 am & April 16 @ 6:30 pm.

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 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 [CACC 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)*





Great Vigil of Easter + April 19



This is the night! Join us at 7:00 pm for 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 & via Zoom by clicking [HERE](#))

SPEAKING OF FEASTS: There will be a potluck Vigil reception! Please watch for a forthcoming sign-up for desserts and savory finger foods.

CALLING ALL SINGERS! We will once again have a community choir at our ALT Easter Vigil. This year, we're simplifying things and are singing one anthem only, in addition to supporting congregational song. If you're interested, please contact [Jim Ragotzkie](#), Music Director at Holy Spirit.

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 livestreamed on YouTube), followed by a festive Easter Brunch coffee hour and Egg Hunt in the cemetery for children of all ages.

Easter Memorials: Orders Due By April 4



Please submit Easter Memorials [online](#) or by tearing off the form on the back page of the March Eagle. **Orders are due to the office no later than Friday, April 4.** Donations may be made [online](#) (using "Flower Contributions" fund) or by cash/check in the church office. (Suggested donation: \$25 per memorial.)

An Easter Memorial insert will be included with the May Eagle.

Apocalyptic Hope: Easter Worship Series at St. John's

Perhaps no book of the Bible has been more widely interpreted – and misinterpreted – than the book of Revelation. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am (in person and livestreamed) this Easter as we dive head-first into the most troublemaking book of the New Testament and discover the apocalyptic ("revealed") hope at the center of this book. A supremely beautiful confession of faith in Christ and a visionary experience of hope for the persecuted, John of Patmos' visions recorded in Revelation inspire courage, fidelity, and holy patience, as much for the early church then as for our contemporary world today.

Second Sunday of Easter (April 27) ~ Revelation 1:4-8

The celebration of the resurrection continues for the great fifty days of Easter! Join us this Sunday for a lay-led Service of the Word while Pastor Josh is away for continuing education.

Third Sunday of Easter (May 4) ~ Revelation 5:11-14

Usually we associate "Lessons & Carols" with the Christmas season, made famous by King's College annual service broadcast around the world. Join us this Sunday for an Easter Festival of Lessons & Carols as we continue our fifty day celebration of Christ's resurrection and the victory of new life. Pastor Josh will be newly back from Valparaiso, and Holy Communion will be celebrated at this service.

Fourth Sunday of Easter (May 11)

Revelation 7:9-17

Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 18)

Revelation 21:1-6

Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 26)

Revelation 21:10, 22-27; 22:1-5

Seventh Sunday of Easter (June 1)

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21





Please Keep These People In Your Prayers

For whom or what shall we pray?

- **Jimmy**, friend of Karen Seiz, as he recovers from open heart surgery
- **Family and friends of Anthony Butler** (nephew of Mike Centanni), who died suddenly on March 14 at the age of 47 at his home in North Carolina
- **Peter A. Westgard**, cousin of Pr. Analyse Triolo Lewis (close friend of Pr. Josh Evans), who is currently hospitalized with a serious infection
- **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** (grandson of Dianne Guarneri)
- **Diane Mead**
- **Teri Rogers**
- **Freddy Boyzer**



Need Pastoral Care?

Hospitalized? Undergoing or recovering from surgery? Grieving a loss? *Feeling alone or stressed?* Please let us know. We 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.**



Extending Our Heartfelt Thanks!

Special thanks this month to ...

- **Tracy Baldwin** for bringing in donuts & bagels for Coffee Hours.
- Everyone who helped with the **CACC Shelter Meal** prep on Sunday, March 16, and/or donated to offset the cost of the meal on Tuesday, March 18.



Dear Maggie and Friends & Family of St. John's,

Another year of calendars have been collected and distributed to the clients and staff of Rehabilitation Support Services (RSS)! We are so appreciative of getting these every year. We look forward to it and thank you again for thinking of us.

Sincerely, Joy DeVita, RSS

Pastor Josh Away April 21-May 1

Pastor Josh will be on vacation April 21-27 and away for continuing education (attending the Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University in Indiana) April 28-May 1. In the event of a pastoral emergency, contact **Maggie**, who will connect you with an on-call pastor.

CEMETERY REMINDER

This is just a reminder that all winter decorations must be removed from gravesites in St. John's Cemetery by **Tuesday, APRIL 1.**

Thank you!

Next Faith on Tap (or the Rocks!) on April 2

LCHS & St. John's invite you to join us for good conversations about faith and life, as well as delicious local brews ... or margaritas! **This month's Faith on Tap will be on Wednesday, April 2, at 7:45 pm at Margarita City (1118 Central Ave., Colonie) following supper and worship at St. John's.** We'll drive over around 7:30 or 7:45 pm. If you just want to meet us there, we'll see you around 7:45 pm. *It's Faith on Tap ... with a Twist!*

Mark your calendar for the next Faith on Tap: **Wednesday, May 7, at 6:30 pm at Warbler Brewery (155 Delaware Ave., Delmar).** BYO dinner from a local restaurant.

Faith on Tap On the Rocks
Wednesday, April 2
7:45 pm

Margarita City
 1118 Central Ave.
 Colonie

Living Lutheran is Back! Want to Sign Up?

Although it never really went away (it's always been available online), *Living Lutheran* (formerly *The Lutheran*), our denomination's quarterly magazine, is now back in print. We are gauging interest in a congregation subscription. **If you are interested in receiving the print edition, please [contact the office](#) by April 30 and let us know.** A minimum of 10 subscribers are needed for a congregation plan at a cost of \$17 per year per subscriber. If we have at least 10 folks who are interested, we'll sign up and let you know. If not, you can always subscribe yourself for \$19.95 per year, or access the content for free anytime at livinglutheran.org.



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. 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.
- During the meal, folks make introductions and we encourage conversation. It's a great way for us to get to know the students and for them to get to know us.
- 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](#).

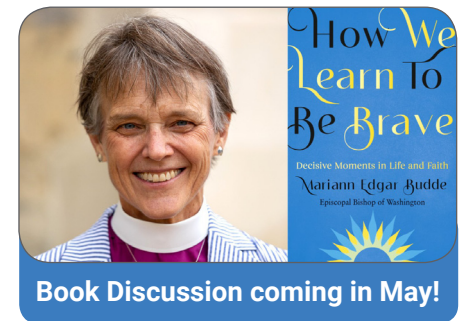
Cornerstone's Dinner & Showcase on April 26

Don't miss Cornerstone Campus Ministry's Spring Fundraising Dinner and Showcase: Saturday, April 26, at 6 pm at First Lutheran Church in Albany (181 Western Ave.). Enjoy good food, fellowship, and an opportunity to learn about what is happening at Cornerstone. You'll also hear testimonies from Cornerstone students who served on their mission trip to Asheville, NC, and enjoy entertainment by some of their students. We hope you can attend this special evening and give generously to support the ongoing work of Cornerstone! **RSVP through SignUpGenius no later than Tuesday, April 15, by clicking [HERE](#).**



CACC Homeless Shelter Meal Prep on April 27

The Capital Area Council of Churches Emergency Homeless Overflow Shelter 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, April 27, to be delivered on Wednesday, April 30.** To help, please contact Karen Bielinski at 518-461-3650 or kbielins@nycap.rr.com. Thank you!



Plan Now to Join Book Discussion Coming in May: *How We Learn to Be Brave*

On January 21, 2025, Americans were introduced to the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, by way of her sermon at the inaugural prayer service at the National Cathedral. In her sermon, Bishop Budde addressed the president directly imploring him "to have mercy on the people in our country who are scared now," from those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community to immigrants and refugees. For Bishop Budde, this moment was the culmination of a lifetime spent

thinking about pivot points when we're called on to push past our fears and act with strength. **In *How We Learn to Be Brave* (published in 2023), she teaches us that being brave is not a singular occurrence; it's a journey we choose every day.** *How We Learn to Be Brave* is an inspirational guide to the junctures in life that, if navigated with faith and discernment, pave the way for us to become our most courageous selves – providing fortitude and insight to anyone searching for answers in uncertain times.

Please plan to join us Monday evenings at 7:00 pm via Zoom by clicking [HERE](#) as we delve into Bishop Budde's book together:

- May 5: Intro-Chapter 1
- May 12: Chapter 2-3
- May 19: Chapter 4-5
- May 26: Chapter 6-Epilogue

Each night we will also end with a short service of compline (night prayer) following our discussion, wrapping up by 8:30 pm. **You can Purchase the book online [HERE](#).** (Book cover is shown above.)



“Meet” Newest Council Member, Melissa Savage!

Melissa’s journey at St. John’s began in 1982, when she was baptized here. Growing up in the church, Melissa was an active participant in the youth group and has fond memories of attending local and nationwide gatherings. In 2010, Melissa’s connection to St. John’s grew even deeper when she and her husband were married in the old church. Now as a mom, Melissa takes great joy in watching her own children grow up within the St. John’s community. It warms her heart to see them participating in services, learning the importance of being good stewards, and developing their own understanding of faith. Keep reading to learn a little bit more about Melissa!

Q&A FOR MELISSA

What led you to become involved in the church council?

Lindsay’s “gentle suggestion.” LOL! In all seriousness, my mother and my sister have been on council before and I would hear their conversations and want to contribute. Now that my kids are a bit older, it seemed like the timing was right to join council and help to move the church forward.

What do you love most about being part of the St. John’s community?

I have grown up in this church community and it has always felt like home. The St John’s community is so welcoming and caring, always checking in and checking up on other members.

What skills or experiences do you feel you bring to the council?

It has been very interesting to see church through a business eye being on council. My background in management has been a skill I have been able to apply in council, especially when it comes to reviewing the budget and having to make financial decisions.

What are your hopes and goals for our church during your time on council?

I would love to see our facility updated and our congregation grow!

What do you think is the biggest strength of our church community?

Small but Mighty! While our congregation is not large, we provide a great deal of support to the community around us. We are always collecting items for those in need, cleaning up the area around our church, participating in other fundraising events, and supporting the other Lutheran churches in our area.



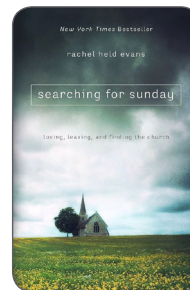
When you’re not at church, what do you enjoy doing in your free time?

I enjoy spending time with my family (pictured at left), whether it be dinner at Nanny’s, watching my girls play lacrosse and basketball, or sitting on our patio at home.

Connect with Melissa and your St. John’s council. Email us at council@stjohnsalbany.org.

Melissa Savage is shown here with her husband, Clayton, and their daughters (left to right) Madelynn and Makayla.

Book Club: April 22

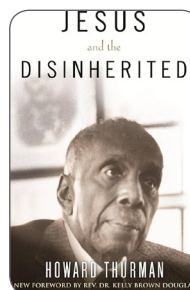


First Lutheran Book Club will meet on Tuesday, April 22, at 6 pm to discuss *Searching for Sunday, Loving, Leaving, and Finding the*

Church by Rachel Held Evans.

We’ll gather at El Rey Mexitalia (215 Western Ave., Albany).

Book Club: May 27



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

We’ll gather at Juniors Bar & Grill (2080 Western Ave., Guilderland).

Happy Birthday!

- April 5 Lois White
- April 8 Paige Pierle
- April 13 Lucian Lewis
- April 15 Lois Costenuic
- April 17 Makayla Savage
- April 19 Karisa Centanni
- April 24 Dianne Guarneri
- April 30 Carla Szesnat-Lewis



“My wife is blaming me for ruining her Birthday. That’s ridiculous; I didn’t even know it was her Birthday.” ~ Unknown

If you do not want your birthday in *The Eagle*, contact Pr. Josh.

Eagle Deadline

Please note: Submissions for the May 2025 edition of *The Eagle* are due by **Friday, April 11**. Send your announcements to barb.hegna@samepagecom.com or contact the church office. Thank you!



WORSHIP NEWS & CALENDAR

Please Note: Changes are Coming for Worship Volunteers

Beginning this Easter season, we are adapting our worship volunteer practices to what is below. Please contact [Pr. Josh](#) with any questions.

• The role of assisting minister will be broken down into two new roles: *intercessor* (prays the prayers of the people) and *communion assistant* (common cup). This change is designed to get more folks involved in worship leadership – but in smaller roles without the stress of being “front-and-center” (like the traditional assisting minister role). These roles may be filled by the same person (as *reader* and *communion assistant* [tray] often are). On festival Sundays, the *intercessor* will also function as the crucifer in processions.

• All worship volunteers in *any* role have now been added to *all* roles in Planning Center Services. This does *not* mean you have to do everything, but it allows you to sign up for whichever role(s) you want – and maybe try something new. **Signups for May and June are now available. Please submit any blackout dates for May and June by Friday, April 11;** remaining slots will be assigned to those who are available at that time. **(Need help with [Planning Center](#)? Contact [Pr. Josh](#).)**

• The scheduling of *offering counters* has been suspended at this time. The offering will continue to be counted and deposited weekly on Monday mornings by office staff.

• As soon as our current batch of bread is used up, we will resume the practice of using *communion wafers* for all. Practically speaking, we have A LOT of communion wafers and presider hosts to use up. Theologically speaking, we have a mix of folks who prefer either the bread or wafers. Lutheran liturgical practice emphasizes the unity of the meal, and “consolidating” into a single option reflects this emphasis. (Gluten-free wafers, as well as both wine and non-alcoholic grape juice, will continue to be offered.)



Calendar ~ April 2025

Wednesday, April 2

6:00 pm: Midweek ALT Supper & Worship at St. John's
7:45 pm: Faith on Tap: Margarita City

Thursday, April 3

11:00 am: Stations of the Cross at St. Andrew's
7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 4

Easter Memorials Due

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: Food & Faith: Cornerstone Campus Ministry

Wednesday, April 9

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

Thursday, April 10

11:00 am: Stations of the Cross at St. Andrew's
7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 11

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

Sunday, April 13

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

Wednesday, April 16

HOLY WEDNESDAY
12:00 pm: Stations of the Cross at St. John's
6:30 pm: Stations of the Cross at St. Andrew's

Thursday, April 17

MAUNDY THURSDAY
12:00 pm: WORSHIP: Abbreviated Liturgy, followed by Light Lunch
7:00 pm: WORSHIP: Full Liturgy

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

Monday, April 21

Pastor Josh begins vacation, then at continuing education; returns May 1

Tuesday, April 22

6:00 pm: First Lutheran Book Club at El Rey Mexitalia

Thursday, April 24

7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, April 26

6:00 pm: Cornerstone Dinner & Showcase at First Lutheran

Sunday, April 27

9:30 am: WORSHIP
10:30 am: Coffee Hour
10:45 am: Shelter Meal Prep

“He is not here for He has RISEN, just as He said.”
~ Matthew 28:6