

# All Saints Lutheran Church Newsletter – June 2026

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Rev. Paul Mertzluft, Pastor Emeritus  
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Beth Cheney, Editor  
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Hamburg

Dear Friends,

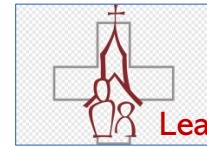
Usually in the summer I take a few days to do a deep cleaning of my church office. (Most of you haven't seen my office at Town Line. Compared to my office at All Saints, it gets cluttered and messy.) One of the fun parts about doing the deep clean is when I discover things I haven't looked at in a while. There is a story behind every object in my office, some are more obvious (pictures of my family), some are not (like a cowbell), and as I declutter my office I remember the special moments or stories that are attached to these objects. It's not the objects that matter to me; it is what the items symbolize. Sometimes they remind me of a special person who was (or is) in my life. Sometimes they remind me of a special moment. I don't need these things, but I keep them because they help me remember.

One of these items is a small frame that has these words in it: "Serena, Trust me, I have everything under control. Jesus." I know that God promises that to us, and that Jesus is with me whenever I need him. But sometimes I need to be reminded, so I have hung it right next to my door so I will see it every time I walk by. This framed parchment was given to me as an anonymous gift in my first year as a pastor. It reminds me every day of an important truth: that Jesus is always with me.

What helps you remember that Jesus is always with you? Do you have an object to remind you, or do you have a phrase that you say to yourself? Do you have a daily faith practice that helps you?

I think we all need ways to remember that Jesus is always with us, the trick is finding what works for you. If you have something that helps you remember, I would love to hear about it! May we always remember that Jesus is with us, and he always will be.

God's peace,  
*Pastor Serena*



- Pastor Serena Mollenkopf-Grill, Transition Pastor
- Council President, Ann Spear Mayer
- Council Vice President, Lori Gawlak
- Council Secretary, Barbara Kurasch
- Financial Secretary, Frank Wald
- Treasurer, Christine Jancewicz
- Financial Consultant, Joanne Mauer

Council Members:

- Beth Cheney
- Joan Fabian
- Marc Schwartz
- Linda Spencer
- Beverly Zier





Grace Lutheran Church is hosting a Sunday Worship Service and Picnic at Chestnut Ridge Park Shelter #2 at 11:00 am on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a dish to pass and a chair. Fun and fellowship will be had by all! Everyone is welcomed to attend.



## Scholarship News



The Tina and Dana Dueringer Scholarship and Memorial Fund

### *Dueringer Scholarship Recipients News ...*

Charlie Bell, All Saints Lutheran Church, is entering his senior year at Lake Erie College in Painesville, Ohio. He will be graduating with a Business Administration degree and hopes to pursue a career in Sales upon graduation. He is also a defense man on the college's division two men's lacrosse team.

Gabby Dubreville, First Lutheran Church, is attending Fredonia State College, Fredonia, N.Y. She will be a senior in September '26 with a dual major in Writing and English. She hopes to become a publisher after graduation.

Erin McGarrity, First Lutheran Church, is attending to Cobleskill College, Cobleskill, NY. She will be a senior in September '26 majoring in Animal Science and Histology. She is hoping to enter Veterinarian school September of 2027.

*The Tina and Dana Dueringer Scholarship and Memorial Fund was established by family and friends of Tina and Dana Dueringer as a lasting memorial with the purpose of honoring our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ by assisting young people embarking on a career, with Scholarship aid.*

*Bev Zier, Chairperson*

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

The deadline for July/August Newsletter is **June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Please have all articles in by this time.

Thank You! Send to Beth Cheney

@ bwc143@verizon.net



Thank you to all of my All Saints friends for the cards, prayers, and good wishes I received during this last surgery. You really know how to make a girl feel loved....

Barbara Kurasch

# Council Highlights

## May 2026



- Pastor Serena is on vacation until 4 June. Pastor Scott from First will cover any pastoral needs; Ann has his contact information.
- Pastor Serena offered to provide First Communion training in August for interested candidates who have completed 2nd grade.
- The August 30 Sunday Service will be a Hymn Sing with Deacons leading the service.
- SECC next meeting will be held on 11 June at 6:30 at First. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- The volunteer roster for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace event is full.
- Three Dueringer Scholarships will be awarded at the Sunday service on 14 June 2026, one from All Saints and two from First.
- Sharing our building with others is beginning to put strain on the Cleaning Committee. More volunteers are needed, especially those willing to mop the floor of the Fellowship Hall on Fridays after The Arc leaves for the week, or on Saturday after the Red Cross leaves. Council is investigating cleaning services as well.
- The church yard has become bumpy and is difficult to mow. We will try leveling the yard with sand, a technique sometimes used on golf courses, but will need help spreading the sand. (Thank you, John Blette)
- Deacons will continue to encourage visiting ministers to use the microphones available, so everyone can hear more clearly.
- Bryan Sullivan has joined our Church Council and will be invited to the June meeting.
- The SECC/MSP group will meet at All Saints on 4 June 2026 at 6:30. An agenda has been proposed and Rachel Sosebee from Synod will attend via Zoom.
- Beginning in June, Council meetings will return to the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. The next meeting will occur on 9 June 2026.
- Installation of Church Council members will be held during the Sunday service on 14 June 2026. Visiting minister Debi Turley will be asked to lead the installation.
- Everyone is invited to Grace Lutheran's Annual Picnic and Service on 28 June 2026 at 11:00. The event will be held at Chestnut Ridge Shelter #2; bring a dish and a chair.



\*\*\*\*\*

# Do what the sink says

It's the hope that kills you.



by [Ryan Lotocki](#) on May 20, 2026

**"It was a nothing play."** Sure, I mean, maybe. But it's the play that ended our season and killed the dreams of Buffalo sports fans yet again... It's a good thing we are built for this. Years upon years of Lake Effect snow and team disappointments have hardened the hearts of many here in Western New York. So as the Montreal Canadiens stormed the ice in celebration of their series-winning Game 7 overtime goal, my dad and I sat in familiar silence for a minute. Then we exchanged our ritualistic, season-ending formalities, and I was on my way.

"Just one before I die."

"Next year is our year."

There were no tears, shock, anger, or utter disbelief. We're past that at this point, right?

And by right, I mean Wideeeee Right. I mean, Music City Miracles, Foot in the Crease, 13 Seconds, 4 Superbowls, 2 historically long droughts, and what even is a catch?

Now, don't get me wrong here. It hurts. It hurts a lot. Every time. But I have only myself to blame. Not the players, or coaches, or the refs. The hurt I feel rests solely on my shoulders because I believe in this little thing called hope. And it's the hope that kills you.

Some even take that idea a step further to say, it's the knowing that it's the hope that kills you, that kills you. Ain't that the truth.

Cause boy oh boy, the way I put my heart on the line. The way I crave the rally from behind, put the facts and the past aside, and just let the games (and life) ride. Give me dose upon dose of that pure, unfiltered joy when things do work out. Then give me the days after defeat. The days like today, when the thrill is gone, and the hope is nowhere to be seen. Because, as I said, we're built for it. Not just as Buffalonians, but as Christians.

I mean, what are the alternatives here? I suppose you could swear off optimism. I guess to avoid disappointment, you could never get your hopes up at all. But where does that hopelessness get you? The wet sides of a parted sea? Inside the belly of a whale? Walking the long, lonely Road to Emmaus?

See, that just doesn't do it for me. I need paraplegics dropping through the roof. I'm desperate for empty tombs. I sleep in lion's dens and spend my free time building Arks.

It's either the hope that kills you or the lack of hope that kills you. Either way, in the end, you're dead. The only difference is that one hope still believes in resurrection three days later— which is roughly how long it takes me to get over a devastating playoff loss.

Now, I sure do hope both the Sabres and Bills get one before I die. But even though I've seen this not play into my favor, season after season, funeral after wake. I cling to the hope because I believe in it. I believe in miracles. I believe that good things come. I believe in good things, despite our suffering.

The Sabres and Bills have yet to give me a championship. Instead, they've opted to gift me hope by giving me suffering. *Since we rejoice in our suffering, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope. And hope does not disappoint us.* - Romans 5: 3-5

Following the Sabres' loss, I tried to go and get a win myself. I took \$100 bucks to the casino. I put it all on red. I watched the ball go round and round, then bounce, and roll, then bounce again, and BAM! 28. Black.

I go to the bathroom.

As I wash my hands, I stand alone before a line of public sinks. One after another, the same stainless steel prophecy echoes throughout the porcelain chamber: **Push On.**

So I do.

## Ascension of Our Lord

(Jesus said) “So stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (v.49)

It’s challenging when congregations and organizations undergo leadership changes. Even when people leave on a positive term, there is grief at the end. The disciples watch Jesus ascend and were told to wait. So often when we face crises in our families, workplaces, or communities, we jump to fix-it mode: tasks and to-do lists, problem-solving and procedures. We want to control the chaos around us.

But the early church, in their leadership crisis, was called to pray, to wait on God’s moving, not to get busy or fix things, not to establish a new program or put a new system in place, but to pray, to seek after God, to stay put, to stay faithful, to stay grounded, and to, and to wait on the Lord. Jesus promises his disciples that God will clothe them “with power from on high.” God will give them all they need. The same is true for us. We are called to trust what Jesus has promised and receive God’s provision.

***You are the giver of every good gift, O gracious God. Help me trust you in times of change. Amen.***

Psalm 47; Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 1:15-23



## A Father's Hands

Father's hands, worn and strong,  
Building a world where I belong.  
Each line a story, each scar a lesson,  
Crafting a life with every session.

You built my dreams with every nail,  
Your steady hands, they never fail.  
Through storms and sun, through joy and pain,  
You stood unwavering, a constant main.

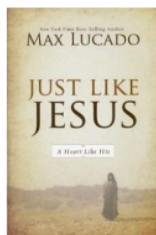
Your hands, the first to hold me tight,  
Guiding me through the darkest night.  
In your grasp, I learn and grow,  
In the warmth of love, a constant glow.

Here's to the hands that have held my own,  
Here's to the love that has always shown.  
Father, my gratitude knows no bounds,  
In your love, my life is found.

Words of Hope and Help | [View this email in your browser](#)

MAX LUCADO

Daily Devotional



Read more [Just Like Jesus](#)

### Others are Watching

A vibrant, shining face is the mark of one who has stood in God's presence. After speaking to God, Moses had to cover his face with a veil. But not only does God change the face of those who worship; he changes those who watch us worship.

Paul told the Corinthian church to worship in such a way that if an unbeliever entered, "he would find...the secrets of his heart revealed; and...would fall down on his face and worship God..." (1 Corinthians 14:25 NKJV)

Seekers may not understand all that happens in a house of worship. They may not understand the meaning of a song or the significance of communion. But they know joy when they see it. And when they see your face changed, they may want to see God's face. People, including your family, are watching. Believe me. They are watching.



## June Birthdays

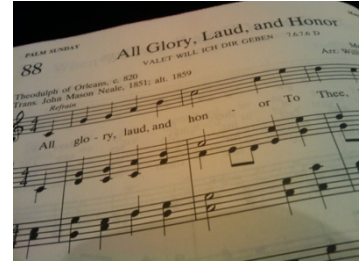
|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Wyatt Kaestner         | 6/6  |
| Karen Fitch            | 6/8  |
| Thomas Graser          | 6/9  |
| Madelynn Augustyniac   | 6/10 |
| Christine Jancewicz    | 6/13 |
| Jennifer Hibbard       | 6/15 |
| Pamela Beth Marcin     | 6/16 |
| Allison Cline          | 6/18 |
| Paul M. Mertzlufft Jr. | 6/20 |
| Heather Armstrong      | 6/24 |
| Brendan Menz           | 6/28 |
| Bethany Fabian         | 6/29 |
| Evelyn Blette          | 6/30 |



## June Anniversaries

|                           |           |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| Wyn & Paul Mertzlufft     | 6/1/1957  |
| Sandi & David Menz        | 6/7/1980  |
| Jordan & Jennifer Hibbard | 6/10/2017 |
| Megan & Ben Hopewell      | 6/30/2018 |

## Hymn Suggestion Box



As the choir once more goes into the period of summer rest, the Hymn Suggestion Box will be on the table in the narthex. Give us your favorite hymns and they will be plugged into the hymn lists for our Sunday services during the summer. Thank you.

Our final worship for the summer falls on August 30 this year. We will again have a hymn-sing in place of the sermon. This is another opportunity for you to pick your favorites. We love to hear from you!

The members of All Saints Family have prayed for the following people for the last 30 days. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

- † Bennett
- † The Gullo Family
- † Mary Ellen
- † Nancy
- † Marie
- † Mary L.
- † Sally
- † Janet
- † Al Goodberry



**FINANCE REPORT**

**Apr-26**

**BANK BALANCES**

|                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Main Checking          | \$ 14,061.96        |
| Special Funds Checking | \$ 5,550.82         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>\$ 19,612.78</b> |

**MONTHLY ACTIVITY**

|                      | ACTUAL       | 1/12 BUDGET  | DIFFERENCE  |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| CURRENT RECEIPTS     | \$ 18,261.79 | \$ 11,826.00 | \$ 6,435.79 |
| SPECIAL GIFTS        |              |              |             |
| CURRENT EXPENDITURES | \$ 12,378.58 | \$ 11,826.00 | \$ 552.58   |
| DIFFERENCE           | \$ 5,883.21  | \$ -         | \$ 5,883.21 |

**YEAR TO DATE**

|                      |              |              |             |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| CURRENT RECEIPTS     | \$ 55,237.83 | \$ 47,304.00 | \$ 7,933.83 |
| SPECIAL BUDGET GIFTS |              |              |             |
| CURRENT EXPENDITURES | \$ 53,454.11 | \$ 47,304.00 | \$ 6,150.11 |
| DIFFERENCE           | \$ 1,783.72  | \$ -         | \$ 1,783.72 |

A little message from the Worship and Music Committee:

**Lift up your heads!**

Please remember when you sing the blessing at the end of each service, you are blessing one another. You are declaring God's love, wishing the best for each other, sharing God's grace – so there is no reason to keep your eyes glued to the words in the bulletin.

Please, lift up your heads; meet the eyes of your neighbors. Bless them with your song and your heartfelt good wishes. *May the Lord bless and keep you* – what a wonderful message! Not one to be kept to yourself. So lift up your heads and sing out.



*Lift up your heads, O you gates... that the King of glory may come in!*  
Psalm 24

**Cleaning Committee Needs Your Help.**

If you are interested in joining the Cleaning Committee, beginning this September. It only takes a couple hours a week about every five to six weeks.

The Cleaning Committee is looking for volunteers to mop the fellowship hall and bathrooms on Friday after ARC leaves or on Saturdays. If you have any time to help out let Beth Cheney know.

## Schedule of Volunteers June 2026

|             | June 7                              | June 14                             | June 21                      | June 28                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Preaching   | Mary Wolf                           | Rev. Debi Turley                    | Rev. Randy Milleville        | Rev. Nancy Milleville       |
| Deacon      | Martha Muck                         | Barbara Kurasch                     | Beth Cheney                  | Ron Heintz                  |
| Usher       | Frank Wald & Volunteer              |                                     |                              |                             |
| Reader      | Lori Gawlak                         | Ron Heintz                          | Barbara Kurasch              | Martha Muck                 |
| Altar Guild | Christyn Sullivan<br>Bryan Sullivan | Christyn Sullivan<br>Bryan Sullivan | Louise Peters<br>Lori Gawlak | Louise Peter<br>Lori Gawlak |
| Cleaning    | Joan Fabian                         | Martha Muck                         | Bev Blette                   | Beth Cheney                 |
| Counting    | Ann Mayer & Joan Fabian             |                                     |                              |                             |
| Mowing      | Ted Cheney                          | Will Blette                         | Lori Gawlak                  | Jim Mayer                   |
|             | Beth Cheney                         | John Blette                         | Gary Mosier                  | Jordan Hibbard              |
|             | Bryan Sullivan                      | Mark Marcin                         | Frank Wald                   | Jim Wasmund                 |

### Do you know your hymns?

**Dentist Hymn . . . . . Crown Him with Many Crowns**  
**Weatherman's Hymn . . . . . There Shall Be Showers of Blessings**  
**Tailor's Hymn . . . . . The Church's One Foundation**  
**Golfer's Hymn . . . . . There's a Green Hill Far Away**  
**Politician's Hymn . . . . . Standing on the Promises!**  
**Optometrist's Hymn . . . . . Open My Eyes That I Might See**  
**IRS Agent's Hymn . . . . . I Surrender All**  
**Gossip's Hymn . . . . . Pass It On**  
**Electrician's Hymn . . . . . Send The Light**  
**Shopper's Hymn . . . . . Sweet Bye and Bye**  
**Realtor's Hymn . . . . . I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop**  
**Massage Therapist's Hymn . . . . . He Touched Me**

And for those who speed on the highway. - a few hymns:

**55 mph . . . . . God Will Take Care of You**  
**75 mph . . . . . Nearer My God to Thee**  
**85 mph . . . . . This World Is Not My Home**  
**95 mph . . . . . Lord, I'm Coming Home**  
**100 mph . . . . . Precious Memories**

Give me a sense of humor, Lord. Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life. And pass it on to other folks.

## FROM THE HEARTS CAMPUS

"Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter" -- Isaiah 58:7

### April 2026

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Total Clients Served at Library:             | 1,918 |
| Adults:                                      | 1,514 |
| Seniors:                                     | 313   |
| Children:                                    | 91    |
| Lunch Meal Service:                          | 126   |
| Meals Made for the Homeless Shelters:        | 3,800 |
| Meal Bags for Buffalo Dream Center Outreach: | 400   |
| Individuals Served at Clothing Closet:       | 600   |

## Talk From The Street & Heart

"I've been in a shelter all winter long and I'm glad to see you guys offer all that time. The bus is like a home for us."  
-Anonymous Hearts Mobile Soup Kitchen Client



## IMMEDIATE NEED: CANNED TUNA



Help Hearts serve the community with dignity by purchasing tuna through our [amazon wish list](#).

Donations of any size or brand helps with our mission.



Drop Off Location: 89D Tonawanda St. Buffalo, NY 14207  
Donation Receiving Hours: Monday - Saturday 9:00AM - 3:00PM



Donate Your Gently Used Seasonal Clothes



Scan the QR code to find a donation bin near you  
[heartsforthehomeless.org/bin-finder](http://heartsforthehomeless.org/bin-finder)

## HEARTS HARVEST FOOD PANTRY



"Thank you for feeding me for the past 3+ years as I try to get back on my feet. Thank you for carrying so many of us through." -Nicole B

| In April, Hearts Harvest Food Pantry Served 13,698 Meals |         |          |          |        |         |             |
|--|---------|----------|----------|--------|---------|-------------|
| Households   | Infants | Toddlers | Children | Adults | Seniors | Individuals |
| 501  | 16      | 85       | 378      | 824    | 219     | 1,522       |

Hearts Harvest Food Pantry serves the Riverside community Tuesdays 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM and Fridays 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

## HEARTS FOOD PANTRY EXPRESS



"I didn't know you had a mobile pantry in my area until a friend of mine recommended it. It changed my life!" -Anonymous FPE Client

| In April, Hearts Food Pantry Express Served 2,898 Meals |         |          |          |        |         |             |
|---|---------|----------|----------|--------|---------|-------------|
| Households  | Infants | Toddlers | Children | Adults | Seniors | Individuals |
| 130   | 1       | 12       | 61       | 153    | 95      | 322         |

|   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| Hearts Food Pantry Express Expansion Sites Served 1,926 Meals |                        |
| 86 Households Served  | 214 Individuals Served |

Hearts Food Pantry Express at Christ United Methodist Church serves Mondays 12:30 PM - 4:30 PM. Hearts Food Pantry Express at Buffalo First Church of the Nazarene serves Thursdays 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Hearts' Food Pantry Express also served other communities two times in April.

## HEARTS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY



"Your volunteers are amazing! I enjoy talking with them and they make my day brighter and lighter." -Arthur

| In April, Hearts Mobile Food Pantry Served 432 Individuals |         |          |          |        |         |             |
|--|---------|----------|----------|--------|---------|-------------|
| Households   | Infants | Toddlers | Children | Adults | Seniors | Individuals |
| 119  | 8       | 3        | 188      | 197    | 36      | 432         |

Hearts Mobile Food Pantry is held on the fourth Wednesday of the month at the Hearts Campus from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.



[www.heartsforthehomeless.org](http://www.heartsforthehomeless.org)  
Governing documents, conflict of interest policy, and financial statements are available by contacting our office.

PO Box 437, Buffalo, NY 14223  
716-877-3536



The SECC Group will be volunteering for Sleep in Heavenly Peace building beds on July 11, 2026 from 8:45 – 1:00 at 80 Earhart Drive Suite 20, Williamsville NY 14221.

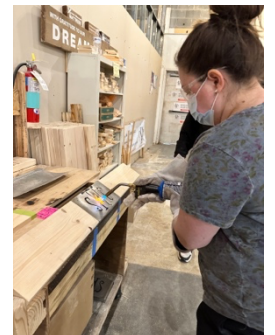
We will be collecting **NEW** Twin Sheet sets, pillows, twin blankets, twin bedding sets, twin comforters, twin mattress covers to take with us the day of the build. You may bring your donations to your churches. Any questions please contact Beth Cheney at 716-818-7411. Thank you.



At SHP, we fully believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative. [We're a national organization answering the call to a national problem.](#)

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is where it is today because of the passionate volunteers who believe in the mission of getting kids off the floor and into beds. In just a few hours of your time, you can make a direct, permanent impact in the quality of life for dozens, if not hundreds and maybe even thousands of kids in your community.

We're always looking for volunteers to build bunks, go on bed deliveries, be vocal advocates for our mission and start new SHP Chapters in unserved communities.





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Hamburg, NY 14075



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