

All Saints Lutheran Church Newsletter – September 2026

S6065 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, New York 14075
716-649-6266
WEB SITE: www.allsaintshamburg.org
E-MAIL: allsaintshamburg@gmail.com



Rev. Paul Mertzlufft, Pastor Emeritus
Office Administration, Louise Peters
Beth Cheney, Editor
Facebook: All Saints Lutheran Church
Hamburg

Dear Friends,

About a decade ago, I was on a synod team that worked with congregations in conflict. (We were called the Conflict and Healing team). We would be sent by the bishop to congregations in conflict to see if we could help bring clarity and healing to the issues they were facing. (Serving on this team made me LOVE being the pastor of my congregation even more than I already did.)

Here's an example of something I experienced on the team. We asked people to share what their concerns were in a large group setting. A man stood up and said, "I don't feel like we are seeing a return on our investment in the youth." After my initial confusion on what the man had said (I have never heard anyone use the word "return on our investment" when talking about a youth program), I was deeply troubled by his words. A few other people there chimed up, agreeing with his sentiments. I do understand that this man had real concerns about the future of his congregation. He wanted to see real change now, in his lifetime, based on the "investment" he believed he was making in his church, specifically the money spent on youth programming.

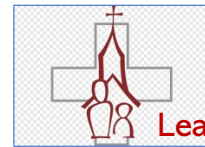
I do hope you have an idea about where I am going with this letter. I am sharing this small story with you to remind us all, *myself included*, about a big truth about church and our purpose. "All Saints is my church." It's a beautiful sentiment to say this church is "my church." But the truth we need to remember is that yes, it may be the church I call my home church, but All Saints is not just "my church." All Saints is God's church, a church that doesn't just belong to me or you or us, but everyone. We don't "invest" in our church, we support our church and join in the mission that Jesus gave to every church. "Go and make disciples."

When we, as a church, choose to support youth and children, or any other ministry for that matter, we doing it not as an "investment" that we expect will show us a "return." We don't do this for what it will do for *our church*, we do this because it is what we are called to do as followers of Jesus. We support the next generation because it is our call as God's people.

May we never forget that All Saints is God's church and we are called by Jesus to "go and make disciples."

God's Peace,

Pastor Serena



Lead us, Lord

- 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

Council Members:

- Beth Cheney
- Joan Fabian
- Marc Schwartz
- Linda Spencer
- Bryan Sullivan



SEPTEMBER 2026 CALENDAR



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01	02	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
			Gather Four Mission Meeting @ Good Shepherd @ 7 pm			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Gather 4 Mission NEWS:

The four churches will host a children's Christmas Play this year with all the children from each congregation on **Sunday, December 6th at 1:30 p.m. at All Saints**. Hot Chocolate and Christmas Cookies will be served.

Rehearsals will be held at each church on the following dates: 10/24 at Grace Lutheran at 1:00, 11/8 at First Lutheran at 12:30, 11/21 at Good Shepherd at 12:30, dress rehearsal on 12/5 at All Saints at 12:30. Any child that would like to be part of the Christmas play should try to make each practice at each church if possible.

NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE

The deadline for October Newsletter is **September 15th**.

Please have all articles in by this time.

Thank You! Send to
Beth Cheney

@ bwc143@verizon.net

The members of All Saints Family have prayed for the following people for the last 60 days. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

- † Norma
- † Family of Mary Jane Laskowski
- † Katie
- † Barb Nichols
- † Alicia McLaughlin
- † Mike
- † Rose
- † Carol
- † Linda
- † Mary L.
- † Janet
- † Paul & Wyn Mertzlufft
- † Sandy Young
- † Family of Monica Lubas
- † Family of Geraldine Bommer
- † Donno O.
- † Family of Kenneth Major
- † Family of Wayne Bettcher
- † Darleen
- † Family of Rosemarie Ayres



What an amazing day! 34 Gather 4 Mission volunteers built 34 beds on July 11 for WNY children who have gone without. What a blessing to share with everyone.



Council Highlights

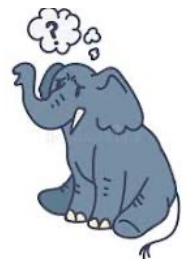
July-August 2026



- Arrangements are being made to remove two trees on the church property because they pose a safety risk.
- A contract is in place to have the parking lot resealed. The congregation will be notified when a firm date has been selected.
- The Covenant Team met with Pastor Serena to map out potential tasks and priorities for a shared pastor. A copy was sent to Rachel Sosebee at Synod.
- The congregation will be invited to participate in Harvest House's community-wide baby shower to support their Baby and Children's Ministry.
- Donations will be made to Hearts for the Homeless, Salvation Army, and Buffalo City Mission.
- Alms Box contributions for the third and fourth quarters of 2026 will be sent to Harvest House.
- All Saints insurance policy has been reviewed and renewed.
- Sunday School will start again on 13 September.
- Sunday School/Nursery room renovations will be complete by 13 September, and a dedication will be held with the whole church.
- The property committee has undertaken the removal of a large bee's nest and the repair of lights and outlets in the Fellowship Hall, as well as securing quotes to clean the floor of the Fellowship Hall, repair a broken window in the Narthex, and install new ice cables on the roof to prevent ice dams.
- Gather 4 Mission met in July to plan events, A monthly calendar of activities will be included in the newsletter. This year a Christmas Pageant involving children from all four churches will be held at All Saints on 6 December at 1:30. Efforts are being made to involve as many children as possible.

Don't forget:

All committee budget numbers are due 1 October 2026



Thank you to all who submitted favorite hymns this summer. More people participated this year. We tried to use as many as possible and noted in the bulletin when a hymn with an asterisk (*).

The Worship and Music Committee



Kingdom Kids
Save the date:
Sunday, September 13th, 2026, 11am
Kick off for the '26-'27 year



Kingdom kids will now be meeting in the nursery during the worship service. We will continue to collect donations for the upgrades to the Kingdom Kids Sunday School Room.



Beth Marcin
Lori Gawlak
Christian
Education
Co-chairs

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting monetary donations to send gift cards to our Military and College members.

Checks (made payable to All Saints) and cash should be given to Marilyn Dorobiala. We hope to have this project completed by the end of October.

Thank you for your support.



The Tina and Dana Dueringer Scholarships were awarded on June 15th to Charlie Bell from All Saints, Gabrielle Duberville and Erin McGarrity from First Lutheran at All Saints Church. Paula Duberville accepted the scholarship for her daughter Gabby who is not pictured. Congratulations to all of you.



Welcome Back Choir! Come to join in?

Choir rehearsals resume Wednesday, September 9th at 7 p.m. We are looking forward to praising God with our voices once again. This would be a perfect time for anyone who has thought about joining us to do so! No experience necessary. The group is friendly and will help you get comfortable. We have one "newbie" coming and one former member coming back. Help us grow even more!



Former Bills VP of Communications Scott Berchtold receives Awards of Excellence



Former Bills vice president of communications Scott Berchtold is being honored for his long career with the Buffalo Bills and the NFL. Berchtold will be honored in the Awards of Excellence's fifth class along with two other former public relations directors.

Berchtold's NFL career spanned five decades. He served as Buffalo's vice president of communications and later a senior vice president for 23 years but was with the Bills organization in various role for 34 years beginning in 1989. He originally joined the Bills as a manager of media relations.

Before coming to Buffalo, Berchtold worked for the Green Bay Packers from 1985-89 as the assistant

During his career, he worked 32 Super Bowls – four with the Bills and 28 on the NFL's staff. For 12 of those years, Berchtold was selected as a 'PR captain' by the NFL and directed the PR media operation for those games.

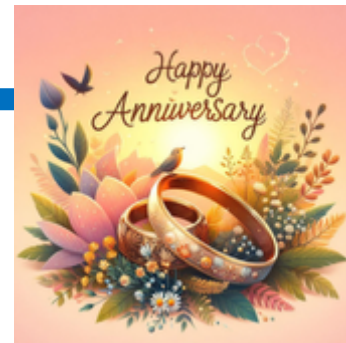


**Congratulations
Scott
from your
All Saints Family!**



September Birthdays

Laura Kraiser	9/1
Lori Gawlak	9/3
Sarah Enser	9/5
John Stutzman	9/16
Grant Kaestner	9/18
Nancy VanWie	9/18
Jack Edward Blette	9/19
Lisa Dueringer	9/23
Ethan Augustyniac	9/27
David Menz	9/27
Diane Hutchinson-Earle	9/28
Barbara Kurasch	9/30



September Anniversaries

Grant & Laura Kaestner	9/27/2019
Sue & Louis DeCarlo	9/28
Joan & Frank Fabian	9/29/1984

Schedule of Volunteers September 2026

	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Preaching	Lynn Whitworth	Rev. Nancy	Rev. Randy	Rev. Mary Ellen
		Milleville	Milleville	Larson
Deacon	Martha Muck	Ron Heintz	Barbara Kurasch	Beth Cheney
Usher	Joanne Mauer & Volunteer			
Reader	Joan Fabian	Lori Gawlak	Ron Heintz	Barbara Kurasch
Altar Guild	Bryan Sullivan Christyn Sullivan	Louise Peters Lori Gawlak	Louise Peters Lori Gawlak	Gail Hellert
Cleaning	Beth Cheney	Martha Muck Joanne Mauer	Lori Gawlak	Joan Fabian
Counting	Barbara Kurasch & Lori Gawlak			
Mowing	Jordan Hibbard	Frank Wald	Will Blette	Jim Mayer
	Lori Gawlak	Bryan Sullivan	John Blette	Jordan Hibbard
	Gary Mosier	Mark Marcin	Jim Wasmund	Frank Fabian

FINANCE REPORT

Jul-26

BANK BALANCES

Main Checking

\$ 20,074.43

Special Funds Checking

\$ 5,250.82

TOTAL

\$ 25,325.25

Note:

End of June Main
Checking Balance
was 29,816.08
10,000 was moved
to our Investment Funds

MONTHLY ACTIVITY

CURRENT RECEIPTS

\$ 11,109.87

\$ 11,826.00

SPECIAL GIFTS

1/12 BUDGET

DIFFERENCE

CURRENT EXPENDITURES

\$ 20,851.52

\$ 11,826.00

\$ (716.13)

DIFFERENCE

\$ (9,741.65)

\$ 9,025.52

CURRENT RECEIPTS

\$ (9,741.65)

SPECIAL BUDGET GIFTS

\$ 95,991.29

\$ 82,782.00

CURRENT EXPENDITURES

\$ 94,077.81

\$ 82,782.00

\$ 13,209.29

DIFFERENCE

\$ 1,913.48

\$ 11,295.81

\$ 1,913.48

All Saints will participate in this Harvest House Annual Baby Shower. You may bring in items on the list below or envelopes will be provided in the Narthex for monetary donations to purchase the items. Please bring in your items no later than 10/25/26. The Alms box for the third and fourth quarter will also be donated to Harvest House.

7/20/26, 2:57 PM

Inbox - Brandy Loveland - Outlook





Harvest House

Wellness in Action

HARVEST HOUSE'S 4TH ANNUAL BABY SHOWER Drive

BE THE REASON A CHILD THRIVES

This **September through the end of October**, Harvest House launches its **4th Annual Baby Shower Drive**—a community-wide effort to ensure Buffalo's youngest children have the essentials they need to grow, stay healthy, and thrive.



THE CRISIS FACING BUFFALO'S CHILDREN



65,000 children in Buffalo are living in poverty



30,000 children are in extreme poverty



Over **50%** of these children live on the East Side

MEANWHILE:



- Cost of living has surged **+45%**
- Incomes have increased just **3–4%**
- Baby essentials rose **+17%** in one year



REALITY CHECK:

Families are now forced to spend up to **40–45%** of their income just to meet a baby's basic needs.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR FAMILIES



93% run out of diapers every quarter



69% borrow money for baby supplies



80% skip essentials like food or utilities



Babies face higher risks of infections and illness



Mothers experience increased stress, anxiety, and depression



YOUR IMPACT IS POWERFUL

Harvest House is serving **800 children** every month—and nearly **30,000 children** this year will depend on this drive.

WHAT YOUR GENEROSITY CAN DO:

\$1

= up to **\$11** in community impact

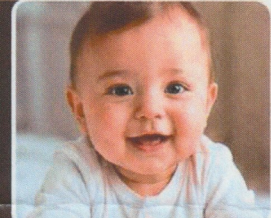


\$100

= 2 months of diapers for a family



Fewer ER visits, healthier babies, and more stable households



WHAT WE NEED MOST



DIAPERS (NEWBORN – SIZE 6)

- Newborn
- Sizes 4, 5, 6
- Pull-Ups (2T–5T)



WIPES & HYGIENE PRODUCTS

- Baby wipes
- Diaper rash cream
- Baby shampoo
- Lotion
- Baby wash



CLOTHING (NEWBORN – 14)

- Gently used clothing
- New socks & underwear
- Sleepers & onesies
- Seasonal items



SAFETY ITEMS

- Portable cribs (only)
- Car seats (5 years or newer)
- Baby monitors (new or gently used)



TAKE ACTION TODAY!

This drive runs **September through the end of October**—families need your help.

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- ✓ Organize a collection drive at your school, church, or workplace
- ✓ Rally your network to give, share, and act
- ✓ Make a monetary donation



Can't drop off? We'll come to you—pickup is available.



BE THE DIFFERENCE

Every diaper you give. Every dollar you donate. Every effort you lead—creates relief, restores dignity, and gives a child a stronger start.



DON'T WAIT. STEP UP. GIVE GENEROUSLY. 
Buffalo's children are counting on us.

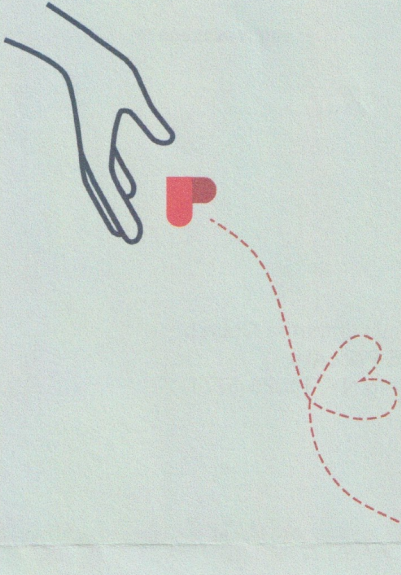


For more information on Harvest House and how to donate go to harvesthousebuffalo.org



Contact: Joe Somma, Chairperson
(716) 207-2346 babyshower@harvesthousebuffalo.org





THRIVENT CHOICE® UPDATE

A Stronger Thrivent Choice Experience—Built for Greater Impact

Important program enhancements for enrolled organizations—and action items to ensure your organization is ready.

\$660M+

We've made a BIG impact with Thrivent Choice. Over \$660 Million in grant funding has been sent to enrolled organizations since 2010.

PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS

What's New—and Why It Matters

The Thrivent Choice® program has been upgraded, making it even easier for Thrivent clients with membership to live generously and support organizations like yours.

✓ More members can support you

BEFORE
Select Thrivent members received Choice Dollars®

NOW
All 19M members receive Choice Dollars

More members + More Choice Dollars + More impact. **\$1 granted** by Thrivent for each Choice Dollar directed.

✓ Members can act sooner

BEFORE
Choice Dollars accrued over time

NOW
Available in full at the start of the year

All 2026 Choice Dollars are available to direct now. Encourage members to act today.

✓ Intuitive calendar year

BEFORE
Directions due by Mar 31

NOW
Members can direct anytime through Dec 31

Support for your mission when it matters most — anytime during an intuitive calendar year.

✓ EFT deposit date change

Electronic fund transfers will now be issued on the **10th of the month** (or next business day), instead of the 5th. Please share this with your finance person.

ACTION REQUIRED

Confirm Your Organization's Information

ORG NAME
All Saints Lutheran Church

THRIVENT ID
504733517

EMAIL ON FILE
christlock613@gmail.com

BANK ON FILE
MANUFACTURERS & TRADERS TR
*****6223

Four things to verify now

1 Your catalog listing

Check your organization's description in our Thrivent Choice catalog at thrivent.com/organizations

2 Your landing page

We've updated our catalog experience. Bookmark your new landing page URL.

3 Email address

Confirm the email shown above is active and monitored. If 'None' is listed, please provide one.

4 Bank account

Verify your account on file for EFT deposits shown above is accurate.

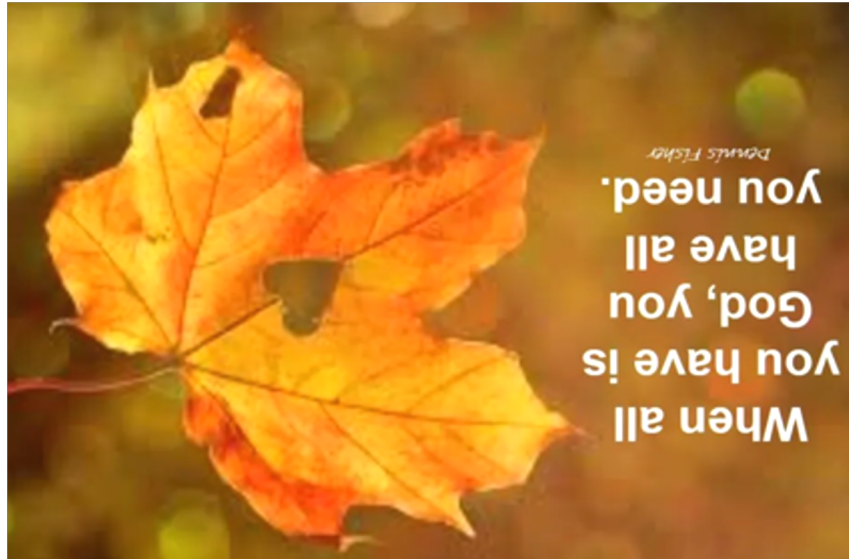


To request updates, complete our form at bit.ly/orgupdateform or scan this QR code.

Something special is coming...

Giving Tuesday · Dec 1, 2026

Thrivent has something exciting planned. Now is the perfect time to ensure donors and members can easily find your organization, and funds can reach you without delay. Details coming soon.



All Saints Lutheran Church
S 6065 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, NY 14075



September 2026