St. John's Lutheran Church & Pre School

The Good News Gazette

Autumn (October/November) 2026

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

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



'Give Thanks, with a grateful heart!!'

President's Message

Steve Maier



The end of 2026 is fast approaching, and with it come the seasons of Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's — celebrations that remind us of gratitude, hope, and renewal. As we move toward these meaningful moments, I'm thankful for the faithfulness, generosity, and steady commitment our congregation continues to show.

Looking ahead, December will bring our annual voters meeting. We will be sending out a separate email and mailing with the topics and items that require congregational action. This will include an explanation of the proposed budget, details about the proposal from the Synod that we need to vote on, and other decisions that help guide our ministry and mission. We will also share updates on the ongoing work with our constitution and policy manual, including the progress made and the next steps in the process.

I also want to take a moment to thank Lance Eckler, our Office Manager and Deacon candidate, for his continued efforts in the office and in supporting the congregation during this time. He has been handling the day-to-day responsibilities on his own, and he has even taken on the challenge of learning new software for producing our bulletins and newsletter since the previous program was retired and may become unusable at any time. His dedication and willingness to adapt have been a tremendous blessing to our congregation.

Another important part of this season is identifying people who can help fill roles within our congregation — especially in areas such as the Elders and other boards. Even though we are actively working on changes to our board structure, those adjustments are not yet in place. In the meantime, our existing teams still need support to carry out the daily and weekly work of the church. If you feel called to serve, or even just want to learn more about what a role involves, please reach out to me, Dave Heckman, or Jen Barnes. Your willingness to help strengthens our shared ministry in real and meaningful ways.

As we enter the final months of the year, may we continue to walk together with gratitude, clarity, and trust in the work God is doing among us!

Financial Secretary



Max Hogenes

Our Financial Health for Autumn as of September 27.2026

YTD Giving Comparison
Giving = $155,063
Prior Year = $162,222
$ (7,159)



YTD Giving vs. Expenses
Giving = $155,063
Expenses = $ 93,718
$ 61,345

	YTD	Weekly
2026 YTD Giving	$155,063	$4,081
2026 Approved Expense Budget	$226,383	$4,354
		$(273)

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

2 Corinthians 9:7

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

Encouragement in Prayer for October/ November



Martha Barmaster

Moving from doubt to faith

We are going to talk about doubting God versus faith. It is one of our hinderances in prayer. Let's talk about doubt. Doubt blocks our view of God's grace, mercy and love. It can lead to uncertainty about the truth of scripture and even question our salvation. Conquering the mountain of doubt requires an act of faith. When we look to the truth of God's Word, we can climb the mountains in our life with faith, not doubt!

In this life, doubts are inevitable. Doubt is like a shadow that blocks the sun. It creates a fog in our mind. Faith is like a day filled with sunshine. All of us at one time or another, if we are honest with ourselves, have had doubts about God. Some of God's most beloved servants faced doubts. Moses doubted in his ability to lead and deliver the Israelites from Egypt. David doubted if God would save him from King Saul. Elijah ran from Queen Jezebel fearing for his life, after conquering the prophets of Baal. Jeremiah doubted his call as a prophet. No one has life all figured out. All of us have questions and when our questions go unanswered, we face the mountain of doubt.

Most of us have gone through times wondering what God's is doing in our lives. It confuses us. It seems like God is ignoring our prayers. God is taking us places we'd just as soon not go.

In Isaiah 55:8 God says: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways."

He is the potter and we are the clay.

If your doubts cause you to run to God with sincere questions about what He is doing or not doing, then asking is an act of faith. If you're not demanding answers but crying out to God for answers that only He can provide, then you're experiencing a normal healthy relationship with God.

Faith and doubt can coexist. In the Gospel of Mark, the father of a demon- possessed boy came to Jesus and begged Him to spare his son's life. The father's request revealed both faith and doubt. In Mark 9:22, the desperate father said to Jesus, "If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." Jesus responded, "If you can? All things are possible to him who believes." (verse 23) Then the father confessed his struggle with doubt: "I do believe; help my unbelief." (v. 24) That was good enough. The fact that the father came to Jesus was an act of faith. Jesus healed his boy! (vs. 25-27)

So, if you are doubting God is working in your life- at work, home, church, school, wherever- first of all, you are in good company with Mose, David, and a host of others. Second, Jesus honors your act of faith, whatever it is, big or small. He sees. Maybe it is just getting up in the morning, maybe it's going to work every day, maybe it's going to school every day. Whatever it is, Jesus sees. He honors your act of faith. He will see you through! One day at a time. Sometimes one moment, one step at a time. Amen!

Let's dig a little bit further. When dealing with doubts, do this: 1.-Don't deny your doubts; acknowledge them. God is big enough to handle our doubts. 2.-Don't dread your doubts; analyze them. Whatever reason for your doubts, face them squarely and name them clearly. There's no question or concern that God hasn't heard or dealt with before. 3.- Don't disguise your doubts; share them with a mature believer or mentor. Talk about them with the Lord, too. Turn your questions into prayers and your prayers to God. When we turn to God and ask Him our questions, He shows up and encourages us through His Word and in partaking of Holy Communion. He is faithful. Amen!

Board for Worship, Music and the Arts

Linda Braun



Thank you to all who continue to serve the people of St. John's!! Sharing your time and talents are a very important part of what makes St. John's a special congregation, reaching out to all.

- Advent and Christmas planning are underway. Please watch for upcoming events and opportunities to serve.
- Advent runs from **November 29 to 24 December 24 (Christmas Eve)**. This date marks the beginning of the liturgical year in many Christian traditions.

Please contact Linda Braun for more information frau11braun@gmail.com.

Adult Choir

Linda Braun







"Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music!" ***– Psalm 98:4***

Upcoming hymns/songs. Reminder, practices are on Tuesdays at 7pm.

All are welcome!

- 10/18 Pentecost 21: LSB 940 – *Holy God we Praise Thy Name*
- 10/25 Reformation Day: *God of our Fathers*
- 11/1 All Saints Day: LSB 677 – *For All the Saints*
- 11/15 Pentecost 25: LSB 790 - *Praise the Almighty*
- 11/22 Christ the King: Last Sunday of the Church Year- *This is My Father's World*
- 11/25 Thanksgiving Eve (Wednesday): LSB 895 – *Now Thank we All Our God*



DAILY DEVOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PORTALS of PRAYER

Reminder that copies of the daily devotional ***PORTAL OF PRAYERS*** are free and available in our entryway!

Podcasts and Devotionals are available through **Lutheran Hour Ministries'**.

- Daily Devotions - Lutheran Hour Ministries from your computer OR
- Using Google Play or Apple download the "**Connected by LHM" app**
  - Inspirational Scripture-based messages at your fingertips every day
  - Season-themed devotions during Advent and Lent
  - Read the devotion/sermon text or listen to the audio

SAMARITANS PURSE: OPERATION SHOEBOX

Options:

1) Pack your own shoebox and bring it to church by 11/15.

2) Go to the Samaritan's Purse website and order a completed shoebox on-line. These boxes are filled by volunteers who coordinate what is permitted within the receiving country.

3) [Build Your Shoebox Online! - Operation Christmas Child]





These boxes are delivered around the world. It is VERY important that items listed on the DO NOT INCLUDE list are followed. The whole lot can be refused if anything is found in violation.

Woman of Joy Cruise



Would you like to spend time with other Christian woman, listening to speakers, hearing some great Christian music and get away from the cold during the winter? Then maybe the Woman of Joy Cruise is right for you! The dates are: Jan 25- 29th on the Oasis of the Sea, there is a small group of us planning on going but would love to have more people join in the fun! If you are interested in learning more, just google: Women of joy cruise 2027 or talk to Jen Barnes for more information.

Ladies Luncheon



Vicky Payne

12:30pm at Flaherty's Restaurant , Novmber 11th. See you there!

Stamping Event

Linda Armstrong



Saturday, November 21st.
Please see Linda Armstrong for details!





Pre School News

Cheryl Power

We are off to a great start at preschool. We are blessed to have such wonderful children and wonderful families.

We are thrilled to welcome our new teacher, Mrs. Kim Caranfa (Mrs. C.) to our staff at preschool. She has worked with school-age children at the YMCA and has a bachelors degree in psychology and child psychology.

We'd also like to thank Mrs. Hilton for her time at St. John's and pray for blessings upon her and her family.

Our preschool students have been adjusting to their new routines nicely. It's so nice to see some old and new friends.

The 4's class has been getting right into the swing of things. They have been talking about getting to know each other, friends, and manners. They have reviewed shapes and colors with a scavenger hunt and have begun their letter of the week - A&E. They also managed to find time for at least two stories a session, music and time on the playground.

Our 3's class has also been getting to know each other and getting used to their routine. They have been busy getting used to being away from their parents/caretakers and learning about shapes and colors, playing games, listening to stories at carpet time and playing on the playground.

The 4's class is scheduled to go to Long Acres on October 7 and the 3's class will be going to Chase Farms on October 8.

We still have openings in our 4's class. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Cheryl Power, Director-St John's Christian Preschool (585)-315-1819

Deacon Program



Lance Eckler

I have successfully completed and passed the Old Testament portion in my Deacon studies.

It was my pleasure to learn about its many books and our Almighty God who created everything through order out of chaos. Our loving Father is faithful and His promises are true! Through His purpose, we, the Body of Christ, have a certain end in and of His loving Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for all of your support and prayers as I continue this Spiritual journey and my education. My next class is soon and is on the entire New Testament. I look forward to the Covenant of Christ, the Kingdom of God and re-reading of the Gospels again. I will continue to keep you all updated. Blessings!

Youth Coordinator

Phoebe Lockman

It is officially fall and Sunday School classes have begun! Here is a sneak peak of what's in store for the 2026-2027 school year…

Giving Back: The students will be organizing a sale to support a charity of their choosing. I look forward to seeing the students work together, learn about giving back, and choose a cause that is meaningful to them. Stay tuned for more details about the sale and how you can support our Sunday School students.



Bible Lessons: We are going to dig deep and grow our understanding for God's word and the role it plays in our lives! Each week we will learn a new piece of scripture and discuss it together.

Music: Worshipping through music is a wonderful way to grow closer with God.The students will be given the opportunity to showcase their musical talents for the congregation in the coming months.

Holiday Fun: We have several crafts and activities planned for the coming holiday season. If anyone would like to assist or join in on the fun, please contact Phoebe or the Church Office. Additionally, the Christmas Pageant is a special St. John's tradition. The kids and I will be working on something special for the congregation.Stay tuned!



On a more personal note: the week before Rally Day I underwent an emergency surgery and am recovering. I am so thankful to God for his protection and healing throughout this time. I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the members of our congregation who have been so helpful to me as I get back onto my feet! I was able to experience a smooth start to the Sunday School year and could not have done it without you! God's Blessings, Phoebe

Scouting For Food

Scouting for food will be on November 8th and 15th.
What this means for the congregation? Pack 50 has asked for our help for the scouting for food event. All the food is that is collected will go to either the Christmas baskets or to the food pantry out front. On the 8th of November, bags will be put out to the residence in the pumpkin Hook area. On the 15th the bags will need to be collected, and the food then sorted as it comes in. Last year the food that was collected was able to keep the food pantry supplied until the middle of February. We really could use your help in making this event work. If you would like more information or what you can do to help, please see Jen or Howie Barnes. Thank you!

Missing!



We need your help finding a couple of items in the church:

1. A white vase, just like the one with pink carnations in it on the coffee table in the family room.
2. An accordion -full size- that was in a large suitcase that held it. Very important to find this!

Please contact Lance with any information on the above items, thank you!

Trunk or Treat

Phoebe Lockman



Sunday October 25th, in our parking lot, hosted by Phoebe Lockman @11:00AM.

Missions & Ministry

Cheryl Power

St. John's Christmas Angel Tree



It's that time of year again when we begin to think about the Christmas holidays. I have agreed to be the angel tree coordinator for the next few years.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Candy Aldrich for taking on this mission for many many years. We thank her also for organizing the angel tree procedures, and making this project relatively "easy?". As with everything, I will need help from our congregation with gifts, food, and deliveries.

Letters to families have gone out. If you know of anyone who has a need, please feel free to contact me.

More information will be coming in the near future.

2027 St. John's Church Budget



Budget vote is Sunday December 13th at 11AM, after Worship service.

A report with the budget numbers will be printed and emailed November 13th.

Board of Christian Education



Linda Braun

Thank you to Phoebe Eckler for leading our youngest members in bible study and song.

Thank you to Jen Barnes for leading our teen class.

Adult Bible Study: Attendance at this class has been sporadic. I will continue to be prepared if people wish to join me!

Tuesday Bible Study 11am at St. John's. Led by Jen Barnes.

Food Pantry Food Drive



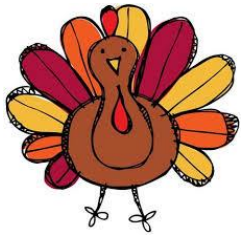
We need your help! The Pantry is low on non- perishable food! We need LOTS of cans of vegetables, sauces, tuna, pasta, peanut butter, jelly, etc.

All help is appreciated as we strive toward filling it to the brim before the holidays!

Over the next few weeks please purchase a few extra cans, etc. as you shop personally and place them in shopping cart near the North Entrance. I will announce when we have filled that cart full!

Lance

Thanksgiving Eve Soup & Sandwich & Worship



November 25th, Soup & Sandwich at 6PM,
with a lay-led Worship service to follow at 7PM.
Please join us in fellowship and thank our Lord for our blessings!

Activities Committee



Kim Baxter

A Wonderful Fall of Fellowship!

The Activities Committee has been enjoying a wonderful fall filled with creativity, fellowship, and fun! We kicked off the season with our card-making activity led by Linda Armstrong. As always, the cards turned out beautifully, and we are so grateful to Linda for sharing her talents with us.

We also enjoyed a family walk along the Auburn Trail in Victor. God blessed us with the most wonderful fall day to enjoy the beautiful autumn colors and time together. Children, adults, and our furry friends all had a great time—and, of course, no fall outing would be complete without cider and donuts! It was a lovely day of fellowship and making memories together!



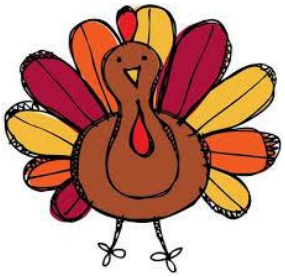




(Scenes from our Auburn Trail family walk)

There's More Fun Ahead!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities:



- **November 3:** Election Day Baked Food Sale
- **November 6:** Euchre Night
- **November 8 & 15:** Scouting for Food
- **November 22:** Thanksgiving Luncheon

Sign-up sheets for the Election Day Baked Food Sale and Thanksgiving Luncheon are available in the Welcome Center. We hope you'll join us and help make these events a success!

Questions or more information? Please reach out to Kim Baxter at kbaxter2@rochester.rr.com or call/text 585-802-1453.

We look forward to sharing more wonderful times together as we celebrate the season and the blessings of our church community!

Long Term Prayer List- Autumn 2026

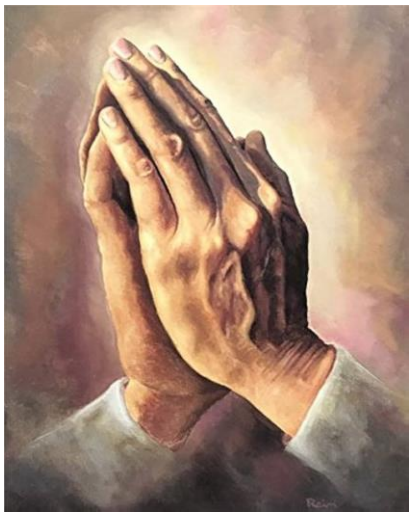


Members of St. John's

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

Family & Friends

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



Military and their Families

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

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

Important Date in the future... December 3rd Day of Giving

On December 3rd, any donation made through Thrivent Choice Dollar website to St Johns, Thrivent will give a portion of $3million dollars in addition to the amount you give. To donate go to https://choice-org-search.apps.thrivent.com/ , Type in **St. Johns** into the search bar.

Free money for the church and preschool!

If you are a Thrivent member you can send your Choice dollars to a number of different organizations including St. Johns Church and St. John's preschool. A change has been made in the availability of the Choice dollars. In the past every quarter more money was added to your account, and you would need to remember to go in and choose your charity of choice. Starting this year, all your Thrivent Choice dollars will be added to your account at the beginning of the year so please log into your account and submit your Choice dollars. If you are not aware on how to it it - please see Jen Barnes and she will guide you through the process.

Are you not a member of Thrivent or don't get choice dollars but would like to? Thrivent now has a new class of membership call ASSOCIATE membership. With the cost of $19.95 you will get $25 in Choice dollars plus the ability to run 1 action team event. For more information check out https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership.

What is an action team? It is up to $250 of seed money to run a service project or to provide for a need in the community. Each active Thrivent member gets 2 a year and associate members get 1 a year. What have we done with Action Teams at St. Johns? Purchased paper products for Lent and Seder, purchased coffee and creamer and sugar for Sunday mornings, Purchased new banners for the church. Helped provide for the Card Ministry, provided reading glasses for a group in Tanzania as well as other things. Do you have ideas how we can use other Action Teams in the church? Please let Jen Barnes know. For more information on Action Teams go to https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams

ADVENT begins on November 29th

At a time when much of the world is frantically gift shopping, putting up Christmas lawn decorations and anticipating the arrival of Santa Claus, Christians around the world are observing the season of Advent. From the Latin word for “coming”, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the coming of Christ both in the past in His incarnation as the baby Jesus, but also in the future with His promised second coming as Christ Triumphant. Furthermore, Advent is a time to focus on His present coming to us in the Word and Sacraments. In the Lutheran church there have been many traditions observed during Advent that help Christians to both prepare for and anticipate His coming at this time. **Martin Luther encouraged families to observe Advent as a time for them to teach their children about the coming of Christ.** *Advent marks the beginning of the church calendar. It traditionally starts on the Sunday closest to St. Andrew’s Day (November 29th)* and continues for four Sundays until Christmas. During this time the liturgical paraments and vestments in many churches will change to violet to recognize Advent as a time of preparation and repentance as well as a symbol of the royalty of the coming King. The color blue can also be used as a symbol of anticipation and hope!



October 2026

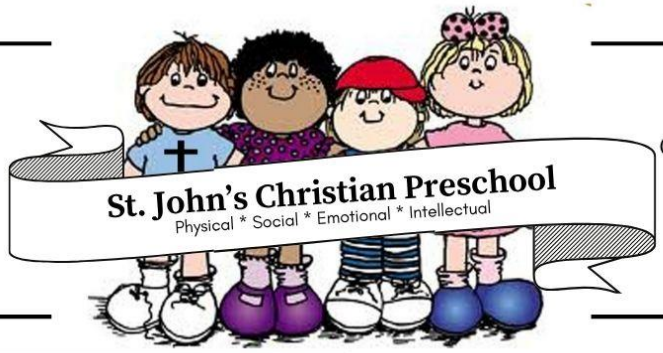
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Sunday September 27th 202 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service **1p** Daniel the movie	28	29 **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	30 WOW! September 30th, 202 **7p** WOW worship	1	2 **7p** Euchre	3
4 Sunday October 4th, 2026 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service **11:30a** Fall walk with Cider	5 **6p** Wolf Den Meeting	6 **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	7 WOW! October 7th, 2026 **6p** Weblos meeting **7p** WOW worship	8	9	10
11 Sunday October 11th/2026 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service **1p** Breanna Eckler BDay Par	12	13 **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	14 WOW! 10/14/2026 **7p** WOW worship	15	16	17
18 Sunday, October 18th. 2026 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service	19 **6p** Wolf Den Meeting	20 **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	21 **6p** Weblos Den meeting **7p** WOW worship	22	23	24
25 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Reformation! **11a** Trunk and Treat	26	27 **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	28 **7p** WOW worship	29	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service	2 **6p** Wolf Den Meeting	3 Election day Cookie sale **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	4 **6p** Weblos meeting **7p** WOW worship	5	6 **7p** Euchre	7
8 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service **11a** Scouting for Food	9	10 **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	11 **12:30p** Ladies Luncheon **7p** WOW worship	12	13	14
15 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service **11a** Scouting for food **11a** Thanksgiving Lunch	16 **6p** Wolf Den Meeting	17 **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	18 **6p** Weblos Den meeting **7p** WOW worship	19	20	21 Card Stamping event
22 **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service **11a** Thanksgiving luncheon	23	24 **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	25 **7p** WOW worship	26	27	28
29 First Sunday in Advent **8:45a** Sunday School **9:45a** Church Service	30	1 **11a** Bible Study **6:30p** Choir Practice	2 **6p** Weblos meeting **7p** WOW worship	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Founded 1968

153 Church Avenue,
Farmington, NY 14425
preschool@pumpkinhook.org
315-986-3045



Director: Cheryl Power

CALL TODAY FOR AVAILABILITY

Tues & Thurs. 3-Year olds

Mon. Wed & Fri Multi-Age

ALPCO RECYCLING

846 Macedon Center Rd
Macedon, NY 14502

Call us today!
315-986-8900

- **Residential**
- **Commercial**
- **Metal Recycling**
- **Junk Removal**

Proud Sponsor of St. John's Bottle & Can Drive

Bring your bottles and cans to Church for recycling or drop them off in the residential circle & tell the attendant they are a donationto St. Johns.



Heberle Chiropractic
Canandaigua | Macedon

www.HeberleChiropractic.com
(585) 261 - 7603

Schedule Today

JC's COINS CURRENCY & COLLECTIBLES

I BUY VINTAGE SCOUT, COIN & CURRENCY COLLECTIONS

John Conover Jr.

JTCONOVERJR@GMAIL.COM

804 - 698 - 0318
Please Text first

Genealogy Research

- Pre-1500 Ancestry Tracing
- Legally Sound Genealogical Research
- Multi-Lingual and International Research

Rick Carr
ylbrick@yahoo.com
(585) 993-4043



Macedon Historical Society
PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF MACEDON, NY

PO Box 303, Macedon, NY 14502
315-538-0051
macedonhistoricalsociety.org

YOUR AD SPACE IS
WAITING FOR YOU HERE!

HOLTZ
FOREST AND SHADE TREE, LLC

(585)281-8535

TREE HEALTH
PRUNING
STUMP GRINDING
REMOVAL

St. John's

Lutheran Church

153 Church Ave. Farmington, NY 14425

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

St. John's Lutheran Church

The Good News Gazette—**Autumn (Oct./Nov.)2026**

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



'Give thanks, with a grateful heart!'