



***ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER***  
***April 2013***

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Regular Worship Services**

**9:30 AM**

**Sunday School (K-Grade 6)**

**9:30 AM**

## *Calendar of Events for April 2013 ~*

Tuesday, April 2	Council Meeting, 8:00 PM
Thursday, April 4	Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM
Sunday, April 7	Worship, 9:30 AM – First Sunday after Easter Sunday School 9:30 AM Coffee Hour to celebrate Bob Kaempf's 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Tuesday, April 9	Worship & Music Meeting, 7:30 PM
Thursday, April 11	Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM
Friday, April 12	Supermarket Bingo fundraiser for Barbara Semmig Memorial Scholarship Fund sponsored by the Youth Group, 7:30 PM
Sunday, April 14	Worship, 9:30 AM –Second Sunday after Easter Sunday School 9:30 AM
Tuesday, April 16	W.E.L.C.A. Meeting, 7:30 PM
Thursday, April 18	Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM
Sunday, April 21	Worship, 9:30 AM - Third Sunday after Easter Sunday School 9:30 AM
Tuesday, April 23	Evangelism/Social Meeting, 7:30 PM
Thursday, April 25	Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM
Sunday, April 28	Worship, 9:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM

### **Looking ahead to MAY....**

Sunday, May 19	Pentecost
Sunday, May 26	Holy Trinity Sunday Sunday School – Pretzel Making Day!

# ***A Message from Pastor Jeff Laustsen ~***

**April 2013**

*"We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person – questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world."* – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

When I first began exploring the internet (which was much later than many of my friends and colleagues), I noticed that many websites had a feature known as "FAQ." At first, I wasn't sure what this was about, and for a while I thought that it was a misspelling of "facts." I soon learned that FAQ stands for "frequently asked questions," and was a good way to get some basic information on the person or organization whose website I was visiting. I often find myself clicking on the FAQ icon when I first visit a website before I take the time to further explore additional features that its hosts have posted.

Even though I don't have my own personal webpage, I have collected my share of "FAQs" over the years. As a Lutheran pastor, I'm frequently asked questions about the Lutheran Church, our basic beliefs, and how we are similar and different from other Christian churches. After years of informally answering these frequently asked questions, I'm putting together a series of classes entitled **Lutheran FAQ** that I will be offering this month. Among the frequently asked questions that I will be discussing are the following:

- **Who was Martin Luther?**
- **What was the significance of the Reformation?**
- **What is distinctive about the Lutheran Church?**
- **What do Lutherans believe?**
- **What does it mean to be a Lutheran?**
- **What is the history and mission of the Lutheran Church?**
- **How do I become a member of a Lutheran congregation?**

These – and probably other – Lutheran FAQs will be discussed in two class sessions that will each be offered twice:

**Session One: Tuesday, April 16, 7:30 p.m. & Saturday, April 20, 10:00 a.m.**

**Session Two: Tuesday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. & Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m.**

The classes will meet at **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 240 Lincoln Avenue in Rockville Centre** and are open to all members of St. John's as well as persons interested in uniting with the congregation. We welcome you to join us, bring your own FAQs, and learn with us the basics of our Lutheran faith and what it means for us to live and serve together as Lutheran Christians.

For further information on these classes, please contact me at (516)766-2815 or at [laustsen@optonline.net](mailto:laustsen@optonline.net).

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

# Youth Group News

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

## Upcoming Youth Group meetings:

Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM

## Supermarket Bingo:

Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm



All are welcome to join us for a fun evening of great prizes and raffle prizes! \$5 per person includes 1 Bingo sheet (2 cards per sheet) and refreshments. All money will go to the Barbara Semmig Scholarship Foundation.

## Memorial Garden Clean Up:

Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, following our Youth Group meeting, weather permitting.



## Thank You

We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with Supermarket Bingo, whether it was donating food items, joining us for the evening to play Bingo, helping with refreshments, setting up tables & chairs, buying raffles, helping call Bingo numbers or anything at all to help with the success of the evening. We especially would like to thank **Cora Sarver** for her generous donation, **Debby Lindman, Kristen DeStefano, Pauline Feltkamp, Charlene Comastri** and **Susan Tannenbaum** for donating prize baskets, and **Alice Gianakos** for helping us assemble the prize baskets.

Lori Fernez & Janet Powell



*Congratulations to*

***Emilia Berkowitz and Dylan Hovell***

*on receiving their First Communion at St. John's on*

*March 17<sup>th</sup>.*

## *Bible Reflections Introduction*



For Youth Sunday this year, we decided to do something different that has never been done before. Instead of preaching the sermon or acting out today's gospel lesson, each member of the Youth Group and Young Adult Group were asked to choose a Bible passage that has special meaning to them and reflect on why it stands out to them. *Why is that verse meaningful? How do you interpret it? How can you relate this to something personal in your life or what does it say about your relationship with God?* These were just some of the questions that were asked, and being given only a short paragraph to express their thoughts, we present to you Bible Reflections from St. John's Youth.

*Alexander Oleschuk, 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

*1 Corinthians Chapter 13: verses 4 -13 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."*

*I picked this passage because to me it means if you love someone, you show all of the qualities that it lists towards the people you love and within yourself.*

*My grandmother has been in the hospital for the past month. My mom goes every day after work to see her and multiple times on the weekend. Even though my mom is tired and would like to stay home, the love she has for her mother (my grandmother) keeps her going, and gives her the strength to continue. My grandmother is having a hard time and through it all we all have the patience, hope and trust that she will be better.*

### Katie Lenz, 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Luke Chapter 6: verse 31 “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”**

This Bible verse, “Do to others as you would have them do to you,” has multiple meanings. To me, it means you should treat others as you want to be treated. Don't go around being mean to people and expect kindness back. God created everyone equal for a reason, to avoid people believing that they are better than one another.

### Erin Milano, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

**Matthew Chapter 5: verse 38: “You have heard that it was said ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.’”**

If someone is hurt either physically or emotionally, most people want revenge. But revenge just leads to more pain and suffering. So if someone strikes you on the right cheek, you must turn the other as well. By not contributing to the hurting with revenge, the other person will hopefully realize what they are doing is wrong.

### Jesse Pace, 9<sup>th</sup> grade

**Luke Chapter 6: verse 31 “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”**

This bible verse has special meaning to me because many people in our world today do not treat people the way they want to be treated. To me, this verse means that you should always treat others the way that you want to be treated. We should learn to be generous, kind, and forgiving after reading this because we want people to be kind, generous, and forgiving to us. This line says that God is always watching us and wants us to be kind because it would make everyone's lives better. In school and lots of other places, we learn to treat others the way you want to be treated, so I have heard this many times. I can apply this to myself and my life by always being kind, generous and forgiving to all of the people around me.

## Kyle O'Connor, 10<sup>th</sup> grade

***Philippians Chapter 4: Verse 13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."***

*This means that if you believe in God you can do anything. For example, if I am having trouble in a subject at school, I can just pray to God for help because he is always with me.*

## Jason Pace, 10<sup>th</sup> grade

***Philippians Chapter 4: verse 13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."***

*This verse has special meaning to me because when I play sports I use Christ to help me do better. This verse means that with the help of God you can do anything you put your mind to. When we are in a state of sadness and frustration, we pray to God for help and strength. It means that my relationship with God is great and I make him part of my everyday life. I can remember when my grandparents were sick - we prayed to God to give us strength to get through it. This is a very important bible verse in my life and probably all of yours, too.*

## Ryan Milano, 11<sup>th</sup> grade

***1 John chapter 3: verses 16-18 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words of tongue but with actions and truth."***

*This bible passage means that Jesus gave everything he had for us and we should do the same by giving some of what we have to those in need. This reminds me of all the Youth Group activities we participate in, such as food donations and the Giving Tree. These activities donate to the less fortunate and spread God's love to them.*

### Nils DeStefano, 12<sup>th</sup> grade

***John chapter 3: verse 16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”***

*I believe that this verse carries a lot of meaning. For someone to give up their one and only son is not something easy and it was for the greater good of all individuals. It shows that faith is strong and when followed can lead to a more bountiful outcome and future.*

### Matt Fernez, 12th grade

***Psalms 118: verse 24: “This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”***

*This is special to me in many ways. To me, the day He has given us that we should be happy is Sunday. This is the day we worship and remember everything in our life that is important to us.*

### Christopher Powell, college freshman

***Psalm 23:4: “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”***

*I like this quote because it gives a sense of the power that God has given us. It encourages us to overcome our fears through faith, and helps us remember that God is always with us. He will not forsake us, even in our darkest hour, and will help us through any trials we may be going through.*

### David Powell, college sophomore

***Matthew chapter 5: verse 8: “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”***

*I feel like this passage is saying that if you believe in God, he will always be there for you. Everyone should read this verse so that they too can understand that God is in their everyday life. If you can live your life with this verse in mind, you will have a great relationship with God.*

# THANK YOU...♥♥♥♥

## **TINS OF COOKIES (and brownies) FOR SEAFARERS**

The “Tins of Cookies” program that brings happiness to seafarers who come to our ports was again a success. We filled the 48 tins, sent to us by Seafarers International House, with homemade goodness! Each one will bring happiness to the individual(s) who receives them and will let him know that they are appreciated. Thank you to those who participated once again. May God bless you. Evangelism committee. In a thank you letter from Pastor Marsh Drege, Director of the Seafarers & International House he states:

*“We are indeed grateful for your consistent and faithful commitment to Seafarers & International House through your ongoing gifts of cookies, Christmas at Sea Satchels, and the prayers that go along with them. We know you pray for the safety and well being of the seafarers and I can assure you they sense those prayers when we share with them the home-baked goodies that you provide.”*  
*Peace, Pastor Marsh Luther Drege*

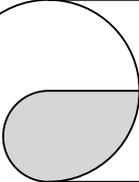
We received a letter from Lutheran Social Services thanking St. John’s for donating a total of 1,933 pounds of food and the Fall School Supply Drive for the 2012 year.

The Worship committee would like to thank all those who participated in St. John’s Holy Week Services.

Thank you to those who read “The Passion” and those who read the Lessons. Thank you to those who set up the altar and who served during the services. Thank you to the Choir whose voices added THE WORD in music to our worship.

We cannot thank Pastors Terri and Mike Church enough for all they did for us during Holy Week. They not only led and preached, but also were very instrumental in preparing the service and the bulletins for each service.

May God Bless all of these people who served and all the people of ST. John’s as we continue to worship our Risen Lord during this Easter Season

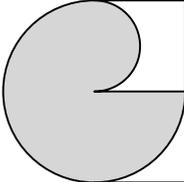


*The Following is from a letter received from Pastor Paul Egensteiner,  
Director of Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Ministries*

Blessings to you and the members of St. John's in this new year. I was once again delighted to receive the generous gift of support from the congregation for the work of Pinecrest. All of us have been affected by the harder economic times. At our November board meeting we made the difficult decision to raise fees. At the same time, we resolved that, regarding anyone who wanted to come to Pinecrest, we would do our best to find a way to make that possible. Since we dedicate the proceeds from your Harvest Fair for scholarships, you will help us fulfill this promise. Please share this news with the members of St. John's so they know what a positive impact their generosity has!

I am also pleased to share with you that Pinecrest continues to change and grow under the leadership of the young people who guide the ministry. Last camp session we welcomed our new Assistant Director, Pastor Danielle Miller of Oceanside Lutheran Church. She is the first woman to serve in this position since Pinecrest began over 85 years ago. And our numbers continue to grow! Last year we had over 150 campers deepen their relationship with Jesus during this week of intense blessing. And we are finding opportunities for fellowship and spiritual and communal growth outside the week in August.

St. John's is part of this - a consistent support - and I thank God for all of you. You are certainly in my prayers for your ministry,



Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Paul Egensteiner



*Altar Flowers*

**THE EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS  
HAVE BEEN DONATED BY**

Kim Carlstrom

In Memory of Brian Ciampi

Kim, Kristina & Stephanie Carlstrom

In Memory of Ruth Wakuluk, beloved  
mother and grandmother & Christina  
Wakuluk, beloved sister

Charlene Comastri

In Memory of Loved Ones

The Church Family

In Memory of Ray Luper

Majorie Gorr

In Memory of Charles & Beatrice Gorr

Majorie Gorr

In Memory of Frank Feltkamp

The Masciello/Closson Families

In Memory of Loved Ones

Anthony & Judy Posimato

In Memory of Doris & John Kortlang  
Katie & Tony Posimato, Amy Kortlang and  
Shelli Kortlang

The Richetti Family

In Memory of Loved Ones

Gerda Weber

In Memory of Robert Weber

††††

Kim Carlstrom

In Honor of Emilia Berkowitz and Dylan  
Hovell's First Communion

The Church Family

In Honor of Myrl Luper and  
Karin & Gareth Church

Paul & Christel Hild

In Honor of the birth of their great-  
grandchild Elliot John Hild

Anthony & Judy Posimato

In Honor of Anthony & Karen Posimato

Gerda Weber

In Honor of her children & grandchildren

**DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO  
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN LOVING MEMORY**

**In Memory of Doris Kortlang**

Howard & Linda Cottrell  
Pauline Feltkamp  
Tracy L. Rosa

Dorothy Criscuolo  
Joan Pirrone  
Cora Sarver



**Memory of Regina Davison and Helen Davison**  
Bill Davison

**In Memory of Frank Feltkamp**

George & Christine Anderson  
Janet Arena  
John & Judith Bartholomew  
KH & HJ Becker  
Bill & Annette Benson  
Bruce & Joanne Bergbom  
Ed & Trudy Blohm  
Susan C. Blohm  
John & Kelly Borreggine  
Rochelle Bove  
Richard Bulloss  
Carol Clemente  
Charlene Comastri  
Dorothy Criscuolo  
Arthur & Daisy Czarnomski  
Douglas & Diane Dake  
Bill Davison  
Dennis & Lori Fernez'  
Peter & Kathleen Festa  
Joan Fisk  
Howard Frauenberger  
Claire Gerhurdstein  
John & Rosetta Giannotti  
Margaret Gonzalez  
Marjorie A. Gorr  
Barbara E. Green  
Josephine Harper  
William & Helen Hart

JA Hickey  
Paul & Christel Hild  
Jeffrey & Carrie Hoerster  
Linda Holt  
Carlton & Helen Honebein  
Barbara R. Huggard  
Joan Karp  
Robert & Allison Koehler  
Ladies of WELCA  
Ruth Larson & Family  
Adele Laerz  
Theodore & Janet Lovallo  
Lynbrook Mom & Dad's Club  
The Masciello Family  
James & Sheila McKenna  
Ed & Arlene Moglia  
Nat & Harriet Moser  
Nan Moser  
Dan & Ann Marie Murphy  
Edward & Carol Murphy  
Nassau-Suffolk PDCA Chp.  
Warren & Heather Norman  
John Normandin  
Pastor Annemarie R. Noto  
Sean & Amy O'Connor  
Dave & Judy Opatow  
The Pace Family  
Anthony & Joan Pirrone

Keith & Ann Marie Reardon  
The Reckhart Family  
Lillian Remensnyder  
Vito & Dorothy Richetti  
Lawrence Rienecker  
Karl & Wendy Roman  
Don Roth  
Bruce Robertson  
Kay Rountry  
William & Mary Ellen Sage  
Don & Cora Sarver  
John & Virginia Shea  
Christopher & Blanche Shelton  
Robert & Mary Ellen Sobel  
Andrea Sommella  
Henry & Janet Speicher  
Nancy P. Stalb  
Ernest & Erika Steubesand  
Karl & Kelly Steubesand  
Diane A. Stuhrcke  
Janet Sutherland and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Taylor & Family  
Dr. James J. Tolle  
Gerda Weber  
Grace West  
Stanley & Ruth Williamson

Despite the fact that OLD MAN WINTER has apparently overstayed his welcome, Spring will be here in full swing very soon! So with that in mind please join the

## **ST. JOHN'S LAWN RANGERS**



**Many Hands Make Light Work,**



**SO...The MOW the Merrier...**

**Please give us a few minutes a few weeks this year to help the lawn look its best!**

1. It's just the front lawn of the parsonage and in front of the church that needs mowing, not the triangle. It takes 10 minutes tops.
2. Mow Friday or Saturday, whichever works best for you.
3. The mower and gas are in the parsonage garage, so no need to bring anything. Please ask me or one of the other veterans where to find the garage key.
4. Clippings go in the black garbage bags for pick up.
5. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board, and provide a phone number and email address. I will send everyone a copy of the completed schedule in case something comes up and you need to switch weeks.

Thanks for doing your part!

Dan Lenz

(Home: 596-4168; Cell: (646) 417-0259) [DanLenzWork@gmail.com](mailto:DanLenzWork@gmail.com)

**Southwest Nassau Lutheran Churches**  
**SPRING CONFERENCE**  
**APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>**

5 PM Vesper Service  
 Followed by a Pot-Luck Dinner

Join with leaders from churches across your conference  
 in Fellowship & Conversation

Network, share ideas, and discover what practices and programs your  
 counterparts have found successful!

Everyone is welcome to join us for this Fun, Tasty and Informative  
 evening!  
 Bring a dish to share!

Hosted by  
 Oceanside Lutheran Church  
 62 Davison Avenue  
 Oceanside, NY



**SERVER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2013**

DATE	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
<b>4/07</b>	9:30 AM	Erin Milano	9:30 AM	Bill Lindman	9:30 AM	Arlene Moglia
<b>Crucifer</b>		Erin Milano				
<b>4/14</b>	9:30 AM	Erin Milano	9:30 AM	Janet Pescatore	9:30 AM	Janet Pescatore
	Crucifer	Erin Milano				
<b>4/21</b>	9:30 AM	Jason Pace	9:30 AM	Kim Barbaro	9:30 AM	Karen Feltkamp
	Crucifer	Jason Pace				
<b>4/28</b>	9:30 AM	Kyle O'Connor	9:30 AM	Kim Carlstrom	9:30 AM	Bill Benson
	Crucifer	Kyle O'Connor				