What Are You Passing Down?

Last week we came back from a brief vacation in Mexico. I had written a sermon in Mexico for Sunday because we were getting back at midnight the day before. While I woke up early and eager to see if anything had changed at the church during my absence, I was still fatigued from the long flight, lack of sleep, and high energy activities. So, when coffee hour finally ended, I breathed a sigh of relief. I could grab a nap before I had to go to an interfaith service at Westchester Jewish Center for victims of violence and extremism, where I was scheduled to participate and pray. I didn’t want to go because I was tired, but hoped that a nap would fix that.

Upon arriving home, I realized that the printer didn’t work. Neither did the one at the church. I really needed to print the prayer for the interfaith service I had written on my computer, however. Kathy ended up printing it at her school, just in time to hand to me as I left for the synagogue - without my nap. I was feeling sorry for myself as I grumbled about whatever possessed me to do this on a Sunday afternoon.

At any rate, I arrived at the synagogue, greeted by many happy faces, and was beginning to be pulled out of my self-imposed misery. To my surprise, it turned out to be a very interesting and rewarding experience. In fact, almost every speaker was pertinent, relevant, and interesting. Despite myself, I was undergoing a radical awakening to the importance of being there and hearing what was being expressed.

In addition to that, the music was good and some of the rituals were very informative. The one that got to me was when an old Torah, smuggled out of Poland during World War II, was removed from the ark that housed it. A ritual began of handing the Torah from one worship leader/representative to another. We were told that this was the first time anyone who wasn’t Jewish had handled this Torah. That alone heightened the experience for me. More than that, I was struck by the words of explanation for the reason the Torah was being passed from person to person.

It was said that it is the vocation of every person to pass down what is important to the next generation. It suddenly occurred to me, what would happen if we didn’t pass down to our children and our children’s children what is important to us and what our values are?

All of a sudden, I was brought back to what good parenting means. Of course, it’s easy to pass a Torah or a Bible from one person to another, but one’s beliefs and faith is not a commodity that you can purchase, create, or grasp like an object. Then I thought to myself, what is being passed through you to others, especially your children, if not your friends and the people you serve?
I hope my children are well aware of what I believe, what I stand for, and what is important to me. It seems like a no-brainer, but sometimes I wonder as I watch parents drop their kids off at church and drive away, or as I see how little faith, religion, worship, prayer, and spirituality mean to them.

What is being passed through them, or for that matter, through you? Is it foul language that I hear coming out of the mouths of many kids, as young as elementary school? Is it cynicism, where our children seem unable to express hopeful and idealistic beliefs? Instead, they become part of a culture of unbelief, apathy, and blaming. Perhaps we don’t realize how much we are being watched by our children. Without knowing it, they are observing us down to every detail. Sometimes some of the negative things get through to them more than the positive values we want to radiate.

To me, life is to be lived passionately, where convictions matter, where friendship is important, where expressing your love and concern is felt, and where your faith is shared with others.

MEH

Keep in Your Prayers

Margit Bier, Marge Campabadal, William & Olivia Solano (Myra Hahn’s parents), Peggy Jacobson, Nate Lipsen, Sandy Herrmann, Gisela Haugenes, Cherine Bellamy, Peter Gisondi, Guy Protano, Dorothy Keith, Leslie Jachner, Bert Knitter, Ava Pagnotte, Patty Gabriel, James Nyaga Mbuthia, Mary Jachner, Ellen Brown, Carolynn Dilworth.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOSPITALIZATIONS
Ellen Brown is at Calvary in the Bronx.

BAPTISM
Liam Joseph Powell, February 7

WEDDINGS
Anthony Mercado & Raquel Castro, February 27

UPCOMING WEDDINGS
Andrew North & Narineh Hacopians, April 23
Tara Maini & Thomas Barzelatto, May 21

SYMPATHY
Our deepest sympathy to Thomas Maloney and Lori Uhle over the death of Tommy’s mother.
Our deepest sympathy to the Talgo family over the death of Eugene Talgo.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Two Wednesdays, March 9 & March 23

If you are interested in knowing more about St. John's and its ministry, you may want to attend this class.

We do lots of things here at St. John's which allows people to serve in so many wonderful capacities: being part of our ministry is a great experience that will not only enrich you but help you make a difference in our community.

Please RSVP Pastor Henk at 914.698.4348 or email marvhenk1996@gmail.com.

WE NEED YOUR UNWANTED “STUFF” for our St. John’s Tag Sale

This year our tag sale will again be in May. Remember us when you start spring cleaning your attic or basement!

MIDNIGHT RUN

March 11

We will again be hosting the Midnight Run and we will need everyone’s help!

We need lots of cleaned and washed clothing - mostly men’s, but also women’s, no children’s - such as shirts, pants, T-shirts, coats, jackets, etc. If you have clothes suitable to be given away, please bring them in plastic bags.

We also need:

• Men’s underwear
• Men’s socks
• People and vehicles for the Run
• Personal care items such as small bars of soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, razors, etc.
• Boxes for storing sorted clothing
• Large pot of hearty soup or chili
• Volunteers to sort clothing and pack all items
• Lunches:
  • Boxed drink (no glass or bagged drinks)
  • Sandwich – soft whole wheat bread preferred – options: 1. turkey only, 2. cheese only, 3. hearty peanut butter+jelly, 4. meatloaf - especially popular, 5. vegetarian such as hummus, veggies and mozzarella, etc.
  • Do not include ham (religious/sodium). Do not use mayo or mustard. Try to use low sodium ingredients (many homeless suffer from high blood pressure, so low-sodium foods are appreciated.)
  • Hard-boiled eggs (leave in shell)
  • Soft fruit - bananas, pears, orange, raisins, grapes, canned fruit w/spoon
  • Dessert individually wrapped: two big cookies, granola or candy bars, brownies, etc.
  • Snacks - pretzels, chips, etc –or instead of a salty snack include a second hard-boiled egg. These are easy to carry in a pocket or napkin.

Please contact Marc Schlueter at orthodontics@optonline.net and let him know how you can help.

One person’s garbage is another’s treasure!

Adult Forum  Sundays at 9.15 am

Join us as we are beginning to read “In the Beginning” by Karen Armstrong, a new interpretation of Genesis. In this fascinating book by the author of A History of God and Jerusalem, one of the best-known and least-understood books of the Bible is clarified for modern readers. Armstrong shows readers how the ancient tales of the Creation, the Fall, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, and Joseph illuminate our most profound and impenetrable problems.

MARCH 2016

St. John’s Lutheran Church, Fenimore Road at Cortlandt Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543
**Time to Order Easter Flowers**  *Easter is March 27!*

Easter morning is filled with hope and joy. Part of that hope and joy is expressed when we adorn the sanctuary with flowers showing our great hope in the resurrection of our Lord. You are invited to participate in this day by contributing to the Easter Flower Memorial Fund.

I/we, ____________________________, would like to contribute the following flowers:

Azaleas ($20) ____ Tulips ($20) ____ Lilies ($20) ____ Hydrangeas ($20) ____ *(Please indicate the number of plants)*

( ) In memory of ( ) In honor of ( ) In celebration of ____________________________________

( ) For all God’s blessings ( ) To the glory of God  *Total amount: $ ______ Check ( ) Cash ( )*  

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**ACT NOW!**

Thrivent Financial members have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2015 Choice Dollars or they will expire. By directing your Choice Dollars to St. John’s, you can help support our ministry here at St. John’s. **Based on our members’ recommendations, St. John’s received $1,070 in 2015.**

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**St. John's in the Press**

Our votive ship has made it into the pages of The Lutheran Magazine! An article appeared in its December 2015 issue. Here is the link:

[http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12891](http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12891)

(or Google: St. John’s Mamaroneck votive ship).

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**Food Pantry Request**

The Larchmont/Mamaroneck Food Pantry thanks the congregation of St. John’s for our great support and continued donations. At this time, they need specifically the following items:

- Cereal
- Dry milk/Parmalat milk
- Dry or canned beans

If you could bring in these items, it would be very helpful. If you prefer, you may continue to bring in other items, too - **anything at all is greatly appreciated.** Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity!
ASH WEDNESDAY / SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER

If you have ever watched Seinfeld, you will remember the *soup nazi* - “NO SOUP FOR YOU”. That was not the case this past Ash Wednesday as gourmet soup makers came through with a wonderful variety of delicious soups. It was a taster’s delight, and each soup was more than worthy to be an admirable challenge to the likes of Martha Stewart, Jacques Pépin, Bobby Flay, Emeril Lagasse, Eric Ripart, Daniel Boulud, etc. There was bean and bacon; potato leek; butternut squash; split pea; corn and sausage chowder; white bean, kale and kielbasa in homemade chicken broth; and curry and rice; and a chili.

We need to thank the soup makers: Kate and Tina Franceschini, Karen Guinee, Bill Podszus, Suomi Sakai, Peter Plaue, Heike Rauls, Karen Haghenbeck, Stacy Gallagher, Pastor Henk, and Sarah Coble.

We also thank those who brought salads, bread, soda and wine: Dorothea Ferri, Rebecca Gómez, Judy Musumeci, Linda Tucci, Karen Clark, Jeff Schiro, and Lori Uhle.

And thank you to everyone who helped to set up -- specifically to the Guinee family, Johanna Perry, and Mateo and Ruben Gómez. And thank you to everyone who helped speed up the clean up so we could get to church on time.

The Soup and Salad Supper was well-attended, as was the second service at 7.30 pm following the supper. We appreciated the confirmation class reading the prayers during worship. A big thank you has to go to our readers, Ingrid Tavarez, Lynn Hillman, Karen Haghenbeck, and Carla Hofland.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hi everyone!

In celebration of the love we feel for each other the children sang *His Banner Over Me Is love* on Valentines Day. Due to the winter break most schools had that week, we were small in numbers but they still sounded wonderful; thanks again to Becky and Matthew for leading our Sunday School Jr. Choir.

Upcoming Events:

In preparation for their First Holy Communion, classes will soon begin for our 4th grade young children. They will learn, under the leadership of Pastor Henk, what it means to come to the Lord's Table.

On March 25th we will have our Good Friday children’s program at the Church from 9:30am until 12 noon. All children through the 4th grade are invited to attend and together we will have some fun along with instruction on what the gift of Easter means to us.

On Easter Sunday, March 27th, the children, through the 4th grade, are invited to an Easter Egg Hunt which will be held in between our two Easter morning services on the lawn.

On April 3rd the children will once again sing during the 10:30am service. Parents, please mark your calendars.

Dorothea and Kate
Co-Chairs for Christian Education

Molly Guinee 3/15/02
STEWARDSHIP

DO SOMETHING NOW
If not you, who?
If not here, where?
If not now, when?
- Theodore Roosevelt

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPECIAL GIFTS IN JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Building Fund/Renovation
Véronique & Serge Banzet
Lynn & John Hillman
Sandy & Jim Kilts
Kim & Jeff Schiro
Fred Herlitz
Karen Clark
Sue & Steve Michaelson
Lisa & Austin Kehrle
Suomi Sakai & John Quinley
Sandy & Jim Kilts

Memorial Fund
Norman Block in memory of Anna Block

Lutheran Services in America
Lynn & John Hillman
Dorothea Ferri
Suomi Sakai & John Quinley
Corky & Frank McCullough
Karen Clark
Barbara & Peter Roggemann
Detlef Joerss
Jeanhee Chung & Niels Ringstad
Lisa & Austin Kehrle
Manuela Petzold
Kathy & Pastor Henk
Trudi Bunke

Pastor’s Discretionary Fund
Sandy & Jim Kilts
Maggie O’Connor

FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL

St. John’s Monthly Financial Update
At the Annual Meeting, your Church Council made a pledge to the congregation to provide regular financial updates throughout the year. Going forward, you will receive a monthly update on current receipts and expenses and a more detailed report on a quarterly basis.

In the month of January 2016, the numbers ran as follows:

- Receipts for operating budget: $20,152
- Operating disbursements: $22,882
- January Surplus/(Deficit): ($2,730)

As you can see, we were running a deficit in January. What is further alarming is that we are really almost $5,000 behind what was given in January 2015 - especially given the fact that January 2016 had five Sundays, not four as in 2015. The reason we “only” show a deficit of $2,730 is that we received a refund of $2,000 from the state insurance fund.

Please help us to break even or - better - build a surplus in the remainder of the first quarter of 2016. Thank you for your support!
Annual meetings are a time to look in two directions: forwards and backwards. As we look back, we gaze upon our marvelous new addition to our Education Wing, we see a new music director, and we see classic model ship hanging from our ceiling. Many would call that, in hockey, a “hat trick”. Any one of these would be a shining star in any annual church report. To have three is a real blessing.

Looking back is good in a sense - you can give thanks and realize how far you have traveled and what you have done. Looking forward is another matter. You are looking for something that hasn’t happened yet, and you are always hoping for a year that will be (even) better than the last. The future will bring, we hope, more opportunities to challenge ourselves in ministry:

1. We need to be more aggressive in our stewardship. We want to bridge the deficit and create a climate in which we will give more and do more.

2. With our newly renovated and enlarged building we are looking to enlarge our ministry as well. It is hard to do programming when your building is under construction. Because of that we were hampered in our ability to do new things as well as our normal program. Now we have time to regroup and build an even stronger ministry. 2016 will be an important step in that direction as we seek to grow as a church and be more effective in our ministry, both to our members and to the community. The future looks bright, but only we together can make it all happen.

Part of the meeting was given over to Frank McCullough as co-chair of the Renovation Committee. He gave the audience an update on the progress being made, both in the building itself as well as the fundraising needed to make it a reality. We are grateful for him and his committee that has brought us to the finish line. We are also grateful to everyone who believed in the project and who stepped up to help fund it.

Also during the meeting, the 2016 Church Council members were confirmed or newly elected. We welcome our new & re-elected members and thank them for their willingness to serve

**Manuela Petzold** was re-elected as treasurer for another 3-year term. The three new members are: **Kate Tobiasen**, **Karen Guinee**, and **Marc Schluter**.

**Kate** is a graduate of Concordia College in Bronxville. She is married, with two children, Lucas and Faith, and works for NBTY, a vitamin supplement and wellness company where she is responsible for customer care and operations. Kate has been a member of St. John’s for four years and teaches Sunday School. She will be our Christian Education chairperson.

**Karen** is married, with one daughter, Molly, and works at a middle school. She is a long-time member of St. John’s and teaches Sunday School. Karen will be taking over as Youth chairperson.

**Marc** comes to us from Hamburg, Germany. He holds advanced degrees in dentistry and orthodontics and has two offices in Westchester, Armonk and Rye Brook. He is married, with three children: Anton, Amelie, and Lulu. He enjoy collecting graphic novels and statues. Marc will serve as our Social Ministry chairperson.

**Manuela** also hails from Germany and works for a public accounting firm. She also sings in our choir and is the member of a chamber choir in Manhattan (*look at People Parade in this issue!*). Manuela enjoys traveling and has recently traveled around the United States for six months. This is Manuela’s second three-year term, and we thank her for her willingness to continue to serve St. John’s in this important position.

A big thank you must go to our departing Council members: **Dorothea Ferri**, who ran the Sunday School for the last six years, introducing many new ideas. Luckily for us, she will continue to be involved; **Rebecca Gómez**, who was the chair of the Youth Group and helped make it possible for them to visit Detroit where the All-Lutheran Youth Gathering took place; **Lori Uhle**, our Social Ministry chair for the last six years, who worked hard to help us reach out to the community, from the Midnight Run to the Giving Tree at Christmas, to Malaria nets and blood drives and many more activities. We thank them for their commitment, time, many contributions, and love of St. John’s.
Can you stay under water for 24 hours? We are not talking about Jacques Cousteau, we are talking about the Michaelsons who, on a recent vacation to the little-known island of Bonaire, were scuba diving. Steve recorded 29 dives, nearly the same as Sue and his children, which calculates to roughly 24 hours under water. Does your skin shrivel, and can you become water-logged? None of this affects Steve, who reported his first sighting of an octopus among the reefs below. We are happy to hear the whole family had a great time together, and remember, “The family that dives together stays together.”

Looking for high culture? Detlef Joerss recommends the Met’s production of “Il Trovatore”, a wonderful Verdi opera set in Spain torn about by civil war. One aria after another is belted out and it just gets better and better. Soprano Angela Meade was very impressive as Leonora. Detlef gives it two thumbs up!... Our treasurer, Manuela Petzold, is a treasured member of our choir. She loves to sing so much that she does double duty in a city choir, Florilegium Chamber Choir, with whom she will be performing on Sunday, March 6 at 4 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan. The concert is called Across the Pond - Music of the British Isles, with music from Edward Elgar, Benjamin Britten and other British composers. Go to florilegiumchamberchoir.org for more information or ask Manuela... ➤ Pastor Henk and the whole church were blown over when Cherine Bellamy made a surprise appearance on a recent Sunday. Cherine is a prime example of a wonderful heroine to all of us. Having gone through so much (hell and back again), she maintains a great attitude and poise. She lifts the spirits of everyone who visits her or speaks to her. If you need to be cheered up, talk to Cherine. To bring everyone up to date, Cherine is still waiting for a lung transplant and has made herself healthy enough to make it happen. There was at time when she could not take three steps. Now she is able to walk quiet a distance, with the help of oxygen. What a gift she has been to our congregation and its pastor... ➤ While the cat’s away, the mice will play - this does not quite ring true because that cats were away, and the mice took care of the church. Yes, Christiane was away with her family in Florida visiting a patron saint of St. John’s, Pat Ouwerkerk and husband Jon as well as Universal Studios and Cocoa Beach, and Pastor was away with Kathy in Mexico during the recent winter break.

Speaking of the Zulligs, Walter attended a 90th anniversary worship service at St. John’s in Hollywood, FL. Sending us the bulletin, he notes three things: someone took the liberty to change Luther’s lyrics of “A Mighty Fortress”, there is no snow in Florida, and the trains are running well... ➤ Tonya Bocek is really excited because son Anthony was married to his fiancée Raquel Castro on February 27... ➤ We were surprised to see Jim Wills at church on a recent
People Parade... Parade... People Parade... People Parade... People Parade...

Sunday in January sitting in the pews at church at the 10.30 am service. Jim spends most of his time now in Oshkosh, WI, taking care of his aging parents - quite a challenge, but Jim is a great son, and for that matter, a great person... ➤ Robin and Robert Thaule could not be happier grandparents, as we witnessed at the baptism of daughter Kristen’s son Liam Joseph... ➤ Robert was also seen at the Ash Wednesday service with Liz LiVecchi...

How many people have been to the post office facility in White Plains? We bet not too many, but Mady Tappert know it very well, having gone there many times to drop off our monthly newsletter at bulk mail after folding and sorting it. Thank you, Mady!... ➤ Bobby Tipping is another great asset to our church. Even though you may never have met him (unless you were hanging out in the church parking lot when it was snowing), you know his work. We are grateful that he continues to plow our parking lot faithfully. Thank you, Bobby!... ➤ Lent has been marked in a special way this year by the new banners that have been made by our own artist in residence, Sarah Coble. They are all modeled after Henri Matisse, and each week we add one telling us what week of Lent we are in. We are so fortunate to have such a talented and creative member in our church - thank you, Sarah!...

When Your Daughter Gets Married

This year has already been an interesting one for the Henk family. Our daughter Erin was married in Quinçay, France, a little town in the Loire valley, and our other daughter Allison is engaged to be married in October.

The January date of Erin’s wedding to Emmanuel Drouard, a wonderful young man, was somewhat of a happy surprise to both Kathy and myself, but we both made it to the little town in France in time. I flew from Athens, Kathy from New York, and we met in Paris. Last minute plans and details were being worked out even upon our arrival - but who can get overwhelmed in Paris? It is a great city to be in at any time - and we quickly took advantage of the cafes and bistros, and spending time with our daughter and Emmanuel.

Taking a high-speed train south in the Loire valley and arriving in a small city called Poitiers, we were greeted by Emmanuel’s parents, who couldn’t be lovelier people, his three brothers and their wives (none of them French!) and eight grandchildren.

In France you have to get married at city hall, and the mayor of the little town of Quinçay was there, smiling and friendly. We were the only ones who could not speak French, and Emmanuel’s parents were the only ones who could not speak English. However, there were many translators who were more than willing to explain what was happening.

When you have children, you never know where the road of life will take you. Sometimes they are places, where you have to bail them out of trouble; other times, there are places where they cry on your shoulder or come to you for help. Children have a way of shaping your journey, and fortunately this journey, while challenging in terms of travel, had us arrive at a happy place. A place in the Loire valley, not far from Joan of Arc’s trial, at a little town hall where everyone was smiling and happiness was the order of the day.

Observing from a distance, I had never seen Erin happier. She looked beautiful and radiant, smiling almost continuously. Emmanuel looked like he had won the lottery - he did! As we walked down to a nearby church, with a river running by, it seemed like my life passed before my eyes. My young baby, a laughing and exuberant five-year old, a strong-willed adolescent, and now this more than competent young woman, more than happy to commit herself to someone, with whom she would build a wonderful life. In the end I had to say, in the words of the movie title, it is a wonderful life. How fortunate I am. MEH
Don’t Forget!
March 13
Set your clocks forward one hour

If you don’t see your name here anymore but you would like to continue to receive your newsletter via first class mail and help support St. John’s print ministry, please return the enclosed envelope with $35.

If you have sent in your contribution and don’t see your name, please let us know.

Thank you for your support!

Thank you to our patrons who have taken out a 2016 subscription in support of St. John’s Window!

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