



ST. JOHN'S WINDOW

A VIEW OF OUR LIFE

FENIMORE ROAD AT CORTLANDT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

What's Happening

Sunday, September 11

"God's Work. Our Hands."
Senior BBQ

Sunday, September 18

Rally Day

Saturday, October 1

Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, October 22

Oktoberfest

And more events inside

WORSHIP

As of Sunday, September 18

Sunday Services

8.15 & 10.30 am



The Importance of Forgiveness

I grew up in different places, but I have the fondest memories of California and the Bay area. It was a time of social upheaval in the 1960s with the Vietnam War and the Beatles coming to town. In addition to all of that I was influenced by the Beach Boys and their music. Even today I enjoy their timeless, happy music. (I was a very poor surfer but probably better than any of the Beach Boys who never surfed...)

One of the few surviving Beach Boys is Mike Love, who has just published a memoir by the title "Good Vibrations: My Life as a Beach Boy". I have not yet read the book, but it seems to reveal a pretty dysfunctional and crazy group of men, who seem to have broken all the rules of personal decency, integrity, and basic human values.

One thing that stuck out for me in the review I read was that Mr. Love never experimented with drugs at a time when everyone else did. He preferred transcendental meditation and even went to India with the Beatles to study under the guidance of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. All of this did not really change his bad behavior, though. Instead, he seems to have developed deep grudges against many people in his life.

The word *grudge* is a very familiar word to me, but I don't hear it used very often. In wrestling, for example, there are "grudge matches", even though All Star wrestling is a choreographed fake. Today, I find people rarely use the word, which, however, does not mean that we don't hold grudges anymore.

In fact, holding a grudge is at the center of almost every relationship, be it a large or a small grudge. Most marriages run into trouble when things are not forgiven but, rather, harbored. You continue to remember negative experiences and make daily deposits in your "bitter bank" to bring the hurt up again and again. There is an old saying "forgive and forget". Forgetting is hard to do, and things can be compounded further as this quote (attributed to RFK) makes clear: "Don't get mad. Get even."

I, like everyone else, have felt the pain of betrayal, harsh words, and other people's anger. However, I have also discovered that returning it in kind leads to even more damage. A grudge is really a poison that can make you ill and destroy your relationships. In my years of ministry I have come upon numerous people haunted by wounds that refused to heal because they won't forget and they won't forgive.

Marvin E. Henk
Pastor

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Manuela Petzold
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Sexton

Choir Directors

Matthew Thomas
Adult Choir

Austin Kehrlé
Handbell Choir

To me, life without forgiveness is a prison. Life also is too short to hold grudges and to remember all the times you have felt wronged.

You can brood over things as I have done, but in the end the answer is to forgive. Jesus forgives his enemies, even as they take him to the cross, with these immortal words: "Forgive them for they know not what they do." You can lick your wounds, you can nurture and harbor your grudges, but finally, if you take our Lord's example and advice, you need to forgive and move on.

I believe that when you can move on, you are free not just from what has happened but free to live fully, to love more deeply and discover a reservoir of human acceptance.

MEH

Keep in Your Prayers

Margit Bier, Marge Campabadal, William Solano (Myra Hahn's father), Peggy Jacobson, Nate Lipsen, Sandy Herrmann, Gisela Haugenes, Cherine Bellamy, Peter Gisondi, Ava Pagnotte, Ana Colón, Margaret D'Andrea (Trudi Bunke's sister), Anne Marie Gorman (Peter Roggemann's sister), Eileen & Teddy DeAngelo.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING WEDDING

Caroline Freire & Mark Luceno, September 10

IN SYMPATHY

Our deepest condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Casazza over the death of Anthony's

IN MEMORY OF CHARLOTTE MOORE

We are sorry to announce that Charlotte Moore died recently and we would like to express our deepest sympathy to the Moore family. Charlotte and Marcus were long-time members of St. John's until they moved to Pennsylvania to be close to their children. When Pastor Henk first came to St. John's, Marcus was on the Church Council and Charlotte was the sexton. Husband Marcus is over 100 years old and we have fond memories of both of them, whether it was a potluck supper, digging a trench around the church, or painting rooms in both the church and the parsonage. They were always in church on Sunday morning and enjoyed a good cup of coffee and conversation at coffee hour. Marcus did have a secret to a long life - don't be afraid to work hard, always take a nap and never miss *Wheel of Fortune* with Vanna White! The Moores had four children, which may be another secret... Or perhaps it was their Christian faith and strong belief and love for the church.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPECIAL GIFTS IN AUGUST

Renovation

Kim & Jeff Schiro
Lisa & Austin Kehrlé
Karen Clark
Heike & Boris Rauls

Memorial Fund

Mary & Kurt Jachner, *in memory of Leslie*
Mrs. John Shields, *in memory of Leslie Jachner*

Midnight Run

Jeanhee Chung & Niels Ringstad

Food Pantry

Dorothea Ferri

UPCOMING EVENTS



September 11: BBQ for Seniors "God's Work. Our Hands."
 September 18: RALLY DAY: Regular Worship Schedule
 & Sunday School/Confirmation begins
 September 21: 9th grade Confirmation begins
 September 25: Adult Forum begins
 September 29: Bible Study begins
 October 1: Blessing of the Animals



Rally Day Is on September 18

We will again have two services at 8.15 am and 10.30 am. Sunday School/Sunday Confirmation Class will also start meeting again at 9.10 am, and there will be a special coffee hour to mark this day.

BBQ for Seniors September 11 at noon

The last two years over 70 seniors from our community enjoyed a picnic BBQ on our lawn and we're happy to do it again this year. We are doing it again on the ELCA "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, which provides an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

That said, **we need volunteers** for this event:

- who will BBQ hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken;
- who will donate side dishes like potato, pasta or other salads, desserts, etc.;
- who will set up, serve, and clean up.



If you can help, please contact Marc Schlueter at 914.967.0131 or orthodontics@optonline.net. Thank you!



Saturday, October 22, starting at 6 pm

We will once again gather with steins in hand and lots of that good bratwurst, weiss-wurst, kassler, and strudel along with the best German beer - this is NOT to be missed. Tickets are \$40 and are available during Coffee Hour. You can also call the church office at 914.698.4348 or email office@stjohnsny.org to reserve your ticket.

No tickets will be sold at the door.



Blessing of the Animals



Saturday, October 1 @ 11 am

As in many years past, we will have the New Rochelle Humane Society joining us with a few of their furry friends as well as Pet Rescue. We are asking all attendees to please bring any of the following to donate to the Society: old towels, blankets, dog/cat beds, leashes, canned/dry cat food & dog food, toys or a monetary contribution. After the blessing enjoy cookies, cake and a beverage. We look forward to seeing everyone participate in this very fun event - with or without an animal friend. Contact Dorothea Ferri at ferrinice13@aol.com for more info. We thank you for your support.

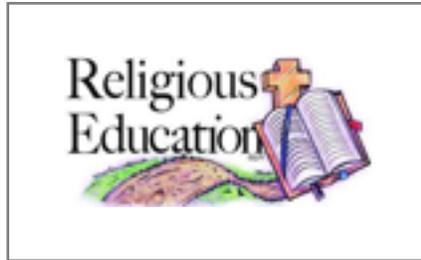


**Every Sunday
at 9.15 am**

Adult Forum starts back up on September 25 - something to look forward to this Fall! We are beginning with the book **“Lila” by Marilynne Robinson.**

Ms. Robinson is one of the great novelists of our time. Our Adult Forum group has already read her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel “Gilead” and very much enjoyed it. “Lila” is a moving expression of the mysteries of existence and an interesting look at the Christian world view presented by the novel.

If you are interested in joining us, Pastor Henk can answer any questions. He will also order the book for the group. Please email him at marvhenk1996@gmail.com, call him at 698.4348, or speak to him at church.

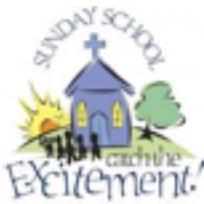


We will start up again on **September 29.** Bring a lunch and be prepared to share and learn.



Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class for all grades will start on Rally Day, Sunday, September 18 at 9.10 am. We are pleased to announce that Rebecca Gomez will be teaching Confirmation this year on Sunday mornings. Pastor Henk will continue teaching confirmation class on a Wednesday afternoon, beginning on September 21 at 5 pm for **9th grade** students. **7th and 8th** grade students will meet with Pastor Henk for the first time on Tuesday, October 4, at 6.30 pm. We will paint pumpkins for our Halloween fundraiser, and 9th grade students will also join this class. Please note that this is an exceptional Tuesday (due to Pastor’s attendance at the annual Mamaroneck Firemen’s dinner). All other evening meetings for confirmation students will take place on Wednesdays, every week for 9th grade students until October 26, and every other week for 7th and 8th graders.



Calling All 3-Year-Olds

Jesus wants you! He says “Suffer the little children to come onto me and forbid them not.” This means you are welcome to come to Sunday School for a special class just for you. You can’t be underage but you don’t have to show your ID at the door. If you are three by the end of December, please tell your parents about this and ask them to email Dorothea Ferri at ferrinice13@aol.com or speak to her during coffee hour. Sunday School will start on September 18.

WELCOME BACK ST. RITA’S AT ST. JOHN’S

We are happy to welcome back St. Rita’s Free Medical Clinic, which will again be run in our Fellowship Hall on many Fridays, starting on September 9. Founded by Dr. Kevin Maloney, St. Rita’s is a nonprofit organization that provides medical care to patients free of charge and survives on community donations. You may know St. Rita’s because Dr. Maloney also runs a toy drive at Christmas time to which our members at St. John’s have contributed in the past. He and his trusted and generous volunteers offer their time to help those that might otherwise go without medical care. If you or anyone you know who needs medical care and cannot afford it, please pass this along to them and let them know they’re welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hi everyone!

I hope that you all are enjoying the last days of this somewhat hot, lazy summer while at the same time getting ready to gear up for ***first day of Sunday School*** on September 18th. An email with full details will be sent out to all parents shortly.

Pastor, the Teachers and I have been meeting and planning some fun events for this coming school year, reviewing classroom materials and gearing up with for what promises to be another exciting year spent teaching the good word to your children.

Ok put your feet back up and enjoy what remains of this summer; see you on the 18th!!!

Kate Tobiasen & Dorothea Ferri
Sunday School Co-Chairs



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Eric Hoffman	08/24/04
Sophia Alfano	09/03/08
Julia Tomkiel	07/31/07
Faith Franceshini	09/12/07
Sienna Tavarez	06/24/10
Dalton Boisseau	07/10/05
Matthew Tomkiel	07/08/05
Riley Rhodes	07/23/08
Lulu Schluter	08/08/14
Amelie Schluter	08/26/04
Anton Schluter	07/29/02
Anna Tomkiel	07/31/07
Presley Gallagher	09/24/07
Sawyer Grubert	08/29/11
Natalie Merkitich	08/21/10
Regina Teran	07/03/08



FINANCE COMMITTEE QUARTERLY REPORT

Second Quarter 2016 Financial Status

The Finance Committee would like to thank the congregation for the continued active support to the operations of our church. As reported previously, the 2016 operating budget is \$291,382. The budget for the first half of year is thus, \$145,691. Our actual expenditure as of end June was \$142,944, in other words approximately 2 per cent under budget. We have continued to look for ways to reduce expenditure, for example by changing the phone carrier. Overall compared to end of Q2 in 2015, we have reduced operating expenditure by 7 per cent. And expenditure for July 2016 continues below budget.

The total current receipts income for the first half of the year was \$141,731. A 1.3 per cent increase compared to 2015. Yet, in spite of the decreased spending and increased giving, we have finished the first half of the year with a slight deficit of \$1,213. This deficit is significantly lower compared to the same time period in 2015. However, we do not have the surplus that we had at the end of Q1. We would therefore, request prayerful giving in order to end 2016 with no deficit, and to maintain or even increase the operating reserves which currently stand at slightly more than six months' worth of budgeted operating expenses.

On the renovation front, as of mid-August, the loan balance from the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) was \$320,407. At the same time we have \$155,558 in the renovation account and \$150,591 in pledges to be received. With the interest payments to be made, we have some deficit. The finance committee is monitoring this situation. As a result, the Church Council recently approved an early repayment of \$100,000 to MIF to reduce the loan amount and thus, the interest payment. We are able to do this without penalty and we still have sufficient reserves in the renovation account to make the monthly payments for more than 12 months. We will continue to review the situation and make early payments as the pledges continue to come in and we can ensure a sufficient buffer in the renovation account. Therefore, please consider making your pledge payments as early as it is possible for you.

The organ is back in service and we had a very successful fundraising drive. A big thank you to everybody who contributed. We will report on the actual figures in the Q3 financial report.

Respectfully submitted,
The Finance Committee

People Parade... Parade... People Parade... People Parade... People

Lots of news coming out of the **Celestino** household - Father **Jim** has retired but can be found at Costco occasionally - at least that is where Pastor Henk recently ran into him. Daughter **Amanda** is the editor of Edible Bronx, a foodie magazine that has just come onto the scene - check it out. Son **Chris** is engaged - how about that?! Congratulations!... ➤ We also have news from **Bill Podszus**, who recently moved to the Baltimore area for a new job. Bill writes that that things are busier than he thought they would be, with lots of work in his new company. We can look forward to seeing him when he comes to visit for the Oktoberfest. Bill certainly is missed... ➤ Belfast is not just a place in Northern Ireland, it's also the spot of a beautiful, cosy little town Down East, located at the mouth of the Passagassawakeag River estuary on Penobscot Bay, and the county seat of Waldo County. Most notable, though, is the summer residence there of our own **Detlef Joerss**, who has ex-

tended his gracious hospitality to some of his church friends, including **Silvia Misina and Manuela Petzold**. The lobster pound is fabulous and, remember, a lobster is only a prehistoric creature until you add butter, and then it's out of this world... ➤ **Kathy Henk** loves Old Saybrook, CT, where she found the dress she'll be wearing for her daughter's wedding... ➤ The secret is out - **Manuela Petzold** is addicted to ice cream. People are recommending that she go to Ice Cream Anonymous for help, but she continue to refuse - the question is what is her favorite flavor, or does it matter?... ➤ Our members have gone lots of different interesting places for their summer vacations. **Silvia Misina** has just returned from her native Slovakia, where she had a great visit with family and friends. **Corky and Frank McCullough** went to Jackson Hole/the Grand Tetons, where they enjoyed time in nature with son Trae and family. **Steve and Sue Michaelson** were in the beautiful northern lake

region of Italy, where they had a wonderful time and avoided earthquakes. We hear that **Dorothea Ferri and Kevin McCoskey** made it all the way to Barbados to relax in the sun on the beach. Other people love Cape Cod, like the **Rauls and Myra and Eric Hahn**. The Hahns love it so much they went twice this summer, and why not? The beach is great as is the fishing. It was also good to see **the Hillmans** back from Wisconsin, where they visited family. If you have seen the ads extolling the wonders of the State of Michigan, you have to think of "Pure Michigan" and the **Degroote family**. Keri and Chris were home visiting parents, with Chris flying in all the way from Poland... ➤ Summer concerts: **Kathy Henk and Corky McCullough** were seen at a tailgate party at the Jimmy Buffett concert in August at Jones Beach. Kathy was also sighted with **Lori Uhle** at the Bruce Springsteen concert in New Jersey - remember, Jersey girls

Sunday, 31 July - surprise farewell for Bill Podszus



A big thank you to Lisa & Austin Kehrlé who brought a cake for Bill!

People Parade... Parade... People Parade... People Parade... People

don't pump gas! It's the law in our neighboring state. BTW, Bruce set a record and sang for over 4 hours... We have had some pretty hot and steamy weather this past August, but that didn't stop **Dorothea Ferri** from planning a wonderful event on the patio, where more than 50 people gathered on Friday night, August 19, to enjoy cocktails, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and each other's company. Events like this make the hot summer more tolerable and allow all of us to relax a little. It started early but finished late, going be-

yond 11 pm. Time flies when you are having fun! A big thank you to Dorothea and her helpers for making a hot night in August a great evening!... ➡ One of the great opportunities any teenager has is going to camp at Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Camp. Many of our young people have gone in the past, and this year the lucky participants were **Leo, Felipe, and Mateo Gómez** as well as **Joseph Migliozi**. Once again they report back that Pinecrest was a phenomenal experience of music, sports, learning,

and fellowship. Teenagers need a place where they can talk about what their life means to them and find support for whatever they are going through. Pinecrest provides a safe space for kids to talk about everything and anything that concerns them... ➡

Congratulations to **Peter and Terri Gifford**, who are now grandparents of a beautiful baby girl named **Emma Rose!**



PROPERTY:

The Organ Blower Motor, the Kitchen, and Radon

All of life is maintenance, whether you are talking about your body or the home you live in. Metal wants to rust, wood wants to rot, and paint wants to peel. Someone once said to me: *Rust never sleeps*. I have discovered this to be true, and so it is for our church. This summer we were plagued with numerous property issues, and we would like to thank Detlef Joerss for taking time out of his busy schedule to be on site and meet with the various contractors and experts involved. To bring you up to date, here are some projects we had to embark on and solve:

1. The organ blower, indispensable for the organ, finally wore out in March after almost 100 years on non-stop work. This began the tedious and frustrating attempt to repair it, which was deemed impossible after several attempts and several weeks. It was extremely disappointing to finally be told that it could not be repaired, when we were initially told that it could. In the end, we had to purchase a new blower motor and have it installed at considerable expense. Today the organ is finally working again, to the relief of all of us, who never thought we would miss organ music so much. We are very thankful that the congregation was able to raise over \$10,000 to help with the cost. We are still in negotiations with the original company that was supposed to repair the old motor but failed to.
2. We were also surprised earlier this year by radon testing done by the nursery school. We were informed that one of our classrooms had a higher than normal radon reading. After re-testing, we found a radon mitigation company, which installed the necessary equipment to make the classroom in question okay to use. The cost was approx. \$2,300.
3. We discovered flooding in the kitchen area during the summer. After a plumber was called to snake the drain, we learnt that some of the pipes have roots coming through, which could cause future blockages. We have been advised that we will need to line the pipes with a certain substance that will seal them and protect them from further damage. The cost for this is still to be determined as we have only one estimate at this time.



You can see, maintenance is important, but very expensive. If we don't keep up with these needed repairs, with others on the horizon, we could quickly see ourselves in the position of many city churches, which are unable to afford needed maintenance and actually had to close their doors and sell off their property.

St. John's Lutheran Church

Fenimore Road at Cortlandt Avenue
 Mamaroneck, NY 10543
 (914) 698.4348
 Email: office@stjohnsny.org
 Web: stjohnsny.org

Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
Permit 4302
White Plains, NY

Or Current Resident



September 18

Sunday School begins
 Two worship services:
 8.15 & 10.30 am

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

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

Thank you for your support!