



# ST. JOHN'S WINDOW

## A VIEW OF OUR LIFE

FENIMORE ROAD AT CORTLANDT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

### What's Happening

#### Interfaith Presentation

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

#### Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

#### Council Meeting

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

#### Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
12 noon Brief Eucharist  
6 pm Soup & Salad Dinner  
7.30 pm Worship

#### Ecumenical Services

start Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>  
Every Tuesday in Lent at 7.30 pm  
See inside for details

#### Midnight Run

Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

*And more inside*

# WELCOME

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

**Sundays at 8.15 & 10.30 am**

**Sunday School at 9.10 am**

**Adult Forum at 9.15 am**

## You Can't Handle the Truth

One of the famous lines from the movie *A Few Good Men* takes place during a cross-examination of Jack Nicholson by Tom Cruise. Tom Cruise asks for the truth and Jack Nicholson responds: "You can't handle the truth."

Sometimes the truth is difficult. When you get on a scale, you see the truth. When you reach a certain age and you can't do what you used to do, you can find the truth to be a bitter pill to swallow. Sometimes, when you look in the mirror you don't like what you see either. However, mirrors don't lie; they only reflect the truth.

We live in a time in which we have 24-hour news. It could be CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, The Huffington Post, Twitter, etc etc. It's so annoying because you hear things over and over, or you hear them overblown like a possible Nor'Easter coming. News like this has the potential to destroy NYC on hype alone.

I, for one, am glad we have a free press, as annoying, repetitive, and at times even boring it can be. It still provides us with needed information that forces our politicians and leaders to be transparent and, to some degree, honest. It is also important in the world of *fake news* and *alternative facts*.

Fake news has always been out there. In some places or countries we can call it propaganda. Growing up during the

time of the Cold War, we always knew that the Russian media were simply a propaganda machine. Even now, we look at clever politicians who put a "spin" on the news to interpret it in a positive or self-serving way.

It seems that today we have moved a step farther with the advent of a new level of *fake news*. It's a time in which people, websites, blogs are telling us barefaced lies. It seems like a fact checker is needed to screen whatever comes out of some people's mouth. It is really unfortunate, especially when it comes from our leadership.

When Hilary Clinton was accused of trafficking child sex slaves from a pizza parlor in Washington, someone actually drove there for hours with a loaded gun to liberate the pizza parlor. When I first moved to New York, there was a popular saying: "I don't want to hear it", meaning, of course, *I don't want to hear the truth*. We want reality to agree with how we want it to be. If truth is told, it can upset our reality and our view of life and what we want to see.

Jesus once said, "The truth will make you free." I do believe it does. Not facing the truth enslaves you to your own prejudice, bias, and selfishness. That is why church begins each Sunday asking for the truth, asking for us to confess our sins and to face our selves.

*Please turn over*

Marvin E. Henk  
*Pastor*

**Church Council**

Steve Michaelson  
*President*

Suomi Sakai  
*Vice President*

Manuela Petzold  
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*Financial Secretary*

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Serge Banzet  
*Evangelism*

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*Social Ministry*

Marvin E. Henk  
*Pastor*

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Christiane Janssen  
*Secretary*

Matthew Thomas  
*Organist & Music Director*

Anna Piselli  
*Sexton*

**Choir Directors**

Matthew Thomas  
*Adult Choir*

Austin Kehrl  
*Handbell Choir*

This is not always easy. Even though we look like we have it together and have *arrived* in the eyes of others, it's fake news because in reality we are all sinners. In reality we are not what everybody thinks we are. In reality, in the words of Holden Caulfield (*Catcher in the Rye*) we are all phonies, or as St. Paul says, "The good I would I do not." The fake news about ourselves each week gets addressed when we acknowledge it, confess it, and seek forgiveness for it.

And then, instead of fake news, we receive the "Good News", or the Gospel that tells us that we are loved, forgiven, and given another chance to get it right by God's grace.

MEH

*Keep in Your Prayers*

*Margit Bier, Marge Campabadal, William Solano (Myra Hahn's father), Peggy Jacobson, Nate Lipsen, Sandy Herrmann, Gisela Haugenes, Peter Gisondi, Ava Pagnotte, Ana Colón, Anne Marie Gorman (Peter Roggemann's sister), Eileen & Teddy DeAngelo, Brian Kennedy (Stacy Gallagher's brother), Janet Baker, James McCullough, Nancy Farrell, Blake O'Connor, Jen Brown, Alice Tobing, Richard Devingo, Thomas Maloney, Millie Brandon, Paul Birckel.*

**MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WEDDING**

Katherine Del Franco & Joshua Zycband, January 22

**IN SYMPATHY**

Our deepest sympathy goes to Serge and Véronique Banzet over the death of Serge's mother; to Scott and Nancy Dunn over the death of Scott's mother, Betty Dunn; to Nelson and Rebecca Gómez over the death of Elizabeth Salazar Rancheros; to Manuela Petzold over the death of her father, Mathias Neumann; and to Mike, Michael and Stephanie Bellamy over the death of Cherine Bellamy.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPECIAL GIFTS IN JANUARY**

**Renovation**

Marc Schlueter  
Kim & Jeff Schiro  
Beverly Broodie-Stewart  
Sue & Steve Michaelson

**Discretionary Fund**

Sandy & Jim Kilts  
Maggie O'Connor

**Interfaith Council Presentation:**

**History of St. John's Stained Glass Windows**

*Thursday, February 2, 10 am*

Lynn Hillman will talk about the history behind our Stained Glass Windows. Lynn wrote a book about the windows on the occasion of our Centennial and also gave a presentation to our congregation at that time. It should be an interesting and informative morning, and everyone is invited to attend. A reception will follow the presentation.



**Sunday, February 12**

LENT



March 1

12 pm Brief Eucharist  
& Reception of Ashes  
6 pm Soup & Salad Dinner  
7.30 pm Worship Service

ASH WEDNESDAY SOUP AND SALAD SUPPER

6-7.30 pm

Please join us at the supper before the Ash Wednesday service. There will be several gourmet soups and chili made by members of the congregation. **Please make a reservation** (see below) so that we know how much food we need. Worship will follow at 7:30 p.m. **This is a potluck dinner, and we are asking people to bring in dishes or side dishes or help otherwise.**



**We need volunteers for the following:**

- ▶ Make salads and soups or bring soda, bottled water, white and red wine, bread
- ▶ Help organize: 1) set up tables and chairs 2) serve soup and salad 3) clean up kitchen 4) put tables and chairs away

Email Marc Schlueter at [orthodontics@optonline.net](mailto:orthodontics@optonline.net) to volunteer.

**To make your reservation** call the church office at 698-4348, email [office@stjohnsny.org](mailto:office@stjohnsny.org) or leave this in the office by February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ # of people: \_\_\_\_\_



**Special Lenten offering**

Pastor Henk has recently returned from Jerusalem where he personally saw the tremendous need to help the poorest of the poor in Palestine. We are so fortunate to have a Lutheran presence in Jerusalem. Augusta Victoria Hospital, located on the top of the Mount of Olives, is run by the Lutheran World Federation and provide services for Christians and Arab refugees, mostly on a charitable basis. It has experienced financial crisis after financial crisis, which almost forced it to close its doors. There is no question that this hospital reaches out and touches the lives of countless people who live in poverty and who have no other access to spe-

cialized care for diabetes, cancer, dialysis, children. The hospital has also recently been making efforts to establish a palliative care facility as well as a care center for the elderly. The work being done by August Victoria is inspiring, but the hospital needs a lot of help.

If you would like to contribute a Lenten offering to this cause, please write your check to St. John's Lutheran Church and put *August Victoria hospital* on the memo line. Thank you for your support of Augusta Victoria's important work.

**ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICES**

We begin our Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday. Another way of being more disciplined about observing Lent is attending our Ecumenical Lenten services **every Tuesday at 7.30 pm**. The services are following by a reception and an opportunity to meet people from faith communities as well as hearing a sermon from one of local pastors. **I encourage you to attend.** We also need help for the reception on March 7 at St. John's.

March 7	<i>St. John's Lutheran Church, 122 Fenimore Road</i> The Rev. Karen Ann Burger
March 14	<i>St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 168 W. Boston Post Rd.</i> Msgr. James White
March 21	<i>First Baptist Church, 817 Howard Ave</i> The Revs. Carol Gadsden & Tami Burks
March 28	<i>United Methodist Church, 564 E. Boston Post Rd.</i> The Rev. Dr. James E. Taylor
April 4	<i>St. Vito's - Most Holy Trinity, 816 Underhill Avenue</i> The Rev. Annie Kersey

## MIDNIGHT RUN

Friday, March 17



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. In addition we 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 - sandwiches (no PB&J), hard-boiled eggs, fresh whole soft fruit, juice box, snack, and a treat



**Please contact Marc Schlueter at [orthodontics@optonline.net](mailto:orthodontics@optonline.net) to let him know how you can help.**

### FROM THE MIDNIGHT RUN FRONT

*This was written by Paul Schwendener, the Midnight Run coordinator at St. John's Episcopal Church in Larchmont:*

Thanks to Everyone for the lunches delivered to St John's Episcopal last Friday. (*editor's note: for St. John's Lutheran, Karen Clark, Lisa Kehrlé, and Johanna Perry made lunches for this Run - thank you!*) They were received with much gratitude, and we were able to distribute them all.

Here's an excerpt from the report that I made after the Run:

Our last stop after midnight was a desolate scene in front of St Francis of Assisi Church on 31st St. The first impression was that no one was there, only piles of trash. Looking closer it became clear that the piles were in fact human beings totally covered with heaps of blankets, or surrounded with boxes and trash bags. All was still. We quietly placed food and water near the sleeping forms. After a while several roused themselves, and came for the hot soup and blankets. More homeless appeared from the shadows. One of the living bundles that did not stir was propped against a bronze statue (image below) of the "Homeless Jesus" in front of the church. A plaque above the statue quotes Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in".

When I returned home around 2:00 am I sat for a time on the sofa in the glow of the Christmas tree, with our dog Lucky snuggled into my side. But the impressions from that last stop lingered in my mind.

### 2017 STEWARDSHIP

**Thank you to everyone who has already pledged for 2017. It's not too late if you have not yet.**

We are grateful for those who have pledged and made a (non-binding) commitment to St. John's. This year, we have 12 new pledges and 22 who have increased over last year.

This is a great way to begin the New Year, but if you haven't pledged, now is the time to make 2017 a real commitment to making things happen by presenting yourself with a giving plan and helping us budget for the coming year. ***THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PUT SOME TEETH INTO YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.*** Pledge cards can be found on the back bench at church or call the office to ask for one.

**ABSOLUTELY EVERY SINGLE PLEDGE MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**

## TIME TO RENEW ST. JOHN'S WINDOW SUBSCRIPTION FOR 2017

Can't wait to get your monthly newsletter? You can receive it first class! Please don't forget to renew for \$35 for the new year - or subscribe for the very first time. Thanks to your support, we will continue to be able to publish our newsletter without cost to the church budget.

### St. John's Window Subscription 2017



I would like to support St. John's Print Ministry. Enclosed is my \$35 check.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to further support your ministry and continue receiving the newsletter by bulk mail.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION



December 30, 2016

Congregation  
Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
122 Fenimore Road  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to the Food Pantry. The \$516 you donated will go a long way in helping us to provide nutritious groceries to struggling families in our communities.

For over 23 years the Food Pantry has been a vital source of food for local families living below the federal poverty guidelines. We have been feeding an average of 380 families each time we distribute food—over 1,500 people. The folks we feed live in Larchmont or Mamaroneck and are largely working poor or homebound due to sickness or age. One third of the people whom we feed are children. Since over 90% of our expenditures are spent on food, you can be sure that your gift will make a real difference to our neighbors in need.

Last June our work was recognized with the "Hunger Heroes" Volunteer Award, presented by Food Bank for Westchester, a non-profit organization that supplies food at low cost to agencies like ours. It is part of Feeding America, a nationwide network of food banks. The award citation, in part, reads: "The Larchmont Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force Food Pantry is recognized for effectively providing the best services possible to their community. Founded in 1993, the Task Force continues to take a larger role in the fight against hunger."

Thanks to the caring support of people like you, the Food Pantry, with over 100 volunteers—your neighbors, will be able to fulfill its mission of providing food to as many families as continue to need our help.

Gratefully,

Malcolm Frouman  
President

## 2016 Choice Dollars Expire Soon!

### THRIVENT MEMBERS, ACT NOW!

With Thrivent Choice, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, more than \$325 million has been distributed to churches and non-profits nationwide. Thrivent Financial members have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2016 Choice Dollars or they will expire. So far we have received \$656 through Thrivent Choice for 2016.

By directing your Choice Dollars to St. John's, you can help support our ministry here at St. John's.

Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836. ***The deadline is March 31 to finish up your 2016 Choice Dollars.***



Sundays at 9.15

Tucked in between Sunday School and worship is ADULT FORUM. An hour in which books are discussed, ideas are shared and sometimes even argued, and coffee is provided. It's a sweet moment for reflection and, if you are fortunate enough, for personal growth. Currently we are discussing "The Road to Character", bestseller by David Brooks. This book is filled with wisdom, humor, and sharp insights that can illumine your daily life. It offers you a resume of virtues that can help enliven your life and lifestyle. Join us, you won't regret it!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Just a short report this month:

- Will transition to the New Testament shortly with the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester curriculum focusing on the life of Jesus.
- Our Bible Buck Store will open for business on February 5<sup>th</sup> so the children in nursery through 4<sup>th</sup> grade can redeem their attendance Bible bucks. The children have earned St. Johns Bible Bucks each week for attendance, participation in the children's choir, attendance in Church, etc. which can be redeemed for gifts at the store. We hope this program helps to improve weekly attendance.
- **Reminder:** we continue to collect non-perishable food items on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month to help the local food pantry take care of the many people who would otherwise go hungry **so please donate what you can each month.**

Speaking of the food pantry, we received a very nice thank you letter from. In it they asked that we let the children know just how much their food shopping bag donations meant to the less fortunate during Thanksgiving and Christmas. So thanks again kids and parents for making their lives that much better.

Hope you are enjoying these mild winter days,

*Dorothea Ferri*

Chairperson for Christian Education

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Madison Schiro	02/02/03
Ozzy Ringstad	02/26/09
Henry Rockel	02/20/08
Tyler Bocek	02/06/06

## FROM OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

### Giftng Securities to St John's is EASY

A great way to give to St John's is to gift appreciated securities (stocks) to St John's. You and your family get the tax benefit of the full value of the securities gifted--and so does St John's. And, there is no tax to pay on the appreciated value of the securities you gift to St John's. So you can give stocks without paying tax on their appreciation. Win-Win.

It's easy. At the holder of your stocks (Vanguard; Schwab; Fidelity: etc.) you can find the "Charitable Gift Transfer" form. Print it out and fill it out with the securities you want to gift to St. John's and return that form to the holder of your stocks. They will do the rest. Just alert St John's at [office@stjohnsnny.org](mailto:office@stjohnsnny.org) (so Peter Roggemann will know the securities are there--it is our policy to sell them when we receive them). Here is the only other information you need:

- -Receiving Institution Name: Fidelity Investments
- -DTC Number: 0226
- -Receiving Institution Account #: X08-196800
- -Account title: St John's Lutheran Church
- -Contact name: Peter Roggemann
- -Telephone number: 914 698-4348
- -Mailing Address: 122 Fenimore Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543



The **2017 member directory** is out - please take a copy from the narthex when you're in church or contact the church office if you are home bound and need one sent. You'll have the addresses, phone numbers, and emails of our active members if you need to get in touch with someone. As always, please contact the church office for any updates or to correct any mistakes.

## People Parade... People Parade... People

A big thank you to **Kevin McCoskey** for taking on the gigantic task of taking down the tree and decorations after Christmas. If you want a job done right, call Kevin. He is our “go-to guy”.... ▶ Speaking of trees, it seems as though Kevin also stepped up to finally take down the fake Christmas tree that was still standing in our Fellowship Hall at the beginning of February. Actually, some people were already calling it our “Easter tree”. Kevin, you truly are the best... ▶ **Lynn Hillman** gave a tour of our church windows to the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Interfaith Council on February 2. Everyone was so impressed because we were not just looking at beautiful stained glass, but we were looking behind the lives of many who had given the windows as a gift in memory of those they loved. Lynn made our history come alive to the Interfaith group, who had turned up in large numbers for this treat. Thank you, Lynn, for sharing your love of history and your broad knowledge with all of us!... ▶ We also need to thank our faithful snow plower, **Bobby Tipping**, who keeps our parking lot clear of that white stuff and allows us to say “The weather outside is frightful”, but nothing to be afraid since Bobby shows up to save us from the weather, so we can sing, “Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow”... ▶ Do you like mermaids? (Then again, who doesn’t?) If you do, you need to see the opera *Rusalka* at the Met, recommended by **Detlef Joerss**... ▶ There are many tales of mice and men, but none as great as that of the manly men of St. John’s, who fearlessly go out on their own into the night,

without their spouses (but with permission) in search of great cuisine. Just recently they were seen in the Bronx, off Belmont, on Arthur Avenue. They were eating at *Roberto’s* and celebrating Pastor Henk’s birthday. It fast became a night to remember and another experience of high adventure in restaurant exploration... ▶ A word of thanks has to go to **Rebecca Gómez**, who organized the reception following the funeral for Cherine Bellamy. We appreciated **the Colóns** who sang at the funeral as well as **Rebecca**, who played the flute, and **Joanna Tobing** reading a lesson. We also want to thank everyone who contributed food to the reception... ▶ What do you do when both of your girls are running different races in Boston on the same day? You still try to go to both of them - ask **Heike and Boris Rauls**, who went to Boston to watch their daughters Leonie and Shari compete for their respective colleges. It’s always good news when you can watch your kids make you proud... ▶ It was great to see **Bill Podszus** in church this month. We certainly miss him as he misses us, but we are also happy to know that he is doing very well in his new job in Maryland. Bill, of course, has given a lot to St. John’s and even on a visit he is back in the choir, singing. Come back soon, Bill!... ▶ Congratulations to **Tina Franceschini**, who is now a nurse - how great is that!? We wish Tina all the best for her new profession... ▶ We are so pleased that **Tommy Maloney** and **Millie Brandon** are both healing from recent surgeries.



### Highlights

As Harry Chapin sings in his song *All My Life’s a Circle*, “the years keep rolling by”. This is the case with our annual meeting as we have discovered what it takes to not only survive the years but to thrive. Yes, **last year was a good year!** Highlights of the meeting:

1. We ended the year with a surplus.
2. We brought in 13 new members.
3. We are very close to paying off our mortgage.
4. We have approved a committee to develop an environmental sustainability plan.
5. We have a committee planning celebratory events for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year.
6. We elected two new Council members: Serge Banzet for Evangelism and Detlef Joerss for Property. Congratulations and thank you for serving!
7. We thank outgoing Council members Keri Degroote and Peter Gifford and Kate Tobiasen for their service.
8. Now we are looking forward to a great 2017.

Healing takes time, but it’s great to know that you are going to be okay and be back doing the things you love to do. We look forward to seeing them in church.

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

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

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Or Current Resident



begins Ash Wednesday, March 1

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Marie Alfano  
Véronique & Serge Banzet  
Catherine & Ralph Block  
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Trudi Bunke  
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Wenche Delfino  
Phil & Kat Didio  
Lucy Ferenz  
Karen Hagenbeck-Nunnink  
Kathy & Pastor Marvin Henk  
The Rev. Paul & Carolyn Henry  
Fred Herlitz  
Carla & Brian Hofland  
Anne Huber  
Peggy Jacobson  
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Yourha Kang  
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Tina & Kate Tobiasen-Franceschini  
Robert & Irene van der Wateren  
James Wills  
Suzanne & Walter Zullig

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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!**