



ST. JOHN'S WINDOW

A VIEW OF OUR LIFE

FENIMORE ROAD AT CORTLANDT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

Out of Our Bubble

There are a lot of issues connected with social media these days. I recently read that Mark Zuckerberg has become kind of disgusted with the way people have used social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Snapchat. He wanted Facebook to be an instrument that brings people together, but it is unfortunately often being used to spread a message of hate, to embarrass, or to bully people, and, of course, as a source of *fake news*.

Recently I read an article on Mark Zuckerberg's road trip, in which he hopes to visit all 50 states. The title of the article was *On the Road, Out of his Bubble*. I saw pictures of him on a tractor, at a civic center, feeding a cow, as he and his wife traveled through states that are far away from his experience in Silicon Valley. He made an observation that I find interesting but have known for many years is true. He said he had come to realize that churches, civic centers, and other organized meeting places are intricate to building and maintaining a strong sense of community.

One picture that struck me was he, a good Jewish boy, visiting Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, the site of a mass murder committed by a white supremacist. Though his background is different, I could see that he appreciated being in a Christian church. He was also right in his observation that churches are part of the deeply rooted fabric of a community. Once the churches go, your community goes as well.

Though his observation about churches and civic centers and other meeting places for people is true and almost states the obvious, perhaps it needs to be said to all of us who seem to attend church as something we take for

granted and in many ways don't even appreciate. Maybe we don't appreciate it until it is taken away from us, as in Nazi Germany, communist Russia, China and many other parts of the world. In fact, at this writing about 30 Coptic Christians were murdered in a bus bombing in Egypt. This is just one to the many incidences where churches have been bombed, burnt, and Christians martyred by ruthless people of hate.

The article about the founder of Facebook talked about his being "out of his bubble" on his trip. It's a great illustration that is valid for all of us - we, too, as Christians, need to make sure that we move outside of our bubble. This is especially the case given our current world situation, with Syrians, who have died in the hundreds of thousands; with bombings and acts of terror in many places, most recently in Manchester, U.K.; with an opioid addiction, which is reaching epidemic proportions in our own country.

The church is not meant to be a bubble in which we live in safety and security from what is happening outside our doors. It is supposed to be a sanctuary for those who are weary and broken by the world. It is supposed to be a hospital for sinners who have lost their way. It is supposed to be a place of renewal where we gather each Sunday to reaffirm what we are all about - being followers of Jesus, who encourages his disciples to always move outside the bubble they are living in and the "comfort zone" where they want to remain.

Without knowing it, we are an important fabric of our community that holds it together. We are an important resource that each of us can turn to for help. We pro-

Tag Sale June 3 10 am - 2 pm <i>Rain or Shine</i>	First Communion June 4 9.30 am service	Picnic June 11 11 am Rye Midland Park	Luther Movie June 25 after 9.30 service coffee hour follows	4 July BBQ July 4 6 pm
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Matthew Thomas
Adult Choir

Austin Kehrl
Handbell Choir

vide many opportunities for service that make a difference in our community and sometimes in our world. I think of the pumps we gave to Ruvu in Kenya, the school we built in Swaziland, the donations we have made to keep medical help flowing to poor Palestinians on the Mount of Olives, the giving of clothes and food to the homeless for the Midnight Run, and, of course, the food and financial donations we bring to the food pantry in Mamaroneck.

At the end of the day, as I contemplated Mark Zuckerberg, a very young billionaire, taking a trip to connect with everyday people on their own turf, I began to see with new eyes the importance of what our church does on the corner of Fenimore and Cortlandt. Every Sunday we connect to our past through liturgy and ritual that we call worship. It is there that we always hear a positive message. It usually involves forgiveness, redemption, second chances, and more opportunities to live out a life of grace and hope. Every Sunday we are called upon to love the unloveable, to forgive those who have caused us pain, to support those who grieve the losses of loved ones, and to “suffer the little children” to come forward and find affirmation, true values, and encouragement for their lives. You are right, Mark Zuckerberg, this doesn’t happen everywhere.

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, Blake O’Connor, Alice Tobing, Michelle Tobing, Richard Devingo, Paul Birckel, Serena Boshak (Suzanne & Bob Kraft’s niece), Charlotte Bronner.

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM

Thatcher St. John-Foster, May 7

UPCOMING BAPTISM

Kensington Rosemary Kihn, July 9

UPCOMING WEDDINGS

Leslie Salazar & David Rivera, July 16
Kristen Zyburra & Daniel Betker, Sept 30

HOSPITALIZATIONS

Michelle Tobing and Alice Tobing

IN SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to Robert Clarida and Annie Thurow over the death of Bob’s father, Bill Clarida.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPECIAL GIFTS IN MAY

Renovation

Kim & Jeff Schiro

Lawn

Melissa & Justin Boisseau (2)
Beverly Broodie-Stewart
Dorothea Ferri & Kevin McCoskey (4)
Karen Haghenbeck-Nunnink (3)
Kathy & Pastor Henk (4)
Fred Herlitz (3)
Lynn & John Hillman (2)
Carla & Brian Hofland (2)

Detlef Joerss

Sandy & Jim Kilts (4)
Judy & Joe Musumeci
Maggie O’Connor
Lisa & Frank O’Gorman (3)
Pat Ouwerkerk & Jon Richards (2)
Gloria Phinsee & Leroy Webber (2)
Barbara & Peter Roggemann
Suomi Sakai & John Quinley (2)
Karen & Mark Stuart (2)
Barbara & Robert Tipping (2).

EVENTS



June 3
10am - 2pm



Join us at the
Church Picnic!



June 11
11 am
Rye Midland Park
(No 9.30 am service!)



Join us at Midland Park in Rye for our traditional outdoor guitar service and a wonderful day of fellowship. There are games for children and adults, including volleyball and baseball.

We need volunteers to help organize this wonderful event. **Join us at the picnic meeting on June 6 at 7 pm at church to help plan!** We also need volunteers to help set up, cook and make side dishes. Please email Chris Degroote, picnic chairman, to volunteer: chrisdegroote@gmail.com.

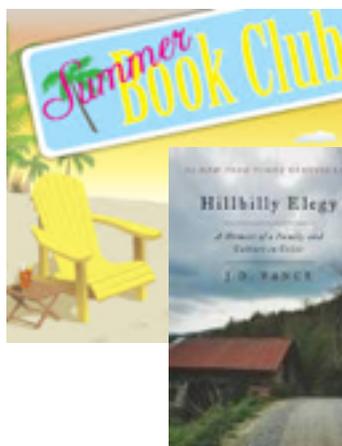
BBQ TAILGATE PARTY

with Fireworks and Music over the Mamaroneck Harbor

Bring your family, your lawn chairs, your grilling meat and salads and munchies (latter preferably to share) - the grill is provided. It is a fun evening with the best view of the fireworks over the harbor, great music. Don't miss out on this special event! Start is at **6 pm** on Tuesday, **July 4**
— Church Parking Lot - \$12 per car.



Please contact the church office for reservations or more information at office@stjohnsny.org.



Join our Summer Book Club!

We will meet one evening a month during the summer, with wine and cheese. The first meeting is set for **June 22**.

Our book is “Hillbilly Elegy”, the New York Times bestseller written “by a former marine and Yale Law School graduate, a powerful account of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America’s white working class. *Hillbilly Elegy* is a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis—that of white working-class Americans.” This is an inside view of of this segment of America, whose decline has been reported on with growing frequency and alarm, especially in the context of our last election.

The book will give you an insight into a very different life in our country. Let Pastor Henk know if you are interested and start reading!

LAWN & CAMPUS CARE

A big thank you to those who have already given or are planning to give: *Melissa & Justin Boisseau (2), Beverly Broodie-Stewart, Dorothea Ferri & Kevin McCoskey (4), Erika Gard, Karen Hagenbeck-Nunnink (3), Kathy & Pastor Henk (4), Fred Herlitz (3), Lynn & John Hillman (2), Carla & Brian Hofland (2), Detlef Joerss, Sandy & Jim Kults (4), Judy & Joe Musumeci, Maggie O'Connor, Lisa & Frank O'Gorman (3), Pat Ouwerkerk & Jon Richards (2), Gloria Phinsee & Leroy Webber (2), Barbara & Peter Roggemann, Suomi Sakai & John Quinley (2), Karen & Mark Stuart (2), Barbara & Robert Tipping (2).*

Maintaining the garden and flower beds, and the "hill" on the Fenimore Road side is a costly proposition – weeds just grow day and night. Believe it or not, our piece of ground costs \$2,500 to maintain over the spring, summer, and fall months, and your gift helps us absorb some of this expense. To date, we have realized \$1,680, so we still need more sponsors to cover a week or two (or even more, there is no limit!). Make your check out to St. John's and write *lawn care* on the memo line. Thank you!

Yes, I want to be part of our campus beautification program (\$40 per week)

Name _____

of Weeks _____ Amount _____



KOINONIA RETREAT

November 10 to 12, 2017
(Veteran's Day Weekend)

Only three rooms left at time of printing! Hurry if you want to enjoy a full-filled and relaxing retreat for worship and fellowship with your fellow members of St. John's in the beautiful setting of Koinonia – located in the Catskills in Highland Lake, New York.

COST \$207 per person – single adult occupancy; \$161 per person – double adult occupancy or 1 adult w/child; \$131 per person – triple adult occupancy ; \$76 per child (ages 5 to 12); ages 4 and under are free. 50% deposit required to reserve a room. Rates are for the entire weekend.

For more information, please contact retreat coordinator Kim Schiro
at 914-582-2641 or kschiro@optonline.net.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

June 11th, during the outdoor Church service beginning at 11am at Midland Avenue Rye Recreation Park, we will have the closing ceremony for Sunday school and the children will be singing a song. Please plan to attend and invite the children's Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, and friends to join us. It is a fun day filled with lots of good food, laughter, games and music. It would be wonderful to have more of our younger families attend this event and enjoy the fellowship.

This school year has been so rewarding for the teachers and me. We are already looking forward to having the children back in class in September.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer,

Dorothea Ferri

Chairperson for Christian Education



Sebastian Aquilina	06/03/11
Natalie Ravello	06/11/12
Amaya Tavarez	06/24/10
Ruben Gómez	06/13/02
Aoife Andrade	06/27/09
Cameron Degroote	06/10/09
Ryann Franceschini-Onofrio	06/15/10
Jamie Franceschini-Onofrio	06/15/10
Sienna Tavarez	06/24/10

CELEBRATING THE REFORMATION

Luther's stay in the monastery was an amazing time of suffering, discovery and personal growth. During this time he was taken under the wing of Johann von Staupitz, who was climbing the clergy mobility ladder himself. Attempting to help this suffering monk, von Staupitz recommended that he go to Rome, the city of God and the center of the Roman Catholic faith. In 1510 he walked there on foot, a distance of almost 1,000 miles. This visit to Rome was by far the longest and only journey he ever took outside of the German-speaking world. After the visit, he would always talk about Italian religious leaders in negative terms.

Upon coming to Rome, he flung himself to the ground, hailing the city as a holy place of the blood of the martyrs. Later his sacred feelings would warp into a damning verdict that he gave in 1540: "By miraculous advice I came to Rome, so that I saw the head of all wickedness and the seat of the devil." It was a visit that was supposed to inspire, but ended up making him both angry and cynical. Stories have been told that in the time it took Luther to say one mass, the Roman priests would recite six or seven. Other priests would joke as they said the Words of Institution: "Bread you are, and bread you will remain." Their ridiculing the "Real Presence" would be the last straw for a young monk, who could barely lift a chalice on his first mass for fear that he would spill Christ's blood.

After a month in Rome Luther returned to Erfurt and the monastery, spending a lot of time in the drudgery of confessing his sins to his mentor, Johann von Staupitz. (Luther's six-hour confession sessions quickly bored him.) Luther was a genius at probing his own hidden resistance to God and the motives behind his fears, anxieties and sins. Von Staupitz helped him move beyond seeing God as an angry judge and pointed him in the direction of grace. He also pushed Luther to get his doctoral degree in order to join the faculty of Wittenberg University, which he later did.

Luther was still tortured by his inner struggles. At the same time he enjoyed a senior place in the Augustinian order as a protégé of von Staupitz. It was not until later that Luther would discover justification by grace through faith as he read passages from the New Testament. It was there that he found relief for his soul and the joy of the Christian life. It would eventually lead him to write the 95 theses that would set the known world on fire as he would begin his attack on the church, the pope, and all who sought to stand in the way of the true message of the gospel.

Luther's discovery of the Bible as the word of God was liberating beyond description. It becomes the key to interpreting his whole life. Theologian Thomas Kaufmann writes that Luther had two opposite traits - one was of brooding withdrawal, a spiritual poet, a man of ardent prayer, and an interpreter and composer of texts. The other trait was an outspoken public speaker and activist who pushed his new agenda onto the world stage. In a very interesting way Kauffmann describes Luther's reading of scripture:

The public Luther proceeded from and was ever sustained by the solitary man who daily bent over the Bible to read it, read it again, and read it a third time, pressing in and drilling down with utter thoroughness and self-torturing intensity. He pounded on the sound of the words in order to pound God's Word out of the human words. For Luther meditative reading of the Bible was speaking with God. Yet, from that conversation his insight and command of language grew, both compelling and enabling him to go out to the public, for he came to believe that in his day nothing less was at stake than the truth of the Christian faith, which had been lost to the church. He grew convinced that his calling was to declare this sad fact and to raise up the old truth once again. (From: A Short Life of Martin Luther by Thomas Kaufmann)

To anyone who loves scripture and the Bible, especially professionals who must preach from it, the above paragraph can serve both as a challenge and as an inspiration as one tries to craft a sermon for the hearts of people who would be listening. In the end, Luther says in his hymn "A Mighty Fortress", this about the word of God:

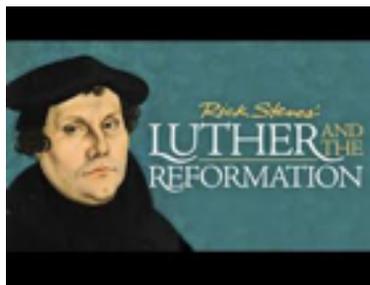
"God's word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes who fear it
For God himself fights by our side, with weapons of the spirit
If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse, wrench our life away,
they cannot win the day.
The Kingdom's ours forever."

MEH To be continued. This is the fourth of a series of installments about the life and work of Martin Luther. There will be several more to come over this year as we observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

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

The Women's Breakfast on Mother's Day turned out to be a roaring success. The menu was great, the program was interesting, and, of course, we continue to do the offering of letters for Bread for the World during this event. A big thank you has to go to **Jimmy Guinee**, who made the eggs, **Kevin McCoskey**, who made the bacon, **Matt Hardigree**, who made the blueberry pancakes as well as to **Roger von Tassel**, who made the gravlax for the bagels. Everything was delicious and very much enjoyed by all the women present. Another thank you goes to our Social Ministry chair **Marc Schlueter**, who did the Offering of Letters... We always like to hear **Manuela Petzold**, our Council treasurer, sing. Whether it's karaoke, our own choir, or the Florilegium Chamber Choir, where she moonlights singing when she is not at St. John's. The choir had another concert on May 21 with Brahms' "Neue Liebeslieder" in German, among other pieces. We noticed many of her followers and fans in the audience, who made a special trip from St. John's to enjoy the fabulous concert... Did you know that **Karen Hagenbeck-Nunnink**, our Music & Worship chair, is an enthusiastic and talented dancer? She is so good that she is going to the Arthur Murray DanceORama in Boston to compete - those who have seen her dance are favorably impressed. It's a good thing husband Bill is coming along - he is a great coach and cheerleader... Speaking of Boston, our Council president **Steve Michaelson** recently returned from Fenway Park, where he was so lucky to see the

Red Sox play. He will also be visiting daughter Kim in Seattle, where they are planning to go on a 21-mile bike ride (possibly including a wine stop)... It was good to see **Karen Stuart** back from Albert Lea in Minnesota, where she was for a family reunion. She said it was the way it should be - all Norwegian, with potato lefse. But - was there lutefisk? At any rate, we know that Buddy, her husband, cooked the (American) steaks supremely. Pastor Henk (of Norwegian descent) has the following motto on his fridge: *You can always tell a Norwegian, but you can never tell him much.* Karen has a sign on the back of her car that reads: *Parking for Norwegians only.* Had you known that Norwegians have a sense of humor?!... There is a group within the church known as **the Manly Men** (another group with a sense of humor...). They also have a sense of fine cuisine as they dined quite well at Aquario in West Harrison, which they highly recommend. The ambiance is great, the service is good, the portions are more than ample, and it was a great recommendation by Jeff Schiro... Congratulations to **James Aquilina**, who has recently received a promotion...



**Reformation 500
Movie Sunday**
*Sunday, June 25, after the 9.30 service
followed by coffee hour.*



On Pentecost Sunday, June 4, **Nathaniel Allison, Rocklan Boisseau, Faith Franceschini, Presley Gallagher, Dylan Merkitich, Jackson Schiro, and Julia Tomkiel** will celebrate their First Holy Communion.



Matthew Hillman from Mamaroneck High School, going to Colby College;
Samantha Hahn, from New Rochelle High School, going to Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond;
Felipe Gómez, from Rye Country Day School, going to Amherst
Dalia F. Zullig (Walter & Suzanne Zullig's granddaughter), from Beachwood High School (near Cleveland);
Alysa Piar (Patti & Bill Hahn's granddaughter), assoc. degree in behavior science from Victor Valley Community College, going on to California State University at San Bernadino;
Lisa Quinley, from Parson's School of Design;
Danny Michaelson from the University of Illinois with a degree in computer science;
Jack Hillman, B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Lafayette College.

FINANCE COMMITTEE QUARTERLY REPORT

First Quarter 2017 Financial Status

The Finance Committee would like to thank the congregation for the continued active support to the operations of our church. As approved at the Annual Meeting in February, the operating budget for 2017 is \$289,084. The budget for the first quarter is thus, \$72,271. Our actual expenditure as of end March was \$78,508, in other words \$6,237 or approximately 8.6 per cent over budget. However, 90 per cent of this over expenditure is due to beginning of the year and seasonal expenses such as heating oil, 2016 Christmas decoration payments in January and annual benevolence contributions. Thus, we are almost on budget in terms of operating expenditures. Compared to first quarter of 2016, we spent approximately \$3,400 or 4.5 per cent more. Eighty-five per cent of this is due to increased salary and insurance payments, the rest is due to cost of repairs. The Finance Committee will continue to review expenditures and recommend savings wherever possible.

The current receipts income during the first quarter was \$75,453. This is a almost \$8,200 or 9.8 per cent reduction compared to the same period in 2016. This is partly due to Easter having been in March in 2016 while this year we celebrated Easter in April. Last year the Easter-specific contributions totaled about \$3,300. Thus, at least 40 per cent of the decrease can be explained by this change in timing. However, our regular contributions were also down by over \$2,500 compared to 2016.

As of end March, our operating reserve funds stand at slightly less than 7.8 months worth of budgeted operating expenses. This is slightly more than at the end of 2016. The increase is due to market fluctuations.



As of end March, we have a deficit of \$3,054. We would, therefore, request prayerful giving. We thank everybody who has signed up and contributed for flowers, bulletin or eternal candle dedications as well as other special expenses such as the lawn maintenance. If you are yet to make a payment, please remember to, as timely payments are a big help to our ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
The Finance Committee

LUTHERAN SUMMER CAMPS



PINECREST LUTHERAN LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES
(www.pinecrestllm.org)

Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Ministries- one of the oldest camping programs in the Lutheran Church - was organized in 1927 to provide leadership training for Lutheran youth, and has remained relevant to young adults aged **15 and older** through the active involvement of campers. Pinecrest meets this year **August 13-20** for a one-week session of morning classes, afternoon activities and free time, evening programs, plus a variety of worship experiences. Annual sessions have been held at various sites over the years. Currently, summer sessions are held at Camp Louemma in Sussex, New Jersey - approximately two hours from New York City, which provides ample facilities to support the more than 200 participants, including a lake and a swimming pool.

CAMP MA-HE-TU (www.mahetu.org)

Camp Ma-He-Tu is a not-for-profit organization sponsored by the Lutheran Girls' Camp Association and affiliated with the Metro NY Synod of the ELCA. Camp Ma-He-Tu is a sleep-away camp for **girls ages 7-15**. Established in 1937, it is located along the shores of Lake Kanawauke in Harriman State Park, Bear Mountain, just 40 miles north of New York City.



SPEAK TO PASTOR HENK ABOUT EITHER CAMP, INCLUDING SCHOLARSHIPS.

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



Join Us!
June 11 @ 11 am
Rye Recreation Park

Thank you to our patrons who have taken out a 2017 subscription in support of St. John's Window!

Waltraut Albert
Marie Alfano
The Allison family
Véronique & Serge Banzet
Catherine & Ralph Block
Melissa & Justin Boisseau
Trudi Bunke
Ken & Karen Christopher
Sarah & Kurt Coble
Wenche Delfino
Nora Desrayaud
Phil & Kat Didio
Lucy Ferenz
Dorothea Ferri
Karen Haghenbeck-Nunnink
Kathy & Pastor Marvin Henk
The Rev. Paul & Carolyn Henry
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Waithira & Thomas Protano
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Diane & Mark Rocconi

Barbara & Peter Roggemann
Andrew & Lonna Romeo
Julie Rubenstein
Judy & Michael Sangregorio
The Rev. & Mrs. Fred Schumacher
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Barbara & Robert W. Tipping
Robert C. Tipping
Tina & Kate Tobiasen-Franceschini
Robert & Irene van der Wateren
James Wills
Suzanne & Walter Zullig

**If you don't see your name here any-
more 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.**