



# ST. JOHN'S WINDOW

## A VIEW OF OUR LIFE

FENIMORE ROAD AT CORTLANDT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

### The Sabbath



**BBQ for Seniors**

September 10

**Rally Day & Two Services**

September 17

**Blood Drive**

September 23

**Reformation Concert I**

September 24

**Blessing of the Animals**

October 7

**Reformation Concert II/ Brandenburg**

October 22

**Reformation Sunday**

October 29

*And more dates inside*

In my fortunate life I have been able to go to Lake Tahoe in northern California more times than I can remember. It's a beautiful place that never fails to inspire me. My parents owned a cabin there, and almost every summer my family would be out west to visit. You can't help but admire the beauty and the wonder of this place. However, the trip to church on a Sunday morning was at least a 40-minute drive. Oftentimes, while many others in my family were still asleep, I would rush out the door late, trying to get to church on time. It meant speeding a little and my stress level rising.

On one particular Sunday, when I was *very* late, I tried to hurry but got behind a guy in a truck with a cup of coffee in his hand, moving very slowly. Being in a great hurry, I was becoming very impatient. *Why is he moving so slowly? Doesn't he know I'm behind him? What does he think? That I have all day?* I felt like the rabbit running through Alice in Wonderland: "I'm late, I'm late, for a very important date." The clock in the car was a little slow, but that wasn't helping me because it was showing that I would soon be late. This guy seemed to be under a spell, taking his good old time while "Mr. Important" was blocked from making his appointed rounds.

All I could see, through steam coming out of my ears and my eyes squinting on a beautiful day with the sun shining brightly, was this guy soaking up the terrain and admiring the enormous lake with the snow-capped mountains in the back-

ground, the rock formations on both sides of the road, and the many varieties of vegetation. The pine trees were wonderful and, if you left your car window open, you could smell their fine fragrance easily. Even a downed tree fit into the esthetically pleasing picture of an alpine lake in a wonderful forest.

So, he sipped out of his coffee cup, kept looking from side to side, enjoying every view while I was considering cursing on Sunday. *Didn't he realize that I was headed for worship?* It was the Sabbath, and he was hindering me from observing it. Finally, I was able to pass him, pushed the metal to the pedal and started moving quickly when the trees began to blur and all I could see was the asphalt road ahead of me that I must conquer in time to hear "This is the feast".

This was the Sabbath, and I was going to observe it, but the more I thought about it as I arrived at church, perhaps he was observing it more than I was. Jesus said the Sabbath was made for us - a time when God rests and surveys all that he has created. A time to stop working, to throw away time schedules and busy-ness, simply to relax, think, meditate, and give thanks to God. Could this guy in the truck have it right and could I be wrong? I didn't want to admit it, but I was missing the point of the Sabbath. Worship is key, but on the other hand, rest, relaxation, enjoyment of others and nature, and time away from our routine is important.

Hope you had a good summer! *MEH*

## Keep in Your Prayers

*Margit Bier, William Solano (Myra Hahn's father), Peggy Jacobson, Nate Lipsen, Sandy Herrmann, Gisela Haugen, Peter Gisondi, Ava Pagnotte, 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, Serena Boshak (Suzanne & Bob Kraft's niece), Diana Sparks, Clyde and Helen Wills.*

## MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BAPTISM

Kensington Rosemary Kihn, July 9

### FUNERAL

Patricia Allan, August 19

### WEDDING

Leslie Salazar & David Rivera, July 15

### UPCOMING WEDDING

Kristen Zyburka & Daniel Betker, Sept 30

## HOSPITALIZED

Diana Sparks, sister of Dorothea Ferri, in Florida. Please keep the family in your prayers.

## SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to Joe and Lisa Colón and family over the death of Joe's mother, Ana Colón.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPECIAL GIFTS IN JULY & AUGUST

### Mission:Backpacks

Dorothea Ferri  
Lisa & Frank O'Gorman  
Kathy & Pastor Henk  
Trudi Bunke  
Carla & Brian Hofland  
Christine & Matt Hardigree

Patti & Bill Hahn  
Karen Haghenbeck-Nun-  
nink

### Reformation Concerts

Suomi Sakai & John Quinley  
Lynn & John Hillman  
Sandy & Jim Kilts

Anonymous donor

### Renovation

Bill Podszus  
Kim & Jeff Schiro  
Jim Wills  
Rebecca & Nelson Gómez

Marvin E. Henk  
*Pastor*

### Church Council

Steve Michaelson  
*President*

Suomi Sakai  
*Vice President*

Manuela Petzold  
*Treasurer*

Karen Clark  
*Council Secretary*

Heath Kihn  
*Financial Secretary*

Karen Haghenbeck  
*Worship & Music*

Robert Dilworth  
*Stewardship*

Karen Guinee  
*Youth*

Dorothea Ferri  
*Christian Education*

Detlef Joerss  
*Property*

Serge Banzet  
*Evangelism*

Marc Schlueter  
*Social Ministry*

Marvin E. Henk  
*Pastor*

### Staff

Christiane Janssen  
*Secretary*

Matthew Thomas  
*Organist & Music Director*

Anna Piselli  
*Sexton*

### Choir Directors

Matthew Thomas  
*Adult Choir*

Austin Kehrl  
*Handbell Choir*



We are going back to our regular two services on  
**September 17:**  
**8.15 am & 10.30 am**

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT ONE GLANCE

September 10:	BBQ for Seniors
September 13:	Book Club
September 17:	Rally Day/Regular Worship
September 20:	9th grade confirmation begins
September 23:	Blood Drive
September 24:	Concert with Matt Thomas
September 28:	Bible Study begins
October 7:	Blessing of the Animals
October 11:	7th/8th grade confirmation
October 21:	Halloween party
October 22:	Brandenburg concert

## EVENTS

### BBQ for SENIORS Sunday, September 10 at noon

Following successful BBQs for Seniors over the last few years for seniors from our community, we will have another one on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. It's 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.



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

If you can help, please contact Marc Schlueter at 914.967.0131 or [orthodontics@optonline.net](mailto:orthodontics@optonline.net). Thank you!

**Join Us!**

### Rally Day Is on September 17

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.



**September 17**

### 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](mailto:ferrinice13@aol.com) or speak to her during coffee hour.



### Book Club September 13 @ 7 pm

Thanks to the great participation in June and July the summer book club is turning into a book club! It seems we all enjoyed reading Trevor Noah's book and we had a very good discussion. Our next book will be our first fiction and an older one - Graham Greene's "The Power and the Glory", "a violent, raw novel about suffering, strained faith, and ultimate redemption". Just start reading and let Pastor Henk know you are joining!



### Every Sunday at 9.15 am

Adult Forum starts back up on **September 17**. Join us on Sunday after the 8.15 am service or before the 10.30 am service! For any questions, please contact Pastor Henk.



**Every Thursday  
at 12.15 pm**  
beginning September 28.

Bring your lunch!

## EVENTS



### Give Blood at St. John's On September 23 9 am to 2 pm

**We are excited to host a blood drive.** To continue holding blood drives, we need to have at least 25 donors. Please participate and don't go to other places to give blood - so we don't lose this opportunity to serve our community.

**You can even make an appointment online now:**

go to [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter sponsor code: St. Johns. For any questions, please email Marc Schlueter, our Social Ministry chair, at [orthodontics@optonline.net](mailto:orthodontics@optonline.net).

### Celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation and the Life of Martin Luther

*September 22, October 22 and October 29*

Please join us on **September 24 at 4 pm** for the first of two special concerts celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation; featuring solo organ and piano music, played by our Music Director, Matthew O. Thomas, choral selections sung by St. John's Choir, and chamber music. The program will also include the Hallelujah chorus from Händel's Messiah.

In our continuing celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation we will sponsor the Brandenburg Concertos by J.S. Bach on **October 22 at 4 pm.** Our own Kurt Coble is producing this performance that requires a small orchestra. This music is revered as one of the finest works of J.S. Bach. It is a must-see, let alone hear.

**Both musical celebrations will require our financial support.** To produce both of them will cost at least \$10,000. We have received a \$5,000 grant that must be matched. Therefore, we are asking everyone to contribute so that we can receive this money and reach our goal. We are calling upon everyone to be generous for these special events that will commemorate this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. These concerts will be open to our community to enjoy and to introduce them once again to our ministry here at St. John's. We hope people will attend who have never had the experience of being at St. John's before.



A third part of our celebration will be on **Reformation Sunday**, when we will lift up reformer Martin Luther in a very special way. There will be great music for this occasion, a special liturgy emphasizing the themes in Luther's life, and there will be an actual visit to our church by Luther himself.

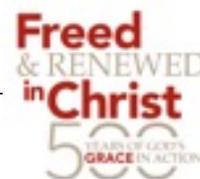
**DON'T MISS ANY OF THESE EXCITING EVENTS TO CELEBRATE THIS MILESTONE OF OUR FAITH!**

**Yes, I wish to support both concerts to be sponsored by St. John's to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.**

Enclosed you will find a gift that will help us meet the matching grant and to make these events possible.

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

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_



## Statement on 50 Years of Occupation World Council of Churches

*Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. (Leviticus 25:10)*

This year, 2017, marks several historic anniversaries of great importance to the history and development of the situation in Israel and Palestine and to the ecumenical community's response to this situation – including 100 years since the Balfour Declaration, 50 years since the Six Day War of 1967, and 10 years since the 2007 WCC International Peace Conference "Churches together for Peace and Justice in the Middle East" in Amman, Jordan.

In the Balfour Declaration of 1917 – later incorporated in the British Mandate for Palestine – the British Government expressed its support for “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people” and committed to “use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.” Unfortunately, as history has demonstrated, the rights of the non-Jewish communities in Palestine have not been protected as envisaged in the declaration.

Indeed, these very days during which the WCC executive committee is meeting in Bossey, Switzerland, mark fifty years of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. During the past five decades, the World Council of Churches has always recognized the State of Israel and its legitimate security needs as well as those of the Palestinian communities of the region. It has consistently appealed for non-violent approaches and denounced the use of armed force and violence by whosoever committed. And it has repeatedly called for an end to the occupation, and continuously advocated and acted in support of peace with justice for both Palestinians and Israelis. The WCC has also launched numerous initiatives for a just peace in the region, including the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) and the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF).

However, half a century after the 1967 war, there is still no peace and no justice among the inhabitants of the land of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories continues without any political solution on the horizon. On the contrary, its matrix of control – in particular through the ever growing web of illegal Israeli settlements – is increasing rather than diminishing. The occupation strangles hopes for a jointly agreed political solution of

the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, for a sustainable peace for both peoples, for justice and equal human dignity and rights for all, and for the realization of legitimate Palestinian aspirations for self-determination. And it is recognized in a recent United Nations report as being the main cause of humanitarian need in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The WCC believes that, as much as the on-going occupation is a tragedy for the Palestinian occupied, it is also disastrous for the Israeli occupiers – negatively impacting democracy and human rights in Israel, the State of Israel's moral standing in the community of nations, and the conscience of the Israeli nation. After so many unfulfilled UN resolutions, agreements and promises, the occupation is also an indelible stain on the conscience of members of the international community, whose support or quiescence has encouraged and enabled the Israeli occupation to become effectively a permanent colonization. This is a betrayal of all the solemn commitments to achieving a viable two-state solution, the best hope of achieving a just peace and securing peaceful coexistence for the two peoples and three religions of the region. We urge all those responsible to act to correct this situation and to justify the hopes and expectations created by those commitments.

The WCC executive committee, meeting at the time of this sad anniversary, reiterates the many appeals and recommendations that have been made by the WCC over the years based on our trust in a shared commitment to peace, justice and equal dignity and rights for all people. In the face of fifty years of evidence of the lack of adequate mutuality in that commitment, we – together with WCC member churches in the region and around the world – offer up our prayers and our hopes to God, who leads us on the pilgrimage of justice and peace, and who makes all things new.

We pray that hearts hardened by hatred and violence and eyes narrowed by power and fear of the other will be opened for new paths to peace, in which the God-given dignity and value of every human being can be equally recognized and respected. We pray for a day in which Israelis and Palestinians will live side-by-side in peaceful co-existence, with neither oppressing nor being oppressed by the other. We pray for the churches of Palestine and Israel, that they may be strengthened and empowered in their role as witnesses to the peace of God. And we call for all churches and people of good will around the world to hold fast to this vision, not to despair, but to renew their commitment to speaking and acting in support of justice and peace in Palestine and Israel, against all the obstacles and barriers set up by human powers and principalities.

God of Life, lead us to justice and peace.

## CELEBRATING THE REFORMATION

Can so much joy come from a fish barrel? Katherine von Bora escaped a convent, fleeing with several other nuns in fish barrels. Her father sent five-year-old Katharine to the Benedictine cloister in Brehna in 1504 for an education. She went on to other monasteries but after several years she was interested in joining the growing Reform movement and was dissatisfied with her life in a convent. She and others contacted Luther and asked for assistance. Luther sent the city councilman of the town of Torgau to help her and others escape. It was written by a local student that “a wagonload of vestal virgins had just come to town, more eager for marriage than for life. God grant them husbands lest worse befall.”

Luther arranged for homes, employment and marriages for all of the nuns, except for Katharine. She lived with painter Lucas Cranach the Elder and his wife Barbara. Katharine had a number of interested suitors who all proposed, but she was only interested in two men - Nicolaus von Amsdorf and Martin Luther. Luther was advised by his friends not to marry because it could create a scandal and set back the Reformation. However, it looks like Katie was too wonderful to resist. In a letter to his friend Spalatin he wrote, “You must come to my wedding. I have made the angels laugh and the devil weep.” He also wrote to another friend, “I am to marry on Thursday. My Lord Katie and I invite you to send a barrel of the best Torgau beer, and if it's not good you will have to drink it all yourself.” Luther was married at 10 am. On that day Luther led Katie to the sound of bells ringing throughout Wittenberg to the parish church, and in the portal of that church, in the sight of all, the ceremony of marriage was observed, followed by a banquet in the Augustinian cloister.

Thus began a new world for Katie and Martin. Luther wrote that marriage brought many changes: “Before I was married, the bed was not made for a whole year and become foul with sweat. But I worked so hard and was so weary I tumbled in without noticing it.” He also said, there is much to get used to in the first year. “One wakes up in the morning and finds a pair of pigtails on the pillow, which were not there before.” The marriage was a great match in which Katie Luther proved to be the perfect partner for him. It brings a smile to your face when you read all of the things she did tirelessly. Roland Bainton, Luther historian, writes,

“Katie looked after the orchard beyond the village, which supplied them with apples, grapes, pears, nuts, and peaches. She had also a fish pond, from which she netted trout, carp, pike, and perch. She looked after the barnyard with hens, ducks, pigs, and cows, and did the slaughtering herself. Luther gives a glimpse into her activities in a letter of 1535: ‘My Lord Katie greets you. She plants our fields, pastures, and sells cows etcetera (how much does etcetera cover?). In between she has started to read the Bible... She is hard at it and is at the end of the Fifth Book of Moses.’”

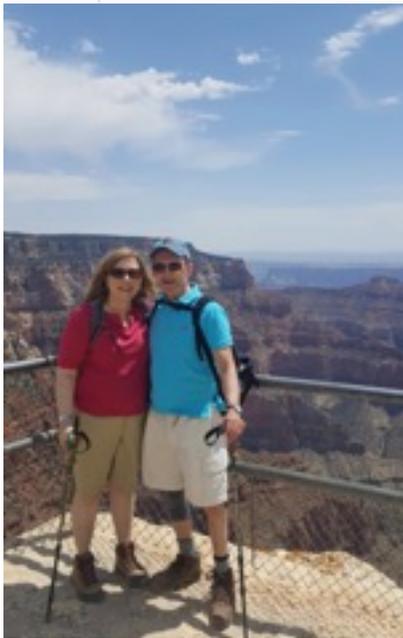
Katie was a master of herbs and massage. She looked after Luther who suffered from gout, insomnia, hemorrhoids, constipation, stone, dizziness, and ringing in the ears, “like all the bells of Leipzig, Halle, Erfurt, and Wittenberg”.

The Luther household, which was the Augustinian cloister of Wittenberg, given to him by Duke Frederick, was filled with students who boarded there and helped support it. The Luthers had six children and adopted four others. The home was a sanctuary for Luther, where children played, music was sung, and conversation always lifted the mood. He said to a friend, “Why don't you think of your children? They are in front of you all the time, and you will learn from them...”

While Luther's home was filled with music, merriment, and lively talk, it was also a place where the Luthers struggled to overcome grief. Two of their children died very young. When 14-year-old daughter Magdalena lay upon her death bed, Luther prayed, “O God, I love her so, but thy will be done.”, and she said, “Yes, dear father, as God wills.” Katie stood far off, overcome by grief, and Luther held the child in his arms as she died. It is said that she was his favorite child. He and Katie were stricken by grief, far beyond what he could imagine. He found this so surprising in the sense that he firmly believed in the joy of heaven, but could not reconcile it with his feeling of loss. He threw himself on the floor praying for her restoration. Previously they had lost their oldest daughter Elizabeth in infancy at the age of 7 months. Luther's life was filled with many challenges, but perhaps these were the most devastating.

*MEH To be continued. This is the sixth 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 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.*

*People Parade... People Parade... People Parade... People Parade*



We have seen pictures of **Carla and Brian Hofland** hiking in Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park as well as rafting down the Colorado River in the Glen Canyon area. They noted a couple of things. One is that there are lots of Germans there. The other is, how can anyone be an atheist after seeing such sights? You are making believers out of all of us... **Walter Zullig** just keeps on traveling. Pastor Henk recently called him only to discover that he was at a conference in New Orleans. However, we did note that he was getting on a plane home. What?! ... **Lois and John Baldwin** have found a house in Delaware, where they are planning to move in the fall. Congratulations on your new house, but we cannot quite imagine St. John's without Lois. Why, Lois, why?!... Where is **Suomi Sakai**? It could anywhere in this world, but one thing we know is that she is in France, taking French lessons... **Jim MacLellan** celebrated a milestone birthday in July. It was a quiet affair with only 60

people from all over the country. Jim and MaryAnn were the first persons to join St. John's after Pastor Henk arrived. They called the church the first day he was in the office, and Pastor Henk did not know how to direct them to the church. A lot of miles have been traveled since, and we are so happy to have them as part of our happy family at St. John's... **Bill Podszus** visited us over the July 4 weekend. He is doing well but misses all of us - as we miss him... And wasn't July 4 as great day?! Pastor Henk blessed the fleet, where he saw **Roger Gutierrez and Laura Autera**, who came sailing by him on the dock, waiving as he blessed their boat. In the evening, we sold out our tailgate party right here in the parking lot. As usual, Pastor Henk went around tasting great cuisine from everyone's table. He especially enjoyed the potato salads made by **Rita Gross** and **Kim Schiro**. Perhaps we need a potato salad cook-off here at St. John's to help raise funds for poor Germans with high cholesterol. Perhaps we could do Schwarz-wälder Kirschtorte (black forest gateau) for a prize. It was great to see all the wonderful fireworks from the best seat in town. A big thank you to **Rebecca and Nelson Gómez** for organizing this great event... Most people don't like to ride their bicycle at night. **Steve Michaelson**, on the other hand, went night-riding on a unique journey in Seattle with his daughter. When in Seattle, do what people in Seattle do, and that is ride your bike at night... Our summer **book club** looks like it will be extending itself into the fall. Having read two books with great enthusiasm - Hillbilly Elegy

and Born a Crime, we are now moving on to The Power and the Glory by Graham Greene. A book can do many things - spark your imagination, inspire you, inform you, help you travel to places you have never been. Why not join us?!... Congratulations to **Trudi Bunke** for celebrating a big birthday in July! She is a person with boundless energy who does prison ministry, attends church regularly, goes to Bible Study, attends our book club - and these are only the things we know about... It's always nice to see money flowing out of St. John's to help other people who live beyond our sidewalks. Pastor Henk will be carrying a \$2,000 check to **August Victoria Hospital** on top of the mount of Olives when he goes there in January. Also, we are pleased to know that monies were collected at the Men's Good Friday prayer breakfast that were sent to help a bombed Coptic church in Egypt. When you think about it, such gifts really don't impact our wallets much but they can make a big difference to people who are desperately in need... It was good to see **George Groth** in church playing the piano during worship... On a visit to church **Mike Bellamy** brought wife Cherine's mother for a visit. Pastor found her to be as charming as Cherine. They had just returned from visiting Cherine's grave which, of course, is a reminder of all that she has meant to us... Moms, what would we do without them? Of late, we are pleased to see **Silvia Misina's** mother in church and **Manuela Petzold's** mother also in the pews. What is really interesting is how much they seem to enjoy worship even though they do not under-

*People Parade... People Parade... People Parade... People Parade*

stand English very well... Speaking of mothers - Pastor was very happy to meet **Keri Degroote's** parents, who were visiting recently... Party on! That is the motto of **Keri and Chris Degroote** as they hosted a wonderful party at their home - or shall we call it their compound? When you go to a party and they have a pool and hot tub, not to mention a band and great food, perhaps you should start looking into the society pages for pictures of the people attending. Let it suffice that everyone had a good time, including the children rolling down the hill in a giant balloon. The great thing about it is that the balloon comes with a hill. Actually, we are thinking about having the church picnic in their backyard in the future... We have to wish happy birthday to some of us, who have reached important milestones. **Happy birthday, Walter Zullig, Trudi Bunke, and Jim MacLellan!.. Pastor Henk**, while talking to his daughter **Allison**, discovered that she and her husband Brian recently attended a concert at Dudley's in New Rochelle - a place Pastor used to sail to to have a "barge burger". Yes, a heart attack on a plate! They were there to hear **Joe Alfano** play and they noticed **Suzanne and Robert Kraft** were there as well... It's good to see **Marc Schlueter** and family back from Hamburg, Germany. No more bratwurst - at least not like the one you get there! Glad to have you back, Marc, with all the Social Ministry activities taking place in the fall... **Detlef Joerss**, a fellow "Hamburger" enjoyed hosting the Degroote family on their trip to Maine. Always good

to have a welcome mat at your door - you never know who will show up... Cape Cod is another popular destination for our church members. We know of a few who went this summer - the **Rauls family**, the **Hahn family**, the **Colóns**, and the **Misina family**... Speaking of not understanding what is going on, or maybe understanding more than we think, it's always great to see **Kensington Kihn** in church. She is such a well-behaved baby - perhaps a lesson to us all... If you want to have a great paint job done, we recommend **Peter Plae**. He is working on the Fellowship Hall right now, and his work is always meticulous and of the highest quality... **Sue and Steve Michaelson** have been away, but a paparazzi caught a recent picture of Sue practicing for the next Oktoberfest. You have to keep those biceps strong, and



nothing does it like steins of beer... **Suzanne Zullig** is a great Jane Austin fan and attends Jane Austin conventions. She was recently in Canada for lectures and discussions... In conjunction with

that, **Andrea and Andre Berg** attended a performance of *Pride and Prejudice* at Boscobel, together with Kathy and Pastor Henk. It perhaps was not produced the way Jane Austin intended, but it turned out to be hilarious. Quite a spoof... Recently we all experienced the total eclipse of the sun. **Jimmy Coble** took this very seriously by heading to Nashville to see it pure and uncensored. The question is, was it worth it? We have to find out... Where can you enjoy a week of 50 degree weather and overcast skies during summer? The answer is: Iceland! That is exactly what **Frank and Corky McCullough** did with friends. They came back raving about the cuisine, which was five-star gourmet, the interesting hotels, and the unusual landscape. The country has only 350,000 people, and they all love living there... Where is **Suomi Sakai** today? She could be in Helsinki, where she is visiting classmates from Kindergarten, she could be outside of Paris taking in-depth French lessons, or she could be taking French lessons in Japan - *incroyable!* ... **Karen Haghenbeck** and husband Bill Nunnink had an awesome experience vacationing in the U.K. They visited the world-famous Coventry cathedral that was severely bombed and destroyed during World War II. It was rebuilt and celebrated with the music of Duke Ellington's *Special Mass*. It is also where the Society of the Cross of Nails began... **Waithira and Tom Protano** are so happy because daughter Wanjira is standing on American soil, visiting from Kenya. Hope to see her while she is here! \* \* \*

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

### Work on our Church

I just wanted to update you on some of the work happening at St John's.

The Fellowship Hall is a frequent gathering place for events at St. John's. We use it for coffee hour after the 10:30 service, and we use it for events throughout the year. It is also used by outside groups—we encourage the use of our physical facility by outside groups as part of our mission as a church. As an example, Alcoholics Anonymous meets in this space three evenings a week.

For a few years now we have been “getting by” with the wallpaper in the Fellowship Hall taped to the wall in some corners. Most of the surface area of the walls of the Fellowship Hall is wallpapered. It hasn't been the prettiest part of our church. We just haven't prioritized repairing it. That repair is currently happening and the wallpaper is being removed, the walls are being repaired after that removal as needed, and then primed and painted. This is just the areas of the walls where there was wallpaper. We think this will brighten up the Fellowship Hall and is just part of the normal maintenance and repainting that needs to be undertaken every so many years.



Additionally, we are maintaining and repairing the exterior wooden doors of the church. In some place these doors have started to show discoloration and signs of rot around some of the trim (these are the wooden doors largely around the entrance to the church itself—not any of the doors installed as part of the recent renovation of the educational wing). If fixed early—which we are doing—this is not a highly expensive repair. If the doors are allowed to rot extensively, the price of the repair or replacement cost can rise considerably. So this repair is currently being undertaken, also.

This work on our church is made possible by the normal weekly giving and stewardship of our congregation.

We have a lot planned for our church this fall - looking forward to seeing you at St. John's in September.

*Steve Michaelson*

President, Church Council

### HELP FOR HURRICANE HARVEY VICTIMS

As of the writing of this newsletter, the devastation was still continuing and the scope of this vast and unprecedented crisis situation in the area of coastal Texas and Louisiana is still far from known. Millions of people have been affected by Hurricane Harvey through multiple days of heavy rain, winds and rising tides leading to catastrophic flooding. Many thousands of people have already lost their homes and possessions, and even more rain is expected. It is a huge disaster and the road to recovery will be long.

Prayers for the people in Texas and Louisiana are needed and welcome. If you want to help in a practical way with a financial donation, you can do so through the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Response, which is actively present and beginning work on the long-term recovery efforts. Your gifts ensure that our larger church will be able to provide help and hope for those left homeless or otherwise affected by this disaster for years to come. All gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response will be used entirely, 100 percent, for this disaster until the response is complete.

**Please make your check out to St. John's and write "Hurricane Harvey" on the memo line.** You can put it in the offering on Sunday or mail it to St. John's Lutheran Church, 122 Fenimore Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. We will send a check for the total donations received to Lutheran Disaster Response.

**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)

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

Or Current Resident



**September 17**

Sunday School begins  
 Two worship services:  
 8.15 & 10.30 am

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 ministry, please return the enclosed  
 envelope with \$35.**