



ST. JOHN'S WINDOW

A VIEW OF OUR LIFE

FENIMORE ROAD AT CORTLANDT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

What's Happening

Wine Tasting

Saturday, February 3rd

Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 4th

Super Bowl Luncheon

Sunday, February 4th

Blood Drive

Saturday, February 10th

Book Club

Tuesday, February 13th

Ash Wednesday

February 14th

Brief Eucharist 12 pm
Soup & Salad Dinner 6 pm
Worship 7.30 pm

Midnight Run

Friday, March 9th

And more events inside

Looking Straight Ahead

Jesus once said, "If you want to follow me, don't look back." You can't plow a field looking back. It's also been said that the key to driving in New York City is always to look straight ahead. This month marks the beginning of a new year. It is the time to turn the page on last year and close that book. It will be the year that was.

I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead for myself as well as for our church in 2018. It will be a year of hard work; it will be a year offering many opportunities that, I hope, we will be able to grasp. One way to start the year is to be in church at worship, in prayer, focusing on the hope that the year will be a healthy and prosperous one.

People smile at me when I tell them I am working on myself and hope that there will be a better me in the New Year. Many of them are happy with me just the way I am, but they don't really know me and my struggles. All of us have struggles when it comes to trying to accomplish things, change an attitude, a work habit or a lifestyle issue. I smile back and say, "I am a work in progress.", and I see a lot that needs to be improved. I don't like having the good getting in the way of the best I can be. As my father would say, "There is always room for improvement."

This doesn't mean that I stay awake at night thinking of ways to make Marv a better person. No, I am too much of a

Lutheran for that, because I live by grace. I "sin boldly" and rejoice even more in the forgiveness of sins and the grace of God.

However, I don't want to make it cheap grace because it's a costly gift from God through Christ our Lord. Therefore, what I am doing is not a self-help method but rather a flawed person seeking God's help to live differently and better. I ran across the following quote that I find useful:

"Jesus says in his society there is a new way for [people] to live:

- you show wisdom, by trusting people;
- you handle leadership, by serving;
- you handle offenders, by forgiving;
- you handle money, by sharing;
- you handle enemies, by loving;
- and you handle violence, by suffering."

So, don't look back on last year; look ahead to a year with 365 days for you to get it right and accomplish the things you have wanted to do for a long time. Pick up the phone and call that person you have been wanting to talk to; send a card to someone you appreciate; hug your spouse and tell them you love them; get that physical you have been afraid to get; read that book that you have been looking at for a year; make sure you are in church on Sunday with your eyes closed, praying. Give thanks for all the opportunities that unfold before you.

Happy New Year! *MEH*



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Keep in Your Prayers

Margit Bier, Peggy Jacobson, Nate Lipsen, Sandy Herrmann, Peter Gisoni, Ava Pagnotte, Eileen & Teddy DeAngelo, Brian Kennedy, Janet Baker, James McCullough, Blake O'Connor, Alice Tobing, Michelle Tobing, Richard Devingo, Serena Boshak, Clyde and Helen Wills, Stacey-Lyn Roggemann, Thomas Hinnenthal, Christine Romani

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM

Marius Maël Drouard, December 17

FUNERALS

Armen Proudian, December 27

UPCOMING WEDDING

Alisha Brandon and Diego Garcia, January 6

IN SYMPATHY

Our sympathy goes to Vilma Marrero and family over the death of her mother, Rita Rijos.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPECIAL GIFTS IN DECEMBER

Renovation

Carla & Brian Hofland
Bill Podszus
Lynn & John Hillman
Stacy & Shane Gallagher
Sarah & Kurt Coble
Marc Schlueter

Building Fund

Beverly Broodie-Stewart
Discretionary Fund
K. Hagenbeck-Nunnink
Augusta V. Hospital
Oliva Mann

Memorial Fund

Laura Lewis *in memory of*
Theresa Bittlingmayer

STEWARDSHIP

You Can Still Pledge for 2018

We are grateful for those who have pledged and made a financial commitment to St. John's. This year, we have 5 new pledges and 23 members have increased their pledge over last year. However, out of approx. 130 member households only 54 have made a financial pledge at this point.

Making a commitment to your church is a great way to begin the New Year. If you haven't pledged, now is the time to make 2018 a real commitment to making things happen by presenting yourself with a giving plan and helping us budget for this new year. Thank you for your support of St. John's ministry.

"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

2 Corinthians 9:6-7



EVENTS



Sunday Morning
Adult Study

Adult Forum
Sundays @ 9.15 am

Join us for lively discussion and the sharing of your opinions, views, and ideas.

Also, a cup of coffee to get you started.



Book Club

February 13 @ 7.15 pm

Make this a New Year's resolution - join our book club, read interesting books, and feel inspired by the discussions and fellowship!

At time of printing, no decision had been made for the February book. The choice for February was:

- Born to Run by Bruce Springsteen
- The Piano Teacher by Janet Lee
- Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward.
- Thank You for Being Late by Thomas Friedman.

Check in our bulletins or emails for the selected book.



Sunday, February 4 after 10.30 am service

Please join us to review the past year and look at 2018. We welcome your ideas, concerns and suggestions to further our ministry in the coming year.

The 2016 Annual Report will be in church on January 28.



Sunday, February 4
before the Annual Meeting, after church

It's a triple play! Or a trifecta! Or just a chance to eat well and do good! Please join the Youth Group for a Souper Bowl Sunday Luncheon, immediately following the 10.30 am service. Yes, this is also the day of our Annual Meeting. For a dona-

tion of \$5 and a can of soup, per person, you will be served delicious home made soup, salad, and bread and you'll be nourished and ready for the annual meeting.

The \$5 will help our Youth Group get to next summer's Gathering, and the can of soup will be donated to a local food pantry. **Please plan to attend!**



Saturday, February 3
7 pm

Orson Wells used to hold up a wine glass on TV and say, "We'll have no wine until it's time." It's time! St.

John's will be sponsoring a wine tasting for everyone in our congregation and guests you may want to bring. Join us for a great evening.



**Here at
St. John's**

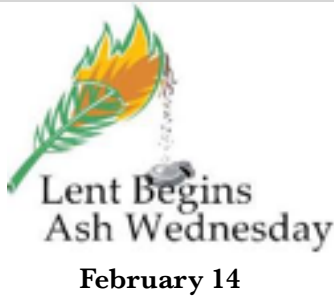
**Saturday,
February 10**
9 am to 2 pm

DONATE BLOOD TO SAVE LIVES!

We are excited to host another blood drive. To continue holding blood drives, we need to have at least 25 donors. So, please participate and help save lives - blood is needed urgently to meet the demand. Our last blood drive in October 2017 had a record participation and amount of blood donated - let's make it even better this time!

You can even make an appointment online now: go to RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: **St. Johns.** For any questions, please email Marc Schlueter: orthodontics@optonline.net.

LENT 2018



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. 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 to volunteer.

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

TIME TO RENEW YOUR ST. JOHN'S WINDOW SUBSCRIPTION

Can't wait to get your monthly newsletter? You can receive it first class! Thanks to your support, we will continue to be able to publish our newsletter without cost to the church budget. Please note that we have added the option to forgo first class mailing despite your payment to give us the full benefit of your donation, which proved very popular last year.

This year we are raising the price to \$40. It would still be cheap at twice the price... Your gift goes a long way to pay for paper, copying and postage to publish *St. John's Window*. Please enclose your check in the return envelope provided. Thank you for your support!



St. John's Window Subscription 2018

I would like to support St. John's Print Ministry. Enclosed is my \$40 check.

Name: _____

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



SHOP AT AMAZON AND BENEFIT OUR YOUTH

St. John's has become an Amazon affiliate to raise funds for our young people to attend the All-Lutheran Youth Gathering in Houston this summer. If you are planning to shop at Amazon, please go to our website and **shop through the Amazon link on our home page**. Go StJohnsNY.org, click on the Amazon link, do your shopping, and Amazon will donate a small portion of your purchase to our church to benefit our youth. **Spread the word to your family and friends and encourage them to use this link for Amazon shopping, too!** Any questions, please contact the office at 914.698.4348 or email at office@stjohnsny.org.

JERUSALEM - A STATEMENT

Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, has issued the following statement in response to President Donald Trump's decision to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

December 6, 2017

I am deeply disturbed to learn of the Trump Administration's plans to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel away from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The ELCA has long held the view that a negotiated, final status agreement, including a "shared Jerusalem," must be reached without unilateral actions by any party that would prejudice the outcome of negotiations.

This unilateral action would not support the cause of peace and a two-state solution, but rather would unnecessarily create further tensions and possible violence that would make efforts to bring them back together for talks much more difficult. As my brother in Christ and colleague, Bishop Munib Younan of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, has often said, the security of Israelis depends on the freedom of Palestinians and the freedom of Palestinians depends on the security of Israelis. This proposed action would make both more insecure.

To proceed with this plan will only further isolate our nation from the global movement for a just peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims alike in the region and our church's policy that seeks an end to the occupation, an end to terrorism and violence, and, ultimately, the establishment of a viable, contiguous Palestinian state. Since the announcement is one of intentions, I call upon the president to rescind this plan and instead continue to focus on our nation's ability to contribute constructively toward a peaceful settlement of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Along with other interreligious partners, I continue to stand ready to discuss with the president ways to reach a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sincerely,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

It is unfortunate that our president, Donald Trump, has decided to inflame the situation in Israel and jeopardized the opportunities for peace. His unilateral action has been condemned by a huge majority of countries in the United Nations as well as a 14:1 vote in the U.N. Security Council. Fifty years of occupation is enough. The U.S. needs to be prioritizing peace in that area of the world. If a two-state solution were to be found and Israelis and Palestinians could live side by side, it would be a constructive effort to bringing peace to the whole region. Unfortunately, President Trump has taken away an important negotiating chip that could have moved Israel closer to a negotiated agreement for peace and a shared Jerusalem. MEH



STATUS OF RENOVATION FUND

We are within striking distance of paying down completely the loan we have taken out to enlarge and renovate our education wing. We are still waiting on a few pledges, and the Church Council recently approved to prepay \$50,000 to help us save on interest. Let's look to the future to celebrate the burning of the mortgage before the end of 2018.

There will be more news on this to follow.

Oktoberfest

October 13, 2018

**Mark your
calendar!**



CHRISTMAS 2017



LOOKING BACK AT 2017

By all standards we have had a surprisingly good year. Our regular programming went very well, with the exception of the turnout for the Blessing of the Animals. Other than that, the seniors' luncheon, Rally Day, a hugely successful blood drive (which broke every record - 35 pints!), the Reformation concerts, were all greeted with raves. In addition to that, the visits from Martin and Katie Luther were both informative and moving. Reformation Sunday, with the bulletin, liturgical narrative, and music was truly a grand celebration marking 500 years of the Reforming Church. The Koinonia retreat was well attended, with everyone enjoying themselves immensely. It is a great opportunity for fellowship.



As we look at the finances, it is going to be a stretch to break even. Nevertheless, we gave more to the local congregation than last year - over \$10,000. Unfortunately, we had some \$10,000 of unexpected property expenses due to neglected areas that could not be addressed earlier because of other pressing financial needs. On the bright side, we have sent approx. \$5,000 for hurricane relief; some \$3,000 to Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives; and a check for \$485 to the local food pantry. In addition, we gave benevolence to the Metro Synod, for the Midnight Run and food for the food pantry over the course of the year. There were food drives for the needy as well as a drive for toys and other gifts for Christmas. We also gave money to St. Rita's Free Medical Clinic, which meets in our fellowship hall on Fridays.

We were also fortunate with welcoming new families into our church this year.

So, things could always be better - or they could be an awful lot worse. We declare this year a big success in many ways and look forward to 2018. *MEH*



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S, MARIUS!



Thank you to Robert Dilworth and Lynn Hillman for the photos.

On December 17, at our Lessons & Carols service, Marius Maël Drouard was baptized by his grandfather, at the same font where Pastor Henk baptized his daughters Erin and Allison. What a wonderful event for the Henk/Drouard family! We are happy to say that Marius was very well behaved and clearly enjoyed his baptism and meeting his new St. John's family.

IS ST. JOHN'S IN YOUR WILL?

Have you noticed that people don't like to use the words "death" or "dying"? More often than not, we say "passed away" or "passing". Fortunately, the Christian faith faces death squarely, and when it comes, we usually say that someone "died in the faith". Let's face it, death is death, and we never want to talk about it. In most cases we deny it because we live in a death-denying, youth-oriented culture.

Yet, at the end of the day, the word "pass" can still be used in connection with death. By that I mean, when we die, we want to pass something on to the next generation. Yes, we want to leave something for those who are left behind. Kathy and I have decided to leave money to St. John's in our will. When you do that, your death makes it possible for ministry to continue; and sometimes that gift may continue for many, many years after you have joined the Church Triumphant.

So, the question is, have you thought about putting our church in your will? If not, why not consider it? We have an endowment fund that does not allow us to touch the principal of any gift given to it, but it may use the interest. You are free to make gifts to this fund at any time, but a planned gift could really make a difference for our church and its future. Being a church in Westchester is not an easy ministry. Money is always an issue; meeting our budget is always a challenge. **Why not leave St. John's a financial gift that can impact the life of our congregation long after you have died?**

Nothing is more satisfying than being able to give. This is an excellent way to help us secure a future for our church well into this new century. One thing we can count on is that things will not get cheaper and prices will not go down, which means that the future expenses for St. John's will continue to grow. So, if you want to make a gift that will keep on giving, give to our endowment fund.

For more information, please contact Peter Roggemann at 914.632.2707 or peterrog@optonline.net

In Brief... In Brief... In Brief... In Brief... In Brief... In Brief

Many may not know that there is an award given to people who are outstanding in the field of "land use". It is called "The Founders Award" and was established in 1993 by the Land Use Law Center at Pace University. This year the award list grew by another honoree, our own **Frank McCullough, Jr.** Congratulations!... Speaking of awards, another one went to **Kevin McCoskey**, who was awarded the Marcia Burns Award for Excellence for his commitment to Unlimited Care, its patients and employees. Congratulations, Kevin, for this honor! We at St. John's have known for a long time what a caring guy you are. Kevin's trophy looked much heavier than a bowling ball, which is a game he knows very well, having bowled several 300 games...

Our church looked great this year, as always, for Christmas. We really appreciated everyone who contributed to making it such a warm and welcoming environment during the Christmas season! Putting up the decorations and the tree and decorating the tree is always a gigantic task. We need to thank those who showed up in early December to help decorate the church (and apologize in case we overlooked someone): **Detlef Joerss, Lisa & Frank O'Gorman, Tim Farrell, Nelson Gómez, Howard Heyel, Kevin McCoskey, Patti & Bill Hahn, Lynn & John Hillman, Annie Thurow & Bob Clarida, Marc Schlueter, Leroy Webber, Stacy & Shane Gallagher, Joanna Tobing, Lisa & Austin Kehrle, Karen Haghenbeck-Nunnink,**

Margaret Knowlton, Robert Dilworth... This year St. John's kept alive the ancient tradition of caroling as we caroled **Peggy Jacobsen** at the Osborn Home, who was very happy to see us, as well as **Mrs. Santoianni** on Union Street, **Mary & Kurt Jachner**, and **Eleanore McCaffery**. Thank you to everyone who joined us - we had a really good turnout of singers this year! The bid draw afterwards is the potluck dinner party at the Hillmans', which is always a terrifically enjoyable affair, thanks to all the efforts and great hospitality of **Lynn & John Hillman**, who have opened their house to the cold, hungry and thirsty carolers for many years now. Thank you for doing this!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS



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In memoriam

In Memoriam

Gerhard Spies

William Limage

Edith Mendes

Christine Quain

Roberta Ronan

December 29, 2017

Pastor Marvin Henk
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
122 Fenimore Road
Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Dear Pastor Henk,

Thank you for your generous gift to the Food Pantry. The \$485.00 that your congregation donated will go a long way in helping us provide nutritious groceries to struggling families in our communities.

For over 24 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 360 families each time we distribute food—over 1,400 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 is spent on food, you can be sure that your gift will make a real difference to our neighbors in need.

For the second year in a row, the Hunger Task Force was recognized with an award from 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. We received the Food Bank's Partnership Award. The citation reads: "This award goes to an agency that expands its efforts and moves the needle in solving food insecurity through strong partnership and collaboration. This agency works collaboratively with both the Food Bank for Westchester on a county scale as well as with community partners. It actively seeks partnerships with retailers and community groups to expand its food and service offerings".

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

Gratefully,

Jill Robertson
Secretary

No goods or services were given in exchange for this contribution, making the full amount of your contribution tax deductible under Internal Revenue Service guidelines. An annual report of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force has been filed with the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY, 10271.

P.O. Box 112 Larchmont, NY 10538 914-698-3558

St. John's Lutheran Church

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

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Or Current Resident



begins Ash Wednesday, February 14

Thank you to our patrons who have taken out a 2018 subscription in support of St. John's Window!

Joanne Askew
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Kathy & Pastor Marvin Henk
Hans Peter Kirchgaessner
Sandy Kolb
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!