As I write this, we are still in Eastertide, 50 days of celebrating the wonderful event of the resurrection and God’s victory over death through Jesus, our Lord. This year our church was full on Easter Sunday, with standing room only, for the first time since the advent of Covid. We pulled out all the stops with great music - French horns, our choir -, a children’s sermon, the Easter breakfast and Easter egg hunt, and Easter flowers. Everybody seemed happy to see the church so full of people, some they hadn’t seen for a long time. Of course, the week after was “low Sunday”, not so full. To make things a little more disappointing and grim, the gospel texts for the Sundays of Easter are not so jubilant either. There is doubt, despair, grief, disappointment, and the feeling of failure.

In fact, the disciples, even after the risen Lord, go back to their old job of being fishermen instead of spreading the gospel. In a comical way, we discover that the disciples are even worse fishermen than true disciples of Jesus. Nevertheless, as we journey through this seemingly gloomy response to the resurrection of our Lord, I have to admit that resurrection never comes in a way we expect or in a church filled with great sermons and great music. It usually comes in moments of despair, worry, anxiety, and trouble, not to mention fear and upset.

I read an article recently that spoke to 9/11. The author said that “on the evening of the day the World Trade Center was destroyed by terrorists a service was hastily improvised in one of the largest New York churches. Crowds of both believers and non-believers came together in search of reassurance and maybe a glimmer of hope. The speaker at the service said at times like these God is useless.”

I find saying “God is useless” offensive as a believer, but the point has to be made that in times of tragedy, disaster, and horror God can’t make these events not happen. Rather, the point is that all we can do is draw close to God and to each other when all hell breaks loose. Perhaps then is when we discover that God is there with us. It is then that we hear a rumor of a possible resurrection.

Resurrection took place after the shocking and tragic events of Good Friday. Resurrection takes place after you have been diagnosed with cancer, after you have been hospitalized for Covid, after you have been lost in endless hours of depression or in an eternity of worry and anxiety.

Today we are witnessing, in real time, tragedy at almost every moment as we watch the war in Ukraine continuing. We hear reports of mass graves, of pillaging and raping and the execution of civilians, of the deaths of little children, and of the total destruction of the in-
structure of a country by a ruthless, immoral dictator who cares nothing for human life or for the people he rules. We are witnessing first hand the evil of totalitarianism, the corruption in every level of government, and the intentional efforts to keep the truth of what is happening from the Russian people themselves.

This is a type of crucifixion in many different forms, yet we see people in Ukraine volunteering to go into the fight. We witness a refusal to surrender by those trapped in that steel plant in Mariupol; we see the leaders of Ukraine vowing to go on and Ukrainians who had left for safety returning to help their country. We also see the response from around the world, governments and people giving financial gifts and food and other supplies and aid in every form possible to help those who are under attack fighting for freedom.

Resurrection literally means “to stand again”, and I am sure that those who are in Ukraine and those throughout the world who are grasping on to a shred of hope will stand again one day. We as Christians even believe that those who die will stand again as part of the Church Triumphant. In the meantime, in the messiness of this world and in the ambiguity of life and in our own personal struggle of meaning in times “when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death”, we, too, will stand again.

MEH

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Keep in Your Prayers

Irene Abrams, Brian Bentley, Norman Block, Millie Brandon, Helene Buchen, Dale DiDonato, Paulo Mark Flores, Diane Hagedorn, Sandy Herrmann, Jaimie Hunter, Mary Jachner, Detlef Joerss, Ursula Kehrle, Dorothy Keith, Christopher Kraft, Georgia Kintz Lione, Maria Martins, Eleanor McCaffery, Nancy Periera, Bruce Quinn, David Rhodes, Jeannette Schneider

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Ministry Announcements

Funeral
Judy Musumeci, April 8

Upcoming Baptism
Paulo Flores, May 22

Upcoming Wedding
Debbie Keith & John Kunicki, June 11

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In Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to Carol Tarascio and Larry Fava over the death of their sister Judy Musumeci.

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Thank You for Your Special Donations in April

Endowment Fund
Barbara & Peter Roggemann
Kathy & Pastor Henk
in memory of Judy Musumeci

Discretionary Fund
Beverley Broodie-Stewart
Corky & Frank McCullough
in memory of Judy Musumeci

Heifer
Rebecca & Nelson Gómez

Emma Riguardi
Karen & Jim Guinee
Lila VanLare
Anastasia VanLare
Mason VanLare
Eloise & Sebastian Aquilina
Suzanne & Bob Kraft

Youth Group
Dorothea Ferri

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St. John’s Lutheran Church, Fenimore Road at Cortlandt Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543
UPCOMING EVENTS

St. John’s Tag Sale Is Back!!
Saturday, June 4
10 am to 2 pm

WE NEED YOUR UNWANTED “STUFF”.
Remember us when you spring clean your attic or basement! One person’s garbage is another’s treasure… However, please don’t bring anything before May 22 due to our storage constraints.

PLEASE DONATE
• household items in good condition,
• jewelry,
• toys in good condition,
• men’s, women’s and children’s clothing in good condition.
• wood furniture. Please no upholstered or laminate furniture. no books, computers, or TVs, and no stuffed animals.

PLEASE HELP
• setting up on Wednesday, June 1, Thursday, June 2 and Friday, June 3 in the evenings.
• selling in the clothing room on the day of the Tag Sale (June 4),
• working in the furniture room,
• selling in the main area (fellowship hall),
• we need six cashiers,
• cleaning up from 2 pm onwards.

If they are big items, please bring during our set up dates if possible. To volunteer, please email Kathy Henk at kathyhenk2021@gmail.com.

St. John’s Annual Picnic

Join us at Recreation Park on Midland Avenue in Rye for our traditional outdoor guitar service and a wonderful day of fellowship. Apart from delectable burgers, hot dogs, chicken, salads, baked beans, desserts and more, there are games for children and adults, including volleyball and baseball. Don’t miss it!

We need volunteers to help organize this wonderful event. We also need volunteers to help set up, cook, and make side dishes. Please submit the completed slip below or email the church office to volunteer: office@stjohnsny.org.

I would like to volunteer to help with this year’s Church Picnic.

Name: __________________________ # Attending:__ Phone #: __________________ Email: __________________

Set-up ___ Cooking/grill ___ Clean-up ___ Children’s games ___

I will bring: ( ) Salad ( ) Baked Beans ( ) Chili ( ) Cake ( ) Cookies ( ) Brownies
Thank you to all who bring in food to help those who struggle to put food on the table.

Please bring a bag or more with non-perishable food items to worship on Sundays or to the office during the week from 9 am to 3 pm. You can leave your offering on the landing outside the office door.

Examples of the food needed are pasta, rice, dry or canned beans, tuna, cereal, dry milk/parmalat milk.

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**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 Boris Rauls at boris.rauls@gmail.com.

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**Oktoberfest**

**New Date:**

October 29

Endowment Fund
Hi everyone!

Thanks to all who were able to participate in the Heifer Lenten Outreach program. We successfully raised $1100.00 and purchased so many more animals for needy families than we ever imagined. What a wonderful experience it has been for all of us.

Please note - May 22nd is our last day of class for this school year.

It has been a wonderful school year with the children back in the classrooms. We so enjoyed teaching the children in-person instead of zooming. We are already planning for next September and hopefully we can resume the Jr. Choir too. A big thank you to our parents for having the children in attendance almost every week. We do miss them when they are not with us.

Please mark your calendars and attend our annual St. John’s outdoor worship service and picnic on June 12th. It is such fun every year with so many families in attendance and I am hoping for an even larger Sunday school presence this year. There will be games for all of the children to enjoy so come join us for this very special event.

Wishing you all a wonderful, safe summer. See you at service.

Dorothea

Celebrating May & June Birthdays:
Naomi Johnson 05/30
Ellie Riguardi 05/10
Mason VanLare 06/09
Sebastian Aquilina 06/03
Eliana Johnson 06/17

Spring is fully upon us and summer is approaching. During this time of growth and renewal in nature, St. John’s is also returning to a fuller congregational life; we seem to be putting the COVID-19 pandemic behind us. The Finance Committee thanks the congregation for its steadfast, faithful, and generous continued support of the operations of our church throughout the last two years and during the first months of this year.

The operating budget approved for 2022 is $293,861 (lower than our 2019 and 2020 budgets!). For the first quarter ending March 31, 2022, we had current receipts of $106,108 as compared to current receipts of $123,900 for the same period in 2021, or a decrease of 14%. However, we are happy to report that the first-quarter current receipts exceed our first-quarter expenses of $67,739 by $37,369. We thank the congregation for the strong giving during the months of February and March. Keep up the good work!

However, much of the current surplus is owed to giving by members who gave their giving for the entire year in February or March, so their gifts need to be pro-rated over the entire year. To finish the year in the black we will need every pledging household to give their entire pledge for the year and then raise an additional $100,000 for the year beyond those pledges. So, while we are off to a good start for the year, we need to be vigilant and continue to be good and faithful stewards with our giving.

Also, we expect our expenses to increase as more of our congregation’s activities “go full tilt.” Further, after the switchover to natural gas heating, the church has been getting minimal heating bills from ConEd and we expect a large “catch-up” bill in the future. Moreover, it is likely that we will continue to face a reduction (compared to 2020 and earlier) in income from the rent of our premises for at least the first nine months of this year, and possibly for the entire year, but happily, there is some interest from several potential childcare center tenants (with a September start).

Again, we thank you for your generosity to date. As a speaker at a Stewardship Talk last autumn succinctly put it, “No money—No mission!” To fully fulfill our mission at St. John’s Lutheran Church for its members and for our broader community, we need your continued generosity and stewardship. St. John’s is a great congregation with tremendous heart—for that we thank God!

St. John’s Finance Committee:
Brian Hofland (Chair), Lynn Hillman, Yousha Kang, Boris Rauls, Suomi Sakai, Lisa Kehrle, Serge Banzet, and Pastor Marvin Henk
Special Lenten Offering for Ukraine:
Thank You for Your Gifts to Lutheran World Relief

We have received a total of $8,370 in donations to help deliver urgent support and care, like critically needed items for families who fled their homes, and medicine and supplies for clinics. Since LWR offered to double the donations received by April 24, this translates into almost $16,000 (a couple of donations arrived too late to double).

A big thank you goes to all who have contributed generously to this offering:


LAWN & CAMPUS CARE

Spring is here – our lawn has started growing, the weeds are already happily multiplying, etc. This means we need sponsors for our weekly lawn cutting by a professional company as well as sporadic weeding and other nature beauty care. You can support our campus care for only $45/week (it actually costs us $50 per week just for lawn mowing from April to October), and you can give one week or two or more. Please consider it. Thank you!

A big thank you to all who have already given to our campus care fund (status end of April):

The Betker family, Nancy & Scott Dunn, Karen Hagenbeck (2), Myra & Eric Hahn, Kathy & Pastor Henk (2), Detlef Joerss (2), Sandy & Jim Kitts (2), Maria Martins (2), Erika Moriarty, Cheryl & Ed Murray, Barbara & Peter Roggermann, Pastor Fred & Joyce Schumacher, Karen & Mark Stuart (2), Annie Thurow & Bob Clarida, Jim Wills (2)

Yes, I want to be part of our lawn care beautification program. ($45 per week)

Name __________________________
Amount __________________________             # of Weeks ______________________

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, FENIMORE ROAD AT CORTLANDT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543
This Easter it was great to see **Bill Podszus** and friend Pam, who came to worship and the Easter breakfast. It was a real treat… We were also pleased to see **Jack Hillman, Shari and Leonie Rauls, Katharina Heitbaum**, and the **Kirchgaessner family** in full force… Congratulations to **Stephanie Kirchgaessner** for winning a prestigious award for her journalism… **Frank & Corky McCullough** are back from a recent cruise that took them through the Panama Canal. They recommend it. It’s a real education… The **Aquolina family** is making a big move to Japan this summer. We will miss them terribly, but they promise to stay connected as they will be in the area most summers. We will have a farewell for them before they go… On a recent visit to the Wartburg, Pastor was able to see **Eleanore McCaffery**. She wants him tell everyone that she misses them. We miss you, too, Eleanore!…

**Francesca Renda**, Rye Neck high school, will attend IE University in Spain  
**Linus Ringstad**, Rye Neck high school  
**Amelie Schlueter**, Rye Brook high school, going to U Delaware to study psychology  
**Samantha Hahn**, Mercy College, B.S. in Health Science  
**Jacob Leckart**, with honors, SUNY Albany (Dorothea Ferri’s grandson)  
**Gabrielle May**, SUNY Cobleskill, B.A. in Culinary Arts Management

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**For Each Other Flows the Sympathizing Tear**

We mourn the loss of Judy Musumeci, a long-time active member of St. John’s, who tragically died at only 60 on March 31 in a fire. She could be seen at the 8:15 am service as a regular, where she served as a communion assistant and read the lessons, always accompanied by her husband Joe until he died of cancer in 2018. Within the last two years she also suffered the loss of her mother and father. Covid was another devastating experience for her. Only recently has she been able to come back from all she suffered during the last few years.

Judy was always cheerful, talkative, compassionate, and she listened to any problems you might have. She was also generous and very kind to Pastor Henk and Kathy and loved by everyone who knew her. If you needed a dish for an event, she would make her famous pasta salad. At Christmastime, Judy would always bring home-made Christmas cookies to Pastor. And if you knew Judy, you certainly knew that she was a big lover of cats, living with six of them, all rescued.

Judy is truly missed; this is a great loss for all of us at St. John’s. Our hearts go out to her brother Larry and sister Carol, who are devastated by this tragic loss. Please keep them in your prayers.

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**We Will Miss You**

Our organist/music director **Mike Schmidt** has accepted a new position as music teacher at a school in Alexandria, VA. His last Sunday with us will be June 26. Don’t miss his farewell party that Sunday!

We will miss Mike and his music very much. We are thankful for his help during the pandemic and after.

Someone else who is on the move is **Madeleine Tappert**, a long-time member, together with husband Bill who died in 2019. She is moving to New Hampshire to be closer to one of her sisters. We wish you good luck with your move, Mady, and good times with your sister!
Last month we celebrated Holy Week and Easter. Maundy Thursday had a small attendance as well as the noon service on Good Friday (only 6 people) as well as the evening service. The Tenebrae service had seven meditations on the seven last words of Christ. A big thank you must go to Yourha Kang, Kim Johnson, Nelson Gómez, Mike Schmidt, Sarah Coble, Lisa Kehrle, and Suomi Sakai for their heartfelt meditations. The Good Friday men’s prayer breakfast had about 18 men attending, more than we were expecting. A big thank you goes Roger Van Tassell, Howard Heyel, and Leroy Webber for the breakfast.

It was a happy Easter, much better than expected. Then again, Easter is about surprises. The empty tomb and, of course, a full service at 10:30 am, and more than usual at the 8 am. The Easter breakfast was fantastic with lots of food. The turnout was not as good as in the past, but we have to build it again. Thanks to all the efforts of the Sunday School the Easter egg hunt went well. A big thank you for cooking the breakfast goes to Karen and Jim Guinee, Kevin McCoskey, and Leroy Webber and to the youth group for bringing a lot of great food and helping serve, set up, and clean as well as to Carolynn Dilworth for the beautiful platters.

Another big thank you goes to Karen Haghenbeck-Nunnink for all her hard work during Holy Week and Easter for setting up the altar, changing the colors, filling the candles, etc.

Last but not least a big thank you to Mike Schmidt, Kurt Coble, our choir, Annette Herring, and the horn trio Peter Reit, William Devos, and Casey Cronan for the beautiful Easter music.
Thank You for Taking Out a 2022 subscription in support of St. John’s Window!

Lynn Albers
Waltraut Albert
Véronique & Serge Banzet
Dan Betker
Norman Block
Chammien & Anthony Casazza
Ken & Karen Christopher
Sarah & Kurt Coble
Wenche Delfino
Annette & Leon Dixon
Nancy & Scott Dunn
Karen & Tim Farrell
Dorothea Ferri
Lu & Bill Ganley
William Garvey & Tamara Eberlein
Dolores Hausler
Tim & Karen Hebel
Kathy & Pastor Henk
Lynn & John Hillman
Carla & Brian Hofland
Anne Huber
Detlef Joerss
G.V. Johnson
Yourha Kang
Sandy & James Kilts
Hans Peter Kirchgaessner
H. Sandy Kolb
Suzanne & Bob Kraft
Carol & Ryan Lahurd
Chrissy Lyon
Linda Lyon
MaryAnn & Jim MacLellan
Robert L. Maier
Robin Malishefski
Maria Martins
Eleanore McCaffery
Corky & Frank McCullough
Cheryl & Ed Murray
Judy Musumeci
Lisa & Frank O’Gorman
Heike & Boris Rauls
Pat Ouwerkerk & Jon Richards
Diane & Mark Roccols
Barbara & Peter Roggemann
Judy & Michael Sangregorio
The Rev. Dr. Fred & Joyce Schumacher
Peggy & Eric Stockmar
Karen & Mark Stuart
Matt, Ina & Jackson Sullivan
Annie Thurow & Robert Clarida
Bobby & Kristina Tipping
Katrin & Douglas Torpie
Lori Uhle
Jill & Anthony Valentino
Robert & Irene Van der Wateren
Jim Wills
Walter & Suzanne Zullig

If you have taken out a subscription but your name does not appear here, please contact the office at 914.698.4348 or email office@stjohnsny.org.

Thank you for your support!