



# ST. JOHN'S WINDOW

| A VIEW OF OUR LIFE |

FENIMORE ROAD AT CORTLANDT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## Finding the Answer

Every second Sunday of Easter has the same text, no matter which year: John 20:19-3, the text of Doubting Thomas who refuses to believe that the Lord has risen unless he can see him and his wounds with his own eyes. Thomas is the spokesman for all of us who at times find ourselves doubting something as essential as the resurrection of our Lord.

So, the picture we have, after the glorious resurrection of our Lord, is the disciples locked in a room for fear of their lives. This room might as well have been a tomb. A tomb filled with doubts and with fear, and Thomas does not understand that Jesus has risen. In fact, his response is negative and harsh when the other disciples say they have "seen the Lord". All of a sudden, somehow, Jesus appears even though the doors are locked.

While Thomas responds harshly, Jesus is elegant and pleading, asking Thomas to touch his wounds. Then he says, "Do not be faithless but believing." What becomes even more important is Thomas' response: "MY LORD AND MY GOD". This could be a confession or a creed, but let it be noted that Jesus is rarely called God in the New Testament.

After Thomas' confession Jesus responds with with a new beatitude: *Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.*

The story of Thomas seems to me like an invitation for us to doubt. Theologian Paul Tillich wrote in his book *The Courage to Be*: "The old faith must die, eaten by doubts, but only so that a new and deeper faith may be born." I love William Sloan Coffin's phrase even better: "First you leap and then you grow wings."

I think Thomas has a certain appeal to all of us because of his honesty. He does not accept faith without question. Besides his questions he has doubts; he thinks, he ponders, he challenges. Sometimes I can live my way into the answers, if only for a fleeting moment. This is a poem by R.S. Thomas, called *The Answer*, that captures that feeling:

*There have been times  
when, after long on my knees  
in a cold chancel, a stone has rolled  
from my mind, and I have looked  
in and seen the old questions lie  
folded and in a place  
by themselves, like the piled  
graveclothes of love's risen body.*

THE ANSWER is often hard to find in our life when tragedy strikes and loss finds a place in the living of our days. This poem has me looking into an empty tomb but for a moment finding my questions answered in "love's risen body". Moments are fleeting but once in a while there is clarity as "faith sees best in the dark".

MEH

Sign up at  
[StJohnsNY.org](http://StJohnsNY.org) for  
Our Weekly Emails

8.15 am Early Worship

9 am Adult Forum

10 am Worship & Sunday  
School

### Concert

April 7

### Book Club

April 9

### Youth Group Bowling

April 20

### Tim Krick of LWR

May 5

### Mother's Day Breakfast

May 12



Marvin E. Henk  
*Pastor*

**Church Council**

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Christiane Janssen  
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kowska-Moeckel  
*Organist/Music Director*

**Choir Directors**

Katarzyna Kluczy-  
kowska-Moeckel  
*Adult Choir &  
Children's Choir*

Austin Kehrle  
*Handbell Choir*

**Keep in Your Prayers**

Brian Bentley, Tricia Berwick, Brian Caldwell, James Celestino, Wenche Delfino, Sophia English Edwards, Patricia Gabriel, Richard Geminn, Jorge & Carmen Gómez, Diane Hagedorn, Eric Hahn, William Halpern, Mary Jachner, Eleanore McCaffery, Jim McCullough, Mike Newgaard, Bill Nunnink, Bruce Quinn, Alexander Rauls, Jeannette Schneider, Joyce Schumacher, Patricia Torpie, Jill & Anthony Valentino, Jim Wills, and Fred Zito

**Hospitalized**

Richard Geminn, back home; and Mary Jachner

**Thank You for Your Special Offerings in March**

**Endowment Fund/Memorials**

Carla & Brian Hofland  
Barbara & Peter Roggemann  
*in memory of Millie Brandon*

**Discretionary Fund**

Richard Rynniker

**Midnight Run**

Maria Martins



How would you like to keep your offerings working for you long after you have joined the Church Triumphant? Yes, you can make a gift that keeps on giving. You can do that by putting St. John's in your will and designating it for our endowment fund. Our endowment fund is a fund whose principal cannot be touched, only the interest it generates.

All of us know that we live in one of the most expensive areas in the United States. A church like ours always faces a challenge to meet its budget and to pay for unforeseen expenses. With a larger endowment we could address unexpected expenses, augment our budget if we have a deficit, or support special mission projects.

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](mailto:boris.rauls@gmail.com).



Thank you to all who bring in food to help those who struggle to put food on the table as well as to Carla Hofland for always taking the bags to the pantry. Examples of the food needed are pasta, rice, dry or canned beans, tuna, cereal, dry milk/parmalat milk.

Upcoming Events & Announcements



**BOOK CLUB**

*postponed to*  
**Tuesday, April 9 @7.30 pm**

We will discuss **The Life We're Looking For** *Reclaiming Relationship in a Technological World* by Andy Crouch.



**BOWLING**

**Saturday, April 20 @7 pm**

It will be a fun night! Please email James Dykstra, our Youth chair, at [jamesdijkstra@gmail.com](mailto:jamesdijkstra@gmail.com) to tell him you'll be there. We will meet at church at 6.30 pm to carpool.



**CONCERT**

April 7 @ 3 pm

St. John's will present a delightful concert of music for French Horn and Lever Harp, featuring the Reit Duo. The program will include traditional Scottish, Welsh, and Irish folk tunes, as well as compositions by Thomas Morley, John Playford, and William Byrd.

*Harpist Alyssa Reit is an independent composer, arranger, performer, teacher, and storyteller. She has performed with the Orchestra of St. Lukes, Metropolitan Opera, and Pittsburgh Symphony. French Hornist Peter Reit performed in the Broadway Production of Phantom of the Opera for 32 years, as well as many other ensembles including the New York Philharmonic, Orpheus, American Ballet, New York City Opera, and Metropolitan Opera.*



**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

**A Visit from The Rev. Tim Krick**

who will be here on Sunday, **May 5** to lead us in worship and talk about LWR's current relief work.



**Saturday, June 1**

**WE WANT YOUR UNWANTED "STUFF"!**

We need:

- household items;
- jewelry;
- toys;
- men's, women's, and children's clothing - *all in good condition.*

*Please no books, computers, electronics, stuffed animals.*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**to help with set-up, selling, and clean-up!**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**THE REV. TIM KRICK, LWR** May 5

**MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST** May 12

**TAG SALE** June 1

**PICNIC** June 23

**SUMMER WORSHIP** starts June 30

**GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.** Sept 8

**RALLY DAY** September 15

**PASTOR'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIV.** September 29

**OKTOBERFEST** October 19

## Sunday School

Hi everyone!

Lenten Outreach Programs – Teachers and children assembled 60 toiletry bags for the homeless which were distributed during the Mid-Night Run. Prior to assembling the bags we provided a lesson for the children explaining just how important this gift is to those folks without homes.



A second Outreach Lenten Program was to participate in the ELCA's Buck a Chick Program. The children have been having such fun coloring the baby chick pictures every time someone donated \$1. At my last count we raised \$310 which buys 310 baby chicks to be given to families in need.

While these were fun program, more importantly they taught our children to be good servants to others just as Jesus taught us.

Big thank you to all who helped the children reach their goals. Good job everyone!

Looking forward to spring and sharing new lessons with the children.

God bless,

*Dorothea*

Christian Education Chairperson



Ria G. 04/16



### Who Is Graduating?

If your child is graduating from high school or college this spring, let us know so that we can put this great news in our newsletter. Email [office@stjohnsny.org](mailto:office@stjohnsny.org).

## HELPING THE PEOPLE OF GAZA

We are grateful to all who gave a gift to our Lenten Mission Project of helping bring humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, and we are happy to say that thanks to you we have surpassed our goal of \$4,000, raising over \$6,000. The money will go to Lutheran World Relief for its relief efforts in Gaza, whose people are homeless, injured, starving, and without medical help. As you know, the need is huge.

### A big THANK YOU to all who have given:

*Lynn Albers*

*Becky Alfano*

*Véronique & Serge Banzet*

*Catherine & Ralph Block*

*Lisa Brandon-Colón*

*Diana Carlyle & James Dykstra*

*Jeanhee Chung & Niels Ringstad*

*Cheryl Cipro & George Groth*

*Robert Clarida & Annie Throw*

*Sarah & Kurt Coble*

*Carolynn & Robert Dilworth*

*Rebecca & Nelson Gómez*

*Karen Haghbenbeck-Nunnink*

*Sue Halpern*

*Christine & Matt Hardigree*

*Violet & Greg Haviland*

*Kathy & Pastor Henk*

*Lynn & John Hillman*

*Carla & Brian Hofland*

*Detlef Joerss*

*Lisa Johansen & Greg Cushna*

*Kim & Dan Johnson*

*Yourha Kang*

*Lisa & Austin Kehrlé*

*Kensington & Logan Kihn*

*Wendy & Heath Kihn*

*Genene Kluck*

*Carol & Ryan LaHurd*

*Mara Lakis*

*Robert Maier*

*Maria Martins*

*Susan Millette*

*Manuela Petzold*

*Ian & Melissa Rhodes*

*Jennifer & Eddie Riguardi*

*Amy Robertson & Luca Renda*

*Suomi Sakai & John Quinley*

*Marc Schlueter*

*Jean-Emmanuel Shein & Christiane Janssen*

*Karen Stuart*

Photo Gallery



Thank you to Becky Alfano and Lisa & Austin Kehrle for making ALL the palm crosses for Palm Sunday!



Thank you to all who helped with the MIDNIGHT RUN!

LAWN & CAMPUS CARE

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 still 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. It's a big relief for our budget.

**Thank you to** Lynn Albers (10), Dan Betker, Kathy & Pastor Henk, Detlef Joerss (2), Tommy Maloney & Lori Uhle, Maria Martins, Cheryl & Ed Murray, Maggie O'Connor, Pat Ouwerkerk & Jon Richards (2), Suomi Sakai & John Quinley (2), Karen Stuart (2) who have already given a gift to our gardening fund.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_ # of Weeks \_\_\_\_\_



## Holy Week & Easter

Easter Sunday is always a joyous and wonderful time in the life of our church. Before we get to Easter Sunday, though, we need to retrace our steps as Holy Week and the week before are also very important. We finished our Lenten Bible study on the book of Philippians, a prelude to joy and rejoicing.

On the weekend of Palm Sunday we did a Midnight Run, reaching out to the homeless of Manhattan to give them delicious chicken noodle soup, made by Rebecca Gómez and clothing, organized under the auspices of our Social Ministry chair Amy Robertson. The same Friday evening some people made palm crosses that were given to everyone on Palm Sunday upon leaving church.

Palm Sunday itself began outside, on the patio, in very nippy weather. With palm branches in our hands we processed in as a congregation to fill the pews. We were so pleased to hear the entire Passion narrative of the gospel of Mark read by members of our congregation at both services.

During Holy Week we had services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The men's prayer breakfast on Good Friday had record attendance - over 20 men! It was great, as was the delicious breakfast cooked by Howard Heyel and Roger Van Tassell, and as was Pastor's meditation.

Following a brief service at noon, we had the Good Friday Tenebrae service in the evening. Thoughtful mediations on the Christ's last seven words were done by Kurt Coble, Carolynn Dilworth, Carla Hofland, Kim Johnson, Bill Podszus, John Quinley, and Niels Ringstad.

Finally Easter Sunday arrived with glorious weather, perfect for an egg hunt outside. Hundreds of eggs were scattered around our campus, thanks to Dorothea Ferri, our Sunday School Director, and the Sunday School teachers and helpers. It brought a lot of joy. The choir processed in to "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today". That was the beginning of a great musical experience, with our harpist, Adán Vásquez, our bell choir, our choir, the trumpet and the trombone, Björn Olsson, our soloist, and George Groth, who led it all and played the piano. In between the early and the later service we enjoyed our traditional Easter breakfast, perfectly organized by Rebecca Gómez and Joanna Tobing. Thank you also to all who contributed food. Last, but not least, thank you to Karen Hagenbeck—Nunnink for beautifully decorating the church.



APRIL 2024



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, FENIMORE ROAD AT CORTLANDT AVENUE, MAMARONECK, NY 10543

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

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Email: [office@stjohnsny.org](mailto:office@stjohnsny.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
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**White Plains, NY**

***Or Current Resident***

**Thank You to all Who Have Already Subscribed for 2024**

Lynn Albers  
Waltraut Albert  
Dan Betker  
Catherine & Ralph Block  
Melissa & Justin Boisseau  
Karen & Ken Christopher  
Annette & Leon Dixon  
Tamara Eberlein & Bill Garvey  
Karen & Tim Farrell  
Dorothea Ferri  
Bill Ganley  
Janet & Richard Geminn  
Gove family  
Dolores Hausler  
Kathy & Pastor Henk  
Lynn & John Hillman  
Anne Huber  
Detlef Joerss  
G. V. Johnson  
Sandy & Jim Kilts  
Hans P. Kirchaessner  
H. Sandy Kolb  
Genene Kluck

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Brenda & Tim Ryan  
Suomi Sakai & John Quinley  
Judy & Michael Sangregorio  
Karen M. Stuart  
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Lori Uhle  
Jill & Anthony Valentino

Robert & Irene Van Der Wateren  
Jim Wills  
Suzanne & Walter Zullig

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**Thank you for your support!**