



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.

Sign up at
StJohnsNY.org for
Our Weekly Emails

8.15 am Early Worship

9 am Adult Forum

10 am Worship & Sunday
School

Tim Krick of LWR

May 5

Mother's Day Breakfast

May 12

Tag Sale

June 1

First Communion

June 9

Picnic

June 23



Neverland Isn't What It's Cracked Up To Be

As I observe my granddaughter Madelyn and play with her, I come across many different types of books designed to open up a universe of imagination and discovery. We are reading a little Dr. Seuss, *The Little Engine That Could*, and *Pepe Pig*, her favorite. When I contemplate all the various stories you are exposed to as a child, from *Winnie the Poo* to *Robin Hood*, I always think of *Peter Pan*.

I first learned of *Peter Pan* in the Disney movie and later from Mary Martin's musical rendition. *Peter Pan* was magical for me - children being lifted from their homes, flying into the sky on the way to a place called *Neverland*. There were pirates, crocodiles, and unique hideouts as well as lots of boys and girls who follow *Peter Pan* and *Tinker Bell* and live by the code "I never want to grow up".

This thought - I never want to grow up - appealed to me. At a young age I must have been fearful of becoming an adult, watching my parents, as all children do, and seeing that life doesn't get easier. It becomes harder and the fun factor seems to disappear or, at times, become inaccessible. I wasn't far off in my thinking. In fact, I was right.

I would always feel heartbroken at the end of *Peter Pan* because of the painful awareness that *Wendy* and the boys couldn't remain in *Neverland* and had to return home, to reality, and grow up.

The popular writer *Scott Peck*, who wrote *The Road Less Traveled*, begins his book with three words: Life is difficult. It's not a statement I willingly accepted, but it more than rings true as I continue to live my life.

There are a lot of self-help books that talk about never growing up, staying young at heart, age is only a number - sort of echoing the death-denying culture we live in. Actually, what I have realized is that the older I get, the more I appreciate life and the more alive I have become. I am better at so many things, whether it's being a pastor or being a husband or being a friend. I am experiencing the better versions of myself right now. One reason for that is that I have been willing to change in order to discover my gifts.

One of the ways I have been able to face the fact that I cannot live in *Neverland* and I have to grow up is that my faith has informed me that I must always move forward and, miraculously enough, it gives me tools to interpret my world.

My faith has introduced me to the dark side of life: sin, death, pain and grief. It has also informed me that my life is a gift, and that gift must be lived out in its fullness. Words like confession, stewardship, forgiveness, redemption come to mind. It has enabled me to participate more deeply in the life I have been given.

Continued on next page

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

Austin Kehrle
Handbell Choir

When I think about all the options, the one I have chosen seems to be for me “the only game in town”. I cannot imagine anything else for me.

Martin Luther once said, “Everyone has to do their own believing”, and the Christian life is not something you can just do on the weekends. It is something that must be part of the interior of your life. Neverland seems far away now, and I take joy in the Christian narrative that tells me that death doesn’t have the final word, that love is stronger than hate.

I once took a course entitled “Christianity and Fairytales” taught by the late theologian Robert McAfee Brown. As I look over the fairytales I read to Madelyn or the ones by the Grimm Brothers, you can make the case that Christianity is like a fairytale. I entitled one of my Easter sermons, “It’s too good to be true”. Yes, the story of Easter is, to the ears of all of us, almost too good to be true.

For young ears *Neverland* is almost too much fun and too good to ever be true. When I think of being stuck in *Neverland* now, I think how stunted my life would be. I would not be learning, growing, or be as creative (as I think I am). I don’t buy into *Neverland* but into *Foreverland* instead. What I mean is that I accept the Christian proposal that life is stronger than death and that in the resurrection of our Lord we will be raised with him.

In the words of the hymn “Borning Cry”, “I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old. I’ll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise”.

MEH

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, Anthony Valentino, Jim Wills, and Fred Zito

In Sympathy

We are very sad to announce that Jill Valentino, a lifelong member of St. John's, has died. We extend our deepest sympathy to her husband Val and her children and family. Please keep them in your prayers.

Thank You for Your Special Offerings in April

Endowment Fund/Memorials *in memory of Jill Valentino*

- Jacki Tutelman-Bender
- Kathy & Pastor Henk
- Theresa Faup
- The Jaron and Kelley families
- Lawrence Cetrone



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



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

A Visit from The Rev. Tim Krick
Sunday, May 5

Pastor Krick, Senior Advisor of Congregational Engagement at LWR, will lead us in worship at both services and talk about LWR's current relief work.



on Mother's Day
Sunday, May 12

All women are cordially invited to a wonderful breakfast to celebrate our mothers and daughters, hosted by the men of St. John's. Please email Kevin at skev2323@aol.com to let him know you will attend so that they can plan the amount of food needed.

Sunday, June 9



First Communion class is for children in fourth and fifth grade. It will start on Thursday, May 2 at 5.30 pm. Our students this year are Brian C, Naomi J, Harriet R, and Anastasia V.

SAVE THE DATE

- PICNIC** June 23
- SUMMER WORSHIP** starts June 30
- GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.** Sept 8
- RALLY DAY** September 15
- PASTOR'S 50TH ANNIV.** September 29
- OKTOBERFEST** October 19

TAG SALE

Saturday, June 1
10 am to 2 pm

Join us for the annual St. John's Big Tag Sale!
All proceeds support our youth group.

PLEASE DONATE

WE NEED YOUR TREASURES!



- household items in good condition
- jewelry
- toys in good condition
- men's, women's & children's clothing in good condition
- *Please no upholstered or laminate furniture. no books, computers, or TVs, and no stuffed animals.*

PLEASE HELP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



- setting up on Wednesday, May 29, Thursday, May 30 and Friday, May 31 in the evenings
- selling in the clothing room on the day of the Tag Sale
- selling in the main area (fellowship hall)
- we need six cashiers
- cleaning up from 2 pm onwards.

Please bring big items during our set up dates if possible. To volunteer, please email Kathy Henk at kathyhenk2021@gmail.com or Carla Hofland at carla.hofland@gmail.com.





Tai Chi at St. John's
Tuesdays 10 - 11 am
May 14 - 25 June, 2024

Have you ever wondered what Tai Chi is and whether it is for you? This is your chance to try it out for free.

I have been practicing ON and OFF Tai Chi for over 15 years. I am by no means a Tai Chi teacher much less an expert. However, I continue to take Tai Chi lessons. So hopefully I can help you get started in this fun and fascinating low-impact health exercise and to find out if you would like to go deeper in practicing it.

Over the six 60-minute sessions, I hope to introduce you to the following knowledge and skills:

1. What is Tai Chi and why is it good for you.
2. Basic Tai Chi walk and other moves.
3. Tai Chi 10 Form
4. Some Qigong exercises (breathing, posture, gentle flexibility)
5. Warm-up and cool-down exercises



As this is a nice season, we may do the classes in the parking lot of the church, weather permitting. On rainy days we would use the big room upstairs.

If you are interested and have any questions, you can contact me at suomisakai@aol.com or through the church office.

If any of your friends are interested, bring them along.

Looking forward to practicing Tai Chi with you.

Suomi Sakai

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 the following people who have already given a gift to our gardening fund:

Lynn Albers (10)
Dan Betker
Sarah & Kurt Coble
Dorothea Ferri (3)
Kathy & Pastor Henk
Sue & Howard Heyel

Lynn & John Hillman(2)
Carla & Brian Hofland (2)
Anne Huber
Detlef Joerss (2)
Tommy Maloney & Lori Uhle
Maria Martins

Corky & Frank McCullough
Cheryl & Ed Murray
Maggie O'Connor
Pat Ouwerkerk & Jon Richards (2)
Suomi Sakai & John Quinley (2)
Karen Stuart (2)

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

Name _____

Amount _____ # of Weeks _____



Rye YMCA Nursery School



If you have children between 18 months to 5 years of age and are looking for a nursery school for the fall, you have found it right here at St. John's! And even better, members of St. John's receive a 5% discount. On May 18, you can meet the staff and have fun with your whole family - there will be music, games, food trucks, and face painting.

Pass the word to other parents, too! There are some flyers on the back pew.

For more information call Assistant Child Care Director Kristen Sidari at 914-967-6363 x207.



meets
Tuesday, May 28
at 7.30 pm

to discuss **The Final Revival of Opal and Nev** by Dawnie Walton.

"An electrifying novel about the meteoric rise of an iconic interracial rock duo in the 1970s, their sensational breakup, and the dark secrets unearthed when they try to reunite decades later for one last tour."

NAMED A BEST BOOK OF 2021 BY BARACK OBAMA* THE WASHINGTON POST* NPR* and many more.



New Orleans
July 16-20

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

Six of our young people, Sophia, Anne, Sheena, Ellie, Michaela, an Ozzy will leave on July 16, with some of our adults, to be part of this wonderful experience. It's a great opportunity for their faith formation and, just as important, a huge opportunity for them to meet 25,000 other youth who are all Lutheran.

Every Gathering has a theme, and this one is "CREATED TO BE":

- **We are created to be brave**, to show up with an open mind and heart, willing to be challenged.
- **We are created to be authentic**, to bring our whole selves and know that we are loved by our Creator.
- **We are created to be free**, to be transformed by the gospel.
- **We are created to be disruptive**, to work for justice for all our siblings.
- **We are created to be disciples**, to be sent out into the world to love our neighbor just as we are loved by God.

We are going to explore this theme as we prepare for our trip and we are going to discover more when we arrive in New Orleans.

Our young people can look forward to great music and world-renowned speakers who are authorities on many important issues that apply to the lives of young people. There are great service projects, workshops, and fellowship and fun with 25,000 young people. In addition, our youth will get a chance to hang out and get to know each other better.

Last but not least, New Orleans offers its own great experiences: the French Quarter, jazz, interesting restaurants, Jackson Square, beignets, chicory coffee, the Garden District, streetcars, a cruise in the bayou...



Hi everyone!

Moms, we are all invited to a special Mom's Day breakfast on May 12th at 9am in celebration of all women. We women are all moms to someone we care about whether it's our children, someone we mentor, or our special pets. So, please plan on attending and enjoy the feast the men will provide. RSVP to sk2323@aol.com. While we enjoy fellowship and good food, our kids will have classes sponsored by the men too, then we will all attend Church service together. I would love to see you all there.

June 9th, First Communion Sunday for our 4th graders, is our actual last day of class for this school year. Following classes/service there will be a special end-of-Sunday-School coffee hour. Don't miss it!

Please mark your calendars for June 23rd and attend our annual St. John's outdoor worship service and picnic. It is such fun every year and I would love to see more of our Sunday school families attend. There will be games for all the children to enjoy so come join us for this very special event. More information to come.

It was a year of change, but we managed very well and enjoyed all we were blessed to share with the children. We will take a little break over the summer months before we begin to make plans for next September. If you have any family or friends looking for a wonderful Church and Sunday School program, invite them to come join us anytime.

Have a great month and upcoming summer,

God bless,

Dorothea

Christian Education Chairperson



Ellie R 05/10

Naomi J 05/30

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 Haghenbeck-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
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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*

In Memory of Jill Valentino

I knew Jill for over 40 years. She loved St John's and she was raised in the church, always supporting it. At one time, she was the church secretary. That was back when her desk faced the wall—what a view! She had a Royal portable typewriter. Those were not easy times for the church.

I got to know her well during our afternoon Bible-studies. She had a sharp sense of humor and she was very opinionated. We did not always agree politically on things, but that was fine. She came to study the Bible. That was important to her. She was always curious about what the Bible said about certain things.

She helped a lot at the church – the tag sale, the mailings, and bringing things to the food pantry. She was faithful about coming to church and following on Zoom since the pandemic.

I remember one time when I spoke about finding a wonderful meat loaf sandwich on the Midnight Run. I laughed about it and said, "For years I have been searching for one." One day during Bible study Jill brought me a meat loaf sandwich and it was good! My search was over. It was one of her specialties and she often made them for the Midnight Run. Throughout the summer, I would bring over tomatoes from my garden. One day she came to church with the sauce she had made with my tomatoes. It was a great sauce.

Jill and Val had one of those marriages that we all admire. They loved to talk about those days they spent in Germany. Their house has lots of remembrances. I enjoyed sitting at their table listening to all the stories that they relished. They built a life here in Harrison and a family. Jill and Val love their kids and loved to talk about them. They are proud of them and their grandchildren. They never grew tired of sharing their treasured experiences with them and their love for them. They have given me a lot of memories for my memory bank.

Jill enriched our lives in many ways, and not having her with us anymore is a tremendous loss. Jill was a grace-filled presence in our lives, and we are thankful for her always being there for us. There is a hole in our heart as we grieve her loss.

Jill died a person of faith and devotion to family, God and her church. When she was baptized, she was marked with the cross of Christ forever and was grasped by a love that will never let her go. *MEH*

April 7 Concert

A big thank you goes to Alyssa and Peter Reit for giving a great performance at St. John's featuring a French Horn and a Lever Harp. The Scottish, Welsh, and Irish folk tunes as well as other compositions they played were beautiful and it gave us great joy to listen to their music and interesting commentary on the pieces they played. Another thank you goes to our tireless Kurt Coble for arranging this!





Congratulations to Kasia and husband Andrew on the birth of little Clarence on April 9. They are "overwhelmed with joy, excitement and lack of sleep!" We are so happy for them!

MISCELLANY

In our last issue we inadvertently omitted **Dorothea Ferri** and **Sophia Alfano** from the names of those who made palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Our apologies!... A big thank you goes to **Kevin McCoskey** and **James Dykstra**, who took the youth group bowling. Unfortunately there are no pictures to document this event, so, courtesy of James, here is a stand-in of someone who is a big bowling fan:



Carolyn Heyel, granddaughter of Howard & Susan Heyel, from high school; will attend UVA

Michaela Misina from high school; will attend Univ. of Maryland

Lulu Schlueter from high school; will attend Binghamton University

Dakota Webber from Mamaroneck HS

Mateo Gómez from Hamilton College, in Theatre Arts. He will pursue a career in theatre.

Thomas Hillman from St. Olaf College, B.A. in math & quantitative economics, with departmental distinction in economics

Anton Schlueter from SUNY Buffalo with a financial/business degree

Jared Zullig, grandson of Suzanne & Walter Zullig, from Case Western Reserve University; will go to NYU for graduate studies

OUR BOOK CLUB IN ACTION



Here are some of our members during our April 23 meeting to discuss **THE LIFE WE'RE LOOKING FOR: Reclaiming Relationship in a Technological World** by Andy Crouch. It was a great discussion (as always!) and, as you can see, we enjoy other good things during our discussions. Even better, we are a welcoming group and always open to new people joining us. If one of our books appeals to you, just read it and come ready to discuss.



Thank You - Your Donations at Work

Dear Friends,

Thank you for sharing your blessings with your gift of \$1,778. Your love will reach families in crisis who need your help - especially our neighbors in Ukraine. Your gift is being put to use immediately to deliver emergency food, shelter, personal care kits, baby care kits, medicines, and other critically needed items for children and their families who are trying to survive the horrifying fighting... or are being forced to flee their homeland with a few meager belongings.

Your willingness to share your blessings during a global crisis like this is a godsend to your neighbors in Ukraine who are hurting. They can feel your love and are deeply grateful to know you are keeping them in your thoughts and prayers. [...]

Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard (ret.)
President and CEO



Dear Pastor Marv,

Your leadership continues to inspire your congregation to make a difference in the lives of so many neighbors. Thank you for your compassionate outreach.

As you know, the needs in the world continue to grow. Your congregation may not be able to prevent war, natural disaster or other emergencies that turn our neighbors' lives upside down, but you can ensure help arrives when they need it most. You have done this before in powerful ways.

I am so grateful for you and the people of St. John's Lutheran Church. Together we are the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

The Rev. Tim Krick
Sr. Advisor, Congregational Engagement

Proud of What We Do at St. John's

Have you ever been proud of a place, an institution, a person? When I visited the site of 9/11 many years ago, with heaps of dust and rubble everywhere and a stench that made it hard to breathe and overwhelmed the place, I saw a battered firetruck with a flat tire, unable to move. On its back there was a bumper sticker that said: *Proud to be an American*. This was not our finest hour as our twin towers had crumbled and thousands of lives been lost. America was reeling with fear and sorrow and grief, but that did not keep the people of New York City, the first responders, and the fire fighters from trying to save lives and later trying to find remains of those who died. Trinity Church was full of dust and people sleeping on its pews; McDonald's opened a stand giving away food and water as men and women sifted through the rubble. I was proud of the heroism of people who acted selflessly.

It's not quite the same thing but today, as I looked at the list of those who have given to help the people of Gaza, I was proud of our church and the compassion that

came forth through people's generosity and thoughtfulness. I was also proud to see that we started another drive to help a family get out of harm's way in Gaza. I was also proud to see that we have written several checks now to the food pantry in Harrison and the one in Mamaroneck as well as the Lutheran hospital Augusta Victoria on the mount of Olives in Jerusalem. I could go on about the help we have given to help resettle refugees from Afghanistan as well as the money we raised for LWR to help build container homes for homeless families in Turkey after the earthquake. Last year we also sent a check to a Lutheran church in Cambridge, Mass. to help rebuild it after a devastating fire on Easter Sunday night.

We are a small corner of the universe but I happen to believe with my whole heart that we are making a difference every day to the life of someone else, whether it's in a place like Gaza or whether it's in our own community. Thank you all! I am proud to be the pastor of this church. MEH



M A Y 2 0 2 4

St. John's Lutheran Church

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(914) 698.4348
Email: office@stjohnsny.org

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White Plains, NY

Or Current Resident



*on Mother's Day
May 12 at 9 am*



June 1

Rain or Shine

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
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Annie Thurow & Bob Clarida
Lori Uhle
Jill & Anthony Valentino

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

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and don't see your name,
please let us know.**

Thank you for your support!