



SPRING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



He Is
Risen!

Regular Worship Services
at 8:30AM & 10:00AM

Sunday School (K - Grade 6)
Sundays at 10:00AM

Hallelujah

"This is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life."

- 1 John 2:25

The Messenger

is a monthly publication of
St. John's Lutheran Church
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Kimberly Carlstrom, Editor

Anyone wishing to include an article in
The Messenger should email it directly to
the Editor @ KCProducer@aol.com or
mail it to the church (Attn: Editor).

Deadline for all submissions
is the 20th of each month.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE



*We know that the whole creation has been
groaning in labor pains until now;
and not only the creation, but we ourselves,
who have the first fruits of the Spirit,
groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the
redemption of our bodies.*

~Romans 8:22-23

As we look around the world in recent days, God's whole creation certainly seems to be groaning. There have been devastating floods as far away as Pakistan and Australia and as close to home as New Jersey. There have been catastrophic earthquakes in New Zealand and Japan. The earthquake in Japan led to the horrific damage of the tsunami that followed and concerns for the nuclear reactors in its path. For all of the places with too much water, there are other parts of the planet suffering from drought. God's creation groans under the weight of human over-consumption and neglect - habitats and consequently species are disappearing, there are giant conglomerations of plastic and other trash that float together in our oceans, glaciers are melting at an alarming speed.

*"...But not only the creation, but we ourselves...
groan inwardly while we wait..."*

Truly, it is not just the creation that groans as we wait for God's redemption. We groan as we face our own fears and anxieties - about our health, about our finances, about our families, and all of the problems and pitfalls that daily

confront us. Perhaps some of us can relate to Billy Crystal's character in *When Harry Met Sally*, who, when asked what he will do if he can't sleep, replies that he'll just practice moaning. Sometimes we may feel that that's all we can do.

As people of faith though, we know that moaning and groaning is not all that we can do. It is not all we have to look forward to. We have the promise of scripture to remind us that God has not given up on God's creation, which includes us as well as the planet and environment (in fact, the whole universe!). The book of Revelation says, *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'* And the one who was seated on the throne said, *'See, I am making all things new.'*" (21:1, 3-5)

God's promise in scripture is the promise of Easter. It is the promise that even though things may sometimes seem hopeless, death and mourning and crying and pain will not have the last word. Groaning is not the end of the story. In Christ, God is making all things new. In Christ, we have the final victory, because we know that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. These are not just meaningless words we say in church - they are the very truth of God given to us to fill us with hope, to give us courage in the face of the things that make us groan.

As we continue to travel through the season of Lent, we hold on to the promise of Easter. We wait with hope and with faith, and we wait actively - looking for the ways that we can partner with God in making all things new, in easing the groaning of each other and of all creation, trusting in the power of God to renew and restore us as we do.

Looking forward to God's new creation with you!

Pr. Becky

LENT WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Lent Ecumenical Evening Prayer -
Thursdays, 7:30 PM

April 7 - St. John's Lutheran Church

April 14 - St. Raymond's Roman Catholic
Church - East Rockaway

SW Nassau Conference Worship - Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 PM

Gather with the other Lutheran churches in our area for our annual Lenten worship, hosted this year by Holy Trinity in Rockville Centre. Worship will include Holy Communion, and will be followed by fellowship.

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion - Sunday, April 17, 8:30 & 10 AM

On this Sunday, we recall Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. We'll raise our palms and sing songs of praise and glory as we process into the church for worship. The mood changes dramatically, though, as we hear and participate in the reading of Christ's betrayal, rejection, and death from the gospel of Matthew. Readers are needed for the various "characters" in the story - look for the sign-up on the bulletin board as you enter the church.

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 21, 7:30 PM

The celebration of the Great Three Days begins on this night, as we hear the story of Jesus' last meal with his disciples and his command for us to love one another.

Good Friday - Friday, April 22, 7:30 PM

The journey to Easter leads us directly to the foot of the cross, as we hear the story of Jesus' passion and death from the gospel of John.

Easter

Easter - Sunday, April 24, 8:30 & 10 AM

On Easter, we gather to celebrate the Good News that Christ has been raised from the dead, conquering the power of sin and death forever! Because he lives, we too may have a new life.

"Every Sunday is Easter Sunday" Breakfast Sunday, May 1, after the 10 AM worship

Join us for food and fellowship after the 10AM worship! Rejoice that Christ is (still) risen indeed!

BARBARA SEMMIG SCHOLARSHIP

It's time to apply for a \$500 scholarship if you are a senior in high school and active in church and community activities.

Please submit a well written essay to include:

- A. Your involvement in church;
- B. Your involvement in community activities;
- C. Name of institution of higher learning institution which you will be attending and your goals at that institution;
- D. What you intend to do with your life upon completion of your education.

The required essay should be submitted to the church office for consideration prior to June 1, 2011. There will be no exceptions to the deadline.

The Fund always needs donations. Won't you please help us by making one? If you choose, it can be in honor or memory of someone.

Nan Moser

WELCA presents a Spaghetti Dinner & Bridal Fashion Show

by Tori Lynn and Friends

**MAY 7, 2011 at 6:30PM
in the St. John's Auditorium**

Admission:

**\$10 for adults and
\$7 for children under 12**

**Contact Pauline (599-2273)
or Cora (599-0279) for more info**

*All proceeds benefit the
Barbara Semmig Scholarship Fund*

RECYCLING BIN NOW AVAILABLE...

Thanks to Cora Sarver, who got a recycling bin for the church to use!

Please put recyclable glass and plastic in the bin outside in the driveway instead of throwing it away. (And remember to take your deposit bottles home with you to redeem them!)

And in other Environmental Stewardship news...

Did you know that St. John's is working to become a better steward of God's creation? We recently had an energy audit done to help us know what kinds of things we can do to use less energy. We print on both sides of paper. We've recently started to change our standard incandescent light bulbs over to CFLs (Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs). We're try to use more environmentally-friendly products for cleaning and for fellowship (plates, etc.). And the extra benefit is that going green will save us green (\$) in the long run. We've got a good start, but there's more that we can do! Please do your part to help with these initiatives, and share your good Earth-friendly ideas with us!

SUMMER 2011 LOOKING FOR CAMP OPTIONS?

The Metro New York Synod has three different camp opportunities for kids of all ages! Spending time at a Lutheran summer camp has a tremendous impact on the faith development of our young people, so why not consider sending your child to a Lutheran camp this year?

Koinonia - Located in Highland Lake, NY, Koinonia has youth camp for children from 2nd grade through high school. They also have family camp. Check them out on the web at www.koinoniany.org

Camp Ma-He-Tu - This camp is "Just For Girls. Just For Fun." It's a girls-only sleepaway camp for girls ages 7 through 15. They are located at Bear Mountain, NY, & have different themes for each camping period. They even offer a chance for moms (or aunts or grandmothers, etc.) to go to camp with their child to experience camp with each other! Their website is www.mahetu.org

Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership School - This camp is for older youth (ages 15 & up), and meets for one week each August (Aug. 14-21 this year). Camp is held at Camp Louemma in Sussex, NJ, and includes lots of opportunities for youth and young adults to explore their Lutheran faith and what it means to be a leader in the church as they grow up. For more information, go to www.pinecrestllm.org

UPDATE ON FAMILY PROMISE PROGRAM

Some of you have asked what the status of the Family Promise program at St. John's is. To refresh your memory, Family Promise is the interfaith initiative that helps homeless families by housing them overnight in different houses of worship for a week at a time. At the same time, Family Promise also provides families the services needed for them to get & maintain permanent housing.

St. John's had been exploring the option of becoming a host site that would have guests sleep in the church building one week at a time about four times a year. However, we were not able to find a Coordinator to organize and facilitate our volunteers.

In the meantime, Oceanside Lutheran Church, which has been involved with Family Promise from the beginning, suggested that the Lutheran churches in the Southwest Nassau Conference join forces and become a network together. Oceanside will be the host site, and St. John's has agreed to be a support congregation. This means that for one or two nights during the assigned weeks, St. John's folks will serve as volunteers, helping to prepare and serve meals, socialize with the guests, play games, help with homework, spend the night at Oceanside's building, and so on. (Many different people will fill these slots, so don't get thrown by that long list!) Other local Lutheran churches will also supply volunteers to fill the other nights.

This is a great way for us to get our feet wet and learn what the program is about and how it runs. We'd still love to have a person or two who can coordinate our volunteers, but it will be a less work-intensive role. And we still hope to become a host site someday if God leads us to do so.

Family Promise is currently seeking a new director, so they are not hosting any families at the moment. Please continue to look for updates, and/or let Pr. Becky know if you are interested in volunteering so we can put you on our list of people to call when the network is up and running. Thanks!

ST. JOHN'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Our 100th Anniversary Committee has been meeting and working on many of the ideas and activities that will make this coming year memorable for St. John's. We still need volunteers to help out with the planning of these activities. We know there are many talented members in our congregation. If you are artistic, know how to use PowerPoint, do crafts, or just want to help on any committee, please don't be shy.

If you feel you would like to help out please let Dotty or Joan know. Dotty Criscuolo can be reached at (516) 766-5751 or Joan Pirrone at (516) 593-4922 or email her at Japirrone@aol.com and put 100th Anniversary in the subject area.

We encourage and look forward to hearing from you. Your ideas, memories, and experiences are all part of St. John's history and this is the year to share all that St. John's is to you and this community.

Thank you for your help!

100th Anniversary Committee

Dotty Criscuolo, Joan Pirrone, Pauline Feltkamp, Jan Arena, Cora Sarver, Pastor Becky

MEMORIAL FUND

Donations have been made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Al Geier by Dorothy Criscuolo and Cora Sarver.

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

DATE	ACOLYTES	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS
4/10	8:30AM Erin Milano	8:30AM Susan Masciello	8:30AM Gerda Weber
	10:00AM Kyle O'Connor	10:00AM Claire Lenz	10:00AM Claire Lenz
4/17	PALM SUNDAY		
	8:30AM Victoria Dunn	8:30AM Andrew Dunn	8:30AM Andrew Dunn
	10:00AM Katie Lenz	10:00AM Debby Lindman	10:00AM Susan Masciello
Crucifer	David Powell	Bill Lindman	
Torch Bearer	Jason Pace		
Torch Bearer	Jesse Pace		
Gospel Bearer	Kristin Lindman		
4/21	MAUNDY THURSDAY		
	7:30PM Matthew Fernéz	7:30PM Joan Pirrone	7:30PM Joan Pirrone
4/22	GOOD FRIDAY		
	7:30PM Ryan Milano	7:30PM Bob Koehler	7:30PM Karen Feltkamp
4/24	EASTER		
	8:30AM Jennifer Dalton	8:30AM Joe Richetti/Dot Richetti	8:30AM Janet Pescatore
	10:00AM Erin Milano	10:00AM Karen Feltkamp	10:00AM Hank Lenz
Crucifer	Rick Dusenbury	Kim Carlstrom	
Torch Bearer	Danielle Dake		
Torch Bearer	Carrie Feltkamp		
Gospel Bearer	Margaret Milano		

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR MAY

DATE	ACOLYTES	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS
5/1	8:30AM Jessica Muck	8:30AM Janet Pescatore	8:30AM Carol Larsen
	10:00AM Matthew Fernéz	10:00AM Michael Fernéz	10:00AM Arlene Moglia
5/8	8:30AM Elizabeth Hanson	8:30AM Dorothy Criscuolo	8:30AM Dot Richetti
	10:00AM Jason Pace	10:00AM Bruce Feltkamp	10:00AM Karen Feltkamp
Crucifer	Ryan Milano		
5/15	8:30AM Sebastian Percy	8:30AM Susan Masciello	8:30AM Walter Wright
	10:00AM Nils DeStefano	10:00AM Rick Dusenbury	10:00AM Joan Pirrone
Crucifer	Jason Lipitz		
5/22	8:30AM Carrie Feltkamp	8:30AM Bruce Feltkamp	8:30AM A. Blinderman
	10:00AM Kyle O'Connor	10:00AM Ryan Dusenbury	10:00AM Claire Lenz
Crucifer	Matthew Fernéz		
5/29	8:30AM Katie Lenz	8:30AM Jason Lipitz	8:30AM Bill Benson
	10:00AM Jesse Pace	10:00AM Debby Lindman	10:00AM Susan Masciello
Crucifer	Michael Fernéz		

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator:
 Bob Koehler: Assisting Ministers and Crucifers/Gospel bearers- 678-6623
 Dot Richetti: Acolytes and Torch bearers- 599-8702
 Claire Lenz: Lectors - 872-2063

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL 2011

Sunday, 4/3	4th Sunday in Lent Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM Sunday School, 10 AM
Tuesday, 4/5	Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM Worship & Music, 7:30 PM
Wednesday, 4/6	Confirmation, 7:30 PM Choir, 7:30 PM
Thursday, 4/7	Ecumenical Lent Worship @ St. John's, 7:30 PM
Friday, 4/8	Supermarket Bingo, 7:30 PM
Sunday, 4/10	5th Sunday in Lent Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM Sunday School, 10 AM Stewardship & Finance, 11:15 AM
Tuesday, 4/12	Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM Council, 8 PM
Wednesday, 4/13	NO CONFIRMATION SW Nassau Conf. Worship @ Holy Trinity, RVC, 7:30 PM
Thursday, 4/14	Ecumenical Lent Worship @ St. Raymond's RC Church, 7:30 PM
Saturday, 4/16	Synod Prayer Breakfast, New Hope Lutheran Church, Valley Stream, 9:30 AM
Sunday, 4/17	PALM SUNDAY/SUNDAY OF THE PASSION Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - Come to worship!
Tuesday, 4/19	Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM
Wednesday, 4/20	Choir, 7:30 PM NO CONFIRMATION (Come to worship on Maundy Thursday &/or Good Friday)
Thursday, 4/21	MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP, 7:30 PM
Friday, 4/22	GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP, 7:30 PM
Sunday, 4/24	EASTER Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM NO SUNDAY SCHOOL - Come to worship
Tuesday, 4/26	Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM Evangelism/Social Ministry, 7:30 PM

Coming in May...

Look for info about a fashion show in early May... (details still being decided)

May 13 & 14 Synod Assembly in Melville