



***ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER***  
***FEBRUARY/MARCH 2013***

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Regular Worship Services**

**9:30 AM**

**Sunday School (K-Grade 6)**

**9:30 AM**

## Calendar of Events for March 2013 ~



|                    |                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, March 3    | Worship, 9:30 AM – Third Sunday of Lent<br>Sunday School 9:30 AM                                                |
| Tuesday, March 5   | Council Meeting, 8:00 PM                                                                                        |
| Thursday, March 7  | Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM                                                                                        |
| Sunday, March 10   | Worship, 9:30 AM – Fourth Sunday of Lent<br>Sunday School 9:30 AM                                               |
| Tuesday, March 12  | Worship & Music Meeting, 7:30 PM                                                                                |
| Thursday, March 14 | Choir, 7:15 PM                                                                                                  |
| Sunday, March 17   | Worship, 9:30 AM –Fifth Sunday of Lent<br>Sunday School 9:30 AM<br>First Communion at Oceanside Lutheran Church |
| Tuesday, March 19  | W.E.L.C.A. Meeting, 7:30 PM                                                                                     |
| Thursday, March 21 | Choir, 7:15 PM                                                                                                  |
| Sunday, March 24   | Palm Sunday Worship, 9:30 AM<br>Sunday School children will dye eggs for Easter after worship                   |
| Thursday, March 28 | Holy Thursday Service, 7:30 PM                                                                                  |
| Friday, March 29   | Good Friday Service, 7:30 PM                                                                                    |
| Sunday, March 31   | Easter Sunday Worship, 9:30 AM                                                                                  |



### Looking ahead to April....

|                    |                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday, April 11 | W.E.L.C.A. Barbara Semmig Luncheon, 12:00 PM    |
| Friday, April 12   | Supermarket Bingo, sponsored by the Youth Group |

### Lenten Ecumenical Evening Prayer Services - 2013 Schedule

|                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| March 7 <sup>th</sup>  | Bethany Congregational     |
| March 14 <sup>th</sup> | Christ Episcopal Church    |
| March 21 <sup>st</sup> | St. James United Methodist |

**Southwest Nassau Conference  
Lutheran Cluster Service**  
will be held at  
Grace Lutheran Church, Uniondale  
**Wednesday March 20, 2013  
at 7:30 PM**

# ***A Message from Pastor Jeff Laustsen ~***

**March 2013**

*“Good Friday and Easter free us to think about other things far beyond our own personal fate, about the ultimate meaning of all life, suffering, and events; and we lay hold of a great hope.”*

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Easter 1943.

Among my fondest Easter memories are the annual sunrise services on the shores of Barnegat Bay in Waretown, New Jersey. During the years I served in that Jersey Shore community, Christians from all of the churches of the community would gather at the town docks at 6:30 a.m. to welcome the sunrise that heralded the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. While we would gather at our individual churches later that morning, our common worship was a wonderful testimony to what unites us as Christians: the good news that *“Jesus Christ is risen today”* and that as the rising sun defeats the darkness of night, the light of Christ *“shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”* (John 1:5).

But there were years when the sun did not rise at the sunrise service on Easter morning; on many occasions, the weather was far from ideal, with the winds whipping across the waters of the bay and casting a chill on our worship gathering. But even when the sun was obscured by clouds, we had reason to rejoice; for the message of Easter is that even when it appears as though the light of Christ is being hidden from us, we have confidence that our Risen Lord is with us in all circumstances, for nothing *“will separate us from the love of God that is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 8:39). Even when there was no sunrise at the sunrise service, there was the light of Christ that shines among us on sunny and cloudy days, in good times and bad times, in times of joy and times of sorrow. We were thrilled when we had a beautiful sunrise across the waters on Easter morning; but we celebrated the good news of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ no matter what kind of weather welcomed us that morning, because the only light we needed was the light of our crucified and risen Savior.

When Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote the above words to his parents on Easter Day in 1943, he wrote from a place of unspeakable darkness: the Nazi prison in Tegel, Germany, where he was incarcerated for his participation in a plot to kill Adolf Hitler. Bonhoeffer would never again experience feeling the sunlight of freedom; he was executed on April 9, 1945 at the age of 39, shortly before the end of the war. But even in the darkness and despair of that prison, Bonhoeffer is still able to *“lay hold of a great hope,”* knowing that even that fortress erected but such an evil empire could not separate him from the light of Christ and the presence of our Risen Lord. He knew that the Easter Gospel gave him the hope to *“think about other things far beyond our own personal fate,”* because no matter what the Nazis would do to him, because our Savior lives we shall live also, because *“if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.”* (Romans 6:5).

It's far too early to tell what kind of weather we will have on Easter morning this year; March Easters can be beautiful and sunny, or cloudy and chilly. But no matter what kind of weather greets us as we awake on Easter morning, the message of this Easter will always be the same: our Lord Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and because he lives we shall live also! His light shines before us always, and no darkness will ever overcome it! Every day – no matter how dark or despair-filled it may be – we can live in trust and hope, because *Christ the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

Yours in Easter hope,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

## **THE CALL COMMITTEE**

The Call Committee has been formed and has met with Pastor Koran. We will be working on interview questions and await our first candidate. Please keep us in your prayers that God will guide us to do his work to the best of our abilities. We will keep you updated as the process moves forward.

Susan Masciello, Chairperson

Don Roth, Heather Hanson, Dan Lenz

Bruce Feltkamp, Ruth Williamson, Allison Koehler

Save the date!

Please join the Kaempf Family  
for a coffee hour celebration  
in honor of Bob Kaempf's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Following the 9:30 service on April 7, 2013

## **TINS OF COOKIES (and brownies) FOR SEAFARERS**

Share the love of God by baking cookies and/or brownies! It's a gesture of hospitality and says we welcome you to our shores and we value your service as a seafarer. Pick up a cookie tin or more, (complete with instructions) 3/3 or 3/10 and return them filled with home-baked goodness no later than 3/17 (3/10 is okay). They'll then be distributed to men who are far from home this Lent & Easter season. Call (678-6623) Bob Koehler for questions.

## **THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN OUR SEASONAL CHOIR**

Like to sing? Thought about joining the choir, but can't commit to coming all year-round? Here's your chance to share your gift of music on a short-term basis! Come Thursday nights at 7:15 PM, to prepare to help lead the congregation in song during worship on Palm Sunday (March 24) and Easter Sunday (March 31). Everyone – male & female; young adult & "senior"; soprano, alto, tenor, or bass – is welcome. Have questions? Talk with Allison Koehler, choir director



Donations have been made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Ruth Wuerth by Carol Clemente and Ruth Williamson; in memory of Michael Scalza by Ruth Williamson; and in memory of Caroline Roberts by Carol Clemente.



# INTRODUCING THE 2013 CHURCH COUNCIL

|                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| President                | Pauline Feltkamp  |
| Vice-President           | Dorothy Criscuolo |
| Secretary                | Dennis Fernež     |
| Financial Rec. Secretary | Joan Pirrone      |
| Treasurer                | Bruce Feltkamp    |
| Council Members          | Charlene Comastri |
|                          | Daniel Gonzalez   |
|                          | Kevin Hanson      |
|                          | Ursula Lipitz     |
|                          | Jill Pace         |
|                          | Janet Pescatore   |
|                          | Cora Sarver       |

Joseph Richetti will continue as our Financial Secretary

**We thank you for your dedication and service!**



## ♥♥THANK YOU~THANK YOU♥♥



*To Our St. John's Family,*

*Frank and I want to thank you for all your prayers, cards and flowers. It has been so uplifting to be remembered by so many. Hopefully he will soon be home and be able to be with his family.*

*Love and God Bless,*

*Pauline Feltkamp*

*The St. John's Lutheran Church Youth Group...*

would like to thank our incredible Musical Directors, Judy Opatow and Allison Koehler, for all their time and effort in helping with Youth Sunday

Without their help, all the wonderful music you are hearing today would not be possible.

Thank you to all the Youth Group, Young Adult members, and Sunday School students, for making this a very special day at St. John's. We appreciate the time you took to complete assignments, show up for rehearsals and volunteer to fill all the positions! Thank you all!

*Lori Fernez & Janet Powell, Youth Leaders*

# Youth Group News



PLEASE HELP US PUT  
TOGETHER A FUN NIGHT OF  
**SUPERMARKET BINGO**

To raise money for the Barbara Semmig Scholarship Fund



We will be putting together themed baskets for a night of Supermarket Bingo, and we are asking anyone who can donate any items listed below to **please bring them between now and March 24th**, and place them in the box in the narthex labeled "**SuperMarket Bingo**". Then join us on Friday, April 12th for a fun night of Bingo!

**ITEMS NEEDED: All items must be new, unopened, and please check expiration dates!! Expiration dates should be June 2013 or later. Anyone who would like to donate a complete basket, please let us know. Thank you in advance for your support!!**

**Mixes:** cake mix, brownie mix, muffin mix, pancake mix, chocolate pudding mix, biscuit mix

**Spices & condiments:** oregano, basil, jams, jelly, ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, lemon juice, olive oil, vinegar, garlic powder, red pepper, soy sauce, Asian spices, sesame oil, hot dog & burger toppings (pickles, relish, etc.)

**Pastas, Rice & Sauces:** box of pasta, pastina, box of mac & cheese, tomato sauce, crushed tomatoes, tomato paste, cheese sauce, pizza sauce, box of rice, white rice, marinades, vodka or Alfredo sauce

**Soups:** can of soup or broth, soup mix, cup of soup or microwave soup

**Cookies & Crackers:** shortbread cookies, chocolate cookies (example: Oreos), box of any cookies, chocolate wafers, crackers, breadsticks

**Chips & Snacks:** Breakfast/granola bars, tortilla chips, corn chips, potato chips, pretzels, peanuts, sunflower seeds, cracker jacks, microwave popcorn, peanut butter

**Candy:** Gum, chocolate candies, chocolate bars, movie style candy, any other candy, marshmallows

**Baking needs:** vanilla extract, cinnamon, baking soda, baking powder, cupcake liners, chocolate chips, frostings, sprinkles, brown sugar

**Toppings:** coconut, maple syrup, hot fudge, chocolate syrup, marshmallow topping, caramel sauce, jar of cherries, parmesan cheese

**Beverages:** bottle of soda, gatorade, Snapple, tea, coffee, hot cocoa mix, bottles of wine (white, red, any), lemonade

**Misc:** baking tin, baking utensils, oven mitt or potholders, Italian bread crumbs, plastic forks/knives/spoons, cups, BBQ utensils, ice cream cones, ice cream scoop, gift cards to a local pizzeria/movie theatre/restaurant/ice cream store/supermarket, sugar cubes, sweet & low, DVDs, sunscreen, tote bag, lunch box or tote, skillet, summer tablecloth, travel mug, beer mug, disposable camera, travel-size toiletries (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.), writing supplies (notebook, pens, pencils), deck of cards, board game, salad bowl, tongs, croutons, mixing spoons

**Also need: baskets, plastic wrap or bags for baskets, bows**