



ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

April 2014

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Services

9:30 AM

Sunday School Classes (K-Grade 6)

9:30 AM

Confirmation Classes (7-8 Grades)

Wednesdays 7:00 PM

Calendar of Events for April 2014 ~



Wednesday, April 2	Evening Lenten Service - 7:30 PM No Confirmation Class – Class encouraged to attend Lenten service
Thursday, April 3	Ecumenical Lenten Service at Christ Episcopal Church - 7:30 PM
Friday, April 4	Cadets & Brownie Girl Scout Meeting 3:00 PM
Sunday, April 6	Worship 9:30 AM – Fifth Sunday of Lent Sunday School - 9:30 AM Children will be making palm crosses
Tuesday, April 8	Council Meeting 8:00 PM
Wednesday, April 9	Southwest Nassau Conference Lenten Worship Service 7:30 PM at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Roosevelt
Sunday, April 13	Worship 9:30 AM – Palm Sunday Sunday School will attend worship. Meet in the entrance hall at 9:15 AM
Wednesday, April 16	Confirmation Class 7:00 PM
Thursday, April 17	Maundy Thursday - Joint service with Christ Episcopal Church here at St. John's at 7:30 PM. Father Melton preaching, Pastor Alex presiding.
Friday, April 18	Good Friday – Joint service at Christ Episcopal Church at 7:30 PM Pastor Alex preaching, Father Melton presiding.
Sunday, April 20	EASTER SUNDAY - Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM - Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt after worship
Tuesday, April 22	Evangelism Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, April 23	Confirmation Class – 7:00 PM
Friday, April 25	Cadets & Brownie Girl Scout Meeting 3:00 PM
Saturday, April 26	Sunday School Dying of Easter Eggs – 10:00 AM Youth Group will be making Bunny Bread – 10:00 AM
Sunday, April 27	Worship – 9:30 AM Easter Breakfast after worship
Wednesday, April 30	Confirmation Class – 7:00 PM
Looking forward to May.....	
Friday, May 2	Girl Scouts – 3:00 PM
Sunday, May 4	Worship 9:30 AM



SERVERS FOR APRIL 2014

DATE	ACOLYTES	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS
Fifth Sunday of Lent 4/6	9:30 AM Emma Lenz	9:30 AM Claire Lenz	9:30 AM Arlene Moglia
PALM Sunday 4/13	9:30 AM Jason Pace	9:30 AM Hank Lenz	9:30 AM Hank Lenz
	Crucifer Jason Pace		
	TBA		
	TBA		
Maundy Thurs 4/17	7:30 PM Christopher Dunn	Service with CHRIST	EPISCOPAL
Good Friday 4/18	7:30 PM SERVICE	IS AT CHRIST	EPISCOPAL
EASTER SUNDAY 4/20	9:30 AM Katie Lenz	9:30 AM AM Dorothy Criscuolo	9:30 AM Janet Pescatore
	Crucifer Katie Lenz	AM Janet Pescatore	
	Torch B. Elizabeth Hanson		
	Torch B. Victoria Dunn		
	Gospel B. Erin Milano		
Second Sunday of Easter 4/27	9:30 AM Kaitlyn Gavin	9:30 AM Joan Pirrone	9:30 AM Bill Benson

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 678-6623

Jill Pace: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers and Gospel bearers- 599-8896

Claire Lenz: Lectors - 872-2063



**Donations have been made
to the St. John's Memorial Fund
in memory of
Ruth Macaluso
by Dorothy Doscher
&
Robert Bleier
by Frank P. Bleier**

**Donations have also been made
to the St. John's Altar Guild
in memory of
Ruth Macaluso
by Dorothy Doscher**

A Special Thank you from Christel Hild.....
 Dear Friends of St. Johns,
 I want to thank everybody for all the prayers and cards I received while I was in the hospital. It is nice to know that so many care. Many thanks to Pastor Alex and Dot for their visits. I am still on oxygen and have trouble with my coumadin levels. But I hope that I will be back in Church soon. Love Christel Hild

The Lutheran Social Services LIFE Center would like to thank St. John's Church for donating 200 lbs of food in response to their **EASTER BASKET** food drive! Again, your generosity is overwhelming!

A Message from Pastor Alex ~

I'm sure most of you have heard the expression, "April showers bring May flowers." It's a clever old rhyme that speaks to the reality of springtime: April, typically a rainy and dreary month, gives way to May when flowers will bloom thanks to the life-giving water of the April rains. Another phrase that I found puts it this way: "Although the rain in April is annoying, it's what starts the flowers growing." Isn't that the truth!? After those long cold months of winter, the weather gets warmer and all we want to do is get out of the house and enjoy some sun! So when it rains, it's very annoying! It makes everything muddy, slows down traffic, and gets our socks wet. Nevertheless, we can't complain too much because we know we need the rain and lots of it, not just for the flowers, plants, and trees, but for our own use as well. A rainy spring also helps prevent a summer drought.

April showers bring May flowers. Aside from its literal meaning, this expression can also be thought of as a metaphor for our own life experiences, namely, that a period of discomfort and distress can provide the foundation for a period of happiness and joy. Think about it. We appreciate being healthy because we know what it's like to be sick. We celebrate the end of a semester because we have finished all of those grueling papers and exams. As a child, I ate my vegetables because I wanted dessert, and once I got that dessert, I enjoyed it even more *because* I had endured eating those awful vegetables!

Well I think the same can be said about Lent and Easter. The season of Lent is a time of honest reflection and repentance as we humbly confess that we are indeed sinners who are undeserving of God's mercy and forgiveness. We also know that these 40 days will eventually lead us to the cross, the place where our Lord suffered the most painful and excruciating death imaginable. This is a sad and somber season, but an important one that we absolutely need. For without Lent, Easter is meaningless. Without the cross, there is no forgiveness and salvation. Without death, there is no resurrection.

In his Easter hymn, *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*, Martin Luther states that in the midst of that darkest hour of sin and evil, our Lord's power was revealed: "Our Savior Jesus, God's own Son, here in our stead descended; the knot of sin has been undone, the claim of death is ended. Christ has crushed the pow'r of hell; now there is naught but death's gray shell – its sting is lost forever. Hallelujah!"

Sin's hour brings Christ's power. How's that for a new rhyme! ☺

Wishing you a peace-filled Holy Week and Easter,

Pastor Alex

COUNCIL CORNER

April showers bring May flowers. As much as I like a spring rain, I'm not too anxious for rain after all the snow we had this winter, but I love seeing my flowers bloom. The flowers I'll be planting this spring are from the fundraiser that WELCA is sponsoring until the end of the month. If you haven't ordered your flowers, there's still time! Just go to the following link to do your shopping and the flowers will be shipped directly to your home in time for planting. If you don't have a computer or prefer to order the old fashioned way, there is a catalog and order form on the bulletin board in the narthex.

http://www.flowerpowerfundraising.com/campaign?campaign_id=17984



Our Fastnacht Sunday was a huge success. Six ladies got together on Saturday morning and had the best time preparing the treats for the congregation. Many were brave enough to eat them the PA Dutch way with molasses! Talk is that this will be an annual get-together, so plan on joining us next year!



While the ladies were busy cooking, the men (and a few ladies) were clearing out Pastor's basement. They removed old items, the carpeting and anything that had mold issues. Another work day will be planned to complete the job. If you can help, please contact Dot Criscuolo. Many hands make like work.



We look forward to the coming Easter season here at St. John's. There are new services being planned and activities for the Sunday School. Be sure to find out the rest of the story in this edition of The Messenger.



I'm as still looking for ideas that anyone has to get to know our fellow church members better. I know you must have ideas..... I do and I can't wait to see if we can make things happen! No suggestion is too small, too big or too insignificant.



One idea that is in the final stages it that we will be collecting recyclable cans and bottles to fundraise for different causes. The Stewardship Committee will be finishing up the details. Look for more in the coming bulletins.



Have you read the Council Minutes? Don't forget they are now posted on the bulletin board. Get in the know.....

I hope everyone has a happy and healthy spring and a joyous Easter!

Peace,
Janet Pescatore



Sunday School Students Youth Group & Nursery Children



On April 6th the Sunday School children will be making palm crosses for Palm Sunday Worship. We encourage all the Sunday School children to join us and participate in this wonderful experience!

On Palm Sunday, the Sunday School Children will attend worship.

We will meet in the narthex at 9:15 AM so we can enter church together.

Please join us in the Knotty Pine Room at 10 AM on Saturday, April 26th and help make Bunny Bread and dye Easter Eggs for the April 27th Easter Breakfast hosted by the Worship Committee. It will be lots of fun, and I am sure we will be able to taste some samples... There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Any questions, please call Anna Lenz at 516.596.4168.



Sunday School Nursery Program Coming Soon!

Hi, my name is Katie Lenz and I am a freshman at Lynbrook High School. I have been a Girl Scout for the past 10 years. For my Girl Scout Gold Award Project I am starting a Sunday School Nursery Program for children ages 3-5 here at St. John's.

There will be a kick-off event on Saturday, April 26th from 10:00 AM -11:30 AM in the Knotty Pine room. Nursery-aged children are invited to join the Sunday School Students and Youth Group as we make bunny bread and dye Easter Eggs for the post-Easter breakfast that the Worship committee is hosting the next morning.

The Nursery Program will start Sunday, April 27th (the Sunday after Easter) during the service, from 9:30am-11:00am.

The Sunday School Nursery Program will run for the remainder of the Sunday School year. There will be no Nursery Program during July and August. It will resume the Sunday after Labor Day.

The Nursery Program will have an Adult present at all times, and I will have fellow youth group members helping me.

During each Nursery session, the children will sing a hymn or a song; hear a bible story and do a craft or activity that ties into the Bible story.

I am asking Adult members of the congregation if they would like to volunteer to read the Bible story to the children.

I would like to create some inter-generational connections between the older members of the congregation and its youngest members.

I will be posting a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please consider signing up for this opportunity to get to know some of St. John's younger members.

Parents of Nursery-age children— Please consider having your child try the Nursery Program. I started in the Nursery at St. John's when I was 3 and feel as if I have grown up at St John's. It's a great opportunity to have your children become part of the St. John's community, and you will be helping me earn my Gold Award.

Thank you!

Katie



Can You Help Us Fill The Easter Eggs For The Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Please Bring in a Bag Of Small Wrapped Candy. By Sunday April 13th

**Sunday School will be coloring eggs on Saturday, April 26th at 10:00 for
the breakfast on Sunday, April 27th.**

Please bring in 10 hard-boiled eggs to color.

THANK YOU



*Easter
Breakfast*

THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE IS HOSTING EASTER BREAKFAST!

Please stay after worship [Sunday, April 27th](#) and join us for Easter Breakfast! Not only will there be a delicious breakfast, but you will get to enjoy the Bunny Bread baked by our younger church members!



Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13
Worship 9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17
Joint service with Christ Episcopal Church
at St. John's at 7:30 PM.
Father Melton preaching; Pastor Alex presiding.

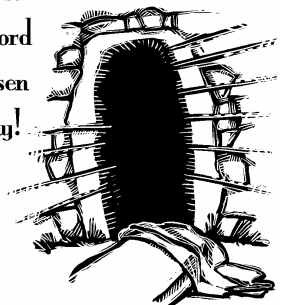
Good Friday

Friday, April 18
Joint service at Christ Episcopal Church at 7:30 PM
Pastor Alex preaching; Father Melton presiding.

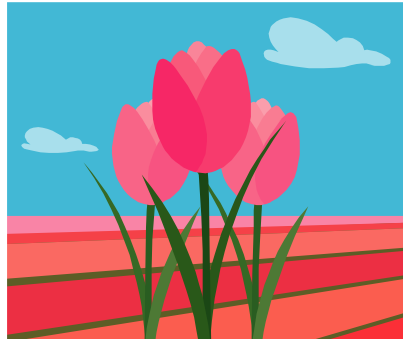
EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 20
Worship 9:30 AM

Christ
the Lord
Is Risen
Today!



FLOWER POWER



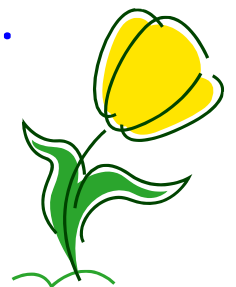
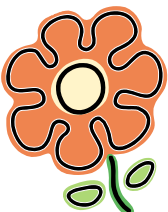
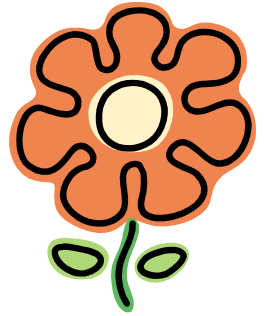
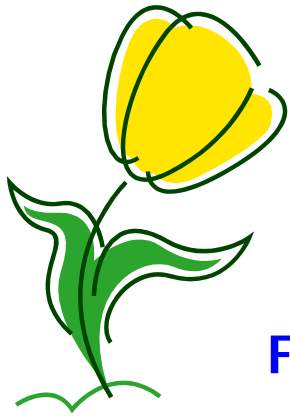
St. John's has partnered with **FLOWER POWER FUNDRAISING**

Flower Power offers top quality flower bulbs for our friends and family members to purchase.

All orders ship directly to your home and come with a **100% money-back guarantee**.

For every purchase made,
St. John's **receives 50% of the sale price!**

If you would like to order flowers to help our fundraiser go to www.flowerpowerfundraiser.com or contact **Janet Pescatore** at **239-7623** or **581-1221**.





Many Hands Make Light Work, SO...The MOW the Merrier...



Please give us a few minutes a few weeks this year to help the lawn look its best!

1. The sign-up sheet is on the church bulletin board.
2. It's just the front lawn of the parsonage and in front of the church that needs mowing, not the triangle. It takes 10 minutes tops.
3. Mow Friday or Saturday, whichever works best for you.
4. The mower and gas are in the parsonage garage, so no need to bring anything. Please ask me or one of the other veterans where to find the garage key.
5. Clippings go in the black garbage bags that are in the garage by the mower.
6. Please provide a phone number and email address in case something comes up and you need to switch weeks with someone else...

Thanks for doing your part!

Dan Lenz

(Home: 596-4168; Cell: (646) 417-0259)DanLenzWork@gmail.com

Clothing Drive



UNITED VETERANS BEACON HOUSE ANNUAL SPRING CLOTHING DRIVE

New or gently used items that are needed:

- ★ Men, women, children and infant clothing
- ★ Shoes and accessories
- ★ Bed and Bath items
- ★ Draperies and Curtains

There will be a collection box in the narthex
from March 9th through April 13th.

We thank you for your generosity!

