

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Regular Worship Services

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

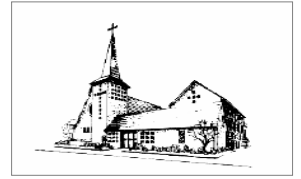
Sunday School (K-Grade 6)

(No class on 2/19)

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 2/22 – 12:00 Noon and 7:30 PM worship





Calendar of Events for February 2012 ~

- Wednesday, 2/1 Confirmation, 7:30 PM
- Friday, 2/3 Girl Scout Association Bake-Off
- Friday, 2/3 – Sunday, 2/5 Annual Adult Retreat, Graymoor, Garrison, NY
- Sunday, 2/5 Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM
- Sunday School, 10 AM – **Beanie Sunday!**
- Tuesday, 2/7 Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 1 PM
- Worship & Music Committee, 7:30 PM
- Wednesday, 2/8 Choir, 7:30 PM
- Confirmation, 7:30 PM
- Saturday, 2/11 Girl Scout “My Promise, My Faith” pin workshop, 11 AM
- Sunday, 2/12 Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM
- Sunday School, 10 AM – Walking on Water
- Tuesday, 2/14 Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 1 PM
- Council, 8 PM
- Wednesday, 2/15 Choir, 7:30 PM
- Confirmation, 7:30 PM
- Thursday, 2/16 100th Anniversary Committee, 9:30 AM
- Friday, 2/17 Family Game Night, 7:30 PM
- Sunday, 2/19 Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM
- No Sunday School** (President's Day Weekend)
- History Sunday + Fastnacht Coffee Hour**, following 10 AM worship
- Tuesday, 2/21 Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 1 PM
- Wednesday, 2/22 **ASH WEDNESDAY**
- Worship, 12 N & 7:30 PM
- No Confirmation** (Come to worship instead)
- Sunday, 2/26 Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM
- Sunday School, 10 AM – Walking on Water
- Tuesday, 2/28 Evangelism & Social Ministry Committee, 7:30 PM

Pastor's Reflection~

During worship recently, I asked everyone why they were there at church that day. What is it that causes you to get out of bed on any given Sunday morning and skip the extra leisurely cup of coffee or tea and head out into the cold to worship? We followed that up during our annual meeting with some small group discussions on what it is that made people want to join the community of faith that is St. John's and why it is they stay.

We had some good, if relatively brief, discussion on how people came to St. John's and what church in general, and this congregation in particular, means to them. For some, St. John's is the place they were raised. Others came by way of personal invitation. Most have stayed because they have found a friendly, welcoming group of people who have become an extension of their family. They have found support here from each other when life gets hard and out of control. Because of their involvement here, they have known that they are not alone, no matter what they are facing.

That's some powerful testimony about the need for belonging and community in a world that is ever-more fractured and isolated. Extended families often don't live near one another anymore. Dear friends may be on the other side of the country. It is less and less common for people to have a nearby network of support that they can lean on in difficult times.

We were talking about all of these things at that meeting because there is a desire at St. John's for us to grow as a congregation. We want to become a church who reaches out to others in our community, who invites folks into a relationship with the living Christ and his broken but beautiful people. We want to move out of our "shy Lutheran" ways and become bold at "telling everyone what God has done" in our lives.

This scares the heck out of most of us.

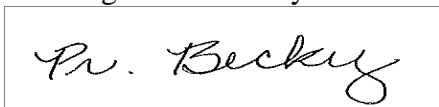
We don't know what we will say or who to approach. We don't want to come across as pushy or self-righteous or holier-than-thou. We're afraid people will have no interest in what we have (hopefully) found so meaningful on our own life's journey.

I get all that. It can be tough to talk about the things of faith. We don't even do a very good job of practicing that within the walls of the church with each other – no wonder it makes us nervous to think about bringing it up with friends or co-workers or neighbors.

But even if you have a hard time identifying someone who might need God in their life, my guess is that we all know someone who could use a community of people who care about them, who look out for each other, who accept us as we are and hold us up even when we feel like the world is falling all around us. That could be the person (or people!) God is nudging you to invite to be a part of what God is doing here among us. And it doesn't even necessarily have to be to worship (which is often a very intimidating thought for someone who hasn't been to church in a while or ever). It could be to come to a special event, like Game Night or WELCA's Chinese Dinner in the spring or a concert (we may have one in the works – keep a look out for more on that to come!). God could use *you* to draw someone closer into a relationship with God – and what a privilege that is!

The thing is, lots of people are lonely or hurting or questioning, and church is (hopefully) a place where people are welcomed and cared for in the name of the One who welcomes us, a place where it's safe to ask the tough questions (even if we don't have easy answers). I hope you have found St. John's to be such a place for you – and I hope you'll invite someone you know to experience that here too. (And if you haven't found that to be the case, I hope you'll share that with me so we can work on it together!)

Growing in faith with you

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pr. Becky".

Youth group news

Next Youth Group meeting:
February 5th.

Youth Sunday will take place on Sunday, March 11th, during the 10:00 AM service. We will spend the month of February preparing for this special service. Rehearsals will take place each week during the 10:00 AM service, from February 12th through March 4th. Meet us each week in the Knotty Pine Room at 10:00 AM. Additional rehearsals may be required, especially for musicians, so please watch for emails with more information.

A **group bowling** activity is being planned for March; more info to follow. This will be open to all St. John's members, and their family and friends. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex.

Lori Fernez & Janet Powell

Sunday School News

Beanie Sunday – February 5

Have your child/ren bring in their favorite Beanie Baby or other stuffed animal.

This is one of the kids' favorite Sunday School activities – they won't want to miss it!

Class on February 12 & 26

During February, we'll learn about Jesus walking on the water, based on Matthew 14:22-33. Don't forget to ask your child for the "Family Page" after Sunday School – it's filled with lots of ideas on how you & your family can build on the lessons from Sunday school and grow in faith together!

No Class on February 19

It's President's Day Weekend and the beginning of school break, and we know a lot of you go away. If you are in town though, don't skip church just because there's no Sunday School. Come to worship together – we'll have children's bulletins and a children's message. There's no better way for our children to learn how to worship than to be in worship.

And if you're nervous about how they'll behave, just know that God put the wiggle in 'em, and we rejoice to hear the voices of kids in worship – they are WELCOME in worship, just as they are!

Can you be a Pre-K/K Sunday School teacher or Nursery Attendant?

You – yeah, you, reading this newsletter – do you love kids? Even if you don't currently have any in Sunday School (or even if you don't have any kids of your own at all!), we'd love to have you help with Sunday School or nursery. We're looking for a team of folks to rotate, so no one person has to be there every week. Ideally for the nursery, we'll have 2 people each week (and if there aren't any kids on your assigned day, you can just come into worship with the rest of us).

If you are interested (or know someone who has a love of kids and might be interested), please talk with Pr. Becky – you can catch her after worship, call her (O: 599.0778; C: 547-8392), or email her (PrBeckyFetters@gmail.com). Thanks for considering serving God by teaching God's littlest disciples!

Don't forget the Wall of Fame!

Any child who is able to recite the Ten Commandment's, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles' Creed will receive the Wall of Fame medal and have their picture put on the Wall of Fame bulletin board. See Pr. Becky or a Sunday School teacher if you need copies of these basics of the Christian faith to help your child learn them.

Pre-K Teachers and Nursery Attendants Wanted

St. John's has a growing number of babies, toddlers, and pre-K/K kids in our congregation, and we'd love to have both a nursery and a pre-K/K class available on Sunday mornings at 10 AM. To do that, we need some volunteer teachers and nursery attendants. Ideally we'd have a team of 2-3 teachers and multiple volunteers for the nursery so that there can be a rotating schedule. We'll provide training, supplies, and a curriculum (for the pre-school class). Please contact Pr. Becky (prbeckyfetters@gmail.com; 516.599.0778 [o] or 516.547.8392 [c]) if you are interested in serving God by loving, caring for, and teaching our youngest disciples.



OUR SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES

St. John's extends our sympathy and condolences to:
The family of Regina Davison, who passed away on December 4, 2011.
The family of Eda Meurer, who passed away on December 20, 2011.
and The family of Marie Obst, who passed away on January 16, 2012.
May our love and prayers continue to surround all who loved them.

MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS

Donations have been made to the Memorial Fund in memory of:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Robert Vosselmann | by Doris E. Kortlang |
| Mary "Pat" Moyer | by Dotty Criscuolo |
| Eda Meurer | by Joan Pirrone, the Richetti Family and Pauline and Frank Feltkamp |
| Regina Davison | by the Richetti Family, Dotty Criscuolo, Carol Clemente, Robert Kaempf, Pauline and Frank Feltkamp, Jan Arena, Joan Pirrone and Bruce, Karen, Karl and Carrie Feltkamp. |

Donations have been made in memory of Marie Obst to the Roof Appeal Fund by:

Jan Arena , Carol Clemente, Dorothy Criscuolo, Carol Flood, Joan Pirrone, Ruth Williamson

Poinsettia Altar Flowers were also donated in memory of Loved Ones by Charlene Comastri

One of our cherished members has moved to Wisconsin. She has left us with these thoughts:

Thank you for the Glory of Celebrating St. John's 100th Anniversary and for being a small part of the memorable event. God Bless all who have been, will be, and presently are part of a great family to preserve and continue to serve St. John's.

Jan Arena

1912 MEMORABLE MOMENTS 2012

- Did you know that our Harvest Festival began in 1980? That means we've been sharing God's love by helping other worthwhile organizations for 31 years!
- Do you remember St. John's Clown Ministry? It began in 1988 when Pr. Midtlyng was the pastor of St. John's.
- 2012 is the 28th anniversary of our Annual Adult Retreat.

HISTORY DAY WITH FASTNACHTS!

Sunday, February 19, after the 10 AM worship

Sunday the 19th is Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday – the last Sunday before Lent begins. So, we'll have our traditional coffee hour, complete with special Fastnachts (those fancy doughnuts) to eat before beginning any Lenten discipline that has to do with giving up rich, sweet, yummy foods.

We'll ALSO have special displays and a power point of pictures from years gone by. If you've never seen pictures of the "old" church (what is now the office and Knotty Pine Room/kitchen part of the church) or of the "new" church as it was being built, now's your chance to check out what St. John's used to look like. We'll also highlight the stories of the stained glass windows and the "new" bell (you've seen that in the entryway/narthex by now, haven't you?), and share a timeline of the church's history – former pastors, special events, etc. Don't worry, it won't be some long boring history lesson – just an opportunity to see and experience some of St. John's 100 years of history, ministry, and mission here in Lynbrook, all at your own pace. If you can't come or stay to see it that day, the displays will remain up in the church for at least a few weeks after, so you can check it out another time.

ST. JOHN'S SEWING MINISTRY



The sewing group is proud to announce that we have completed 7 blankets, 8 tote bags, 3 burp cloths, and 3 crocheted sweaters which were delivered to the New Life Center on Jan 20th. The New Life Center Layette Program will also receive a 6 pack of washcloths, 6 body suits, 5 pairs of white socks, a receiving blanket, 4 shirts and 4 hat and glove sets from the Sunday School's White Christmas gifts. A box is also being filled with walker bags, lap robes, booties, pillows, wheel chair bags and ditty bags for the Al Holly Patterson Extended Care Facility.

The work is never done and we are looking for new faces to join in the fun of making these projects. We meet on Tuesday morning from 9:30 – 12:00 pm in the Knotty Pine room and then enjoy our bagged lunches until 1:00 pm. All are welcome. (Don't know how to sew, but want to help or learn? Come on out & we'll find something for you to do!)

We would like to thank Jan Arena for her many years of service to this ministry. She has been an inspiration and such a valuable member of this group. Her skills, knowledge and smile will be missed greatly. We wish her only the best as she starts a new life with her family in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Christel Hild, Carol Clemente, Ruth Williamson, &
Joan Pirrone

GAME NIGHT

GOOD FELLOWSHIP ~ GOOD FUN!

Come one, Come all to our GAME NIGHT on February 17th at 7:30 PM. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Bring your favorite game to play! Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome – kids, parents, singles, seniors, friends.

Just be warned – it can get competitive, especially when someone yells “Uno!”

Mark your calendars today so you don't miss this annual WELCA event.

PARSONAGE ROOF APPEAL UPDATE

At last count, St. John's has received \$4200 (and counting) towards replacing the parsonage roof. Thanks to everyone who has already donated a “shingle”.

We still need to raise several thousand more; bids ranged between \$12,000 & \$20,000, depending on the “life” of the shingles used and whether or not the garage roof is included.

You may be wondering, “Why so expensive? I see ads for roof work for much less than that!” Well, the reason is that we're not able to just nail another layer of shingles on top of the current ones. We need to remove everything on the roof, down to the cedar itself, which is of course more costly. We're also planning to buy shingles that are rated for long-life, so that we don't have to go through this again in another 10-15 years. Please know that we will do our utmost to get the best price when we have the money needed, but want quality workmanship and materials that will stand the test of time.

If you haven't donated to the roof fund yet, you can donate a shingle for \$100. If you can't donate that much, we will gladly and gratefully accept your donation in any amount. Just put “roof” in the memo line of your check, or write it on the envelope so we know where to track it. Remember, your donation is tax-deductible too!

Thanks for your help!

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 22, 12 Noon or 7:30 PM

*“Return to God with all your heart,
the Source of grace and mercy.*

Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.”

This gospel acclamation for the season of Lent reminds us what God's call to us is: to repent, *return* with all we are and all we have, to seek God's face and will for our lives and to try to live it out every day. Ash Wednesday is our chance to do that together, to be reminded of our need for God in this frail life and to turn to God for the strength to live the way God wants us to live. Come; begin this Lenten journey with us, knowing that you are never alone in trying to walk in God's ways.

ECUMENICAL LENT EVENING PRAYER

Thursdays in Lent, 7:30 PM

(March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29)

Our Lenten observance brings us not just to St. John's, but to the other churches in our community.

We'll worship together and then enjoy food and fellowship with our neighbors! Watch the bulletin & the March *Messenger* for details on where we'll be each week.



**WE ARE SO PROUD OF
THE PEOPLE OF
ST. JOHN'S**

Did you know we sent 475 lbs. of food to the Pantry over the holidays?

Did you know for the year of 2011 we provided almost **1 TON** of food to people less fortunate? Keep the food coming!! Look in your pantry and reflect on how lucky we are and keep sharing.

The *Christmas at Sea* program was also a huge success. We sent 36 bags of clothing and snacks to the Seafarers. Again, we are so proud. We will be handing out cookie tins to be filled for Lent. They will be available 3/11 and 3/18 to be returned no later than 3/25/12. Please be sure to take at least one and fill it with your special baked goods for the Seafarers.

Thanks again for making The Evangelism Committee so proud!!!!

P.S. ...Mark the date...The Baby Shower 3/20

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2012

| DATE | ACOLYTES | | ASSISTING MINISTERS | | LECTORS | |
|----------|------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 2/5 | 8:30 AM | Emma Lenz | 8:30 AM | Dorothy Richetti | 8:30 AM | Andrew Dunn |
| Retreat | 10:00 AM | Ashley Gavin | 10:00 AM | Kim Barbaro | 10:00 AM | Hank Lenz |
| 2/12 | 8:30 AM | Christian Gianokos | 8:30 AM | Jason Lipitz | 8:30 AM | Bill Benson |
| | 10:00 AM | Kyle O'Connor | 10:00 AM | Claire Lenz | 10:00 AM | Claire Lenz |
| | Crucifer | Jason Pace | | | | |
| 2/19 | 8:30 AM | Grace Mata | 8:30 AM | Joan Pirrone | 8:30 AM | Carol Larsen |
| | 10:00 AM | Sebastian Percy | 10:00 AM | Karen Feltkamp | 10:00 AM | Karen Feltkamp |
| | Crucifer | David Powell | | | | |
| 2/22 | 12:00 Noon | Dorothy Criscuolo | | Dorothy Criscuolo | | Walter Wright |
| Ash Wed. | 7:30 PM | Jennifer Dalton | | Bob Koehler | | Joan Pirrone |
| 2/26 | 8:30 AM | Jessica Gonzalez | 8:30 AM | Janet Pescatore | 8:30 AM | Arnelle Blinderman |
| Lent 1 | 10:00 AM | Danielle Dake | 10:00 AM | Bill Lindman | 10:00 AM | Janet Pescatore |

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and appropriate coordinator. Bob Koehler –Assisting Minister, Crucifers and Gospel Bearers: 678-6623; Jill Pace- Acolytes and Torch Bearers: 599-8896; Claire Lenz- Lectors: 872-2063