

ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

MARCH 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**

DON'T FORGET TO SPRING YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR THIS WEEKEND

Calendar of Events for March 2014 ~

Thursday, March 6	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Friday, March 7	Brownie/ Girl Scout Meeting 3:00 PM
Sunday, March 9	Worship 9:30 AM - First Sunday of Lent Sunday School 9:30 AM – Lenten Craft Coffee Hour after worship in memory of Ruth Macaluso sponsored by WELCA.
Tuesday, March 11	Council Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, March 12	Evening Lenten Service 7:30 PM No Confirmation Class – Class encouraged to attend Lenten service Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Thursday, March 13	First Communion Class 7:00 PM Ecumenical Lenten Service at St. James Methodist Church 7:30 PM
Friday, March 14	Cadets Girl Scout Meeting 3:00 PM
Sunday, March 16	Worship 9:30 AM – Second Sunday of Lent First Communion Service Sunday School goes to Worship
Tuesday, March 18	Mock Baby Shower sponsored by WELCA 7:00 PM
Wednesday, March 19	NO EVENING LENTEN SERVICE at St. John's MAKE- UP CONFIRMATION CLASS 7:30 PM
Thursday, March 20	Ecumenical Lenten Service – we are hosting at St. John's 7:30 PM
Sunday, March 23	Worship 9:30 AM - Third Sunday of Lent Sunday School 9:30 AM
Tuesday, March 25	Evangelism Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, March 26	Evening Lenten Service 7:30 PM No Confirmation Class – Class encouraged to attend Lenten service
Thursday, March 27	Ecumenical Lenten Service at St. Raymond's Church 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Friday, March 28	Brownie/ Cadets Girl Scout Meeting 3:00 PM
Sunday, March 30	Worship 9:30 AM - Fourth Sunday of Lent Sunday School 9:30 AM
Looking forward to April.....	
Sunday, February 2	Worship 9:30 AM Presentation of Our Lord
Tuesday, February 4	Music and Worship Meeting 7:30 PM
Sunday, April 20 th	Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt

SERVERS FOR MARCH 2014

DATE	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
First Sunday of Lent 3/9	9:30 AM	Kaitlyn Gavin	9:30 AM	Hank Lenz	9:30 AM	Hank Lenz
Second Sunday of Lent 3/16	9:30 AM	Elisabeth Hanson	9:30 AM	Debby Lindman	9:30 AM	Joan Pirrone
Third Sunday of Lent 3/23	9:30 AM	Victoria Dunn	9:30 AM	Kim Barbaro	9:30 AM	Anna Lenz
Fourth Sunday of Lent 3/29	9:30 AM	Ashley Gavin	9:30 AM	Janet Pescatore	9:30 AM	Janet Pescatore

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

LENTEN MIDWEEK EVENING SERVICE AT ST. JOHN'S

**Please join us Wednesday evenings during Lent
 7:30 PM
 for a short service of music & prayer
 set to Marty Hauger's Holden Evening Prayer**

*There will be no Lenten service on Wednesday March 19th. Join us for the Ecumenical Prayer Service we are hosting on Thursday, March 20th instead.

LENTEN ECUMENICAL EVENING PRAYER SERVICES 2014 Worship Service Schedule

**7:30 PM – Thursday Evenings during Lent
 No offering is taken**

March 13th	St. James United Methodist
March 20th	St. John's Lutheran
March 27th	St. Raymond's RCC
April 3rd	Christ Episcopal Church

A Message from Pastor Alex ~

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

With these words from Genesis 3:19, we usher in the Lenten season as we remember who we really are in the Ash Wednesday liturgy. The ashes that we receive on our foreheads each year remind us of our true nature as human beings. We humbly acknowledge that we are dust. We are mindful of our mortality, that our time here on this earth is but a blink of an eye. This reality reminds us that each day is truly a blessing, given to us by a loving and generous God.

The season of Lent is a time for reflection and repentance. We confess that we are sinners who are in perpetual need of mercy and forgiveness. But in that brokenness and despair, we turn our hearts toward Jerusalem and set our sights on the Cross of Calvary, that tree of life which upon our savior freely died for you and for me.

Thus, it's really not surprising that we traditionally think of this season as a journey. For many years the Church has used this image as a way of framing these 40 days that await us. And while I think this is a good metaphor in a spiritual sense in that it gives us some direction and helps guide us from Ash Wednesday to Easter, it's important to remember that in the end, this is not *our* journey. After all, we don't physically go anywhere! No, this is Christ's journey - a journey from sin to redemption, from darkness to light, from death and the grave to life and salvation. Our Lord simply calls us to follow Him on that journey that we may behold that throne of grace that awaits us all.

Looking forward to worshipping & praying with you this Lenten season.

Blessings,

Pastor Alex



COUNCIL CORNER

Well March is here and Spring is around the corner. New things are happening and renewal of old traditions continues.

We are having our first NEW social gathering on **Saturday, March 1st at 10 a.m.** We will be making our own fastnachts for Sunday coffee hour. I'm sure there will be plenty of test tasting as we go along that morning, but that's half the fun!

We will have Ash Wednesday service on **March 5th at 7:30 p.m.** The following Wednesdays, **March 12th, 26th, April 2nd and 9th** there will be Holden Evening Prayer. We usually do this during Advent and it is a special time each week to sit in the silence that this service brings and to sing soothing verses to calm and reflect upon. If you haven't ever been to an Advent Evening Prayer, this will be the time to experience it.

On Thursday, March 20th we will be hosting the Interfaith Lenten Service, so there will be no Wednesday service that week.

We will have a new Palm Sunday service that Pastor Alex and the Worship Committee are excited about. Can't wait! Personally, I love new things during worship – it keeps it fresh and keeps me on my toes and makes me more connected to the service because I have to pay attention. How about you?

Last month I challenged everyone to speak up about things they are concerned with in the congregation and the life of our wonderful church. I also challenged Council to come up with some new, maybe renew of activities that we could all join in on, be it social functions or community functions to spread the Good News!

Now I want to invite you to do the same! If you have a special talent for making small crafts, or would like to go to a special place or even to participate in a community event – let me or someone on council know. We want to get to know each other beyond the good mornings and small talk on Sundays. We have many new families that might not know everyone and this is a great way to get involved.

Another "something new" is that the Council meeting minutes will now be posted on the narthex bulletin board. We want everyone to know what really happens in our meetings and where our money is going. Look for the special spot!

Again, please speak to me or anyone council member with any questions, concerns or joys you may have.

Have a restorative Lent.

Peace,

Janet Pescatore



Altar Flowers

Each Sunday throughout the year, with the exception of the Lenten and Advent seasons, our church altar is adorned with flowers. It is often through the generosity of our members that these flowers beautify St. John's. Traditionally, the flowers are given in memory of a Loved one, in Honor of someone or someone still living or to Celebrate a special event such as a Baptism or First Communion. When flowers have been given by a member, the bulletin will note the designation of that morning's flowers. After the worship, you may pick up the flowers you have requested. If the flowers are not claimed, they will be brought to a church member who is homebound.

If you would like to make a donation to have flowers placed on the altar, there are Altar Flower envelops in each pew that you can filled out or you can contact the church office. Your support of this ministry is greatly appreciated.



Donations have been made to the St. John's Memorial Fund for the following

In memory of Ruth Macaluso
by
Carol Clemente
Paul and Christel Hild
Joan Pirrone

In memory of Kathryn Boake
by
Carol Clemente

In memory of Walther Stryker
by
Gerda Weber



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 7:30 PM, to prepare to help lead the congregation in song during worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday Everyone – male & female; young adult & "senior"; soprano, alto, tenor, or bass – is welcome.

Have questions? Talk with Allison Koehler, choir director @ AWRCKoehler@optonline.net



Due to the unpredictable weather, Bible Study has been postponed until spring. Dates and time will be announced.

We are pleased to welcome the Palmer family, Doug, Kristina, Kaylee and Christopher into membership at St. John's.



If you are interested in becoming a member of St. John's, please contact Pastor Alex at the church office or email him at rev.alexkennedy@gmail.com

WELCA "MOCK"BABY SHOWER ~ TUES., MARCH 20th 7:30 PM

St. John's annual Baby Shower supporting the New LIFE Center will be held at 7:30 on Tuesday, March 20th, in the Knotty Pine Room. We invite everyone in the congregation to join us and support this so that we may have an abundance of baby things to bring to the Center. You may bring anything that a baby might use, from clothes, diapers, baby bottles, and bath supplies. They also appreciate small baby-friendly Bibles or board books with a "God loves you" kind of story. Please join us. Refreshments will be served from the Center staff about how lives are changed by our gifts.





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!



EASTER FOOD BASKETS FOR THE HUNGRY

New LIFE Center of Long Island is asking for your helping providing **Easter Food Baskets** for the hungry. These baskets are much more than food. They are visible signs that carry the message of Christ's love and concern.

Please help by donating any of these suggested items for the Easter Food Baskets

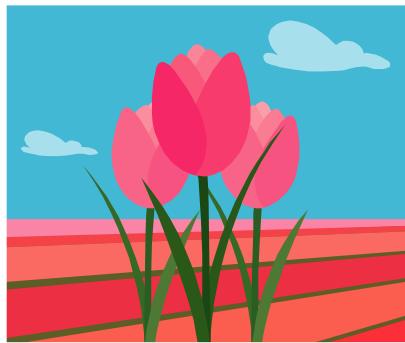
- ⊕ Cake Mix & Frosting
- ⊕ Candy/Easter chocolate
- ⊕ Canned Fruit/Juice
- ⊕ Canned Ham
- ⊕ Canned Vegetables
- ⊕ Soup
- ⊕ Cereal
- ⊕ Macaroni & Cheese
- ⊕ Pasta
- ⊕ Mashed Potatoes
- ⊕ Olives/Pickles/Salad Dressing
- ⊕ Pie Crusts and Fillings
- ⊕ Pudding/Jell-O
- ⊕ Cookies/Crackers
- ⊕ Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate
- ⊕ Sugar/Artificial Sweeteners
- ⊕ Napkins
- ⊕ Gift Certificates for Groceries are also welcome



There will be a collection box in the narthex.
All donations must be here by Sunday, March 30th!

We are pleased to welcome the Palmer family into membership at St. John's this morning! Please greet Doug, Kristina, Kaylee and Christopher at the coffee hour in their honor after worship today.

FLOWER POWER

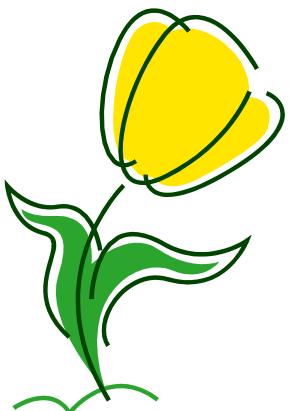


St. John's has partnered with
FLOWER POWER FUNDRAISING

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 find out how to order flowers to help our fundraiser, please contact **Janet Pescatore at 239-7623 or 581-1221**.

