

## A Word from the Pastor for the Easter season...

I would rather be ashes than dust!  
I would rather  
That my spark should burn out in a brilliant blaze  
Than that it should be stifled by dry rot.  
I would rather be a superb meteor,  
Every atom of me in magnificent glow,  
Than a sleepy and permanent planet.  
The proper function of man is to live, not to exist.  
I shall not waste my days in trying to prolong them,  
I shall use my time.

I quoted this poem in my Easter sermon. For me, and I hope you, it speaks to living life as God intends us to live. God desires for us to live, not simply exist. We have come through another Lenten journey into the joy of Easter morning. During this Easter season and beyond, with the empty tomb and even death being conquered, we can live lives full of joy, full of promise, full of hope. Our Easter services were preceded by worship on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We sat with Jesus at the Last Supper, walked to Gethsemene and then to the cross. We left in silence both nights, pondering what God has done and is doing. It was a glorious Easter morning -and Easter Eve- with the scent of flowers. The Pascual Candle was lit once again -from the new fire- as the light of Christ returned from the dead. We heard Luke's gospel and replied with music of all types: the band played, the children sang, and a brass quartet joined the choir. We shared the Sacrament, and then had another feast in the Parish Hall. New life all around, with laughter and good conversation. And now we go forward with this new life. Let us all go with joy, being "superb meteors," glowing with this good news. A blessed Easter Season to all!

Pastor V.

## Ladies Aid

After such a long time, it was so good to have our meeting especially since two of our "veteran" members were able to be there. We are so glad that Arline and Pearl can get to the meetings and add to the fellowship we share there. We look forward to seeing Shirley again soon as well as Marie.

There will not be another regularly scheduled get together until August 1, but if we need to have a quick meeting, we will get the word out to you. Until then, we will continue to see everyone at church and enjoy the friendship and fellowship with them and you too.

Now that Easter has passed for another year and we have celebrated the risen Christ and the gifts that that has freely given us, we can reflect on what Martin Luther says about our spiritual and physical life's journey in his FAITH ALONE book: He feels Christians may say, "Today, I am a guest. Tomorrow, I will continue my trip." "Today I am a guest on this earth. I eat and drink here. I live honorably and modestly in this life. But tomorrow, I'll proceed on my way to an eternal life in the kingdom of heaven, where I am a citizen." When we come to the end of this life, we get to let go of everything physical and enter an eternal life that never ends. What more do we need.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

## **Women of the ELCA**

It was our pleasure to have hosted the WELCA Spring Assembly despite the light turnout. A lot of work goes into the preparation of this and many missed out on the fellowship, information and program. If they had been there, they would have been inspired and impressed with Pastor Valerie's presentation of the evening's program. We thank her, as always, for sharing her time and talents with us.

Speaking of people who have talents to share, mark your calendar now and join us on Tuesday, May 14 at 7 PM, when our good friend, Ona Haman, will once again visit us with her Women of Faith videos. If ever you need to warm your heart and have a good laugh doing it, Ona will bring that to you. She is a woman of great faith, love and laughter.

All are welcome to come and bring a friend along too, since this is a meeting too good to keep to ourselves. The joy you will feel and hopefully share with others will continue for a long time. So please come that night so we can share this evening with you along with all of the other fellowship of the evening, and of course it would not be complete without refreshments to share also.

Thoughts for the month:

Hindsight is good, foresight is better, insight is best of all.

Even if fate colors your life- you can choose the color.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

## Community Nights!

St. John's is proud to present our new monthly Community Nights. These nights will be filled with family friendly events that seek to foster a deeper sense of community within St. John's. All of the events are after our monthly Community Dinners unless otherwise noted. So come on out eat some good food and then stay for a fun time!

Below is a list of the upcoming Community Nights along with their tentative dates. As we get closer to each event more information will become available.

May 31<sup>st</sup> - MUSEUM NIGHT

Jun 28<sup>th</sup> - OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

Jul (TBA) - BISON'S GAME

Submitted by: Megan Marrano  
(marrano92@gmail.com)



This is the QR code for the St John's website. If you're not familiar, a QR code will take a mobile device directly to our web site, just by taking a picture of it.

## WHAT IS A THRIVENT ACTION TEAM?

**Thrivent Action** Teams are groups of volunteers who donate time and effort to help a charitable cause of their choice. As a **Thrivent** Financial benefit or associate member, **Thrivent** Financial will arm you with \$250 of seed money for your project.

If you want to learn more you can contact your Thrivent representative (Brian Makey) or talk to Mark Koepfel or Nancy Kessler.

The funds can be used to help pay for a Community dinner, a Youth event, an Outreach program and more.

You can learn more by checking out the web site below.

[https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/files/CA\\_Conversation\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/files/CA_Conversation_Guide.pdf)

### **Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry**

Needed for Spring are canned pasta such as ravioli, SpaghettiOs and macaroni and cheese; jelly/jam, brownie mix and small bags of flour. As always, Soup is always needed!!!



## HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY TO:

5/2 Peggy Cramer  
5/3 Ruth Mussehl  
5/4 Terri Marrano  
5/6 Amanda Wolf  
5/8 Kyle Higgins  
5/10 Joyce Molnar  
5/19 Bruce Mussehl  
5/22 Timothy Then  
5/22 Hugh Vosseller  
5/23 Easton Molnar  
5/31 Kayla Patrick



## HAPPY MAY ANNIVERSARY TO:

5/4/1974 Jay and Sylvia Delaney  
5/6/1978 Paul and Lorrie Whelan  
5/10 Karie and Kyle Higgins  
5/16/1987 Chuck and Peggy Cramer  
5/17/1986 Kris and Evelyn Hicks  
5/21/2011 Brian & Natalie Napierala  
5/23 Dan & Laurie Abendenschein  
5/30/2009 Craig & Beth Vosseller

## Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
May 5	Pat Lipka	Evelyn Hicks
May 12	Dawn Corless	Nancy Kessler
May 19	Al Kerner	Karen Rothenberger
May 26	Jim Steiner	Adam Wolff

## News from the Pews

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone who helped build the handicapped ramp, the basement shelving as well as complete other miscellaneous tasks for our home. It has been a blessing meeting such wonderful friends who are part of St. John's family. We will do our best to pay it forward whenever there is an opportunity. Sincere appreciation also goes to the anonymous supporter who made this possible. **Lisa, Katie and Bailey**

## ST. JOHN'S DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

**WHEN:** THURSDAY, MAY 30 - 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** FIELDSTONE COUNTRY INN

**MENU:** \$ 14.99 & up entrees + appetizers, soups, salads, burgers, sandwiches, finger foods, small salad bar.

**DIRECTIONS:** restaurant is on the N/W corner of Transit Rd. and East Robinson Rd. (Rte. 93). Entrances to parking lot off both roads.

**PLEASE CAR POOL & MEET AT THE RESTAURANT. IF YOU NEED A RIDE, PLEASE CALL CAROLLY.**

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE DUE TO THE SIZE OF OUR GROUP. PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN UP ON THE SHEET ON THE COUNTER IN THE FOYER AND INDICATE IF YOU ARE WILLING TO DRIVE, MEETING US AT THE RESTAURANT OR RIDING WITH SOMEONE.**

### RESTAURANT REVIEW:

**Tony's Pasta & Pizza:** 13 of us dined in this Italian restaurant, one of our favorites. Good food and good company make for an enjoyable evening. Their pizza is great too!

**How will we choose the next restaurant?** A list of prospective restaurants is passed around at each dinner, everyone places an "X" under their choice. The restaurant with the most Xs is the one we visit next. During nice weather, we travel farther away and during the winter months we stay closer to home. Here is your chance to try new restaurants, visit your old favorites, meet new people and enjoy good company. All members of St. John's, your family and friends are welcome. Questions? Call Carolly Huth @ 826-0506.

## Hands and Hearts Ministry

The members of the Hands and Hearts Knitting Ministry of St. John's Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join our small but dedicated group. We knit and crochet Prayer Shawls for those in need of healing warmth and christening caps to welcome newly baptized infant members. Throughout the year we also make items of outerwear for donation to groups in the community that pass them along to their clients.

We welcome everyone from those wishing to learn the craft to the expert. The first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Room is our new meeting time. We have a small stock of tools to get new members started and look forward to welcoming you with a quiet evening of companionable conversation and needlework.

If interested please contact Linda Wetzler (716)512-8106. Thank you.

### **Monthly Community Dinner May 31, 2019**

*Italian Pasta and Meatball Bake with Salad*

Dinner is served 4pm—6:30pm or until we run out,  
whichever comes first.

We will offer drinks and dessert with the meal.

The meal is provided for ANYONE in need of food, fellowship or fun... As always, the food, the seat and the smiles are FREE but good will offerings are always accepted.

## Altar Guild

The guild would like to THANK YOU for the tremendous response to the Easter Flower sales. This year was the largest number of plants ordered and we truly appreciate your support. How beautiful our church looked and (smelled). Also, the breakfast was well attended and a nice morning of fellowship and good food was enjoyed!

Now we are looking ahead to June 9th and Pentecost. This year we will be purchasing geraniums to decorate the church in Red, and then they will be used to fill the wooden cross in Jack's Garden and in other places around the church and cemetery property. Please look for order forms in the bulletins on May 12, 19, 26 and June 2nd or in this Crossbeam. The cost will be \$2 per plant. Checks can be made out to St. John's Altar Guild and mailed to the church or money can be put in an envelope and placed in the box found in the foyer. The last day to order is June 2nd.

Caring for the Altar in May are Erma Fitzpatrick and family.

Mark your calendars for our next meeting on June 23rd.

Remember God is God, but he is also your friend. You can talk to Him about whatever is on your mind or burdens your heart. Just as your body naturally desired food and water, your soul craves the nourishment only He can give. Take everything to God----He cares. He hears. He acts.

Submitted by Nancy Weber

Just a reminder that the recycling "rules" have changed a bit in West Seneca. Recycling will now be picked up every other week and while most everything we have previously recycled is the same, please note that ONLY NUMBERS 1 and 2 plastics can be recycled. Please make every effort to do this along with only other items that can be recycled since our containers fill up rapidly some weeks and having items in there that do not belong takes away from what we can properly recycle.

Items that can be recycled include: newspaper, office paper, phone books, paper bags, and junk mail. Also, paperboard, magazines and catalogs, cardboard and pizza boxes, jugs and bottles with small top openings( #1 and #2) only along with clear bottles and jars, aluminum cans, metal cookware and steel and tin cans.

Check out the list by the recycling bin in the kitchen for the list of what cannot be recycled. Thanks for doing your share to help out!

Fellowship Hour needs your help. It is so good to have so many share the time between worship services in the parish hall. This has posed a good problem to have. In order for the coffee hour clean up people to get to church on time, we need you to clean up your table space. Wipes are available or even your napkin will do as long as the table is cleaned up and ready for the next week.

We appreciate your help and remember, refreshments are always welcome. The sign up sheet is on the counter.

## Art Supplies Needed...

A young person in West Seneca, Rachel, has started a group called LaRussa's Legacy of Love. This group sends hand made cards with inspirational messages to nursing home residents, shut ins, people who are ill and those in need of a pick-me-up. Rachel is currently making 200 cards a month and she can use the following:

Construction paper

Stickers (smiley faces, hearts, etc.)

Colored envelopes

If you have supplies you would like to donate please place them in the box in the foyer labeled Legacy of Love. I will deliver them on St' John's behalf.

Thank you, Rick Lipka

**WANTED:** coupons from The Buffalo News Sunday paper. These coupons are mailed to Fort Bragg where our military personnel and their families can use them at their PX up to six months after the expiration date. Just drop them in the box on the counter in the Narthex and Sandy Stango will take it from there. Another way to support our troops and their families. Thanks, Sandy Stango

## Spring Fling

Clean out your closet and bag up  
the items you no longer want;  
We can turn them into cash!

Bring clothing, bed/bath/shoes  
and household items into church  
or call for your items to be  
picked up. (13gal.bag)

Call Bethann Hintzman 668-  
0833

Please support our building fund.

Collecting starts April 1<sup>st</sup> -May  
31<sup>st</sup>

Let's beat last year's total of  
4130 lbs!  
We raised \$1000.70

Dear St John's Friends,

I am Patrick Mudd, the drummer in the Praise and Worship Band.

Once again this year, I am riding in The Ride for Roswell on June 22 n honor of my high school buddy, Matthew Kochalski. Matt passed away 11 years ago of lymphoma. This is my 10th year participating in The Ride for Roswell.

Thank you for all your past support. If you wish to support me again this year, you can make a donation online at <https://rideforroswell.org> (search for my name under the "search for a rider" tab) or mail a check to:

Roswell Park Alliance Foundation  
ATTN: The Ride for Roswell  
PO Box 644  
Buffalo, NY 14240-0644  
Please put my name: Patrick Mudd in the memo area of the check.

Thank you very much,  
Patrick Mudd

\*\*\*\*\*

Hello All... The chili dinner is still 6 months away (11/10/19) BUT we are doing a \$2500 TRAVEL RAFFLE drawing that day as well. The prize is a \$2000 AAA travel credit AND a \$500 Southwest gift card. Tickets are \$15 each and can be purchased from Mark Koepfel. Tickets are limited so please don't wait. He can be reached at (716)440-8173...

Time to sign-up for summer Camp!

We have a brand new registration portal which may look a little different than it has in the past. If you discover any errors or have any issues, please contact us as soon as possible so we can help.

**Returning Campers:** Your information has already been imported into our new system. To verify your E-mail account, simply follow the link below, enter your E-mail address into the "Sign In" tab, then select "Password reset." This will allow you to verify your E-mail address and create an account for your family.

<https://lclcenter.campbrainregistration.com/>

**First time LCLC Families & Campers:** Follow the attached link, then enter your information in the "New user sign-up" tab to create an account.

You are now ready to register for summer camp!

We would like to thank you for your patience through this transition, and we'd also like to thank you for your interest in sharing your children with us this summer at LCLC!

God Bless,  
Emily Whitney, LCLC Registrar  
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, Inc.  
5013 Route 430  
Bemus Point, NY 14712  
Phone: (716) 386-4125  
Fax: (716) 386-5714  
[registrar@lclcenter.org](mailto:registrar@lclcenter.org)  
[www.lclcenter.org](http://www.lclcenter.org)

## **"Open Wide Your Hands"**

**April 28 - May 19**

### **2019 Synod-Wide Hunger Mission**

*"The eyes of all look to you, and you give them food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Psalm 145:15-16"*

Approximately 1 in 10 people worldwide are living on less than \$1.90 per day. (That's about the same as many spend on a small fry from McDonalds.) **As God's people, we are called to respond.** The ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Response listens to our neighbors' needs and ideas and partners with them to make their dreams a reality. By addressing hunger and poverty through advocacy, networking, disaster response, and sustainable development, we can work together to build a just world in which all are fed.

**At St. John's we will promote education of ELCA Hunger and collect donations in the following way:**

Adults and children of the Sunday School will learn about H.A.N.D.S. during worship and in the classroom.

All will have the opportunity to:

Purchase a hand or world cookie for \$1.90

A slice of Jessie's Pie for \$5.70.

Donations may also be made to "Open Wide Your Hands" by using a special envelope with the logo on it.

**THANK YOU** for your support!

## **Sunday Church School**

We're kicking off summer!

Join us on May 19th (last day of classes) during the Koffee Klatsch for our Strawberry Shortcake Social !

We are looking for teachers ! If you are interested, please let Kathy or Sandy know! We'd love to have you join this talented group of people!

Looking ahead:

May 5th: Sunday School staff meeting at 10:15 in the 1st floor triple room. We'll be looking at next year's school calendar.

Confirmation - June 9<sup>th</sup>

Submitted by Kathy Moody

## **Parish Social Life**

Church Picnic at the Erie County Fair!

Save the date: Sunday August 11th!

Watch our weekly bulletins & Facebook for more information later in the month.

Lutheran Day at the ballpark will take place in July -

Watch for updates on the date from Ron Wirth.

Submitted by Kathy Moody

***Pentecost Geranium Order/Information Form***

(submit no later than June 2nd to be included in the bulletin)

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ geraniums at \$2.00 each

PLEASE PRINT

In loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made payable to St. John's Altar Guild.

Thank you!

I have been scheduling Ushers and Greeters for quite awhile and would pass this job to the highest bidder. Everything is set up on an excel computer program. See me if interested,  
Jim Steiner.

### ***Crossbeam Deadline***

Articles for the **June** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **May 12<sup>th</sup>**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koepfel ([sekoepfel@gmail.com](mailto:sekoepfel@gmail.com)) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

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