

A Word from the Pastor for April...

As I write this, it is snowing. When you receive this, we will still be in the season of Lent...but growing ever closer to Easter. And where will the empty tomb lead you?

During the Second World War, an 18-year-old German named Jürgen Moltmann was drafted to serve in Hitler's army. Assigned to an anti-aircraft battery, he experienced the horror of watching fellow soldiers being incinerated in firebombings. After surrendering to the British, he spent three years in prison camps, and saw how other German prisoners "collapsed inwardly, how they gave up all hope, sickening for the lack of it, some of them dying."

Moltmann had not grown up as a Christian, but an American chaplain gave him an Army-issue *New Testament and book of Psalms*, signed by President Roosevelt. He read the Psalms and found something he desperately needed: hope. He became convinced that God was present with him, "even behind the barbed wire." After being transferred to a camp run by the YMCA, Moltmann learned Christian beliefs, and experienced the love and the acceptance of the local population. They "treated me better than the German army," he told journalist Philip Yancey.

Jürgen Moltmann found new life in Christianity after seeing only death in the Second World War. The gospel was life-giving good news for him, and it can be for us as well.

But wait, there's more. The risen Christ was moving ahead of Moltmann, leading him into an unexpected future. After the war, Moltmann became a Christian theologian and focused on the ideas that God is present with us in our suffering, and that God is leading us to a better future. Both ideas come out of the story of Jesus, and both come out of Moltmann's personal story as well. Easter Sunday is the beginning of the "laughter of the redeemed," he says; it is "God's protest against death." God is not satisfied with the way the world is today, and he intends to make all things new.

Pastor V.

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

(3512 Clinton Street @ Union Rd, West Seneca)

Presents:

Our Monthly Community Dinner

Date:4/28/17

Time:4pm – 6:30pm or until we
run out- Whichever comes
first

We will be serving:

Cheese Ravioli with Meat Sauce

We will also have Desserts & Drinks

*** Menu subject to change ***

This dinner is provided for anyone that needs a meal
AND it is family friendly event...

The meal is **FREE** but we will take any free will donations
that anyone wishes to make...

Lenten Journey
Theme—"On The Way To The Cross"
Wednesdays at 7 pm

April 5th—St. John Vianney

April 14th—Good Friday Service Noon until 3 pm at Covenant
United Methodist Church

The sign up sheet is on the kitchen counter for Sunday refreshments. We are looking for about four plates each week. Sometimes it's easier if you work with another family.

Thank you
Membership



Food Barrel for WS Food Pantry

Items needed for April are paper products, pasta (other than spaghetti) and soap.

Women of the ELCA

We decided to cancel the March meeting due to weather concerns and traveling members. So, we will be especially happy to get together on Tuesday, April 11, at 7 PM and welcome our friend, Ona Haman, as she delights us in messages from women who share their life experiences while thanking, praising, questioning, praying, laughing and crying through their stories. It is a most memorable time and we would love to have you come and experience them with us. Sylvia will provide the evening refreshments.

Much happens in April. Spring really begins to bloom, people are out and about more, we celebrate the risen Lord and Earth Day to mention just a few.

Pastor Valerie has been focusing on Luther's Small Catechism and recently the Ten Commandments. Since it is Earth Day month and the Year of Kindness, I found some ecological Christianity thoughts using the Ten Commandments of which a few will be shared.

The 4th Commandment: Honor your father and your mother. *What is this?* We are to fear, love and love God, so that we neither despise nor anger our parents and others in authority, but instead honor, serve, obey, love and respect them. *Think!* It doesn't take just 2 parents, or even a village. Our lives are birthed and nurtured by this whole world. How would we treat Earth differently if we really honored her as our Mother? *Act!* Water a plant, bow to the soil or delight in a weather forecast today. Serve, love and respect the planet!

The 5th Commandment: You shall not murder. *What is this?* We are to fear and love God so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all life's needs. *Think!* Climate change is already causing what has been called the Sixth Great Extinction, greater than what killed the dinosaurs. Why might our destruction of biodiversity-of God's great variety of creatures, from polar bears and coral reefs to dwarf crocodiles and others we haven't even discovered- why might that be of concern? *Act!* The impacts of burning fossil fuels are also hurting our poorest human neighbors worst. Go to www.lwr.org and search "climate" for stories of how Lutheran World Relief is working to help communities around the world mitigate and adapt amid changing weather patterns.

Final thought: *Think! Even if we stopped adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere and oceans immediately, today's CO₂ would still be affecting the climate for 100 years. How does it feel that God would leave us to suffer at least that long, and perhaps irreparably, the devastating consequences of our actions?*

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Power Point Schedule

	Preparer	9 am Presenter	10:45 am Presenter
April 2	Rick Lipka	Lee Delaney	Matthew & Autumn Brown
April 9	Nancy Kessler	Lee Delaney	Trevor Godus
April 16	Bob Coder	Lee Delaney	Linda Altman
April 23	Linda Jean Budd	Lee Delaney	Jean Stankowski
April 30	Dawn Tymorek	Lee Delaney	Keith Lang

Happy April Birthday to:

4/4 Betty Angelo
 4/8 Daniel Leary
 4/13 Benjamin Germano
 4/18 Jim Steiner
 4/19 Marie Basher
 4/23 Alexander Molnar
 4/26 Danese Dick
 4/26 Stacy Fredericks
 4/27 Ava Brown
 4/27 Sharon Fredericks
 4/30 Shirley Johnson



Remember, you can easily add your birthday and or anniversary date to the list by emailing the church office, kaketop@aol.com, or filling out the card by the birthday bag on the foyer counter.

Assisting Minister Schedule

	9 am	10:45 am
April 2	Pat Lipka	Adam Wolff
April 9	Sandy Gordon	Caroline Rackl
April 13 Maundy Thursday	11 am: Jim Steiner	7 pm: Adam Wolff
April 14 Good Friday	7 pm: Karen Rothenberger	
April 16 Easter	7:30 am: Sue Springer 9 am: Pat Lipka 10:45 am: Evelyn Hicks	
April 23	Sandy Gordon	Nancy Kessler
April 30 Unity Sunday	10 am: Caroline Rackl	

Crossbeam Deadline

Articles for the **May** issue of the Crossbeam are due by **April 9th**. Please e-mail your articles to Sue Koeppel (sekoeppe@gmail.com) or leave them in the Crossbeam mailbox outside of the church office. Electronic articles are preferred, if at all possible.

Ladies Aid

Spring will be in the air when we meet on Thursday, April 6, at 7 PM in the fellowship room. We will do a little business, visit and enjoy refreshments from Barbara and Sylvia. All ladies are welcome to join us for this time of fellowship.

As you are out and about enjoying springtime, be sure to keep in mind those who cannot get out as well as you. You can give them a call and see how you might help them out, chat for a bit, and put a little smile in their heart and yours as we continue to remember the focus on kindness in 2017.

Submitted by Connie Arnold

Book Club

May 16th, THE JUDAS GOAT by Robert B. Parker
Jul. 18th, ONE MISSED STEP by Barbara Morris.

We meet in the church fellowship room at 6:30 pm
**WON'T YOU JOIN US FOR DISCUSSION,
REFRESHMENTS, AND FELLOWSHIP?**

Submitted by Jim Steiner

Altar Guild

Well, spring and April have finally arrived. As we look forward to greener grass and blooming flowers, we also rejoice in the resurrection of our savior, Jesus and the celebration of that Easter morning.

The guild would like to remind everyone that we will again be sponsoring our Easter Continental Breakfast from 8 am—10:30 am. Food donations are appreciated. A sign-up sheet will be located in the narthex. Half of the proceeds from the Easter Breakfast will go to St. John's Mortgage Reduction Fund. Thanks so much for your support of the fellowship time.

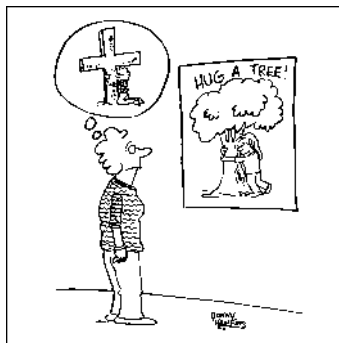
We will again be taking orders for Easter plants. This year's prices are: lilies \$7.50, tulips and hyacinths \$6.50 each. Order forms can be found in the bulletins on Sunday March 26th, April 2nd and 9th and also in this Crossbeam.

Caring for the altar in April are Connie and Charlie Arnold.

Submitted by Nancy Weber

A good example is always the best sermon and the most effective teacher.

What you do speaks louder than what you say. Be a good example to others, and choose good examples for yourself so you can reach your highest potential.



News From the Pews

Baptisms

02/18—Isabel Studer-Talmon, daughter of Kevin Talmon and Rebecca Studer

03/12—Lucas John O'Connor, son of Justin and Julie O'Connor

"A big **THANK YOU** to the members of St. John's for the support, care, love and tremendous help given after the death of George. You helped to make a difficult time much easier. We are blessed to be part of this outstanding church family that we very much appreciate. We are also grateful that George is now singing with the heavenly choir. Blessings to all, the Family of George M. Kessler"

THRIVENT FINANCIAL UPDATE

We have just become aware of changes to the Thrivent Financial program for assisting congregation with fund-raising. "**Action Teams**" can be organized and receive \$250.00 in seed money. This can make a difference in many aspects of helping others and even within own congregation. One of the requirements is to include Thrivent members as team volunteers. Unfortunately due to privacy issues St. John's does not have and cannot get a current list of congregational members who belong to Thrivent. **In order to put together a current list we need Thrivent members to give this information voluntarily to St. John's. Please consider calling the church office (716-668-2152) and giving Bernie your name if you are a Thrivent participant either through insurance, annuities or some other financial product.**

Thank you

Vision for Mission

A renewed interest in the long range planning for our congregation inspired the Vision for Mission committee to reform, reboot and regroup. The committee members are: Nick Barnhard, Nadine Anzalone-Brown, Joe Brady, Ashley & Rob Coder, Dawn Corless, Pastor Valerie deCathelineau, Bethann Hintzman, Nancy Kessler, Dan Leary, Rick Lipka, Kathy Moody, Christine Reese, Adam Wolff, Kayla Woodruff

We have had two meetings facilitated by Pastor Norma Malfatti and Pastor Amy Walter-Peterson from our Upstate NY Synod. The sessions included bible study and sharing what we consider our triumphs and also our needs as individuals, a congregation and the surrounding community. The common theme that emerged from our group is a concern for the longevity of St. John's. There is more to come as we gather information and then form action plans on goals that emerge.

We all agreed that purposeful prayer is an essential piece of our faith. In that vein, we ask that you pray for our committee and for our congregation as we continue on our journey. To assist us, look for congregation prayer posters on Palm Sunday! They will be hanging in the parish hall on the bulletin board. Share what your prayer or prayers are for our congregation!

If you have any questions whatsoever, please ask any member of the committee. Thank you and stay tuned!

Submitted by Kathy Moody

LOST & FOUND

If you find items around our complex, please place them in the lower cabinet in the Foyer, next to the Guest Book stand. Please do not leave them lying where you found them.

If you lose something please look in that cabinet first.

Items of value are kept in the church office.

If you bring in goodies for our many receptions during the year, please take your dishes home. Those left in the kitchen will be placed on the pew next to the Classified Ads bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

We do thank everyone who brings in goodies but we just don't have room to store the dishes left behind.

Please call Carolly Huth if you can't find what you are looking for at 826-0506.



Sunday Church School

Happy Spring and Happy Easter!

Our 3rd graders celebrate their First Holy Communion on April 2nd at the 2nd service! Please join us in celebrating this once in a lifetime event with them! Thank you to Linda and Kayla for preparing our children!

Reminder: No classes on Easter Sunday, April 16th. Sunday School Children will perform the prelude at the 9am service. Our Sunday School Children (all ages) are rehearsing a song or two just for you! Please mark the date and time on the calendar so your child can participate! We look forward to singing for you!

Reminder for April 30th, no Sunday School classes - Unity Sunday - we'll see you in church at 10am!

The Sunday School year is passing so quickly! Our last day of classes is Sunday, May 21st.

Teachers and Assistants: We will have a brief meeting immediately following Sunday School on Sunday, April 2nd, in the 1st floor triple room.

See you in Sunday School !

Submitted by Kathy Moody

DINING OUT CLUB

We invite all who are interested to join us:

WHEN: THURSDAY, APRIL 27 AT 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: PANE'S RESTAURANT

MENU: \$ 13.49 & up entrees Italian, beef, chicken, seafood + appetizers, soups, salads, burgers, sandwiches, pizza. 3 course dinner \$12.99, Gluten Free Menu.

DIRECTIONS: 984 Payne Ave. No Tonawanda NY.

I-90 east to I-290 to right on NY - 425N (Colvin Extension) to left on Robinson St. to right on Payne Ave. Restaurant is on left across from plaza with parking in the rear.

PLEASE CAR POOL & MEET AT THE RESTAURANT.

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

RESTAURANT REVIEW:

Danny's South: 13 of us enjoyed dinner together. The soup & salad bar was popular and the extra upcharge with a dinner was nominal. A variety of food was ordered, all were satisfied and the service was excellent.

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.



"A Celebration of Reformation"

WHAT: a choral presentation by
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Adult Choir to celebrate
500 years of the Lutheran Reformation

DATE: Sunday, April 30, 2017

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

BENEFIT: a free-will offering to benefit
the Mortgage Reduction Fund

NOTE: refreshments and fellowship
to follow



For the 500th anniversary of the Reformation...

Bible Study will be held each Thursday and we will be studying the Small Catechism. Don't worry if you cannot find yours, as I will be supplying them.

This is a true gift for the church and so let's have some good and even fun time together.

We will begin at 6 and conclude by 7. And yes, there will be refreshments!

April 6: Holy Communion

And on the topic of the 500th anniversary, a number of people have asked for good biographies on Luther:

Luther the Reformer: The Story of the Man and His Career by James M. Kittelson

Here I Stand: Roland H. Bainton (Considered a classic)

And...

Also, we will be showing a DVD with Rick Steves: LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION. Dates and times to be announced later...

USHERS AND GREETERS - We are always looking for members willing to usher or greet at Sunday services. A few more additions would mean everyone would be scheduled once per month, I don't think that's too much to hope for.

WATCH FOR A SIGN UP SHEET FOR THE EASTER SERVICES..... Thanks, Jim Steiner

Worship and Music

We will continue the current liturgical setting during Lent. The majority of the service comes from *With One Voice*, setting 5, with some substitutions specific to the season. Following the PowerPoint presentation will keep us all on the same page.

Everyone is invited to help make palm crosses on Friday night, April 7 at 7 in the parish hall. No experience necessary!

Both Confirmation classes will participate in the Passion Sunday Gospel reading. As in years past, the first year students will assist with foot washing and stripping the altar on Maundy Thursday. Second year students will participate in the Good Friday service.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, April 19 at 7 pm. All are welcome to attend.

Submitted by Adam Wolff

FEBRUARY 2017 Financial Notes (for Council & Crossbeam)

Regular Budgeted donations for the month of February 2017 totaled **\$14,711**, averaging **\$3,678** per week for that 4-week period, compared to the Budgeted expenses requirement of **\$3,710** per week. Budgeted expenses of **\$14,018** for the month were below average. Fiscal year **Budgeted Receipts** (Weekly Envelopes, Simply Giving and Plate Offerings) totaling **\$112,361** have decreased \$(4,315) or (3.7%) as compared to the prior year. Fiscal year **Budgeted Expenses** of **\$119,578** are below average and \$9,895 lower than the prior year. Outreach Donations from January totaling \$1,000 were voted by Council to be distributed as follows: \$500 to the Upstate NY Synod general fund and \$500 to Seneca Babcock Church for roof repairs. Total Outreach YTD totals **\$10,532**.

There was a total of **\$300** transferred from Checking to Savings in February 2017. The Checking account ended 2/28/2017 with a positive balance of **\$39**. Total Savings ended the month with a balance of **\$48,397**; split between both a new \$20,000 C.D. was opened Dec. 2016 through the Mission Investment Fund C.D. at 3.5% for 6 years, and also the regular Church savings account balance to **\$28,397** at 2/28/2017.

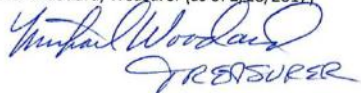
Building Fund donations totaled **\$9,520** for the month of February, inclusive of \$2,925 in Memorials and \$139 in Fundraising. In addition to the prior month's surplus in the account, there was enough to pay the regular loan payments (M.I.F. Mortgage, Cemetery and Cornerstone). The balance in the Building Checking account equaled **\$18,976** as of 2/28/2017. YTD Building Fund donations are down by \$11,614 or (13.2%) as compared to the prior year.

We are now into the 3rd three-year Mortgage Reduction Campaign focused on retiring the MIF Mortgage, the remaining Cemetery Loan and the Cornerstone Loan, which carry a remaining principal balance of **\$874,079** as of February 28, 2017.

Summation: For the **8 months** of the fiscal year 2017 ended **2/28/2017**:

- 1) In terms of the **Church account**, regular budgeted revenues are lower than the prior year, but offset by Special gifts of \$19,140 which are more than \$10,000 higher than the previous year, overall Budgeted Receipts of **\$141,447** reflect a positive increase **YTD of \$3,787** or **2.8%**. All of the bills continue to be paid on-time, and the special projects have been paid from Church Checking. The Outreach commitment of \$1,000/month has been met and exceeded. We have transferred \$18,350 into the Savings account YTD, and a new \$20,000 investment C.D. has been opened at a great interest rate, bringing total savings to \$48,397.
- 2) In terms of the **Building Fund**, regular donations have been less than average, but we have benefited from a \$20,333 in Special gifts and Memorials of \$4,231, bringing YTD total donations to **\$76,362**, but for a decrease of **13.2%**. All of the Loans are paid as agreed, and now pre-paid by an extra \$22,000. Plus, after the first five years of payments, the primary mortgage loan through the Mission Investment Fund has now paid down its first **\$100,000** of principal, with a remaining balance of **\$799,261**.

Respectfully submitted, Michael Woodard, Treasurer (as of 2/28/2017)


TREASURER

PALM CROSSES

Friday, April 7, 2017



WHAT: *Have you ever wondered how to make the crosses that are blessed, distributed and worn on Palm Sunday? This year you have an opportunity to learn how to weave these crosses and help assemble the number needed for our worship on Palm Sunday.*

WHEN: **Friday, April 7, 2017**
 Fellowship & Fun with Palms
 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

WHERE: **Parish Hall**

WHO: **All congregational members, interested friends and relatives.**
 If possible, please bring a pair of scissors labeled with your name.
 No experience needed, just a willingness to learn and help make Palm Crosses.



“Building Bridges”



“Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you?” Matthew 25:37-38

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER is the theme of the 2017 Synod-Wide World Hunger Campaign. Our congregation is invited to join in this effort to assist refugee families. The UN Refugee Agency Global Trends Report finds 65.3 million people were displaced from their homes by conflict and persecution in 2015 and more than half are under the age of 18. You can help! Lutherans are known for their stellar work in providing shelter and support to refugees - managing some of the biggest refugee camps in the world. After a long and dangerous journey to safety, food and water are critical to help families recover their strength and prepare for a fresh start.

A gift of just \$200 feeds a refugee family for one month. The goal for this campaign is to raise \$45,000 to provide meals for 225 refugee families. Each congregation is challenged to provide food for at least two refugee families for a month—\$400. How many families will St. John's be able to help?

At St. John's we will be collecting donations in the following way:

Children of the Sunday School will be selling small “fish” to their peers, family, friends, and neighbors for \$1.00. When they have sold all 5, they will exchange the money and receive a larger goldfish that they can put their name on and place it in the “troubled water net” located in the greeting area of the church. Children will then be encouraged to then take another bag of 5 fish to sell.

Adults can purchase a large gold fish for \$10.00, put their name on the back and place it in the “troubled water net.”

Adults can also sell large goldfish to their friends, relatives and neighbors.

GOAL: To see our nets filled with goldfish!!!

(Action Team seed money made available by Thrivent Financial.)

Preschool Report

Our preschool, during the 7 campaigns of 2015 United Way, received donation checks totaling \$612.69. I would like to truly THANK the several members of our congregation who designated their United way contributions to be sent to our Preschool, which is 501-c. With these donations, we are able to keep our programs in place and offer a wonderful opportunity to educate 3 and 4 year olds.

We are also sponsoring a CPR/AED Class on Saturday, April 29th from 9—12 noon—we need AS MANY AS POSSIBLE TO LEARN THESE LIFE SAVING METHODS through a Red Cross approved Ryan's Hope Foundation. The cost is \$50—RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY APRIL 9th—call Sandy Haase 668-3584 or at home 674-8109 to get on the class list.

We are also having a Child Car Seat Check, sponsored by the Eric County Sheriff and West Seneca Police—It will be some early Saturday in May—if you are interested—call me—the specific date needs verification by the Police!

Submitted by Sandy Haase



Easter Plants Order Form

PLEASE PRINT

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

_____ Lilies @ \$7.50 each

_____ Tulips @ \$6.50 each

_____ Hyacinths @ \$6.50 each



Easter Flowers

Given By _____

Please return to the church office by April 9th.

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

Thank you!



*Easter
Lilies*

**Save the Date: October 14, 2017
LCLC Quilt, Art, & Pie Auction**

Mark your calendars now for an exciting afternoon of fun and fellowship to benefit LCLC.

This Fun Event includes:

- *Live Auction for quilts, hand crafted art, pies, and more
- *Silent Auction for theme baskets
- *Congregational Chili Cook-Off Competition
- *Snacks and beverages
- *Opportunity to connect with LCLC friends and alumni
- *Closing Camp-Style Worship
- ***Special Auction Item:** Dinner with, prepared, served, and brought to your house by Bishop John Macholz of the Upstate NY Synod!

WHEN: October 14, 2017 from 1:30 - 4:30

**WHERE: St. John's Lutheran Church, 6540 Main Street,
Williamsville, NY**

COST: FREE! This is a fundraiser though, so come prepared to bid high and often!

Donations Needed: For information about making a donation to the auction.

For additional information please call [716-386-4125](tel:716-386-4125).

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center, 5013 Route 430, Bemus Point, NY 14712

ADOPT-A-PROJECT DAY

April 22, 2017 8:00-4:00

Adopt-A-Project Day is a day for accomplishing prearranged work projects. By knowing in advance who's coming and for which projects, we're better able to successfully accomplish things. Previous skill or experience in the project adopted is preferred.

Projects available for adoption include:

- Painting the exterior of camper cabins

- Re-roofing camper cabins

- Wood cutting and splitting

- Spring gardening and raking

- Trail clearing

- Pressure washing

- Other... have a special trade not listed above - let us know

A complimentary breakfast and lunch will be served for all volunteers. Please contact the office to adopt a project and RSVP today.

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center

5013 Rt. 430

Bemus Point, NY 14712

[716-386-4125](tel:716-386-4125)

contact@lclcenter.org

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