

INTERIM PASTOR'S PAGE

The Three Days— Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter.

The Season of Lent culminates in these “Three Days.” The word “Maundy” comes from the same root word as commandment. Because on this day, Jesus gives us a new commandment—to love one another as Jesus has loved us. Jesus exemplifies this love himself by washing the feet of his disciples. This is also the night of the Last Supper. St John's observes this occasion with the Meal in the Upper Room, as well as a traditional service with foot washing. Both services include Holy Communion. Good Friday is the day of the Crucifixion. The Passion according to St. John is read at the midday service. In the evening, we hold a Tenebrae (Latin for “shadows”) Service.

The Service held on Holy Saturday is perhaps the best kept secret in Poughkeepsie: The Great Vigil of Easter. This service is to Easter Morning what Christmas Eve is to Christmas Day. But it's a long service and so it draws a smaller crowd. And so, is why we join together in worship with First Lutheran and our Episcopalian brothers and sisters. This year the Vigil will be held at Zion Episcopal in Wappingers Falls.

The Vigil has four parts: The Service of Light, the Service of Readings, the Service of Holy Baptism, and the First Service of Easter. The Readings tell the history of God's people from the Hebrew Scriptures, beginning with the creation. There are twelve of them, but we usually use only five. These same readings are being used as our theme for St. John's mid week services at Noon. We meet in the chapel. Some of us bring a bag lunch which we enjoy together afterwards in the Meet and Greet Room. Join us!

Pastor Margay

DEACON'S CORNER

I am writing this one handed and it probably will be short. God has given us this time to reflect upon our lives and to repent for those things that we have done. Let it be a time when we can reconcile and try to move forward and make our lives better. We need to remember this as we proceed through Lent and move forward towards Easter.

Please take advantage of some of the services we have to offer to help with this endeavor. God will be there with you as you go through this time, listen to him and heed his call.

Easter is our high holy day when God raised Jesus from the dead. We celebrate this with all of our Christian brothers and sisters around the world. Jesus who died for our sin will be our advocate, when we come into judgment.

I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Your servant in Christ,
Deacon Rich



SOCIAL MINISTRY

The Social Ministry Mission Team will be collecting food for Dutchess Outreach during March and April. Bins will be located in the Narthex and in the JAM entrance. There will be a "Fill the Van" Community Collection in late April. Foods needed are protein products such as spam, tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, and any non-perishable canned vegetables or fruits and pasta. Thank you for your help.



LAY MINISTRY

Breathe

A very long time ago there was a musical group called Out of the Grey. I didn't particularly like the tune of one of their songs, but the title has stuck with me even 24 years after I first heard it: "**Love Like Breathing.**" Breathing is spontaneous, it doesn't take thought, it just happens because that is what we do. Wouldn't it be cool if all Christians would love spontaneously, not because we had to think about it, but because it is just what we do?

Unfortunately love is not like breathing, but it is often a choice we make. We often have to put much effort into being loving, especially when we

are in a grumpy mood or if we are dealing with someone who rubs us the wrong way. So maybe loving like breathing is a lofty idea, but is there a way to help us be more automatic in loving others? Here are some thoughts I have:

Pray to have God's eyes. When we see others as He does, our hearts remains softer, making it easier to feel and express love.

Practice loving others. It might seem that practicing loving others is the opposite of loving automatically, but the more we look for and take advantage of opportunities to show love to others, the more it will become habitual and natural. There are plenty of opportunities right here at St. John's to share love: through our social ministry activities/events, coffee hour interactions and support of the many ministries here, just to name a few.

Keep a grateful heart. When we maintain a thankful heart for the sacrifice Christ made on our behalf, we are more apt to show our thanks by loving others. Reading the passion story, taking time for daily devotions, and listening to sermons or Christian teachings can remind us of God's consistent love and our call to respond.

Valentine's Day has been over for a long time, but love is never done and it is always our call as Christians. So take a deep breath, fill your heart with joy and gratitude to God, and love like breathing. I discovered that I breathe 12 times in a minute, so that's a whole lotta love!

Jeanne Jones
Director of Lay Ministry



"MEAL IN THE UPPER ROOM"

Reservation Form

March 29, 2018 - 6:00PM
Nave & Fellowship Hall

Suggested donation is \$10 adults, \$5 children (12 and under). If you cannot afford the cost please see Pastor Margay confidentially and she will arrange for your meal to be paid for. Checks can be made payable to St. John's Lutheran Church. All reservations are due into the Church Office by **March 25**.

Name _____
Phone _____
Number of adults _____
Number of children _____
(12 and under)

- I/We will help with food prep
- I/We will serve as a table leader &/or reader (circle one or both)
- I/We will help with clean up
- I/We will need nursery care for _____ children



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Feb. 21-Mar. 21 Mid-Week Lenten Service 12pm, Chapel (Brown bag lunch after) Soup Supper Service 6pm, Fellowship Hall (*Dinner Church is renamed Soup Supper Service and is at a different time, 6pm during Lent. Soup and Fellowship for about 40 minutes followed by 20 minutes service, Holden Evening Prayer.*)

Mar. 25 Palm Sunday Services 8am, Fellowship Hall, 10am Nave*

Mar. 28 No Soup Supper Service or Dinner Church

Mar. 29 Maundy Thursday Services 12pm, Chapel & 8pm Nave*
Meal in the Upper Room 6pm, Beginning in Nave*/Fellowship Hall

Mar. 30 Good Friday Services 12 & 8pm, Nave*

Mar. 31 Easter Vigil 8pm at Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls

April 1 Easter Sunday Services 8am, Fellowship Hall and 10 & 11:45am Nave*
Egg Hunt in Courtyard after 10am service.



HOLY WEEK

SYMPATHY

We extend our prayers of sympathy and concern to the family and friends of:



Robert Kalaka, husband of Virginia Snell Kalaka and son-in-law of Lou Snell, who died on January 12.

Bob Soule, cousin of Art Upright.

CALLED TO SERVICE

CALLED TO MILITARY SERVICE: *(Please pray for their safety as they serve to protect others.)*

Michael Berge, U.S. Navy. Chaplain Scott Hagen, Army Reserve on Active Duty. Charlee Seto, U.S. Army. Brian DiSalvo, U.S. Navy. Anthony Lawrence Shad, US Marine Corp. Tim Walsh and Zach Damhoff, US Marine Corp, nephews of John Smith. LCMDCR Michael Hartmann, Norfolk, VA, son of Aida and William Hartmann. Tad Granai, brother-in-law of Danielle and Lou Perri. Jason Moore, U.S. Air Force, friend of Jess Puccio. Lt. Commander Sean Pretak, U. S. Navy, son of Susan Brady, deployed overseas.



JOURNAL DEADLINE

April Edition – March 11th

Please note that the Journal deadline is the 2nd Sunday of the Month. Please make sure all submissions are in by that date.

When submitting, please forward in Microsoft Word or an e-mail. Please send submissions to Carol Versace (carolav_nd@yahoo.com) Please include name and phone number in case of questions.



IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep our Homebound in your thoughts and prayers:

FOUNTAINS IN MILLBROOK - Elsa Henrich. Ruth Lauritsen. Dorothy Humphrey.

THE LUTHERAN CARE CENTER - Muriel Zipser. Lois McGloin. Cherie Lydon, mother of Cindy Dubinski. Therese Cameron.

HYDE PARK ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY - Ilga Kristapsons, mother of Maris Kristapsons.

THE LANDING ON BOARDMAN ROAD - Joseph Granda, uncle of Elizabeth Granda.

THE ELEANOR (VICTORY LAKE NURSING CENTER) - Kevin Moyer.

THE MANOR AT WOODSIDE - Carol Giuliani.

KAPLAN FAMILY HOSPICE - Rich Errickson

DUTCHESS CARE - Lori Mackey, Mary Battista

AT HOME - William Grove. Dorothy Otte. Erna Rogers. Walt Reynolds. Marion Kort. Chris Jacoby. Gina Madsen. Doris Johnson.

MEAL IN THE UPPER ROOM

The Meal in the Upper Room will be **March 29 at 6pm**. The meal consists of foods similar to what Jesus may have eaten at the Last Supper and is eaten in silence. As congregants eat, the voice of Jesus is heard as if he were dining and eating among us. The service continues throughout the meal, ending with Holy Communion. Reservation forms are in the kiosks and in the church office (blue folders to the right). Suggested donation is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. See Pastor Margay if cost is an issue so arrangements can be made. **Please sign up by March 25.**



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter Flower Contributions

Please see the blue folder in the church office marked "**Easter Flowers**". Fill out the form that is in the folder and leave the form and a check made payable to St. John's Evangelical in the folder. Contributions can be made in memory of a loved one. **Contributions must be received by Sunday, March 18.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

*Nave=Main Worship Space

Food Pantry is open 1st & 3rd Sundays, 9-11am in Church Office

Feb. 25 New Member Reception 11:15am, Meet & Greet Room

Mar. 4 "Do One Thing Differently" Workshop 11:15am, Book Nook

March 11 Girl Scout Sunday & Spring Harvest Sunday

Mar. 18 First Communion for 4th & 5th Grades, 10am Service & Bring a Friend to Church Sunday, Reception at 11:15am, Fellowship Hall

Mar. 22 "Don't Worry, Retire Happy" Thrivent Workshop, Blue Room 2 Sessions: 5pm & 7pm

EASTER CANDY FOR EGG HUNT

On Easter Day St. John's has an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. We need donations of individually wrapped candy so we can fill the eggs. Candy can be dropped of in the Church office by **MARCH 18**. We appreciate your help in making this a fun event for the kiddies!



BUNKO GAME NIGHT

Saturday April 7, 6:45-8:45pm Bunco is a game that takes no skill (if you can roll dice, you can play the game) and it is a great game for children, parents, singles, couples, guests or anyone! Please mark your calendars and sign up in the blue folder in the church office by April 4 (although we appreciate early sign-ups). Contact Jeanne Jones for more details. jjones@stjohnselc.org 452-1550.