

ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER APRIL 2012

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Regular Worship Services

8:30 AM & 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday (4/5) 7:30 PM

Good Friday (4/6) 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday (4/8) 8:30 AM
10:00 AM

Sunday School (K-Grade 6)

(No Sunday School 4/1, 4/8, or 4/15

– come to worship instead!)



Calendar of Events for April 2012



| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Sunday, 4/1 | Palm Sunday Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM <i>No Sunday School – come to worship instead!</i> |
| Wednesday, 4/4 | Rehearsal for the Stripping of the Altar, 7 PM Choir, 7:30 PM |
| Thursday, 4/5 | Maundy Thursday Worship, 7:30 PM |
| Friday, 4/6 | Good Friday Worship, 7:30 PM |
| Sunday, 4/8 | Easter Sunday Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM <i>No Sunday School – come to worship instead!</i> |
| Tuesday, 4/10 | Council, 8 PM |
| Sunday, 4/15 | 2nd Sunday of Easter Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM Baptism of Cassie Larke @ 10 AM worship <i>No Sunday School (Spring Break) – come to worship!</i> |
| Tuesday, 4/17 | Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM WELCA meeting, 7:30 PM |
| Wednesday, 4/18 | Choir, 7:30 PM Confirmation, 7:30 PM |
| Sunday, 4/22 | 3rd Sunday of Easter Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM Baptism of Taylor Almona @ 10 AM worship Sunday School, 10 AM (<i>Jesus Feeds 5000</i>) |
| Tuesday, 4/24 | Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM Evangelism & Social Ministry Committee, 7:30 PM |
| Wednesday, 4/25 | Choir, 7:30 PM <i>No Confirmation – Pr. Becky at Continuing Education</i> |
| Friday, 4/27 | Scholarship Dinner and Auction, 6:30 PM ~hosted by WELCA |
| Sunday, 4/29 | 4th Sunday of Easter Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM Sunday School, 10 AM (<i>Jesus Feeds 5000</i>) |

Pastor's Reflection~

"If you are young, college-educated, have an income above the poverty line (that's about \$14,000 annually for all those who are single), and care about justice — you can afford to give away 10 percent of your income to charity.

If you say otherwise, you are lying.

Maybe you don't want to, maybe you don't feel called to, or maybe you aren't ready to give away that much money. But don't say it's because you can't afford to because that probably isn't true."

The above quote comes from an article I read online the other day, entitled, "Tithing: No Buts About It." (It was on the Sojourners website, located here:

<http://sojo.net/blogs/2012/03/15/tithing-no-buts-about-it> . If you're reading online, you can click on the link and read it online, if you're curious.)

The article was written by a young man who has spent his professional life working for non-profit organizations, and not making a lot of money doing it. He always made excuses for why he couldn't tithe, which means giving 10% of your income away to God's work through the church. He had lots of good reasons, his limited income being only one of them, for why he couldn't afford to tithe, and yet, over time, he came to realize that he was lying – to himself and to God. He may have been on a limited budget and living a simplified life, but when he was honest with himself, he realized he *could* afford to give that much away; he was *choosing* not to. (He's now working on growing his giving to meet this minimum guideline of giving.)

I was struck by the quote I shared because it seems so true to me. Don't get me wrong, because I am sure there are some of you reading this who are on fixed, limited incomes who are just making ends meet and just covering the costs of food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and transportation. You may truly *not* be able to give more.

But there are lots of us who can. We just choose not to.

I speak as someone who does tithe. Andy & my circumstances aren't so different than many of yours. We have student loans. We have a car payment. We have a child. We have other debt. We currently have one regular income. (Andy chose to go on leave from call in January.) Sure, there are things we don't have, but that's all they are: things. We choose to give 10% (and more, sometimes, as we are able) to God's work in this church and to various other ministries and charities, not because we have to, but because we *want* to. It's one way that we show our thanks for all that God has given us in the past. It's a way for us to live out our professed trust in God to provide us with all we need -- to put our money where our mouths are. And not once has God ever let us down. God has always come through. We have always had food to eat, a place to live, clothes to wear, a way to get from point A to point B, and plenty for "extras" too.

So, my challenge for you this month is for you to look at your checkbook (or spreadsheet or online account – however you keep track of your money) and see what you notice. Where does your money go each month? Does your spending truly reflect your values, beliefs, and priorities? Is God calling you to make some changes? If you don't tithe, consider growing in your giving (as you are able) – and see what happens. I have *never* met a person who tithes who regrets it or feels like they are missing out. Your heart will follow where your treasure is going (Matthew 6:21). May you be led to a greater trust in the One who created us and provides everything we need.

Stepping out in faith with you,

Pr. Becky

Youth Group News

We would like to once again thank all of the Youth Group, the Sunday School students and teachers, and Judy Opatow and Allison Koehler for a spectacular **Youth Sunday** on March 11th!

Everyone donated a lot of time to the planning and rehearsing for this special day, and we can't thank you enough.

Upcoming activities:

Next Youth Group meeting: April 15th.

Youth Group & Friends Bingo Night: Friday, April 20th, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM. This is a special event exclusively for Youth Group/Young Adult members to thank them for all they do for St. John's. Bring a friend or two, and join us for a fun night of Bingo. There will be some nice prizes, and everyone will leave with at least a small prize. Refreshments will be served. Email or call Lori Fernez or Janet Powell by April 15th.

Lori Fernez & Janet Powell



CLEANING OUT YOUR CLOSET?

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a Clothing Drive on April 22nd and April 29th. The clothing will be donated to The United Veterans Beacon House. They will accept: ***Clothing (Men, Women, Children, Infants)**

***Shoes**

***Sheets and Towels**

***Curtains and Drapes.**

Please put everything in plastic bags and leave in Narthex near the Coat Racks. If you would like a receipt just call Mr. Jim Hoke at 516-547-6853. Thank you in advance for all your donations. What a great way to recycle and help those less fortunate. Any questions see Susan Masciello.

Sunday School News



Holy Week

Please join us in worship on Palm Sunday (4/1), Maundy Thursday (4/5), Good Friday (4/6), and Easter (4/8) as we hear the stories of Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, his death, and his resurrection from the tomb! Sunday worship will be at 8:30 & 10 AM; there will be **no Sunday School** on those days. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship will begin at 7:30 PM.

Easter Egg Hunt

Stay after the 10 AM worship on Easter (4/8) and enjoy our traditional Easter Egg hunt in the courtyard. Sunday schoolers will also receive a small gift.

No Sunday School April 15, as that is the end of Spring Break. Sunday school will meet on April 22 & 29. Come learn about Jesus feeding 5000+ people with only a few fish and a few loaves of bread!

Hall of Fame Medal

Don't forget to help your child/ren learn the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. When they know each of these basics of the Christian faith by heart and recite them for a Sunday school teacher, they will receive a Medal in recognition of their accomplishment, and their picture will go on the Wall of Fame bulletin board in the Knotty Pine room!



FLOWERS FOR EASTER

If you would like to contribute toward the flowers that will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please place your donation in a holiday flower envelope (found in the pew racks at church) and put it in the offering plate, or send it to the church with the name of the person/s they are in memory or in honor of, so that we can recognize your gift. Thanks!



1912 ~ 2012 MEMORIES

Statue of Christ

We often take wedding, confirmation and special occasion photos in the courtyard in front of the Statue of Christ. We have seen people walking past the church stop and look in the doors at the statue.

The statue was erected in 1963, as part of the renovation of the "old" church. The center courtyard was created when the work to connect the current sanctuary and original building (now the office "wing") was completed.

The Statue of Christ, a copy of a Danish statue (modeled after the window above the altar), was erected at a cost of \$10,000.

In 2010, the statue was cleaned and a sealer applied so that our Christ figure will remain for our enjoyment for many more years.



WELCA SCHOLARSHIP DINNER & AUCTION FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH, 6:30 PM

This June St. John's will have 4 graduating high school seniors who are eligible to receive a scholarship from the Barbara Semmig Scholarship Fund. (Seniors who apply and are approved receive a scholarship of \$500 to help them with their college expenses.)

At 6:30 PM on Friday, April 27th, a Chinese Dinner and Auction will be held in the Auditorium to help raise money for this Scholarship Fund.

We are looking for *new* gifts and items to enhance the auction. If you have an extra Christmas gift you bought or received and would like to donate it, please bring it to church and give to Pastor Becky or Cora Sarver.

Plan to come to the dinner at 6:30 pm on Friday April 27 and enjoy a fun evening of good food and fellowship, knowing that your presence and support will make a big difference in the lives of our young adults as they head off to college in the fall! See you then!



EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Easter offering envelopes can be put in the offering plate, dropped off at the church office or mailed to the church. Thank you for your generosity!



MEMORIAL GIFTS

Donations have been made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Shelli Kortlang by Doris E. Kortlang, and in memory of Eda Meurer by Diane Lech.

A donation has been made to the Roof Fund in memory of William Moser, Sr. by the Kaempf Family.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

April 1st

8:30 & 10:00 AM Worship

Unlike past years, worship on this Palm Sunday will focus on the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of his final week of his earthly life. We will not share the story of Jesus' Passion until Good Friday.

Maundy Thursday

April 5th

7:30 PM Worship

We will hear the story of Jesus' last meal with his disciples from the Gospel of Mark this year, and then take part in that same meal as part of our worship as we journey with Jesus to the cross.

Good Friday

April 6th

7:30 PM Worship

We will hear of Jesus' betrayal, arrest, trial, crucifixion, and death from Mark's Gospel. Worship this night will include a time of meditation and song as we watch and pray with Jesus at the foot of the cross. Come and be reminded of Christ's deep love for you and for the world!

Easter Sunday

April 8th

8:30 & 10:00 AM Worship

Having walked with Jesus through his death on a cross, come now and celebrate the mystery and joy of his resurrection from the grave! Rejoice and be glad!

**Renew your faith in Jesus,
Join us this Holy Week**

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2012

| | ACOLYTES | | ASSISTING MINISTERS | | LECTORS | |
|---------------|----------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 4/1 | 8:30 AM | Christian Gianokos | 8:30 AM | Jason Lipitz | 8:30 AM | Walter Wright |
| | Crucifer | Nils DeStefano | | | | |
| PALM | 10:00 AM | Ashley Gavin | 10:00 AM | AM Kim Carlstrom | 10:00 AM | Chris Powell |
| SUNDAY | Crucifer | Ryan Dusenbury | | AM Joan Pirrone | | |
| | Torch | Jason Pace | | | | |
| | | Jesse Pace | | | | |
| | Gospel | David Powell | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 4/5 | 7:30 PM | Katie Lenz | 7:30 PM | Janet Pescatore | 7:30 PM | Janet Pescatore |
| Maundy | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 4/6 | 7:30 PM | Elizabeth Hanson | 7:30 PM | Bob Koehler | 7:30 PM | Hank Lenz |
| Good | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 4/8 | 8:30 AM | Jessica Muck | 8:30 AM | AM Joe Richetti | 8:30 AM | Gerda Weber |
| | Crucifer | Joe Richetti | | AM Dot Richetti | | |
| EASTER | 10:00 AM | Erin Milano | 10:00 AM | AM Andrew Dunn | 10:00 AM | Arlene Moglia |
| SUNDAY | | Rick Dusenbury | | AM Ryan Dusenbury | | |
| | Torch | Kyle O'Connor | | | | |
| | | Ryan Milano | | | | |
| | Gospel | Jason Lipitz | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 4/15 | 8:30 AM | Emma Lenz | 8:30 AM | Roger Vargas | 8:30 AM | Roger Vargas |
| | 10:00 AM | Kaitlyn Gavin | 10:00 AM | Claire Lenz | 10:00 AM | Claire Lenz |
| | | | | | | |
| 4/22 | 8:30 AM | Victoria Dunn | 8:30 AM | Andrew Dunn | 8:30 AM | Andrew Dunn |
| | 10:00 AM | Jesse Pace | 10:00 AM | Claire Lenz | 10:00 AM | Claire Lenz |
| | Crucifer | Matt Fernež | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| 4/29 | 8:30 AM | Lily Mata | 8:30 AM | Dotty Criscuolo | 8:30 AM | Carol Larsen |
| | 10:00 AM | Jason Pace | 10:00 AM | Kim Barbaro | 10:00 AM | Susan Masciello |
| | Crucifer | Jason Pace | | | | |

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 and Crucifers/Gospel bearers- 678-6623

Jill Pace: Acolytes and Torch bearers- 599-8896

Claire Lenz: Lectors - 872-2063