

# THE MESSENGER

St. John's Lutheran Church

Volume 2018, Issue 2

March 2018

## Inside this issue:

Message from Pastor Esther	2
Update of Call Process	3
A Special Letter from Pastor Tricia	4
Preschool News	6
Celebration of Pr. Tricia's Ministry	7
Feast of Justice News	8
A Taste Of Hope—Fundraiser for FOJ	9

## Special points of interest:

- *Maundy Thursday and Good Friday afternoon services to be held at 2 p.m. instead of 12 Noon*
- *Don't miss a special celebration of Pastor Tricia's 12 year ministry at St. John's*
- *Now is the time to order your Easter Plants.*



## Holy Week

# Worship Schedule

**Saturday, March 24—5:00p.m.**—Lenten Choir Vespers with St. John's Adult Choir

**Sunday, March 25—Palm Sunday**—Worship & Communion with Palm Procession at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, March 27—Thanksgiving at Easter**—Join us at 6:00 p.m. as we welcome the community into our midst for a meal together and celebration of Easter in worship in the Parish Hall

**Thursday, March 29—Maundy Thursday**—Worship & Communion at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Stripping of the Altar at 7:00.

**Friday, March 30—Good Friday**— 2:00 p.m. Worship Service  
7:00 p.m.—Tenebrae Service

**Saturday, March 31—Easter Vigil at 5:00 p.m.**—Return of the light and Alleluias with Holy Communion

**Sunday, April 1—Easter**—Resurrection Service with Holy Communion at 8:00 & 11:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.—Continental Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt

## **LIFE IS POSSIBLE WHEN THERE IS HOPE**

Joyce Hollyday tells the story of a school teacher, who was assigned to teach children who were recuperating in a large city hospital so that when they were healed they would fit right in with the class. One day the teacher received a request from another teacher to visit a child who was in the hospital. The teacher took the boy's name and room number, and was told by the teacher on the other end of the line, "We're studying nouns and adverbs in his class now.

It wasn't until the visiting teacher got outside the boy's room, she realized that it was located in the hospital's burn unit. No one had prepared her to find a young boy horribly burned and in great pain. The teacher felt that she couldn't just turn around and walk out. And so, she slowly walked in and said, "I'm the hospital teacher, and your teacher sent me to help you with nouns and adverbs." This boy was in so much pain that he barely responded. The young teacher stumbled through his English lesson, ashamed at putting him through such a senseless exercise. The next morning a nurse on the burn unit asked her, "What did you do to that boy?" Before the teacher could finish her outburst of apologies, the nurse interrupted her: "You don't understand. We've been very worried about him. But ever since you were here yesterday, his whole attitude has changed. He's fighting back; he's responding to treatment. It's as if he has decided to live." The boy later explained that he had completely given up hope until he saw the teacher. It all changed when he came to a simple realization. With joyful tears, the boy said: "They wouldn't send a teacher to work on nouns and adverbs with a boy who was dying would they?"

I thought of sharing this story with you through this month's Messenger. How wonderfully it shows us that on the other side of pain, there is resurrection. It reminds us of what is possible whenever there is hope. Hope is what God has given us when He raised His Son from the dead, on Easter Sunday morning. Through the death and resurrection of His Son Jesus Christ God has given us the gift of eternal life. How appropriate it is for all of us to remember that gift of life and to experience it even when all we seem to see around us is pain, disappointment and brokenness.

People of God, I invite you to come and celebrate the gift of life God has given you through various worship services, which will be offered to you during the Holy Week. On Palm Sunday weekend, March 24/25, with palms in our hands we will shout Hosanna to the King as he enters Jerusalem and enact the story from Mark's Gospel. On Maundy Thursday, March 29, we will participate in stripping of the altar at 7:00PM. On Good Friday, March 30, there will be a 2:00PM service for those who cannot attend the Tenebrae service at 7:00PM. Our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from death to life will be celebrated at our Easter Vigil Service on March 30 at 5PM. On April 1st at 8:00, and at 11:00AM we will gather together to celebrate Easter. We will once again hear those words "Christ is Risen, He is risen indeed."

**I WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER SEASON!**

Sincerely,

*Pastor Esther Rajashekar, Bridge Pastor*

## Call of New Pastor Update

The Call Committee of St. John's has interviewed and heard a candidate preach. The Congregation Council has also interviewed the candidate. We are working with the candidate to set up a date to preach at St. John's to be called as the new solo Pastor at St. John's.

We will give the date and time by letter, Messenger, What's Happening, and by announcements in church. The Call Committee and Congregation Council are both excited along with the candidate of the ministry we can do together in the Mayfair community.

Continue to keep the candidate and St. John's in your prayers as we move forward to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Watch for more details as they are shared with the congregation.



The Call Committee has presented the candidate to Church Council and we are moving forward.

## Church Council News

Church Council met on February 6, 2018. This was the first meeting with the newly elected council members - Marie Hand, Julie Henderson, Maureen Jordan, Claire-Amy Roberts, and Vicki Schempp; re-elected - Ellan Faust and Doreen Kinzler; and returning members - Donald Jones, George Miller, Bette Pittman, and Jennifer Wilent.

The meeting was opened with Devotion about "Leaving your Worries", based on scripture from Matthew 10. Reports were received from Pr. Esther,

Pr. Tricia, and the President. The Treasurer's Report was shared and the congregation was at 96% of the Income that the congregation approved in the budget at the Annual Meeting. There were higher than normal maintenance expenses for the repair of a boiler and snow removal in January.

Officers were elected for this year:

President - Doreen Kinzler

Vice President - Jennifer Wilent

Secretary - Maureen Jordan

Treasurer - ?

Asst. Treasurer - ?

The Finance Team has been looking for someone to be the Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer. Council Members and Officers will be installed on 2/10/18 & 2/11/18 at the service they attend that weekend. Reports were shared and reviewed from the Preschool, Finance, and Call Committee.

Synod Assembly will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. St. John's can send one female and one male representative along with one youth/young adult representative to



## A Letter From Pastor Tricia

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19*

As a child growing up, I was not always attuned to God’s working in my life. But, as a young adult, it became much more clear. As I grew, God continued to do new things for me: taking me to a school where I would meet my spouse, taking me across the country to a job that would inadvertently introduce me to the Lutheran faith and give me a call to ministry, taking me to seminary in Philadelphia, and taking me to be with you at St. John’s.

Through the 12 years that I have been at St. John’s, I have served in many roles: Intern, Senior Seminarian, Associate Pastor, and Pastor—each of them with different roles, responsibilities, oversight, and even offices (4!). Part of what made me feel called to this place was its interest in and commitment to social ministry. I was there as Feast of Justice was created and helped to guide it into the ministry that it is today.

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19*

Starting from a handful of families served, we now are serving 240 households a week, with 2300 active households in our roles, and services 6 days a week. Feast of Justice is a wonderful, faith-filled ministry that brings joy and needed resources to a community in need. God has been doing a new thing in that place for some time and continues to do so. Called to be the Executive Director of such an organization requires my time, attention, and vision.

St. John’s is the place where I was ordained. This is the place where I cut my teeth in ministry. This is the place that welcomed and baptized my family. This is the place that supported me during my health scare last year. Over the years, we have shared travel, tension, tears, and trials. This is my family.

But, as a called pastor, I understand that as our calls change, the connection to our church family must do so as well. At the end of 2017, considering the congregational financial situation, as well as the needs of Feast of Justice, the congregational leadership for St. John’s determined that the best course of action is to move forward with only one pastor serving the congregation. This means that, with the ratification of the budget by the congregation, my call ends. We decided to delay the transition until the calling of a new pastor was imminent, so as to minimize any anxiety. That time has now come.

*“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” Isaiah 43:19*

The congregational council and call committee are working towards identifying a new pastor for the congregation and are excited about the stage they are in. I am excited about it too, but realize, then, that this is the time for my departure. Therefore, I am resigning as your pastor of Word and Sacrament, effective **April 15**.

After that time, I will be serving solely as Executive Director of Feast of Justice. But, this change of role does mean that my family and I will no longer be a part of your St. John’s community. My family and I will not be present for worship, educational, or other programming. Also, as is standard protocol for past pastors of congregations, I will not be able to participate in weddings, funerals, hospital visits, home visits or otherwise.

This is intentionally directed in our constitution in order for you to fully celebrate, welcome, and embrace the new pastor—and will allow this pastor to share their hopes, dreams, and vision for St John's with a clean slate.

This is a unique type of goodbye: one that is formal but one in which I will still be visible to many of you. I hope that I have the chance to say goodbye in person to as many of you as possible.

After this transition happens, I will still see many of you on a regular basis and will still be a pastor, caring for those who are guests, volunteers, and the greater community of Feast of Justice. Now, even our congregational and organizational leaders do not know all the answers as to how this will work out. We recognize that this could provide some challenges in the relationship between the organization of Feast of Justice and the congregation. So, we must be intentional. We must strive to continue to work together, to celebrate and encourage one another, and to be a blessing to one another. At the most, I ask that you help as we continue to pray for one another.

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19*

In this season of Lent, we are reflecting and remembering all that God has done in our lives, and awaiting the fulfillment of his promises through the death of Jesus Christ. But, even though we are in Lent, we also know the rest of the story—that God creates new life through resurrection. That in resurrection, God restores hope in all of creation. That in resurrection, God has done—and continues to do—a new thing. David, Andy, Luke, Micah, and I love you and love this community, but we also believe this and trust these promises as we enter a new phase in our lives. We are confident in God's promises for us, and are also confident in God's promises for you. God IS doing a new thing at St. John's. Together, let us look forward with anticipation, excitement, and joy.

Respectfully submitted with love for all of you.

*Pastor Tricia*

## Church Council News (cont.)

*(Continued from page 3)*

be part of the Annual meeting of the Synod. Council was given Expectations from the Church Constitution and also a list of the Ministry Teams at St. John's. Council members were asked to share the Ministry they

were interested in so that they could be assigned to be a part of one of the Teams.

A Thank You note was received from the ELCA World Hunger for the donations that St. John's members have made last year.

A Call Committee up-

date was given and Council picked some possible dates to interview the candidate presented by the Call Committee.

The next Council meeting will be held on March 14, 2018, 7:00 p.m.



## Preschool News



### From Our 5 Day Class

March rolls in like a Lion! We celebrate Dr. Seuss and all the silly books he wrote. Our children will bring in their favorite books to share and “read” to their friends. Soon after, we’ll celebrate the luck of the Irish on St. Patrick’s Day and definitely wear our green!

We are also learning about the life of Jesus as we prepare to celebrate Easter. We will also create Easter hats for our parade and go on an Easter Egg Hunt in our playground. In between all that celebration, we will be busy learning! Some topics include dinosaurs, adding and subtracting, shape matching, and rhyming words. Hopefully the weather cooperates and

we explore the great outdoors a lot too.

Happy Easter! Happy Spring!

Mrs. Donna Conway  
Ms. Doreen

### From Our 3 Day Class

We are so excited to “Spring” into March and more learning! We will start the month off celebrating Dr. Seuss birthday by making green eggs and ham, and reviewing some of the great books he wrote!

Our class will be focusing on letters Tt, Uu, Vv, and Ww along with their letter sounds, introducing new sight words and rhyming words, and numbers 11,12, and 13.

We will be having fun making a class mural to celebrate National Art Month, making rain sticks for Music in Our Schools Month, Digging for Dino’s during Dino Week, and Diving into National Ocean

Week where we will explore under the sea! The kids will also perform many science experiments including: making a volcano explode and wave bottles.

As St. Patrick’s Day approaches we will be going on a hunt and setting traps for that silly leprechaun. My 3 day friends are VERY excited for some of our celebrations this month as well. We will be celebrating St. Patty’s Day, of course, and also having a BaCkWaRdS DaY, and having our annual Easter Hat Parade and party.

Lent is a very special time where we will reflect on the miracles and life of Jesus. We will learn why Christians celebrate Easter and learn the Lord’s Prayer.

As you can see March is another busy month for our 3 Day friends, and as it winds down, we prepare for Easter. What a fun and exciting time.

Mrs. LaRaine Oliveira

### From Our 2 Day Class

March is a very busy month in 2 Day. This month we will be starting the month by celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday. At this time we will be reading his amazing stories.

We will be celebrating St. Patrick’s Day with a little Irish fun and maybe we will catch the leprechaun this year. Last year we almost caught him.

We will be taking walks around the neighborhood to see how our environment is changing and seeing first hand how spring is much different than winter.

Throughout March we will be discussing and learning about Easter. We will read stories and learn about how wonderful our Lord is.

Mrs. LaRaine Oliveira

## Celebration of Pastor Tricia Neale's Ministry

Join us on Sunday, April 15, 2018, after the 11:00 a.m. service at approximately 12:15 p.m. to help us celebrate the over 12 years of ministry Pr. Tricia Neale has served at St. John's. Pr. Tricia will be the full time Director of Feast of Justice. Please bring your favor-

ite or new dish to share with all.

Pr. Tricia has served St. John's since her last year of seminary through the present. Pr. Tricia has had many roles during her time at St. John's.

Please mark your calendars and join together

with us as we celebrate with Pr. Tricia and her family.



Come, help us celebrate Pastor Tricia's 12 years of ministry at St. John's.

## Monthly Fellowship Event

Our next Fellowship event will take place on Saturday, March 17th following the 5 p.m. worship service. We will have another "Game Night" and refreshments will include tacos along with our usual assortment of bev-

erages and sweets. We plan on having some green treats since it is St. Patty's Day. Join us in Room A for some fun and fellowship and you may bring one of your favorite games to play or try one of ours.

The Congregational Care Team is looking to plan another trip to the Trenton Thunder when they are playing the Reading Phillies. That date would be Thursday, May 31st at 7 p.m. Look for more info in the near future.



## We Receive Thanks

Dear Friends at St. John's,

Bob is now safe and at peace with our Lord. He loved his St. John's family and so many returned their love to him by participating and

being at his memorial service.

Thank you so much for your support and the many cards of sympathy to comfort me at this most difficult time.

I miss that gentle and

kind man who was a part of my life for 57 years.

Cathy Schmid.





## MARCH NEWS FROM FEAST OF JUSTICE

### Thanksgiving at Easter

Feast of Justice is preparing for our annual Easter celebration meal—Thanksgiving at Easter—when we share a Thanksgiving Feast with the community. All are invited to join us as we celebrate the holiday in food, fellowship, and worship. A few extra hands are needed as well for food prep, serving, worship assistance, and clean up; sign up by contacting Feast of Justice. Join us Tuesday, March 27 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

### A Taste of Hope

Our Spring fundraiser returns for its 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Come, join us for a dinner tasting of local restaurants, a basket raffle, and celebrations of our program over the last year. The event is on April 7, from 6-9 pm. Tickets are available through Feast of Justice or the church office and are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children under 10. Those who attended last year had a blast—with many thanks to the wonderful basket-making skills of our own Sandy Bennett. Come join us again and bring a friend!

### Volunteers are Always Needed!

We are looking for volunteers who can serve as **greeters/intake specialists** on Saturday afternoons. Also, we are looking for volunteers to help to **sort food and receive deliveries** on Friday afternoons. Finally, we are looking for volunteers to assist with our **Computer Drop-In center**. Other needs do also exist. Come join us for a New Volunteer Orientation, to find out about all the opportunities—Saturday March 10, 12:00-1:00.



## Philly Beats New England in Hunger Challenge

**E-A-G-L-E-S EAGLES!**  
**YO! Philly fans.**  
**Thanks to you not only**  
**are the Birds Super**  
**Bowl Champions, but**  
**#ELCATeamPhilly**

took home the 2018  
**ELCA World Hunger**  
**Synod Challenge.**  
 In total, nearly \$36,000  
 was raised for ELCA  
 World Hunger. Despite

a late push by Team  
 New England, Team  
 Philadelphia came out  
 ahead with a total of  
 \$18,700 raised. Thank  
 you for your support!

**A Taste of Hope Fundraiser  
to benefit Feast of Justice  
Saturday, April 7, 2018  
6pm-9pm**



**\*Dinner Sampling Local Foods**

**\*Gift Basket Raffle**

**\*Program Celebration**

.....  
: St. Dominic's Marian Hall  
: 8504 Frankford Avenue  
: Philadelphia, PA 19136  
: .....

**Adult Admission \$25.00**

**Youth Admission (<10) \$10.00**

**Admission Price covers Food and  
Beverages - Beer, Wine, Soda**

**Tickets will be available starting March 1 at Feast of Justice,  
through our webpage, or by calling (215) 268-3510.**

**FEAST OF JUSTICE is a 501C3 non-profit organization** with a mission to empower the transformation of individuals, families, and communities through our hunger, education, and life skills/ counseling programs.

[www.feastofjustice.org](http://www.feastofjustice.org)

Facebook: FeastofJusticePhiladelphia



### Order Your Easter Flowers

Once again we are planning to decorate the sanctuary with a variety of Spring plants. To order plants as a memorial or in honor of someone, fill in the form below, place it in an envelope with cash or check made out to *St. John's Lutheran Church* and mark the envelope "Easter Plants." Place the envelope in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. The deadline for orders is **Sunday, March 25, 2018.**

I/We want to order

_____	Single Lily	@ \$12.00 each	= _____
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_____	Double Lilies	@ \$22.00 each	= _____
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_____	4 1/2 " Tulips	@ 6.00 each	= _____
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_____	6" Tulips	@\$10.00 each	= _____
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_____	6" Daffodils	@\$10.00 each	= _____
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Total Amount Enclosed			\$ _____
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Dedication

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will take my plant(s) home. \_\_\_\_\_ Please give my plant (s) to someone.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Church Council Members**

Ellan Kay Faust	267-593-6197	<a href="mailto:ellankayfaust@gmail.com">ellankayfaust@gmail.com</a>	2020
Marie Hand	215-332-4466	<a href="mailto:marie.e.hand@phila.gov">marie.e.hand@phila.gov</a>	2021
Julie Henderson	267-324-1685		2019
Don Jones	215-745-0992	<a href="mailto:dejcpa76@aol.com">dejcpa76@aol.com</a>	2020
Maureen Jordan	215-332-4962	<a href="mailto:reen.jordan10@comcast.net">reen.jordan10@comcast.net</a>	2021
Doreen Kinzler	215-288-6416	<a href="mailto:doreen.m.kinzler@phila.gov">doreen.m.kinzler@phila.gov</a>	2021
George Miller	267-262-3252	<a href="mailto:george.miller@dla.mil">george.miller@dla.mil</a>	2019
Bette Pittman			2019
Clair Amy Roberts	215-421-3961	<a href="mailto:psu95lions@aol.com">psu95lions@aol.com</a>	2020
Vicki Schempp	215-333-0428		2021
Jennifer Wilent	215-391-2186	<a href="mailto:simsc1j@aol.com">simsc1j@aol.com</a>	2020

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**TEAM LEADERS:**

Judith Rose	215 -638-4739	<a href="mailto:RoseFam73@verizon.net">RoseFam73@verizon.net</a>	Mutual Ministry
Rev. Esther Rajashekar	215-233-1362	<a href="mailto:revrajashekar@gmail.com">revrajashekar@gmail.com</a>	
Rev. Patricia Neale	215-279-0269	<a href="mailto:pastor.tricia.neale@gmail.com">pastor.tricia.neale@gmail.com</a>	

St. John's Lutheran Church  
3101 Tyson Avenue  
Philadelphia PA 19149

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

3101 Tyson Avenue  
Philadelphia PA 19149

Phone: 215-624-5505  
Fax: 215-624-2938

E-mail: [stjohnsmayfair@verizon.net](mailto:stjohnsmayfair@verizon.net)

OUR MISSION IS TO PLANT  
THE SEEDS OF GOD'S LOVE  
THROUGH CHRIST IN  
WITNESS, OUTREACH AND  
THE WORD

Companion Church  
Kana Lutheran Parish, Tanzania

**St. John's Lutheran Church**

Rev. Esther Rajashekar, Bridge Pastor

Rev. Patricia Neale, Pastor & Director of Feast of Justice

Lisa Thomas, Director of Music

Susan Black Thomas, Administrative Assistant

David Speece, Property Manager/Sexton

Gina Hughes Polychronakis, Preschool Director

**Our Worship Schedule**

5:00 p.m. Saturday Evenings

8:00 & 11:00 Sunday Mornings

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Holy Communion is celebrated every week