

# St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Vine

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The mission of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to lovingly proclaim the Gospel among all people in order to form and nurture loving communities which confess by word and deed that Jesus is Lord and Savior*



*The May Vine 2011*

The Newsletter of St. John's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church & School  
(718) 761-1600

### **Divine Service:**

**Sunday @ 9:00 AM with Holy Communion**

***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

### **Church:**

216 Jewett Avenue (Corner of Jewett & Post)  
Staten Island, NY 10302 **(no mail)**

Church Email: [stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com)

**Church & School Website: [www.stjohnslutheransi.org](http://www.stjohnslutheransi.org)**

### **School & Church Office**

663 Manor Road **(Mail Accepted)**  
Staten Island, NY 10314

**Volume 2011**

**Issue #5**

**Rev. Wade A. Miller  
Vacancy Pastor  
(347) 459-5206**

**Roster of Officers  
St. John's Lutheran  
Church & School**

**Mr. Fred Bock---President**

**Mr. Jerry Valles---Vice President**

**Mrs. Janis Szoke---Secretary**

**Mr. Les Szoke---Chairman  
Board of Properties**

**Mr. Tom Sax---Chairman  
Board of Elders**

**Mr. Dan Wuerdeman---Chairman  
Board of Social Ministry**

**Mr. Bob Holls---Chairman  
Board of Christian Education**

## **A Message from the President**

### **St. John's Lutheran Church needs your help.**

We currently have an outstanding debt of \$10,000:

\$7,200-Kinetic Electric

\$2,800-Maintenance (Church & Parsonage)

I am asking that our parishioners contemplate helping their Church relieve some of the debt.

Checks may be made out to either Kinetic Electric or St. John's Lutheran Church. Please include a directive in the memo area as to which your donation should go towards (Kinetic Electric or Maintenance).

The maintenance total includes plumbing problems, a new water heater for the parsonage and repair for the water damage caused by the old water heater.

I would like to resolve this debt before a new Pastor is called.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

Fred Bock  
Church Congregational President



**A Message from the Elders  
May 2011**

Greetings in the Name of Christ Jesus,

Where have the months gone? Lent has come and gone, and Pastor Miller has just served his eighth month as vacancy pastor with us. The call committee has started the call process and has interviewed two pastors during the Lent Season. I will be giving a report on our progress at our next voters meeting. Please continue to keep the call committee in your prayers, and pray that the Lord would make known who our next shepherd is to be. Special thanks goes out to Julia Draper who opened her home and allowed Pastor Jonathan Sachs and his wife Laura a place to stay as he led our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Services. Pastor Sachs and Laura traveled from Canada to be with us. Congratulation to our six young members who made their First Holy Communion. I look forward to seeing all of you each week as we celebrate Holy Communion with one another. This year the elders gave our young communicants their own copy of Luther's Small Catechism to help further their studies.

I especially wanted to thank everyone who attended the congregational meeting as we discussed the future of our church. I was so impressed with the attendance, but more impressed on how we all met as Christians, respecting one another. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in the soup suppers during Lent, and for an encouraging church attendance during mid-week services. I also would like to acknowledge and thank our school/church choir who sang during Vesper Services, and to our new rookie acolyte team who have been doing a great job. Also, a great job to everyone who participated in the Easter breakfast.

Thomas Sax  
Elder Chair

***“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”  
Philippians 4:13 KJV***

Serving as Church Elders;  
Thomas Sax  
Walter Francis  
Bruce Mohlenhoff  
David Decker



More on Stewardship.....

We have completed the Lenten season, starting with Ash Wednesday and continuing with daily repentance and much prayer. We finally reached Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and culminating with the Resurrection of our Savior on Easter Sunday.

I thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed on us. First, allowing us to come into this world, and out of great love for all giving us free will. As we all know from the account in Genesis, however, it didn't take us too long to fall into temptation. Good Friday changed all of that with Jesus' suffering, His crucifixion, and finally His banishment to Hell.

Not even Satan thought God would do this. Then came Sunday morning and by the power of God Almighty, Jesus was caused to rise from the grave. In so doing He conquered sin, death, and the power of Satan once and for all.

Easter has been called the greatest day the world has ever seen. Are we better stewards now? I pray so.

In going over some of the material I have been sent over the years I came across an interesting series that I would like to try in the Vine. It will probably take several issues to complete.

I want to begin by reminding everyone what stewardship is about. It addresses ALL aspects of life. "It is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the church, in managing all of life and life's resources for GOD'S PURPOSES."

Unfortunately, for many Christians, there is a disconnect between what they say they believe and what they do.

In terms of goals and hopes, how many people have made it their life's purpose to get power, money position, or even happiness, only to find that they were aiming at the wrong target? It happens to many churches. We will look in the next issues at both the right and the wrong ways to better manage our stewardship.

Continue to pray for all God's people as we move towards Pentecost.

**The Stewardship Committee**  
**Walter Francis**

*IN OUR PRAYERS*



Please keep the Barbagallo family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their grandfather Bob Barbagallo.

Please continue to pray for those who are listed in this month's bulletin.

*Alice D'Angelo~Henry Alvestad~Esther Charles*

*Samuel Bartzsch~Patricia Barber*

Please continue to pray for our Call Committee, that the Lord would reveal who the next shepherd of our church is to be.

We give thanks to the Lord for the speedy recovery of Richard Neitzel, and for giving him the strength to join us again in worship.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



May 3 - Education Planning Committee meeting 7 PM

May 6 - Dress Down & Flower Sale

May 11 to 14 Lutheran Fellows Work Crew \*\* Come and help out with this cleanup.

May 16 - Grade 8 class trip to Manhattan

May 17 - Dress Down

May 19 - Bowling Grades 5 to 8

May 20 - Bowling Grades K to 4

May 30 - Memorial Day – no school

Dear Members of St. John's Lutheran Church,

During the last week of school before Easter break, the fax machine in the school office broke. We had a lot of rain and apparently there was a leak above the machine. Both the school and church offices use this one fax machine. A new machine has been purchased. (We put it in a different spot.) The cost for the new fax machine, ink (and warranty) is \$113.87. We would be most appreciative if someone would consider sponsoring this purchase. Please make your check out to *St. John's Lutheran School* and write *Fax Machine* in the memo.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Palisay

**Please visit the website for further information on these events  
[www.stjohnslutheransi.org](http://www.stjohnslutheransi.org)**



## Evangelical Pamphlets

The Evangelism Committee of St. John's offers for your interest, booklets published by the Lutheran Laymen's League, pertaining to everyday problems and concerns. The following booklets are available at the display rack in the Narthex of the church. If there is a subject of concern not listed, please contact Rhoda Browne (718) 698-3356

Alone, Alive, Fulfilled

Alzheimer's

Battles with the Bottle

Coping with Cancer

Dealing with Depression

Finding Peace

Forgiveness Is for Giving

Has God Abandoned Me?

How to Know What's Right...And Do It

No Need to Fear

Now You're Talking

Overcoming A Painful Childhood

Parenting with Purpose

Prayer and Thoughts for Caregivers

Setting Priorities

Raising Your Children with Respect

So You Prayed for A Miracle...

Surviving A Loved One's Suicide

Surviving Breast Cancer

Take Heart in Your Grief

Talking with God

The Purpose of Living, The Purpose of Dying

The Truth About Angels

*"THHHPPTT!" And Other Helpful Ways to Manage Anger*

Too Much to Do, Too Little Time

Unlocking the Prison of Guilt

When in Doubt...Read the Book!

Where's God in All of This?

Why Should I go to Church?



### **Mini Health Fair**

On Saturday, June 4, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. there will be a free Mini Health Fair at the church. Topics covered will be diabetes education, health maintenance activities, and CPR skills. The presenters will be Deborah Morotta, RN and certified diabetes instructor, and Barbara Pfaff, nurse practitioner and CPR instructor. Information will be available in English and in Spanish. This event is sponsored by the Board of Social Ministry. All are welcome to attend.

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### **New Direction Services Food Collection**

We are collecting food for New Direction Services, a food pantry located at 1027 Post Avenue, at the church and at the school through September. Nonperishable items may be left in the basement at the church or in the breezeway at the school. In particular, they request the following items:

- condensed/evaporated milk
- pasta
- sauces (such as tomato sauce)
- cereal
- juices
- canned meats (such as tuna)
- condiments (such as salad dressings)

### **Saints and Church Dates**

**May 2011**

**2 - Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria**

**21- Helena, mother of Constantine**

**31 - The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth**



# CHOIR

Psalm 100:1-2

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into His presence with singing!*

Dearest Friends in Christ Jesus,

Thank you to both our adult and children's choirs for an outstanding job during Lent and Holy Week. Once again a special thanks to Bill Mohlenhoff and his wonderful accompaniment on Easter Sunday with his trumpet. Thanks be to God, our adult choir has slowly grown in the last two years from seven to now ten. I still am encouraging additional people to join with a full or partial commitment. As far as our children's choir goes, whenever we sing, members of our Sunday School are always welcomed to join us. The songs we sing are usually the songs we go over with our Sunday School attendees prior to going down to the basement each week. The children's choir will sing their last time for this school year on Sunday, May 22, 2011 and our adult choir will end on Sunday, June 12, 2011. Both choirs will begin again in September.

In Christ,

Thomas Sax

***Adult choir Tuesday Nights 8 - 9 p.m.  
Children's choir Sunday Mornings 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.***



For your convenience the serving schedule  
is in the Narthex

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Please remember  
the following deadlines:  
Weekly Bulletin every  
Tuesday @ 10AM  
Monthly Newsletter  
the third Monday  
of every Month @ 11AM

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**SIGHT & SOUND  
MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS  
(LATE NOVEMBER, EARLY  
DECEMBER)**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING  
THIS WONDERFUL SHOW, PLEASE  
CONTACT KEN BIRSTLER**

**(718) 273-0991**

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*I would like to thank all who participated in making the soups,  
desserts and bread during the Lenten Mid-Week Services. I also  
would like to thank all for a wonderful turn out.*

*Rhoda Browne*

# **THAT CHURCH BELL TOLLS FOR YOU**

**DEAR ANN: THIS ITEM APPEARED IN OUR CHURCH BULLETIN.** No author was credited. Although there's a lot of humor in it, there's also a lot of truth. Please share it with your readers.

**F.D. FROM UPPER DARBY, PA**

**DEAR F.D.:** Thanks for the perfect Saturday column. I needed something to wind up the week on a high note and you found it, Thank you.

The No-Excuse Sunday: To make it possible for everyone to attend church next week we are planning a special no-excuse Sunday.

- 1.** Cots will be placed in the vestibule for those who say, "Sunday is my only day for sleeping in."
- 2.** Eye drops will be available for those whose eyes are tired from watching TV too late on Saturday night.
- 3.** We will have steel helmets for those who believe the roof will cave in if they show up for church services.
- 4.** Blankets will be furnished for those who complain that the church is too cold. Fans will be on hand for those who say the church is too hot.
- 5.** We will have hearing aids for the parishioners who say, "The Pastor doesn't talk loud enough." There will cotton for those who say, "The Pastor talks too loud."
- 6.** Scorecards will be available for those who wish to count the hypocrites.
- 7.** We guarantee that some relatives will be present for those who like to go visiting on Sunday.
- 8.** There will be TV dinners available for those who claim they can't go to church and cook dinner, too.
- 9.** One section of the church will have some trees and grass for those who see God in nature, especially on the golf course.
- 10.** The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies to create a familiar environment for those who have never seen the church without them.

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH!!**



*From May 11 through 13 a group of college students will be at St. John's to do volunteer work on our properties. They will be painting the parsonage and doing various jobs at the school. In addition, on May 14 volunteers from the church and school will be needed to work with Mrs. Palisay on various projects she has in mind.*

*In order to purchase materials to do these jobs, we need funding. The amount of funding will determine the amount and type of work that can be done. Contributions toward this cause should be annotated "May Work Parties," made payable to St. John's Lutheran Church or School and either mailed or placed in the offering plate. Our target amount is \$1,500. Donations must be received no later than May 1 so that we can secure materials. The paint for the parsonage has already been donated. If you can volunteer to work on May 14, please call the school office to let them know. Thank you in advance for your generous consideration.*



## SCHOOL AUCTION







