

# T H E L A N T E R N

Spring 2016



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church 145 Mortimer Avenue

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Pastor Jeffrey Walters

Dear Family in Christ

The temptation is to simply remember how wonderful our Easter celebration was this year and it was quite wonderful—cloudy weather but bright smiles, loads of children and lots of other ages present also---music like we have grown to love—the Easter Gospel and the assurance that the fullness of grace belongs to the children of God.

But what we should also remember with thankful hearts was our entire Lent, Holy Week and Easter experience. It began with a special Ash Wednesday service highlighted by a reading from a recent article that appeared in the Lutheran magazine in which a mother and Pastor from the Pacific Northwest told us that whenever she said good-bye to her young children, she would make the sign of the cross on their foreheads and tell them: “God loves you”. She would follow that with a kiss and a reminder that she loved them also. Those young children are now college students and the tradition continues. On Ash Wednesday we practiced telling one another—“God loves you—and so do I”. That is not something every church family would be comfortable doing, but it felt right for us.



Each Sunday in Lent brought its own special word of encouragement, peace, reassurance and hope. As Holy Week began, Teresa and I were traveling on the West Coast, so Pastor Beth Orling led worship and Nancy Cliff served as guest organist. Cheryl Way was in attendance on Palm Sunday and as it turns out, she knew Pastor Beth from working with her at St. Matthews in Secaucus. They were especially glad and surprised to see one another again because Pastor Orling moved to the state of Washington some years ago and was only back in New Jersey for a brief visit with family. It was later in the evening of Palm Sunday that Cheryl would suffer a fatal heart attack. Her death gave greater meaning to everything that followed during Holy Week and Easter. A funeral service was held at St. Johns for Cheryl the Wednesday after Easter. Her love and faith were evident to all. We miss her dearly. Prayers are requested for family and friends as we remember Cheryl and also Josephine DiMeola, a dear friend of the congregation.

Holy Thursday saw the first communion of Abby Oliver and a focus on the washing of feet. Yes, we actually had three foot washing stations in the front of the church and many in attendance came forward to have feet or hands blessed and washed. We can talk at length about humble service, but Jesus told us to wash one another's feet and that is what we did this year. Good Friday presented us with an opportunity to experience our traditional Tenebrae service and this year a larger than normal group attended and were blessed by the solemnity and deep spirituality the Good Friday service provides.

Building on all that we have experienced and learned during Lent/Holy Week/Easter 2016, we look ahead to the arrival of warmer weather, the return of some of our Florida snow birds and the joy of gathering each week to praise and worship the God who loves us without limits. Wednesday Bible studies begun in Lent will continue by popular demand. See you in Church!



*Pastor Walters*

## From your Council President

I am writing this right after Easter. Wasn't it wonderful to see so many family members in church? There were 120 of us! The church looked beautiful. The sermon was so thought provoking. The music is superb every Sunday, but there is something about Easter Sunday and music that defies description. You just had to be there. And I can not end without recalling, with a giggle, the children. Priceless! Good Friday we had around 50 people. I think that was the most we ever had. And the Maundy Thursday service was so special, not only because my granddaughter Abbie made her First Holy Communion, but the washing of the feet after the sermon was so emotional and so meaningful. What a special time we all shared.



Now down to business. Your new council had their first meeting in March. Here is a list of who is doing what for this year:

1. Madeline Luongo will be helping Dotty Frank in the office and will be bringing back the Cradle Roll program.
2. Carol Gearity will be serving as secretary.
3. Mary Ann Mastro will continue with Sunday School with her staff.
4. Lorraine Kirwin has taken on Parish Life.
5. Vince Mottola cannot ever not be our Property Guy.
6. Duncan Johnson stays on as Outreach.
7. Marty Kaup will be our Finance Chairperson along with Karen Ohland as Treasurer.
8. Aimee Sepetjian and Lori Torsiello will continue to keep us Living Well.
9. Although not on council, thankfully, Samantha Mottola will continue to keep us on line with our website, and Teresa, our Music and Worship contact person.

So we have every area covered. Thank you all for serving. I see a good year ahead of us. If there is an area you would like to help out in, these are the people to contact. They all would appreciate knowing you are out there if they need help.

See you in church, Lisa

## Altar Guild

It is with such sadness that I begin my article. We lost a valuable member of our small, but mighty team, Cheryl Way. We will miss her. She was a devoted member who served without complaint. We will miss her terribly.

A huge thank you has to go out to two non- altar guild people, who helped turn the church from the beautiful Maundy Thursday evening look, to the stripped down, somber Good Friday look, to the spectacular brilliance of Easter morning. Joy Christians and Nancy Hart. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Also a thank you to everyone who ordered Easter flowers. Even though there were fewer flowers ordered than ever, the look of the altar on Easter morning takes your breath away after the stark look of Good Friday.

Speaking of the flowers.....Do we need to think of something else to do next year on Easter Sunday? Are we getting tired of the look? Do we need a change? I am up for any suggestions. We had to go out and purchase flowers on Saturday this year as we just did not have enough to do what we usually do. Is it the choice of flowers? This year we purchased pansies. We can add a mystery flower category to our order form and, again, purchase whatever flower is blooming next year. Knowing in advance that we have to buy plants elsewhere would help. Please help me figure this all out.

And, as always, if you would like to become an altar guild member, we can use you on our team.

Altar Guild



## The Blessings of Spring ~

By Deborah Ann Belka

There are many blessings,  
that each new Spring brings  
you can see it bloom about  
and hear the song it sings.

With winters bleakness over,  
and brighter days ahead  
comes promises of new life  
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,  
and their buds begin to show  
He gives to us the assurance  
grace in our hearts will grow.

He sends us the robin's song,  
with the promise to provide  
a shelter under His mighty wing  
where in His love we can abide.

He melts the snowy covers,  
and sends the refreshing rain  
sprinkling us with His mercies  
to heal winter's ache and pain.

God's given to all His Son,  
to shed upon us a new light



## Spring time in St John's Total Family Sunday School

Feb- Mar. ~ Our Lenten Alms -begining February 10th ,2015 the children will have collect-

ed 1 nickel a day  during the 40 days of lent, after it is collected on Easter Sunday and then counted we will donate all alms collected to our mission here at St. John's to assist with feeding our local homeless with a presentation during worship service, the monies will then be handed over to Joy and Lisa.



**HAPPY EASTER**

On this past Easter Sunday- March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016

the TFSS children sang

" God is Great, God is good!"

Beautifully



**They also did a great job assisting Pastor with a call to worship**

**Please check out the link below;**

**<https://goo.gl/photos/q1rc6k3TxgUXxFH9>**



The Total Family Sunday School is running a campaign for our

## "NJ Veterans Memorial Home" in Paramus

**Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 thru Memorial Day weekend May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**We will be accepting items from the list below;**

The Total Family Sunday School children are starting a project to replenish needed items for the benefit of our Veterans in the N.J. Veterans Home in Paramus, N.J. They will be collecting items which will be delivered to the Home in time for Memorial Day. Below is a partial list of items that can be donated and will very much be appreciated by our Vets.

**New clothing:** Caps, baseball Handkerchiefs (mens/ladies) T-Shirts Med. to X-Large  
Non-Slip Sox (Lge/X-Lge) Underwear, shirts & briefs (men)  
Crew Socks (no elastic) Underwear, tops/bottoms (women)

**Misc.:** Batteries (all sizes/Hearing Aid also), Adult coloring books/crayons, markers, etc. Postage stamps for personal mail, Clear plastic shoe boxes and storage bins w/lids (assorted sizes) for residents' rooms, Yarn (all colors textures),crochet hooks, Eyeglass repair kits.

Checks can also be given (made out to N.J. Veterans Home at Paramus) to be used towards purchasing larger items or planning Holiday Parties and Outings. A full list of items is available upon request. LET'S SHOW OUR VETERANS WE APPRECIATE ALL THEY HAVE DONE FOR US!!!

**Blessings and Appreciation from the Total Family Sunday School**

**As well, as our dedicated well deserving Veterans, who have served this great country of ours, now residing in this Home!**



# In Memoriam



In Loving Memory of  
**Cheryl Lynn Way**  
December 8, 1952  
March 21, 2016

*Going home, going home,  
I'm just going home  
Quiet-like, slip away-  
I'll be going home  
It's not far, just close by;  
Jesus is the Door;  
Work all done, laid aside  
Fear and grief no more.  
Friends are there, waiting now.  
He is waiting, too.  
See His smile! See His hand!  
He will lead me through.*

*Morning Star lights the way;  
Restless dream all done;  
Shadows gone, break the day,  
Life has just begun  
Every tear wiped away,  
Pain and sickness gone;  
Wide awake there with Him!  
Peace goes on and on!  
Going home, going home,  
I'll be going home.  
See the Light! See the Sun!  
I'm just going home.*

**Mack Memorial Home**  
Secaucus, NJ



## Cheryl Way



Congratulations to Joan Cockroft on her retirement!! A long time member of our congregation and former council president. No one was a harder worker than Joan. Enjoy your retirement to the fullest and relax to the fullest. But please stay in touch and come to St. John's as often as possible. Although we know Hawaii might be in your future....then WE will come and visit you there!!!

I asked new council member Madeline Luongo to write something for the Lantern and this is what she submitted. I say pretty good writing for a first article!! Excellent philosophy. I look forward to many more.

## It's more than just a church!

We live our lives with parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins and if we are blessed enough, grandparents. Most of us work, go to school or are retired. We live each day having to cook, clean or shop. We do what we do out of habit and necessity. Do we often stop and think of our extended family, our church family? How blessed are we to not only go to a place to worship, but where we can also fellowship with one another! I joined the family of St. John's in February of 2012 and this is my first year serving on council. I was honored when Lisa asked me! I hope that I can do justice for this amazing church. **When I found St. John's, I found home.**

## BE AN ENCOURAGER NOT A DISCOURAGER!

You should never feel that you can't make a difference. Making a gesture is still progress in the making. What if each and everyone of us was to come up with an idea on how the church can continue to strive and keep the budget at a low? Just think of some of creative minds at their best; heat to eat, TV raffle, bible sales, concert, etc. It just took one person doing one thing to make a difference.





**Members of St. John's congregation helping to provide lunch at the Kip Senior Citizens Center on 12/19/2015.**

Thank you Mary Ann Mastro for the pictures



Congratulations to our Vice President Vince Mottola on receiving the Servant of Youth award from Boy Scout Troop 166. Award is given to volunteers who portray scouting tradition, support scouting principles and actively engage in scouting events. Vince's picture was even post in the Bergenite. A local celebrity in our midst. We hope he stay humble.



Our Sunday School children performing for Valentines day.  
Then some goodies during coffee hour. How cute are they!!!!  
Thank you Mary Ann and Lorraine for being such excellent teachers.  
The kids love you two!



**Congratulations to  
Abigail Oliver on your  
first Communion. God  
bless you!**

**We look forward to  
seeing you in church  
often for many many  
years!!**



## APRIL BIRTHDAY'S

**2**-Foster Miller  
**2**-Emily Pelser  
**6**-Eddie Schaefer  
**14**-Liz Powers  
**16**-Wayne Herrnkind  
**19**-Kenneth Kaup  
**19**-Bonnie Hart  
**20**-Maria Miceli-Jacobson  
**22**-Roger Smith  
**23**-Amy Schmidt  
**23**-Amanda Boesz  
**27**-Terri DiComo

## ANNIVERSARIES

**5**-Carol Eveleens and Dale Vanyo  
**22**-Bill and Linda Pelser  
**26**-Steven and Stephanie Balogh  
**27**-Joan and Gordon Kimball  
**28**-Marty and Irene Kaup  
**29**-Mark and Valerie Hutnan

## MAY BIRTHDAY'S

**2**-Michael Oliver  
**3**-Tami Strumolo  
**5**-Douglas Murray  
**10**-Nathaniel Martin Scioscia  
**16**-Daniel Prawetz  
**17**-Charlie Powers Jr  
**17**-Bill Pelser  
**21**-James Richard Shattuck  
**23**-Irene Kaup  
**27**- Jessics Breur  
**28**-Alice Desmond  
**28**-Ryan Kirwan  
**30**-Brianne Kempenski  
**30**-Donna Lynn Prawetz  
**30**-C.J. Anderson

## ANNIVERSARIES

**1**- Jamie and Ken Shattuck  
**3**-John and Patricia Kupillas  
**28**-Tom and Donna Prawetz  
**29**-Peter and Tami Strumolo

