



The Good News

A Publication of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Sayville, NY

April 2024

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:45-49).

Of any year that the Church might take this idea to heart, it may be this one: Easter is a season, not a day. We celebrate the Eastertide, not simply Easter Sunday. In the Early Church, it was known as the Great Fifty Days and it was a time of celebration and rejoicing, of singing “Alleluias” without end. Jesus is Risen! He is Risen indeed! was the refrain of these days for this is the victory that we need over the tomb of death. The resurrection gives us life, and we bear witness to the truth of it all for a season, not just a Sunday.

In a typical year, it seems as though the joy of Easter fades with the setting sun on Sunday. The pastels and eggs and baskets and bunnies are all put away, and all that remains is whatever leftover candy and ham is still lying around the house. Quickly we move on to other things: christenings and first communions, weddings and trips, gardening, Mother's Day, and the official kick-off to summer over Memorial Day weekend. And when Easter comes in mid- to late April, those things happen quickly. This year, however, Easter is the last day of March, and so we have a full month before our usual rhythm of spring really hits.

As such, I would encourage you to stay engaged in the life of the Church beyond Easter Sunday and celebrate the season with us. Jesus told his disciples to hang out in Jerusalem until Pentecost, and maybe that's good advice for us – stay in Church throughout Eastertide, continuing to bask in the glory and joy of the resurrection. After all, we are today's sent ones, like the apostles, who will be witnesses for Christ in the world to the joy and the hope that is within us. Such a witness is a needed thing in our day, for we all know people who do not have the hope we do...who face death without a shred of real comfort...who think that this life is all there is. We have so much more in Christ, and because of Christ, we know there is hope for there is certainly life beyond grave. This is the Good News we have to share.

Let us, then, enjoy this Eastertide together, even as we live in the hope of our life together eternally by the power of Christ's resurrection. And, may the joy of the Day of Resurrection carry on in our hearts throughout the year and throughout our lives, especially when we are saddened by death. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!

My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow:

Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day prison, Our faith had been in vain:

But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen; But now has Christ arisen (LSB 482, st. 1)!

~Pastor Noack

Thank you – I would like to thank everyone who helped out in any way with our Holy Week and Easter observances and celebrations. From service assistance to music, altar preparations, bulletin preparation, and video production, to sanctuary cleaning and decorating...THANK YOU! I also want to thank the Office Staff for all their work to handle all the little details to make everything run smoothly. Every little bit of help is greatly appreciated, and does not go unnoticed! WE are blessed by your service to our congregation!

E1HW – On **Sunday, April 21 at 11am**, we will hold our first *Every One His Witness* module session on the topic of Witnessing to the Grieving. While attendance at the preliminary sessions is helpful, it is not required. Please join us as we learn how we might engage people who are experiencing loss with the Easter hope we have in Christ. To attend, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or contact the Church Office. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Noack.

Did you notice? – Have you seen the difference in our Sunday bulletins lately? If not, check out the inside front cover and you will find our new Mission Statement and our new Purpose Statement! I would encourage you to read and digest our purpose as we gather as God’s people here, and also to commit our new Mission Statement to memory...it’s short and punchy for a reason: **Rejoice in God’s grace. Live as disciples. Love one another.** Thank you to our Strategic Planning Team, and to all of you, in helping to craft these crucial pieces, and we pray they will help to guide us in fulfilling God’s mission for and among us at St. John’s and beyond!

Official Acts at Saint John’s (thru March 15):

Baptisms:

Jackson James Marreo March 10



It is not unusual to hear and see Canada geese overhead. Flying in a V formation, they squawk loudly, encouraging those in front of them, communicating their location, assisting each other's travel, getting lift from the resulting airflow, and sharing a sense of direction and community instinctual among birds. They are beautiful to watch in flight and their cheering one another on as they follow their leader is commendable! Birds in flight are also known to trade that tough lead position at the point of the V and fall back to rest.

Following their God given internal compass, we can take a cue from the geese in formation as they encourage each other. For us, as Christians, we also have a leader at point, but one that does not change. Jesus has said "follow me." As Lord of all, he doesn't tire, or need a break, but has the lead and sight of all totally in His control. As followers, our staying in "formation", keeping our eyes on him, doesn't mean the journey will be easy, but as the airflow with geese helps to lift those who follow, so will Christ grant us strength for the journey he lays before us, even as he guides our direction, knowing exactly where we are headed.

In March several dozen members of St. John's gathered to continue the strategic planning process, examining the work of various groups in our church - to name what we do, how it might be improved, and what God might be directing us to in the future. Karen Paul has been a faithful leader and cheerleader for this process, and it was great to see people respond to her enthusiasm and cheer her on, as well. Encouragement means a lot and helps each of us to "keep on keeping on" as we seek to be faithful followers of our Lord.

In January, we heard Christ's first recorded words to Simon Peter and his brother Andrew - "come, follow me" (Mark 1:17). While we don't have the "breakfast on the beach story" among the readings this Easter season, if you read John 21:19, you will also find the last recorded words Jesus said to Peter. They are identical: "follow me." As God's created beings, we were designed for love and to follow God's leading - to line up as geese with our eyes on Christ who is the way, the truth and the life; to move in herds as sheep, not straying, but following the Good Shepherd; teaching and encouraging one another - and yes, letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God! (Colossians 3:16)

That gift of song, of music, is encouraged - even commanded in scripture some 50 or more times according to a count by colleague Wm B. Roberts in a recent AAM newsletter. God gave us the gift that saints and angels continue to use. Singing engages us not only in text as we sing God's Word, but in multiple parts of our brain and body; it unites us in breath, in wavelength, and is a force powerful enough to pause war and change the direction of countries (check out Silent Night & WWI, and the Singing Revolution).

Privileged to meet each Sunday, we can make a choice to encourage one another in music and song - to prepare our hearts and minds in quiet meditation as we gather, to take in the texts printed for meditation and to open hymnals and mouths to heartily join in the congregation's hymns and responses to God Almighty.

"Follow me" was the mandate to Peter, followed by the words, "and I will make you become fishers of men." Following Christ meant change; transformation.

Psalm 95 begins "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" Might we be like a whole flock of geese, unmissable, encouraging one another in united voice, with eyes and hearts fixed on Christ as we gather weekly to praise and worship Him - proclaiming Christ crucified and resurrected so people can't help but notice our loud, joyful singing? Loud by itself may not be compelling, but rich, sonorous God-proclaiming music sung from the heart & reflected in our lives *will* be a witness to the joy within us and to those around us as we seek to faithfully "rejoice in God's grace; live as disciples and love one another!"





**THE LONG ISLAND BRASS GUILD
& CYNTHIA HOLDEN, ORGAN
IN CONCERT**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024 • 3PM
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
48 GREENE AVENUE, SAYVILLE, NY**

The concert is a fundraiser for the mission of Mercy Haven, Inc. who provide housing for the less fortunate. Music includes Gabrieli, Marcello, Praetorius, Carlyle Sharp, Dudley Buck's Star Spangled Banner & more.

Suggested donation:
\$15 General Admission; \$10 Seniors & Students; \$25 Family

For more information, please call 631-862-6072.

Easter Breakfast – a final call! Offered from 8-11am on March 31. A delicious breakfast awaits you in the undercroft Easter Sunday morning. The free will offering supports a tuition scholarship for St. John's Chorister, Mary Eylemann to attend **Lutheran Summer Music** - a faith-based residential music academy for high school students who come together to immerse themselves in musical excellence and build a supportive, and fun-loving community.

Vocalists, instrumentalists, and drama students who may be interested in attending in the future, or learning more are invited to speak with Mary or Cindy Holden, and to explore the LSM website at www.lsmacademy.org

MARY MARTHA GUILD

Thrivent Financial – The Thrivent Choice Dollar Zoom meeting is coming up on **Wednesday, April 10th at 7pm.** During the meeting, we will hear about what we have in our Choice Dollar Account and talk about ways to make the best use of this money. Please contact Pastor to register to join the meeting. Bring your thoughts and ideas when you attend! Contact Honey Past with any questions: 631-589-8353 or at arthon@aol.com.

Thrivent Luncheon – Save the date! **Sunday, April 14th at 1pm,** Thrivent will host a luncheon at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Middle Island. Please join us to learn more about Thrivent's Member Benefits, including how we can best apply for and use *Action Team Cards* and of course *Choice Dollars*. We will also get a chance to ask questions about Associate Membership and how to purchase items from their store. Thrivent will not be selling anything; this is informational only. On the day of the event, we are asking each participant to bring a non-perishable food item with them to contribute to the food pantry. The luncheon is open to both Thrivent and non-Thrivent Members. We look forward to seeing you there! Thrivent has sent an invite and place for you to register, but if you have questions, please contact Honey Pabst at 631-589-8353.

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls - Pastor Noack blessed all the prayer shawls, lap robes and scarves that were displayed in the sanctuary. Many of you created these lovely items and now these will be a blessing to others. Some will be distributed to local hospitals and various missions in the coming weeks, and some will remain here at the church. If you are interested in making any of these, and need yarn, please go to our closet in the undercroft where there is a selection of yarn. In the coming weeks see the picture on the bulletin as you enter the church. If there is someone you know who has need of one of the lap robes or shawls, please let our President, Pam Kennard know, and she will be happy to help you. She can be reached at 631-678-3246.

Volunteer Appreciation - On April 21st, we will express gratitude to our volunteers for their contributions. Are you one of them? If so, we extend our thanks. Many individuals quietly support their church, community, and others (some of whom we may not even be aware of). Let's keep all these individuals in our prayers, both the known and the unknown. The Thrivent Financial group at St. John's always makes an effort to show appreciation. How can you show your gratitude to these individuals? Consider a phone call or a note to convey your appreciation. You could also leave a flower on their doorstep if you need to go out. These are just a few ideas to consider. Think about those you would like to thank, such as the Altar Guild members, Ushers, Communion Stewards, Readers, and even those who provide the Sunday video. Other individuals contribute to Sunday School, the food pantry, and our council. These people work diligently to ensure that everything runs smoothly each Sunday, including those who work behind the scenes, whose efforts may go unnoticed. Particularly in the current circumstances, some continue to serve selflessly. Lastly, we acknowledge our Pastor for his exceptional dedication. Therefore, on behalf of the Thrivent Financial team, we appreciate your efforts and the use of your God-given talents.

DAILY BIBLE READING



April 2024

	1	Exodus 15:1-18; Hebrews 9:1-28
	2	Exodus 15:19—16:12; Hebrews 10:1-18
	3	Exodus 16:13-35; Hebrews 10:19-39
	4	Exodus 17:1-16; Hebrews 11:1-29
	5	Exodus 18:5-27; Hebrews 12:1-24
	6	Exodus 19:1-25; Hebrews 13:1-21
Sun	7	Exodus 20:1-24; Luke 4:1-15
	8	Exodus 22:20—23:13; Luke 4:16-30
	9	Exodus 23:14-33; Luke 4:31-44
	10	Exodus 24:1-18; Luke 5:1-16
	11	Exodus 25:1-22; Luke 5:17-39
	12	Exodus 31:1-18; Luke 6:1-19
	13	Exodus 32:1-14; Luke 6:20-38
Sun	14	Exodus 32:15-35; Luke 6:39-49
	15	Exodus 33:1-23; Luke 7:1-17
	16	Exodus 34:1-28; Luke 7:18-35
	17	Exodus 34:29—35:21; Luke 7:36-50
	18	Exodus 38:21—39:8; Luke 8:1-21
	19	Exodus 39:32—40:16; Luke 8:22-39
	20	Exodus 40:17-38; Luke 8:40-56
Sun	21	Leviticus 8:1-13, 30-36; Luke 9:1-17
	22	Leviticus 9:1-24; Luke 9:18-36
	23	Leviticus 10:1-20; Luke 9:37-62
	24	Leviticus 16:1-24; Luke 10:1-22
	25	Leviticus 17:1-16; Luke 10:23-42
	26	Leviticus 18:1-7, 20—19:8; Luke 11:1-13
	27	Leviticus 19:9-18, 26-37; Luke 11:14-36
Sun	28	Leviticus 20:1-16, 22-27; Luke 11:37-54
	29	Leviticus 21:1-24; Luke 12:1-12
	30	Leviticus 23:1-22; Luke 12:13-34

April 2024

April 2024						May 2024							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31	Apr 1 7:00pm Boy Scouts	2 7:00pm Strategic Plan Meeting 7:00pm Judo 7:00pm Women's 12 Step	3 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI	4 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	5 12:30pm N/A	6
7 2nd Sunday of Easter 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School	8 4:00pm LI Brass Rehearsal 7:00pm Boy Scouts	9 7:00pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm Judo 7:00pm Women's 12 Step	10 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI	11 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	12 12:30pm N/A	13
14 3rd Sunday of Easter 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School	15 7:00pm Boy Scouts	16 7:00pm Judo 7:00pm Women's 12 Step	17 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI	18 6:30pm Finance Meeting 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	19 12:30pm N/A	20
21 4th Sunday of Easter 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School 11:00am E1HW	22 7:00pm Boy Scouts	23 7:00pm Council Meeting 7:00pm Judo 7:00pm Women's 12 Step	24 12:30pm N/A 7:45pm SoLI	25 4:00pm LI Brass Rehearsal 6:30pm Eagle Eye Ringers 7:00pm Judo 7:30pm Chancel Choir	26 12:30pm N/A	27
28 5th Sunday of Easter 7:45am Divine Service 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Divine Service 9:30am Sunday School 3:00pm LI Brass Rehearsal	29 7:00pm Boy Scouts	30 7:00pm Strategic Plan Meeting 7:00pm Judo 7:00pm Women's 12 Step	May 1	2	3	4

April Divine Service Assistant Schedule

April 7	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Bill Audia	Leo Rigaud
Ushers	Charlie Erb Jim Farrell	Judy & Chuck Scott
Reader	Jim Farrell	Leo Rigaud
April 14	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Robert Bayley	Al Coppola
Ushers	Brian & Christine Kirschenheiter	Jane Emmel Kristin Noack
Reader	Christine Kirschenheiter	Al Coppola
April 21	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Greg Calvano	Paul Erath
Ushers	Steve Lindfors & Charlie Erb	Pam & Lloyd Arrasate
Reader	Jim Farrell	Jennifer Rooney
April 28	Sunday 7:45am	Sunday 9:30am
Communion Stewards	Charlie Erb	Al Coppola
Ushers	Steve & Janet Lindfors	Barbara Dahlgren & Kevin Paul
Reader	Pastor Noack	Elaine Whitehouse

If you are unable to serve where assigned, please find someone you can switch with or someone who can take your place. Please let the Church Office know of any changes you make. Thank you.

<p>April 7: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2 April 14: Acts 3:11-21; 1 John 3:1-7 April 21: Acts 4:1-12; 1 John 3:16-24 April 28: Acts 8:26-40; 1 John 4:1-21</p>
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Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Brian Noack, Pastor
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E-mail: music@stjohnsayville.org

Whitney Dale, Office Administrator
E-mail: admin@stjohnsayville.org

Carolyn Holtz, Bookkeeper
E-mail: bookkeeper@stjohnsayville.org

Tom Keller & Steve Lindfors, Facilities Management

Saint John's Divine Service Schedule

Sunday 7:45am & 9:30am

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9:30am-1:30pm

Bookkeeper Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 11am-3pm

Our Mission

Rejoice in God's grace. Live as disciples. Love one another.

Our Purpose

The family of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, gathered around Word and Sacrament, enhanced by liturgy and music, exists to encourage its members in a life of discipleship in Christ Jesus and fellowship with one another.

Utilizing the gifts that God has entrusted to us, we engage in acts of mercy, attending to the spiritual and physical needs within our congregation and community.

We bear witness to the Grace of God through living in His Word thus demonstrating the love Christ has shown us.

**A Congregation of
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**

The *Good News* is published by the church office of Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church to keep its members and friends informed of church news and activities. Newsletter deadline for the May 2024 issue will be April 15th.