

theLIFE

LUTHERAN CHURCH  
& DAY SCHOOL

### THE LIFE Line

is a publication of  
THE LIFE Lutheran Church  
One Old Westbury Road  
Old Westbury, NY 11568  
516.333.3355 • thelifeny.org

#### STAFF

Rev. Justin Vetrano, Pastor  
Susan Weickert, Administrative  
Assistant to the Pastor  
Lisa Dennelly, Day School Director  
Laura Bauer, Church Administrator  
Jay Campson, Facility Manager  
Ginny Raffa, Editor/Outreach

**Join us and have your  
time of THE LIFE!**

#### Calendar

Thursday Evenings — Family  
Dinner, 6 pm; Communion  
Service, 7 pm

Saturdays—ESL, 10 am-1 pm;  
Youth Group, 10 am-1 pm

Jan 23—Blood Drive, 3:15-9:15  
pm

Jan 28—ESL Recognition  
Service, 12 pm

Jan 29—Book Discussion, *Life  
Together*, 6-8 pm

Feb 2—Preparing Food for the  
INN

April 8—Easter Sunday  
Worship, 10 am; Children's  
Sunday School, 9:45 am

## SAVE THE DATE – April 8, 2012 Easter Sunday

By Pastor Justin Vetrano

I receive notes and emails regularly asking me to save a specific date for a wedding, a birthday or some type of celebration. So here I am asking you to save-the-date. Actually, it's more like save-the-day! That day would be Sunday! Sure we can look and see how God has asked us to save one day a week as Sabbath for rest, worship, and an acknowledgement of what God does for us.

I am asking you to SAVE-THE-DATE for when we begin worshipping at THE LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH on Sunday mornings. April 8, 2012, is the day when the majority of Christians around the world celebrate Easter, the truest hope we can ever know, the day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead into the splendor of glory. On that day at 10 a.m. will be the first time we worship here at THE LIFE on a Sunday morning.

However, our celebration doesn't stop there. Each Sunday after Easter we will continue to celebrate Christ's resurrection, for that is really what we do when we worship and receive Holy Communion. We will celebrate every Sunday at THE LIFE for hopefully what will be the next 50+ years of Sundays to follow.

Additionally, SAVE THE DATE of April 15th —not because your taxes are due, but be-

cause it will be the Sunday we launch our new exciting Sunday School program for children of all ages at THE LIFE during our Sunday worship service.

Sunday School will meet at 9:45 a.m. in the Church for songs and a children's message, then the children go to the fellowship rooms for VBS style lessons.

At 10:00 a.m. in the Church while the children are in Sunday School, we will begin our worship service, providing parents the opportunity

to be fed in the Service of the Word, hearing God's Word while the children are hearing God's Word in an age-appropriate setting.

Just before we begin the celebration of Holy Communion the children join their parents in the Church, as we, together as a family, as church, as the body of Christ receive the true presence of

Christ together in His Holy meal.

Registration for Sunday School is open now, contact Susan at the Church office.

The date is set, the planning teams are meeting preparing for this exciting day; the most exciting Sunday of the Church year and what will prove to be the most exciting Sunday in the life of THE LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH.

Please SAVE-THE-DAY and help us spread the Word.

*Each Sunday  
after Easter we  
will continue to  
celebrate Christ's  
resurrection.*

# Chapel with Pastor Vetrano is Day School Favorite

By Lisa Dennelly

There is a squeal of excitement in the four-year-old class at The LIFE Day School. Mrs. Cassino has just told her class that they will have chapel that day.

Chapel with Pastor Vetrano is one of the favorite activities for the three and four-year-olds.

Pastor Vetrano starts chapel with a lesson that usually correlates with the church calendar. He does it in a simple manner; it is very understandable for the children.

After that Pastor pulls out the

guitar, and the singing and dancing begin. The songs are so great that the teachers and assistants can't help but dance along.

One of the children's favorite songs is "Chugga, Chugga, Clap, Clap, Roll." It involves hand motions about Jesus, love and heaven. Another favorite song requires the children to hug, mess one other's hair and tickle. Who wouldn't love that?

Pastor ends chapel with a prayer and a blessing. Talk about good Christian fun!



Pastor Justin Vetrano leads the Day School children in songs that tell of Jesus' love for them.

## Saturday Youth Group

By Jackie Kildale



The youth group helps with raking leaves at The LIFE's clean-up day.

Is there a youth program over at The LIFE Lutheran Church? You may be pondering this question yourself. Well, the answer is yes!

Every Saturday morning, our youth group meets from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Children, ages eight to thirteen years of age, gather together in Christian fellowship to play games, create a craft and have a healthy snack.

We also set aside a time at youth group to sit down together and talk about the positive and not so positive things that have happened through-

out our week. This time that we share brings us closer together as children of God.

Some activities that we have done this year include learning how to bake desserts, participating in team-building games and serving food at events.

A parent of a youth said to me, "My son looks forward to coming to The LIFE every week because he feels like he belongs to a group that will accept him." Our mission as a youth group is to create a Christ-centered, safe community, where children can come together in fellowship. Please continue to pray for our youth ministry program.

Special thanks to our volunteers: Brenda Mecchella, Kirsten Bond, Mike Santangelo, Cynthia Monthie and Tanya Chesterfield.

## Right Place; Right Time

By Paulina Janssen

Miracles continue to flow from the first Christmas miracle. This time the miracle happened at The LIFE, to Hispanic children in a small day care center. The children, but for this miracle, would have had no gifts to remind them of the greatest gift of all: Christ Jesus born to be our Savior.

The story began when a student in our ESL program asked about helping the ABC Three Sons Day Care Center, in Westbury. After meeting with the owner, Dora Guerra, we realized that Dora was a very special person. Taking only children whose families were on Social Services, she was fully aware of the difficulties these families face every day.

After we heard that many of these children had never received even one Christmas gift, we offered to help give the children a wonderful Christmas, the first in their early years. Dora gave us a modest list of toys that she felt the 20 children from ages 0 to 6 would want, and we got to work.

At the same time, a new member from Resurrection, Melanie Ras, a Girl Scout leader, was



Day Care children brighten with huge smiles for their Angel Tree gifts.

looking for a project for her troop to apply toward their Bronze Award. Together we set up an "Angel Tree" to collect the toys on Dora's list, asking the congregation at The LIFE to contribute as they could.

When the time came, at their Christmas party, the children received not only what Dora had suggested, but many more gifts from our congregation and the Girl Scouts. As the children opened their gifts with happy, smiling faces we were reminded of the most wonderful gift of all given to us now and always.