

the LIFE line

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March 2020

It's Time

By Pastor Justin Vetrano

Over the past 18 months the ministry staff and Church Council have been discussing our pathway forward as a church. We are excited to announce that **beginning Easter Sunday, April 12, we will begin celebrating with two Sunday worship services here at THE LIFE.**

In some ways this is a dream come true. As a fairly new church, it was not too long ago that I would anxiously wait on Sunday mornings to see if anyone was going to come to church. The number of people and families who now worship with us on a weekly basis is truly inspiring. Our attendance for the month of January was up 46% over last January. This is extremely exciting and, yet, also creates wonderful challenges.

I have heard from some people that the church these days is too crowded, difficult to find seats, and difficult to get in and out of—especially after church. Someone re-

cently said that a new family said they “loved the church when they visited, but it was a zoo.”

It's time.

The culture and environment people have grown to crave is in the community that gathers around the Word and Sacraments, as we express our joy in worship, and the comfort we experience in our deep relationships within a diverse community. The legitimate concern is that since we will not all be worshipping together on Sundays, we may somehow lose that culture.

What I can say is that the culture of THE LIFE that exists on Sundays *also* exists within our Thursday worshipping community; it exists every day when our Day School is in session; it exists on Saturdays with ESL; and it continues when each of our different communities gathers at THE LIFE. Our mission of Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ is lived out beyond Sundays at 10 a.m.

I am truly excited to see the blessings and LIFE that will continue grow here in our community with a second worship service.

Here are the particulars. The new worship schedule will be:

Thursdays 7 p.m.
Sundays 9 & 10:30 a.m.

Breakfast available after both Sunday Services

Sunday School & Confirmation available at the 10:30 a.m. service

*Sunday services will begin promptly at the posted time—no more late starts.

On Sundays, breakfast will be set up and ready for the end of the 9 a.m. Service and will stay open and freshly restocked well after the 10:30 a.m. service is over.

For now, we will offer Children's Ministries during the 10:30 a.m. service. However, if there is a need for Children's Ministries during the 9 a.m. service in the future, we will address those needs.

I want to thank the Deacons, Vicars, Musicians, Worship Assistants, Altar Guild, and all involved in making these shifts to accommodate our growing Church. This is a great “problem” to have.

We know that growth can bring new challenges, but our focus will always remain centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We truly believe that the additional worship service will serve us all better. We are not afraid to reevaluate this decision after a period of time and adjust accordingly.

All this to say, yes it's time to continue on with this exciting ministry here at THE LIFE. The time shifts will be an adjustment for us all. I welcome your feedback. My phone is always on, and my office door is always open for you to let me know your thoughts.

May God continue to bless this congregation, as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ: Reverently, Joyfully and Together.

See you around Church,
Pastor Vetrano 

Join us for your time of THE LIFE!

Sundays	Worship with Communion, 10am Children's Sunday School, 9:45am
Tuesdays	Bible Study, 11am
Thursdays	Dinner, 6:15pm Worship with Communion, 7pm
Mar 2-31	Compline, 6:45pm (M, T, W, F, Sa)
Mar 4	Men's Ministry, 7:30pm
Mar 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins: Don't be late for church!
Mar 9	Women's Ministry, 7:30pm

Getting to Know... Eileen and Mike Goropeuschek

By Joni Mazer

The Goropeuscheks are almost my neighbors (they live in Levittown and I in East Meadow), so I invited them over to my house to chat, and what a joy it was! They are a lovely couple, and I encourage you to say hello to them when you see them around church. They arrived at my home as fellow church members and left as new friends!

JM: How long have you been worshipping at THE LIFE?

MG: Since November 4, 2018.

JM: Wow, you know the exact date!

MG: Yes, we realized that the time had changed to Daylight Savings Time, so we decided to go to THE LIFE. At the time, we didn't realize that Pastor Vetrano was there and were very pleasantly surprised to see him. Everyone was so warm and welcoming that we couldn't stop coming back!

JM: What do you like most about THE LIFE?

EG: The sense of community and that everyone is so down to earth and friendly.

JM: Are you involved in any activities and/or ministries at THE LIFE?

EG: We just started ushering this week, and Max is training us. We're both involved in Men's and Women's Ministry and really enjoy it.



(above) Eileen and Mike on their first date in December 2004;

(left) Eileen and Mike celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in July 2019.

MG: We volunteered to help Vicar Dan and the kids make a taco dinner, and then we played games such as a scavenger hunt. The kids are really fun.

EG: In April we plan to help/teach them to make homemade ravioli with a recipe handed down through Mike's family (along with Dan Giardino).

JM: What do you do outside of church?

MG: I am a Sergeant with the Nassau County Deputy Sheriff's Warrant Squad. I also teach EMT/Paramedic classes at Northwell.

EG: I work for Nassau BOCES doing purchasing and accounting. We love to travel and spend three weeks every year at our timeshare in St Maarten, our favorite travel destination. We've made close friends there and love the beaches and sense of community. It's our home away from home. We spend a lot of time with family and have three older children. Mike's mom, Linda comes to church too, and we're thankful for that.

JM: Do you have a favorite Bible verse?

MG: John 15:13 - "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." For me, it's about living life in service to others.

JM: How has God worked in your life?

MG: In my 28 years in EMS and 13 years in law enforcement, God has enabled me to have an impact on many lives. Holding the hand of someone who lost a loved one, bringing a new life into the world, or lending an ear to someone in need. Shortly after coming to THE LIFE, on December 6, 2018, I had unexpected open-heart surgery. I went through some pretty dark times dealing with my mortality. My wife, my mother, and my faith in God, along with Pastor Vetrano's support, helped bring me through it and has changed my whole outlook on life.

EG: I was going through a very difficult time in my life after a divorce, and while taking a class at the Police Academy, I met Mike, who was my instructor. I didn't realize it at first, but by the end of the course, we really connected. On the last day of class, he asked me out. We went into Manhattan, took a horse and buggy ride in Central Park, and an artist drew a portrait of us. Then we went out to dinner, and he brought flowers and candy to the restaurant. It was really sweet. On our tenth wedding anniversary, he recreated our first date. We're so blessed! **L**

the **LIFE**

LUTHERAN CHURCH
& DAY SCHOOL

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A Growing Opportunity

By Pam Demarest and Lynn Albers

With the emergence of Spring many of us anticipate the abundance of vegetables we will harvest from our gardens in the coming months. From the early tender greens of lettuce and kale, to the sweet peas and string beans, and then the spicy radishes, garlic and scallions, until finally the cucumbers, squash and tomatoes are ready to eat, we know the fruits of our labor will be satisfying. Even if the carrots are stubby, the celery short, and the tomatoes are spotty, the flavor will be remarkable. This is the reward for growing your own organic vegetables.

Dating back to when THE LIFE was just a seed at this beautiful location in Old Westbury, members shared their God-given talents to work the land and produce food for a growing congregation. We are blessed to have the property available to plant a garden here and grateful for the volunteers willing to pitch in to plant and reap the harvest for all to enjoy.



Yummy string beans, anyone?

As we plan for this year's garden, we look upon the failures and successes to guide us on our way. With the introduction of new varieties of plants to grow each year, the list of vegetables is overwhelming. The opportunity to grow produce not available in the local markets has been our focus for the past few seasons.

Last year we grew four varieties of kale, three varieties of string beans, two varieties of soybeans, three varieties of egg-

plant, six varieties of peppers, three varieties of squash, two varieties of cucumber, one variety of watermelon, and fifteen varieties of tomatoes. We even had room for some basil, parsley, rhubarb, celery, onions, garlic and lovage.

The abundance of harvest was great. Last year was a learning experience, and this season will be no different. The goal is the same, but the plant selection will change.



Bountiful harvest from 2019



THE LIFE Garden gets an early start in the Spring of 2019.

Before we can do any planting, some preparation is needed. Due to the construction of the parking lot, the garden area needs to be relocated slightly to allow for improvements and easy maintenance of the parsonage grounds. This will require the removal of the wire fence and gates, as well as the removal of some existing lawn areas to create a new planting space away from the new white picket fence. The irrigation sys-

tem can then easily be revised and installed as needed. Once we do a bit of weeding and add some organic fertilizer to the soil, we'll be ready to plant.

Many hands make light work. So, whether you are curious or ambitious, please plan to join us on Saturday, April 18, at 10 a.m. for Green Thumb Day.

It all begins with a seed. **L**

COMPLINE
— NIGHT SERVICE —
OF WORD & PRAYER

Every evening in Lent (except Thursdays & Sundays)
6:45 Church open for prayer - 7:15 Night Prayer Service
7:30-7:45 Silent or individual prayer

“Every Child Is An Artist”

By Lisa Dennelly, Day School Director



The children re-create a Keith Haring painting.

“Every child is an artist” ~ Picasso

There is so much truth in Pablo Picasso’s quote.

At THE LIFE Lutheran Day School, creativity is encouraged on a daily basis, whether it’s through art, conversation or movement activities. The children are always asked to think outside the box.

visits the classes twice a month, exposing the children to artists like Claude Monet, Jasper James, and Keith Haring. Mrs. Rick shares a few of the specific artists’ work, explains their process and has the students re-create one of the artists’ paintings on a very basic level. The children use different art media to make the pictures.

The Doodlin’ Davinci art program introduces the three- and four-year- old classes to different artists and art media. Mrs. Rick

The children love when Mrs. Rick comes to their classrooms. As with all the children’s creations at THE LIFE, no project looks like another. Each student sees things their way, and that’s how they are allowed to create it. That’s the true meaning of creativity.

With Mrs. Rick’s ability to allow the children to enjoy the art process, some students are taking art classes outside of school because they love the experience. **L**

Devotion: Finding Peace in our Trials

By Deacon Melissa Essigman

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

The dictionary defines a tribulation as “distress or suffering resulting from oppression or persecution; or a trying experience.” Admittedly, I have recently been faced with a parental trial, and I can honestly say it has been a challenge to be of good cheer. I haven’t been happy, and I certainly have not felt at peace.

During a particularly low point, I told my son that “valleys” are a part of life and

proceeded to discuss some of the trials in the lives of friends and family members. I made sure to tell him that this was not intended to belittle or compare his pain to others, but a way to remind him that he is not alone. I noted that we can overcome any trial with God’s love and the many ways in which God shows us love as we navigate from darkness back into light. How funny it can be when we know the right words to say, but we can’t quite seem to translate that to the trials in our own hearts.

In today’s world, it can be very easy to forget that our trials are a part of our lives as humans. We look around and see the “highlight reels” of others on social media. We don’t ask for help from others thinking we can manage on our own.

Even as Christians, we can forget about God’s great love for us. As Pastor Vetrano often says, we are a broken people. Things happen to us and because of us. We are imperfect souls, but the good news is that Jesus has atoned for our sins in the ultimate trial: his death on the cross. In His death, He has overcome the world and has given us the gift of eternal life. This message is crucial to remember, especially in the dark times of our lives: the times when we feel broken and unsure, face rejection, lose hope, or forget the extraordinary person God created us to be.

The good news is that it doesn’t matter how broken we are. We are not alone. God is ever present in our lives always offering us light amidst our darkness. In Him, may you find peace. **L**