



ST. JOHN-INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

November 2017

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Services

8:15 and 9:30 am at St. John's

11:00 am at Incarnation

Sunday School – Grades K-6

9:30 AM at St. John's



A Message from Pastor Alex...

Whenever St. Paul wrote to the early churches, his greetings almost always included words of gratitude to God for those he was speaking to. Before getting into any theology or addressing congregational issues, the apostle first took a moment to say thank you:

"I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind -- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you -- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ." ~ 1 Corinthians 1:4-7 ~

"When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus." ~ Philemon 4 ~

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ~ Philippians 1:3-6 ~

Even after he was arrested and thrown into prison, Paul was able to tell the Philippians how grateful and *joyful* he was for their witness to the gospel. Indeed, Paul never ceased in thanking God in his prayers for the believers in these first century communities. Not only did he appreciate their support for his ministry, but Paul also commended them for their faithfulness and obedience to God's Word, their resiliency in the face of challenges and turmoil, and their labors of love to their neighbors in need.

Thankfully, I am not sitting in a jail cell and bound in chains as I write to you this month (although if I don't pay the parking ticket that I got last week, December may be a different story 😊). I am, however, incredibly thankful to God for all of you at St. John-Incarnation and for the work that we've accomplished together in the past year. The obvious highlight was our long-awaited merger approval from the synod, and I want to thank you for your patience and trust throughout that process. I also want to offer my gratitude to the merger committee for all the work they did in getting us to this point. We are almost there, and our committee will meet later this month to figure out the next steps as we embark on this new thing that God is doing in our church!

Thank you for putting your faith into action – for your generosity and willingness to share your various talents and gifts. Your dedication has been a constant source of inspiration for me in my own ministry and this has helped me become a more effective pastor and a better man. I am so grateful that the Lord put me here at St. John's. The past four years have been sheer blessing, and I am overjoyed when I think about all that we've accomplished together by God's grace as well as the opportunities that will be in front of us going forward.

As we prepare ourselves for Advent and "the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ," I pray that you may experience the same joyful gratitude to God for one another that I do for all of you. To quote St. Paul, "How can I thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that I feel before our God because of you?"

God's blessings to you and your loved ones this Thanksgiving.

Peace +

Pastor Alex

A Message from the Financial Secretary of St. John's...

Dear Members and Friends,

In anticipation of our merger with Incarnation Lutheran Church in Cedarhurst our envelopes (which must be ordered a year in advance) have had St. John of the Incarnation Lutheran Church written on them. Our envelopes for 2018 also have St. John of the Incarnation Lutheran Church written on them.

Please do not write checks to St. John of the Incarnation Lutheran Church. Our bank will not cash them.

Please continue to write your checks to: St. John's Lutheran Church.

As you know the Synod Council of the Metropolitan NY Synod unanimously approved our proposal for merger with Incarnation Lutheran Church in Cedarhurst! Our legal paperwork will be submitted to the Attorney General of NY for final approval, which we hope/anticipate will happen soon. Our new name will be St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God!

I will keep you updated on any changes that will need to be addressed.

May God bless you always! Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Sincerely,

Joan Pirrone
Financial & Recording Secretary




*Congratulations to Noah Berkowitz
who will be receiving his First Communion on
Sunday, Nov. 26th!
Please join us for this celebration!*



*Thank you to everyone
who donated coats
for our Fall Coat Drive!
We collected over 50 coats that
will be sent to Beacon House.*

Calendar of Events for November:



Sunday, November 12	Worship at St. John's Sunday School WELCA meeting at St. John's Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am
Tues., November 14	Evangelism meeting Church council meeting	6:30 pm 7:30 pm
Wed., November 15	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Thurs., November 16	Choir rehearsal	7:30 pm
Fri., November 17	Girl Scout meeting	4:00 pm
Sunday, November 19	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Commitment Sunday at St. John's Worship at Incarnation Memorial service Millie Magnusson at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am
		
Wed., November 22	Interfaith Thanksgiving service at Bethany Congregational Church – East Rockaway	7:30 pm
Thurs. November 23	Happy Thanksgiving!	
Sunday, November 26	Worship at St. John's No Sunday School First communion for Noah Berkowitz Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am
Wed., November 29	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Thurs., November 30	Choir rehearsal	7:30 pm

Looking forward to December:

Sunday, December 3 Advent 1	Advent wreath-making workshop w/ pizza	11:00 am
Tues., December 5	Knitting Circle	7:30 pm
Tues., December 12	Evangelism meeting Church council meeting	6:30 pm 7:30 pm
Thurs., December 14	Holiday Luncheon sponsored by WELCA	12:00 pm
Sunday, December 17	Sunday School Christmas Pageant	9:30 am
Thurs., Dec. 7, 14, 21	Holden Evening Prayer Advent Services	7:00 pm

SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER 2017

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFERS	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
11/12	9:30	Ashley Gavin	Ashley Gavin	Hank Lenz	Hank Lenz	Bob Reckhart & Tyler Rouse
	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
11/19	9:30	Victoria Ramirez	Victoria Ramirez	Janet Pescatore	Janet Pescatore	Lori Fernez & Carol Clemente
	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
Christ the King 11/26	9:30	Tyler Rouse	Tyler Rouse	Kim Carlstrom	Kim Carlstrom	Doug & Kristina Palmer

SERVERS FOR DECEMBER 2017

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFERS	ASSIST. MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
12/3	9:30	Parker Sloan	Parker Sloan	Katharine Forte	Katharine Forte	Richard Dietrich & Janet Powell
	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
12/10	9:30	Kaylee Palmer	Kaylee Palmer	Susan Masciello	Susan Masciello	Dan Gonzalez & TBD
		NO	8:15	SERVICE		
Pageant 12/17	9:30	Elizabeth Hanson	Elizabeth Hanson	Hank Lenz	Hank Lenz	Young members
Christmas Eve DAY	8:15	NO	8:15	SERVICE		
Lessons & Carols 12/24	9:30	Christopher Dunn	Christopher Dunn	Claire Lenz	Claire Lenz	Bob Reckhart & Tyler Rouse
Christmas Eve	7:30 pm	Victoria Dunn	Victoria Dunn	Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	Richard Dietrich &
12/24	Torch B.	Kaitlyn Gavin	Ashley Gavin	& Katharine Forte	& Katharine Forte	Kristina DeStefano
	Gospel B.	Tyler Rouse				
New Year's Eve 12/31	9:30	Tyler Rouse	Tyler Rouse	Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	Vinnie & Susan Masciello

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator: Pauline Feltkamp: Ushers 599-2273; Claire Lenz: Assisting Ministers & Lectors – 872- 2063; Church Office: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers & Gospel bearers- 599- 0778

THANK YOU!

To Pastor Alex and the Congregation of St. John's,

Thank you so much for your continued support as I study for my master's at John Jay. Your thoughtful gift will help me get through this very busy year!

Mike Fernez

Mike Fernez

St John's Family,

10/31

I just received my care package and I must say what a wonderful halloween surprise it is! Thank you so much for this more than generous gift and enjoy the holidays.

- Caitlin O'Meara

To the members of St. Johns,

Thank you all so much for the generous care package and for thinking of me while I am away at school. See you all in a few weeks! Thank you again!

Love,
Katie Lenz

No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I have prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes.

Martin Luther

Larry Lipitz
George Verity
Stephanie Moser
Anthony Posimato
Donna Valenti
Dorothy Hafner
Elaine Smith
Joann D'Ambrosio
Stephen Suppa
Jean Weber
Eleanor Haslett
Scott Masciello
Doreen Tietjen

Bob Robon
Gerda Weber
Ernest Weber
Sherry Powell
Carver Family
John Michael
Doris Oelschlager
Vivian Monaco
Larry Rienecker
Arlene
Sandy
Francesca
Inga Chiramonte

Joanne
Ryan
Grace
Sue
Faith
Elfride Lynn
Herb Lynn
Don Roth
Frank Zirilli
Joe
Denis Bradler
Joshua Emswiler

If would like to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please write the name(s) on a prayer request card in church or call or email the office at 599-0778 or stjohnslynbrook@aol.com. Please write how long you would like the name to remain on the list otherwise it will be removed after three weeks. Feel free to repeat your request at any time, we can all use prayers.

The theme for our stewardship campaign this year is
“Making Christ #1 in Our Lives”.

The program will conclude with
Commitment Sunday on November 19th
Thank you for your support!



KNITTING CIRCLE MINISTRY

POCKET PRAYER SHAWLS

What is a pocket prayer shawl?

As the name suggests, this is a miniature version of a prayer shawl that is small enough to fit inside of a pocket. As with all prayer shawls, the crafter infuses each stitch with a prayer or loving intention to provide love and goodwill to the person who will receive the small item. Pocket prayer shawls, also called prayer squares and prayer cloths, are small enough to be tucked into pockets, purses and even inside helmets. They can also be carried into surgery and taken on vacations.

Who needs pocket prayer shawls?

Who might receive a pocket prayer shawl? Anyone who needs the comfort of a handmade item! We all need a little bit of comfort sometimes; we aren't always comfortable asking for that but can often more easily accept the love of a handmade item. Pocket prayer shawls are available in the narthex for those who would like to offer a bit of comfort to a friend or loved one. We ask that you leave a \$1.00 donation for each square which will go towards continuing our ministry.

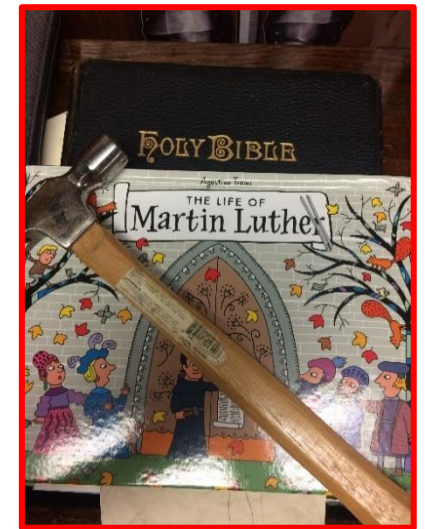
Please join us as we continue our Fall project knitting and crocheting hats and scarves for Seafarers International's Christmas drive. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the knotty pine room. No need to know how to knit or crochet. We can teach you!

God's work, our hands!



REFORMATION 500 SUNDAY

OCTOBER 29, 2017



Coming in December:

THE ADVENT WREATH FAMILY WORKSHOP



Come join us on December 3rd after the 9:30 AM worship and create your own family advent wreath! A pizza lunch, including soda and dessert will follow. A free-will offering will be received to help cover the costs of pizza and craft supplies. If you are planning to join us, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex along with the number of people who will be attending with you. You can also register by contacting the church office at 516-599-0718 or stjohnslynbrook@aol.com.

We hope to see you there!
Sponsored by WELCA

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

We need families or individuals to light a candle on the Advent Wreath and say the blessing during our worship services throughout the 4 weeks of Advent: December 3rd, December 10th, December 17th. If interested, please contact the church office or sign the sheet in the narthex.

Once you have signed up, we will give you the blessing to read over before your assigned day.



THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGAENT
will be performed on DECEMBER 17TH
at the 9:30 AM service



WELCA will be hosting a **Christmas Luncheon** on
Wednesday, December 14th, at 12:00 pm.
If you would like to join us, please add your name to the
sign-up sheet posted in the narthex.
Bring a friend!



Once again, in conjunction with our annual Giving Tree Project, we would like to help the ELCA during this holiday season with some of the wonderful things they provide for the underprivileged in other parts of the world. Some of the ways you can help fight hunger and poverty along with the ELCA through this program: Donations of ...

- ✓ \$10 buys a mosquito net, chicks, a fruit tree seedling, or a backpack stocked with food
- ✓ \$12 buys water jugs, \$20 buys honey bees, and \$38 will train an evangelist
- ✓ \$30 buys a pig, vaccinations for a child, or supports a young adult in a global mission for a day
- ✓ \$40 pays for school fees and uniforms
- ✓ \$50 buys a goat
- ✓ \$125 buys a sheep

How YOU can help ...

Our Advent Tree will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex near the bell. The tree will have ornaments in all the varied amounts stated above. Before or after either service on Sunday mornings (beginning November 19th) you can go to the tree and select the ornament with the amount and type of giving (for example, honey bees for \$20) that you would like to donate. (If you do not see what you are looking for on the tree, please ask, as we do have extras.)

Please give your donation (cash or check made out to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) to Lori Fernz in the Narthex -- and you may keep the ornament to hang on your Christmas tree at home, as a reminder that Christmas is all about giving to others! Donations will be collected through December 24th. Thank you for your generosity and have a blessed Christmas season.



THE GIVING TREE

BRINGING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS TO FAMILIES IN NEED

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, St. John's has delivered some wonderful Christmas gifts to families who may have had no gifts at all. We will soon be setting up our Giving Tree once again, and we are hoping to deliver more of God's love this Christmas season.

Can you please help us bring some Christmas spirit to some families in need? Beginning on November 19th, there will be a small table-top Christmas tree set up in the narthex with "gift tags" hung on its branches. These tags will list a name and one specific item requested by that individual. Most items requested are very basic things – a pair of pajamas, a sweatshirt, or a simple toy.

If you would like to donate one or more items, select a gift tag from the Giving Tree and follow the instructions given. Donations need to be brought in by Sunday, December 10th:

It is essential to begin and end this project early in order to get the gifts to their recipients in time for the holidays.

Your generosity will bring joy to someone in need this holiday season and will reinforce the true meaning of Christmas.

Thank you for your support!

Lori Fernz

DONATIONS ARE DUE AT ST. JOHN'S NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 10TH!

Christmas-at-Sea

Would your congregation like to bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their families for Christmas? Our port chaplains bring satchels filled with gifts to the ships they visit in the weeks prior to Christmas. Later, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, when the ship is in the middle of the ocean, the captain holds a holiday celebration and every crew member will open their satchels, each containing



One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size L-XL),
Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or white gym,
One Casual Pullover T-Shirt (size M-L),
One Knit Winter Cap,
One Can of Nuts or Large Bar of Chocolate, and a
Christmas Card from you!

*(You pick the colors, styles and brands you wish, but please no substitutions from the list.
The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the crew).*

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes a joyous occasion, not just because of the beautiful gifts received, but because complete strangers ashore have taken the time to share the spirit of Christmas with these otherwise forgotten seafarers. It's awesome!

Your congregation may want to assemble complete Christmas-at-Sea satchels for an entire ship. Generally, a ship's crew consists of 25 seafarers. Of course, we're grateful for any number of satchels your congregation can fill. If it is more convenient, you can supply a quantity of just one or two of the gift items. There are sales on many of these gifts throughout the year, so you may want to get a jump start on purchasing them. Or you may write a check and have us purchase the items for you. Typically, a completely filled satchel costs about \$25.

Our port chaplains start to distribute the Christmas-at-Sea satchels after Thanksgiving, so we start collecting them as soon as your congregation is ready through December 15th. Call or email one of the following persons to order the number of satchels you want to fill or to receive further information. Remember to put a return address on your Christmas cards, because occasionally the ship captain or crew members will send you a personal note of appreciation, and you'll find these notes are just priceless.



Blessings to you for your outreach to seafarers.

Noreen Fleming
212-677-4800 (ext. 1218)
nfleming@sihnyc.org

Chris Roehner
212-677-4800 (ext. 1203)
cwr@sihnyc.org

Ruth Setaro
203-687-2177
ruthsetaro@snet.net



*COME JOIN
US TO
DECORATE
CHOCOLATE
HOUSES*

On Sunday, December 10th after the
9:30 Service. Everyone is invited to
decorate a

Chocolate House
\$10.00 each

Please Sign Up, So We Know How Many Houses to Make

Donations of Candy to Decorate Houses Appreciated



Proceeds will go to support
St. John's Sunday School
Program, Youth Activities
and Vacation Bible School