



St. John of the Incarnation MESSENGER February 2016

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:

If home is truly where the heart is, then in honor of Valentine's Day I would like to offer an opportunity for everyone at St. John's and Incarnation to experience an ancient custom of our faith – the blessing of homes. A house blessing is a great way to start a new year (I know it's now February, but 2016 is still young!) It's also appropriate when moving to a new residence or welcoming a new member into the home. Basically, ANY time is a good time to pray for God's presence and peace in our homes ☺

One particular home blessing prayer found in *The Book of Occasional Services* reads as follows: "Visit, O Blessed Lord, this home with the gladness of your presence. Bless all who live here with the gift of your love; and grant that they may manifest your love to each other and to all whose lives they touch. May they grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of you; guide, comfort, and strengthen them; and preserve them in peace, O Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen."



If you would like a blessing for your home, please call me at the church office (516-599-0778) or send me an email at rev.alexkennedy@gmail.com to schedule a visit. I am available any day of the week except Mondays, and I'll be more than happy to accommodate your schedule. Just let me know!

God's peace +

Pastor Alex



Calendar of Events for February 2016

Sunday, Feb. 14	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Worship at Incarnation Congregational Meeting at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	
Wednesday, Feb. 17	Bread, Bowl & Bible at St. John's Lenten Service at Incarnation	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	
Thursday, Feb. 18	Confirmation class Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	
Sunday, Feb. 21	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	
Wednesday, Feb. 24	Bread, Bowl & Bible at St. John's Lenten Service at St. John's	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	
Thursday, Feb. 25	Confirmation class Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm 7:30 pm	
Sunday, Feb. 28	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am	

LOOKING FORWARD TO MARCH:

Wednesday, Mar. 2	Bread, Bowl & Bible at Incarnation Lenten Service at Incarnation	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	
Tuesday, Mar. 8	Church Council Meeting 8:00 pm		
Wednesday, Mar. 9	Bread, Bowl & Bible at Incarnation Lenten Service at Incarnation	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

411 Bayview Avenue Cedarhurst, NY 11516 ~

Directions from St. John's Church:

1. Turn right onto Merrick Rd.
2. Turn slight left onto Peninsula Blvd.
3. Turn left onto Bayview Ave.
Bayview Ave is just past Cedarhurst Ave.
If you reach Hanlon Dr. you've gone a little too far.
411 BAYVIEW AVE is on the right.
Your destination is just past Monroe St.
If you reach W. Broadway you've gone a little too far.



SERVER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2016

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
2/14	8:15					
LENT 1	9:30	Tyler Rouse	N/A	Katharine Forte	Greg Kershner	Bill Benson & Richard Dietrich
2/21	8:15					
LENT 2	9:30	Kevin Hanson	N/A	Debby Lindman	Debby Lindman	Claire & Hank Lenz
2/28	8:15					
LENT 3	9:30	Victoria Ramirez	N/A	Roger Vargas	Bill Benson	Kristina & Doug Palmer

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2016

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
3/6	8:15					
LENT 4	9:30	Parker Sloan	N/A	Kim Carlstrom	Greg Kershner	Carol Clemente & Susan Masciello
3/13	8:15					
LENT 5	9:30	Christopher Dunn	N/A	Claire Lenz	Roger Vargas	Kevin Hanson & Kevin Hanson Jr.
3/20	8:15					
PALM SUN.	9:30	Elizabeth Hanson	Elizabeth Hanson	Hank Lenz	Hank Lenz	TBA
3/27 EASTER	9:30	Katie Lenz	Katie Lenz	1 AM Susan Masciello	Bill Benson	
SUNDAY	2 Torch Bearers	Ashley Gavin	Kaitlyn Gavin	2 AM Janet Pescatore		
	1 Gospel Bearer	Jesse Pace				Kristina & Doug Palmer

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; Jill Pace: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers & Gospel bearers- 599- 8896,

We have a St. John's Fund that is used for those expenses not met with our weekly offerings and our yearly pledges. Please consider donating to the St. John's Fund in memory or honor of loved ones to help defray our daily expenses. Please be aware that this is a different fund than the St. John's Memorial Fund.



*Donations have been made to the
St. John's Memorial Fund
in loving memory of*

Norma Dunn

by

The Richetti Family
Paul & Cristal Hild
Gerda Weber



Joseph Catalanotto

by

Anna Moser
Sharon Noonan
Bonnie Kedjierski
Wayne Williams

Lenten Worship Schedule

Please join us on Wednesday nights during Lent for
“Bread, Bowl & Bible”!

February 17th	at St. John’s
February 24th	at St. John’s
March 2nd	at Incarnation
March 9th	at Incarnation

Soup and bread will be served at 6:00 PM, and worship will
begin at 7:00 PM. Hope to see you there!





THE 2016 ST. JOHN'S CHURCH COUNCIL

Dorothy Criscuolo

Bill Lindman

Dennis Fernéz

Bruce Feltkamp

Joan Pirrone

Kim Carlstrom

Charlene Comastri

Andrew Dunn

Daniel Lenz

Ursula Lipitz

Susan Masciello

Doug Palmer

Charlie Volante

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Financial Secretary

Thank you for your dedication and service to our congregation!



St. John's has a new ministry.....

St. John's WELCA is beginning a Knit/Crochet Prayer Shawl Ministry group. They will meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the knotty pine room.

And don't worry! Even if you do not know how to knit or crochet, someone will be able to teach you!

Please join us for this new ministry at St. John's.

There will be refreshments, fun and fellowship!

Prayer Shawl Ministry



Larry Lipitz
George Verity
Stephanie Moser
Anthony Posimato
Donna Valenti
Dorothy Hafner
Elaine Smith
Joann D'Ambrosio
Stephen Suppa
Inga Chiramonte
Sharon Koehler

Linda Schramm
Eleanor Haslett
Scott Masciello
Phyliss Mihalich
Rachel Jeremie
William Geier
Alan Queen
Doreen Tietjen
Lisa Goldman
Jean Weber
Sister Irene

Bill Davison
David Pontius
Al Davis
Irene Hopkins
Michael Simmons
Nicole Sosa
Lourdes Jimeniz
Lil Lulewich
Donna Mariello
Bob Robon



If you would like to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please write the name(s) on the prayer request card in your bulletin, 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.



Welcome to the newest member of God's Family....

Danielle Anne Zoffinger!

*Daughter of Bryan and Jennifer Zoffinger,
Danielle was baptized at St. John's by
Pastor Alex, on February 6th!
Welcome Danielle!*

ASHES TO GO

Many LIRR commuters were able to get ashes Wednesday when Pastor Alex met them at the Lynbrook train station with ashes and a blessing!
Thanks Pastor Alex!



SEASONAL CHOIR FOR EASTER

Like to sing? Thought about joining the choir, but can't commit to coming all year-round? Here's your chance to share your gift of music on a short-term basis! Come Thursday nights at 7:30 PM, to prepare to help lead the congregation in song during worship on Palm Sunday (March 20) and Easter Sunday (March 27). Everyone – male & female; young adult & “senior”; soprano, alto, tenor, or bass – is welcome. Have questions? Talk with Allison Koehler, choir director

Thank you to the Ladies of the Altar Guild for keeping our church ready for our worship services!

*Carol Clemente
Dorothy Criscuolo
Pauline Feltkamp
Debby Lindman
Joan Pirrone*

*Charlene Comastri
Diane Dake
Allison Koehler
Kristina Palmer*



A Message from Pastor Chang:

Global Lutheranism: Learning from Lutherans Around the World (My Part Is China)

My focus will be a bit of history, illustrated with pictures.

Lutherans impacted my life. Lutherans have more than 100 years of Chinese ministry experience, with Lutherans going to China and to Southeast Asia. How can we lift up God's Good News in New York? I am crying to help my own people, just as Saint Paul's passion to help Jewish people.

I grew up in Hong Kong, which was a former fishing village 200 years ago. I love the image of fishing, and how Jesus worked to be a fisher of people. Imagine doing that in by big fishing boat or those large nets called trawls. Even if we fish all night and don't get anything, Jesus might tell us to cast our net to the right side of the boat, and catch hundreds of fish! Now what will we go with all those fish? Freeze, put them in cans or stir-fry them? Just kidding!

My home is here now, in my role as a pastor and chaplain all these 20 years since my ordination. And Brooklyn, New York is the home of the largest population of Chinese immigrants in the United States. I wonder how we can reach them more effectively.

For the past 15 years in New York City, I've touched many souls in various capacities, but was not able to build up a strong Chinese congregation. I wonder what I have been missing along the way.

Nationally our ELCA Center for Chinese Ministry is working hard also. However, we only have some 30 plus congregations. How will we reach the goal of 2% church growth every year?

I wonder what we need to change, to show the best of what a church can be, to this large population that has come from an even larger population of 1.3 billion in China. How can we improve in our hospitality and readiness to welcome newcomers, who are among the new waves of immigrants from China every day in New York?

It seems we need a new paradigm. That could mean:

- * relocating our ministry
- * coming up with new formats
- * finding new ways to use building and resources
- * supporting pastors further so that they can stay and serve.

The Rev Thomas Chen, director of the ELCA Center for Chinese Ministry, has said that the ELCA's theological stance of recognizing gay or lesbian ordained leaders has caused our strongest Chinese congregations to withdraw from our denomination. We can't prevent these conflicts. But how can we still proceed with the vision and mission for God's kingdom here and now?

In our Brooklyn turf, we have had Danish Salaam, Swedish Salem, English Incarnation, Finnish Gloria Dei, Norwegian Zion, German St Jacobi, Bethlehem, St. John's...14 congregations in all when I arrived for my call at St Jacobi on February 1, 2000. Today, most of these congregations struggle to be self-supporting and strong in outreach to newcomers. What do you think our next steps can be to do justice, have mercy and walk with God as Lutheran leaders in New York?

How might Luther's Two Kingdoms theology to immigrants from China: the new waves who are young and rich with degrees in higher education and in Ivy League schools. How would we reach this group as compared to the others? Lutheran Social Services has done a great job in the past, but this new wave will be challenging!

Norwegian Free church and Norwegian Brethren Lutheran on 59th street have been a great support for Chinese ministry to China, Taiwan and Hong Kong. Pastor Larson from Trinity 46th Street also extends ministry across the Verrazano Bridge to Staten Island. They not only offer spiritual care but also language teaching and day care, and send missionaries to China and Taiwan. I know this because my parents' pastor came from that congregation, after I was called to St. Jacobi

Still, after 15 years experience in congregational ministry, and serving at the same time at Lutheran Medical Center, I am still puzzled about how we can answer God's call to be Good News people with newcomers from China.

How do we balance our Two Kingdoms philosophy into our daily lives with Chinese as we celebrate our first public Chinese New Year holiday in 2016 by state law? How can we be specifically useful to them in faith and spiritual care, as a church and ministers of Word and Sacraments? How can we pull our resources together and collaborate for more effective ministry and outreach? That is our task here and now!

May God bless us so that his will can be done on earth as it is in heaven! Amen.

Rev Mary L Chang
Jan 30th 2016 at Immanuel Lutheran Church
88th & Lexington in Manhattan



GIRL SCOUTS

GIRL SCOUT BAKE OFF AND FASHION SHOW

I want to thank everyone for their participation Friday night at the workshop. All your help made the night wonderful. You could see how excited the girls were to learn and absorb your information.

Thanks to the girls who performed the fashion show.

It was wonderful!

Thanks to the girls who did the flag ceremony! Great Job!

Thanks to the leaders for guiding the girls and following the schedules provided!

Thanks to Pat and her ambassador Elizabeth for their help wherever; they were needed!

Thanks to Jen and her kitchen staff-Grace, Jade and Peter Wilson (thanks for helping mom carry items to and from the car!)

Thanks to all the leaders and their troops who ran a station!

Thanks to Madison and Skylynne (and their mom's) for running a station. Thanks to our **WONDERFUL CAKE JUDGES!** Karen, Pastor Alex, Liz/Alicia-such difficult work.

Congratulations to our 1st-(Cinnamon-Sugar Cake), 2nd-(Chocolate Cake) and 3rd - (Red Velvet Cake)-place cake winners!

Thanks to all who set-up and who cleaned up!

Most of all thanks to Mr. Feltkamp for standing guard at the front door!

Thanks also for Karen, Pastor Alex and their congregation for allowing us to use her church once again!

The girls had a great time!

Thanks

Toni Wilson



A CALL FROM THE NEW LIFE CENTER

Easter is a joyous and glorious Time for us when we celebrate our Lord's Resurrection. For many that joy is overshadowed by a feeling of hunger. The New Life Center is asking for your help in providing Easter food baskets for the hungry. These baskets are much more than food. They are visible signs that carry the message of Christ's love and concern.

Please help by donating any of the following suggested items.

Cake mix and frosting
Juice
Canned fruit
Sugar/flour
Canned ham/Fresh ham
Chicken
Canned vegetables
Cereal- hot or cold
Cookies/crackers/candy
Macaroni and cheese/pasta/spaghetti
Mashed potatoes
Pudding/Jell-O
Napkins
1 lb. bags of rice
Coffee/tea/hot chocolate

*Bless the food before us,
the family beside us,
and the love between us. Amen*



In lieu of donations, grocery store gift certificates would be appreciated.

**ALL DONATIONS MUST BE AT CHURCH NO LATER THAN
FEBRUARY 6TH.**

Thank you everyone for all the support you have shown to the New Life Center's food pantry in the past and will continue to support in the future.