

# **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday Worship Service  
9:30 Worship**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
7:30 PM**

**Sunday School  
9:30 AM K through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**



St. John's Lutheran Church 516-599-0778

[www.stjohnslynbrook.org](http://www.stjohnslynbrook.org)

## *A Message from Pastor Jeff Laustsen~*

*"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."* – Luke 21:33.

The arrival of the last month of the year usually means that our thoughts turn to preparations for Christmas. We begin bringing our decorations out of the attic, string lights on our trees and houses, make our list of gifts and plan our trips to the mall or what websites we will visit to complete our shopping. In the church, December means the arrival of the season of Advent, with our wreaths and songs reminding us that it is time once again to "prepare the way of the Lord" as we await the coming of our Savior who will fulfill all of God's promises on our behalf.

But this year, the arrival of December also brings with it our continuing efforts to rebuild from the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy. For many of our families, they will not be able to celebrate Christmas in their homes this year; it may be several months before their damaged homes will once again be habitable. For many other families, they will be celebrating Christmas with family and friends who are living with them, and managing to set extra places at the table and put extra presents under the tree. For all of us, the arrival of Advent and Christmas bring with it the fear, anxiety and uncertainty that we have lived with ever since this super storm devastated so many of our homes and communities.

The reality of living in the midst of rebuilding will make this Advent and Christmas unlike any we have ever experienced. But the message of these holy seasons will speak to us a word of hope and joy that are especially needed in this time of darkness and despair. The child born of Mary in that little town of Bethlehem was born so that *"the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."* The glad tidings of the angels that came upon that midnight clear was spoken to *"you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,"* inviting all who are weary from the task of rebuilding their homes and their lives to *"rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing!"* Amidst the fear and anxiety that have been the constant companion of so many of our lives since the storm comes the message the angels first spoke to the fear-filled shepherds:

- "Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." – Luke 2:10-11.

We prepare for these seasons in the midst of unimaginable loss, facing a future that may be far different from the manner in which we lived even a few months ago. But we also enter into these holy seasons with the confident hope that no matter what losses we may have suffered, the one constant reality for us is that the presence of God is always with us, that the birth of Jesus is our assurance that we live constantly in the presence of the one who was born to be *Emmanuel* – God with us. We may not celebrate Christmas in the same places or under the same circumstances, but we will celebrate this holy day in the presence of the one who is with us always, whose *"light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it!"* (John 1:5).

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

# THANK YOU ~

It seems that in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving and Christmas we become more aware of those who are in need. Each year we are called upon to help those who are not as fortunate as we. Each year Lutheran Social Services depends on our generosity to bring food to those who would not have a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. The Seafarers & International House ask for warm clothing and sweets for those men who are out to sea and away from home. And our own Giving Tree helps provide toys and clothes to those who would spend Christmas without. This year the awareness of those in need has never hit home as closely as we or friends and family have lost homes, cars, and work places as a result of Hurricane Sandy.

What is truly God's work is the generosity of the members of St. John's for all of these charities. Without blinking an eye, our congregation has brought countless bags and boxes of food, toiletries, clothing, cleaning supplies and money to St. John's to be given to those who are in need.

A mere thank you is not enough to express how amazing the people of St. John's are as they open their hearts and wallets to help. No questions asked, no judgments made, no hesitation, just compassion and generosity at its best. It is for this that we **thank all of you. You truly do God's work.**



## **Donations have been made to the Memorial Fund**

In memory of Lillian Siemers  
By Charlene Comastri

In memory of Michael Scalza by  
Dotty Criscuolo,  
The Masciello Family,  
The Pirrone Family,  
Christel and Paul Hild,  
Gerda Weber,  
Lori and Dennis Fernez'  
Annette and Bill Benson,  
Lore and Don Regnier,  
Karin Seufert and Nan Moser

*November News*

# Harvest Festival 2012

In 1978 under the leadership of Pastor Robert Arnold, The St. John's Harvest Festival was started to raise funds for the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf. Mill Neck supplied St. John's with apples, apple cider, and apple butter. We did the selling and the profit was returned to Mill Neck Manor School.

When Mill Neck no longer participated, St. John's decided to continue the Harvest Festival each Fall selling not only apples and apple products but pumpkins, homemade cakes and pies, and our now famous Bric -A-Brac, giving pony rides and having a petting zoo for the children. We also have a special St. John's Harvest Festival Raffle with awesome prizes donated by some of our members and a very profitable 50/50 Raffle.

In keeping with the original purpose for the Harvest Festival, any profits we take in are donated to local charities. In the past few years we have supported Pinecrest Lutheran Camp, Run with the Owls in Lynbrook, The Barbara

Semmig Scholarship Fund, New Life Center in Uniondale, Su Casa from Susquehanna College, and other funds or agencies that have come to our attention.

This year once again, we were blessed with beautiful weather and many St. John's members who gave many hours organizing the event and then, with more volunteers, working the day of the festival. And as it has in the past, Harvest Festival 2012 was a grand successful with a net profit of \$3705.00.

I would like to thank each and every person who worked, bought a raffle ticket, or donated a cake, without out you; The St. John's Harvest Festival would not be a day of "Sharing God's Love."

*Pauline Feltkam*

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## **BRIC-A-BRAC COMMITTEE...**

Would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all who help us make this year's sale the BIGGEST & BEST EVER! With all of your help and purchases we were able to raise a total of \$1,685.46. Thanks again!

*Diane Dake and Sue Masciello*

## *Property People....*

And thank you to those who helped spiff up the church and the church grounds before the Harvest Festival, so St. John's looked it best!

**God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.**

## Youth Group News

The Youth Group has again set up the Giving Tree for this Christmas Season. All gift donations are due by December 9th. You may bring in any gifts you have on or before that date and place them in the box in the narthex. The Youth Group will wrap and deliver all presents to the New Life Center. Thank you so much for your continued generosity!

Lori Fernéz & Janet Powell

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

The Sunday School Students have been hard at work practicing their parts for St. John's annual Christmas Pageant. This year the presentation will be during the 9:30 AM worship on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

The students will also be decorating chocolate houses on December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to purchase a beautifully decorated chocolate house please order a chocolate house please call or email the church so that we can place your order. House are \$10.00. And do not forget to join us at worship December 16<sup>th</sup> to see the story of Christmas come alive with our wonderful Sunday School Children.



During the Christmas season, St. John's is festively decorated with poinsettias. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia for the church in memory or in honor of a family member or friend please complete and return the enclosed envelope with your payment in the offering plate or mail to the church so we may purchase a poinsettia in your name.

**Lutheran Social Services has sent St. John's a thank you letter for our generosity. This summer the members of St. John's donated 51 pounds of food and 2 car loads of school supplies. This November we again donated 30 pounds of food for the Holiday meals they provide.**

# **W.E.L.C.A. HOLIDAY LUNCHEON PARTY**

**Thursday, December 13th**

**at noon.**

**Men are invited too!**

Please join us and bring a dish to share.

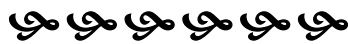
No desserts please.

**Please bring a non-perishable item for the needy.**

Sign up sheet in narthex

or email or call the church office before

December 10<sup>th</sup>.



**Please try to have all Sunday School children attend classes these next few weeks so they may have a part in the Christmas Pageant.**



***There will be no midweek Advent Evening Prayer services on Wednesday evenings this year.***



**All Committee reports must be submitted to the church by January 6<sup>th</sup>. You can email or drop off the report to the church office anytime before that.**

# DECEMBER 2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 12/2	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> Worship, 9:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM Youth Group, 9:30 AM Advent Wreath Family Workshop and Pizza Lunch, 11:00 AM
Tuesday, 12/4	Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM Council Meeting, 8:00 PM
Wednesday, 12/5	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM
Friday, 12/7	Girl Scouts, 4:00 PM
Sunday, 12/9	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> Worship, 9:30 AM Sunday School, 9:30 AM Decorating for Christmas after 9:30 worship All Giving Tree and Christmas at Sea donations due today!
Tuesday, 12/11	Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM Worship & Music Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, 12/12	Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 PM
Thursday, 12/13	W.E.L.C.A. Holiday Luncheon 12:00 PM
Saturday, 12/15	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Chocolate House Decorating, 9:30 AM
Sunday, 12/16	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> Worship, 9:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Pageant, 9:30 AM
Tuesday, 12/18	Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM
Wednesday, 12/19	Choir, 7:30 PM
Sunday, 12/23	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> Worship, 9:30 AM NO Sunday School
Monday, 12/24	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE 7:30 PM WORSHIP</b>
Tuesday, 12/25	<b>NO CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE</b>
SUNDAY, 12/30	WORSHIP, 9:30 AM

## Coming events...

Sunday, 1/6	All Committee reports due into the church office
Sunday, 1/20	Congregational Meeting after 9:30 worship



*Please do not forget your  
Stewardship pledges*



## SERVER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2012

DATE	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
<b>12/9</b> <b>Advent 2</b>	9:30 AM	Victoria Dunn	9:30 AM	Andrew Dunn	9:30 AM	Janet Pescatore
<b>12/16</b> <b>Advent 3</b>	9:30 AM	Ashley Gavin	9:30 AM	Karen Feltkamp	9:30 AM	Karen Feltkamp
<b>12/23</b> <b>Advent 4</b>	9:30 AM	<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	9:30 AM	<b>PAGEANT</b>		
<b>12/24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	7:30 PM	Elizabeth Hanson	9:30 AM	Janet Pescatore	9:30 AM	Dorothy Criscuolo
	Crucifer	David Powell		Claire Lenz		
	Torch Bearer	Jason Pace				
	Torch Bearer	Jesse Pace				
	Gospel Bearer	Tori DeStefano				
<b>12/25</b>	NO	CHRISTMAS	DAY	WORSHIP		
<b>12/30</b>	9:30 AM	Jessica Gonzalez	9:30 AM	Roger Vargas	9:30 AM	Roger Vargas

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator Bob Koehler: Assisting Ministers and Crucifers/Gospel bearers- 678-6623  
 Jill Pace: Acolytes and Torch bearers- 599-8896  
 Claire Lenz - Lectors: 872-2063

*Have  
a very bless*





*peace filled  
Christmas!*

*St. John's Parsonage Roof Appeal  
Fundraising Update*

As many of you are aware, at our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception a generous member of St. John's congregation pledged to match additional roof appeal pledges up to a total of \$5,000. As of November 25<sup>th</sup> we have received \$3,050.00 in matching funds, making our grand total to date for the roof fund \$13,190.00. We still have \$1,950.00 of matching funds to go. The Stewardship and Finance committee would like to thank the following people who have contributed to this matching fund pledge, and to those who have contributed before the Matching Funds. All names are posted on the bulletin board across from the coat rack in the Narthex. We are looking forward to having the work done soon.

**The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Matching Funds by:** Marjorie Gorr, The Larke Family, Pauline and Frank Feltkamp, Joan Pirrone, Andrea Sommella, Edward W. & Betty L. Edler, Richard N. Bulloss & Bruce W. Robertson, Lori & Dennis Fernež, Dave and Judy Opatow, Dorothy Criscuolo, Anna & Dan Lenz, C. William Gaylor, III, Sue & Vinny Masciello, Bill & Annette Benson, Bill Davison, The Hild Family, Ursula & Larry Lipitz, Diane Moser & Joe Posillico. **Matching Funds In Honor of:** Children & Grandchildren by Gerda Weber, Our Grandchildren by Blanche & Christopher Shelton **Matching Funds In Loving Memory of:** Arthur B. Robins Jr. by Arlene Germano, Frank & Elizabeth Sarver by Don Sarver, The Rev. & Mrs. Robert H. Arnold by The Mann Family, My grandparents – Kalny & Kavitsky by Robert B. Kalny, Loved Ones by Blanche & Christopher Shelton, Beloved Husband Mike Scalza by Heidi Scalza, Mike Scalza by Carol Clemente, Robert & Kathrina Klipfel by Albert Klipfel, Joan Geier by Carol Clemente

**If you would like to contribute to this project please fill out the following:**

Please mail your contribution to:

St John's Lutheran Parsonage Roof Fund

13 Blake Avenue

Lynbrook, NY 11563

Or, please drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you!!!

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Parsonage Roof Shingle Gift

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of Shingles/ \$Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_