



St. John of the Incarnation Parish

MESSENGER

December 2015

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



From the Desk of Pastor Alex:

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our creator and our coming Lord and savior, Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

As most of you know, over the past few months we at St. John's have begun to discuss a potential merger with Incarnation Lutheran Church in Cedarhurst. The first step in this process has been the formulation of a joint planning committee, which consists of members from both churches along with Pastor Chang and myself. The committee met for the first time in the beginning of November, and at that meeting we identified some areas where our two congregations could collaborate and share ministry. One of these areas is a shared monthly newsletter.

So welcome to the first edition of *The St. John of the Incarnation Parish Messenger!* This new format will include information about both congregations: worship times, mission and outreach activities, social events, correspondence, a combined calendar, etc. In the coming months, you will also find some historical information about each congregation and some specific ministry projects that we will do together. Our hope is that this newsletter will help our congregations get to know one another better as we begin to cultivate our relationship together as a combined parish.

May you and your loved ones have a blessed Christmas, and may OUR joy be found in giving our hearts to Christ – the One who graciously gave His all to us.

God's Blessings and Peace +

Pastor Alex



Calendar of Events for December 2015

Wednesday, Dec. 2	Weeknight Advent Worship Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm 7:30 pm
Thursday, Dec. 3	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Friday, Dec. 4	Girl Scout Meeting	3:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 6 2 nd Sunday of Advent	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Making Chocolate Houses - after worship Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am
Tuesday, Dec. 8	Evangelism Meeting Church Council Meeting	7:00 pm 8:00 pm
Wednesday, Dec. 9	Weeknight Advent Worship Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm 7:30 pm
Thursday, Dec. 10	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 13 3 rd Sunday of Advent	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am
Wednesday, Dec. 16	Weeknight Advent Worship Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm 7:30 pm
Thursday, Dec. 17	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 20 4 th Sunday of Advent	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Christmas Show Christmas Caroling Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 5:00 pm 11:00 am
Thursday, Dec. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT INCARNATION	7:30 pm 11:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 27	Service of Lessons and Carols (No 8:15 am service at St. John's) Worship at Incarnation	9:30 am 11:00 am



LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY:

Sunday, Jan. 10	WELCA meeting after 9:30 worship at St. John's
Sunday, Jan. 24	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING following 9:30 am worship at St. John's

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2015

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
12/13	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	Heidi Scalza
ADVENT THREE	9:30	Christopher Dunn	Dan Gonzalez	Janet Pescatore	Greg Kershner	Dorothy Criscuolo & Susan Masciello
12/20	8:15					Heidi Scalza
ADVENT FOUR	9:30	Kaitlyn Gavin	Dorothy Criscuolo	Katharine Forte	Katharine Forte	Kevin Hanson Kevin Hanson Jr
12/24	7:30 PM	Victoria Dunn	Victoria Dunn	1 Claire Lenz	Claire Lenz	Bill Benson
Christmas Eve				2 Dorothy Criscuolo		Richard Dietrich
	TB 1	Victoria Ramirez				
	TB 2	Elizabeth Hanson				
	GB	Christopher Dunn				

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,



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

Norma Dunn
by
Cora Sarver
Joan Pirrone

WARM COATS FROM WARM HEARTS



We want to thank anyone who donated a coat for our winter coat drive. Because of your generosity, we collected 80 coats and jackets! Thank You and God Bless You!

Susan Masciello
And The Evangelism Committee



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the **Sunday School Food Drive**. Your generous donations taught our Sunday School children what the spirit of giving is and how helping others is a gift that is priceless! We donated 390 lbs of food for those in need!



If you would like your child to receive First Communion, please contact *Pastor Alex* by calling or emailing the church office.

Classes begin in January.

H O L Y



C O M M U N I O N

If you would like to send Christmas and Holiday wishes to our homebound members, there is a list of names and addresses at the back of the church. You can also email the church office and we will be happy to email you the



HELP DECORATE ST. JOHN'S FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Join us on December 13th after worship to help decorate the church for Christmas this year!



St. John's will be going Christmas Caroling

December 20th at 5:00 PM to our homebound members. If you would like to join us, meet at St. John's Church **promptly** at 5:00 PM.

Hope to see you there!



If you would like to have a Poinsettia(s) on the altar during the Christmas season in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the Poinsettia Flower envelope and drop it in the offering basket.

You can also mail it to the church or drop it off in the church's mailbox during the week.

This is a free will offering.



THANK YOU!

The Stewardship and Finance Committee would like to thank all who participated in our annual stewardship appeal this year. “Make It Simple” focused on simplicity, generous living, and the faithful use of God’s abundant blessings to help us grow as disciples of Christ in our daily lives. We have experienced a good response in estimates of giving through the Commitment Cards. If you have not yet responded with your Commitment Card it is not too late to participate. Commitment cards are located in the back of the church.

In reading the “Messenger” you know there are lots of exciting things happening at St. John’s. Our ministry is only possible because of the generous and faithful support from you! We thank you very much for your continued commitment to our mission as we share God’s love with those in need.

The Stewardship Committee

INCARNATION NEWS...

WELCA THANKOFFERING SERVICE

The Ladies of Incarnation participate each year in a WELCA Thankoffering service.

Each year the ladies participate in all aspects of the worship service. This year Pastor Noto led us with a meaningful sermon. All year we collect coins and cash in a long standing tradition dating back to the 1800s, when Christian women formed “mite” or “cent” societies to fund mission.

When others in the church said there was not enough money to carry out these projects, the women believed otherwise. In these societies, each woman collected offerings at home.

On occasion, they would gather as we do today to worship and combine their offerings and offer them up with thanks and praise. When Women of the ELCA was formed nearly 30 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are collected and sent to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given to us, and with hope for all that is to come LINC continues this tradition.