



# **ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER**

## **November 2015**

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Worship Services**  
**8:15 AM and 9:30 AM**  
**Sunday School Classes**  
**Grades K-6**  
**9:30 AM**

## *From the Desk of Pastor Alex:*

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In this edition of the St. John's Messenger, you will find many thank-you notes and words of gratitude, which is obviously very fitting for the month of November with Thanksgiving just a few weeks away. And yet, this isn't anything new or different. Every edition of our church newsletter is filled with thankfulness and appreciation. After all, we are Lutherans! Giving thanks is what we do best, and we certainly have much to be grateful for!

Martin Luther believed that giving thanks is the greatest service to God: "We cannot perform any greater or better work for God, nor can we render Him a nobler service than thanking Him." Why? Because God has given us the most incredible gift through the gospel of Jesus Christ, and we can give nothing in return for this amazing grace except our praise, honor, and gratitude. As we say in worship each Sunday before Communion, "It is right to give our thanks and praise."

Yes, it is right to give our thanks, and here at St. John's it is also very easy. Whether it's our beautiful building and memorial garden, our church council and ministry committees, our Sunday School program and choir, our dedicated staff and volunteers, or even our new joint parish committee with Incarnation, it is quite clear that God has blessed us abundantly. May our gratitude continue to inspire us to share God's love as we carry out our mission to this community and beyond.

Have a happy and joy-filled Thanksgiving!

Peace +

*Pastor Alex*



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

*Annette Benson*  
by  
Barbara Baker  
James Scheerer

*We would like to thank two of our  
departed members, Robert Kaempf  
and Ruth Macaluso, who each left  
\$5,000 from their estates to St. John's  
Lutheran Church.*

*We are very grateful for their incredible  
generosity, which will help our  
congregation in its future ministry.*



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



**We are pleased to welcome Ava Evelyn Ruiz** to God's family through the sacrament of baptism. Ava was baptized at St. John's on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Ava's parents are Nicholas & Allison Ruiz. Her baptismal sponsors are Tina Murray & Christopher Ellinghaus. **Congratulations!**

# OUR COLLEGE KIDS SEND THEIR THANKS...

Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much for the amazing care package that was sent. It was extremely thoughtful of you all to remember me while I am at school. I will be set with school supplies and snacks for a while!

It was so great seeing many of you at the Harvest Festival and I look forward to seeing you all again around the holiday season!

Stay warm as it is already 25 degrees up here at Cornell!

Love,  
Carrie

P.S. I attached a photo with all of my snacks :)



Dear St. John's Church and  
Anybody who may have contributed,

Thank you very much for the care package you so generously sent me! I really appreciate all the effort that was clearly put into making it, I was completely blown away (just as I was last year) when I looked through the package and saw everything you gave me. I'm sure I speak for everyone who got a package when I saw it's very reassuring to know that the Church is still looking out for us. From the bottom of my heart, thank you again and have a blessed day.

Best regards,  
Chris Powell

Dear St. John's,

I just wanted to thank everyone at the church very much for the care package I received in the mail. It was a very generous gift and is sure to help me get through the rest of the college semester. Thanks again, and I hope to see you all soon!

Sincerely,  
David Powell

Thank you so much for the box full of goodies! It was such an awesome surprise and it is so nice to know that my church is thinking of me while I am away at school. Thank you to everyone who put my box together it will all go to good use!  
Thanks again!  
Danielle Dake

Dear St. John's,  
I really appreciate all the goodies you sent me this year. I am so grateful to have a second family to remind me they are always there for me. I appreciate everything you do!  
Sincerely,  
Matt Fernéz



Many thanks to everyone who donated items and helped with the preparation of the care packages and thank you especially to Susan Masciello and Karen Feltkamp for packaging and mailing the boxes.



# OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDS IN ACTION:



# WARM COATS FROM WARM HEARTS



Have you picked up a new jacket or coat this month?  
It is going to get cold eventually!

The Evangelism Committee will be running a  
**GENTLY USED CLEAN COAT AND JACKET  
DRIVE** on 3 Sundays - 11/15 - 11/22 - 11/29.  
The coats will be given to The United Veterans  
Beacon House.

Coats and jackets can be hung in the first section of  
our closet in Narthex. Let's remember there are so  
many people who could use a warm jacket and add a  
prayer that all God's people should be caring for each  
other in whatever way they can.

Thank You and God Bless You!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL PROJECT!

For the next three weeks the Sunday School will be collecting food for The New Life Center. The New Life Center is at Grace Lutheran Church in Uniondale.

They collect food and non-food items for the elderly, the unemployed, the homeless and the poor in our area.

Please Bring In On:

November 15- A Boxed Itemed (Such as Macaroni & Cheese, Pasta, Rice, Etc.)

November 22- Cookies or Crackers

Other Items Needed: Tomato Sauce, Jello, Pudding, Peanut Butter, Jelly,  
Powdered Milk, Cereals, Mustard, Ketchup and paper goods.



## PILL CONTAINER SUCCESS

### The Malawi Project was a HUGE success!

**Indianapolis, Indiana** ... It started in March and April 2015. Since that time the pill container collection program has exceeded even the... most optimistic expectations. It will easily surpass one million pill containers by the end of the year. In reaching this goal the Board of Directors has signaled the conclusion of collections, and all participants are asked to post this information and advise their friends.....

**The last date I will collect containers at church will be Sunday, December 13. Thank you all for making St. John's contribution to the project a wonderful success!**

Janet Pescatore



Ryan Dusenbury



June 1, 2015

Dear St. John's Community,

I hope that you're having a wonderful summer!

As you may have heard, I will be traveling in January 2016, during Boston College's winter break, with a team of 11 other Boston College students, along with two Boston College faculty/staff "Arrupe Mentors," to the country of **Ecuador**, in South America. For about 10 days we'll participate in a service immersion trip that's sponsored by Boston College's Campus Ministry. During the trip we'll visit people living in the severely economically impoverished community of Durán, which is located near the city of Guayaquil. We'll have an opportunity to serve and spend direct time with our hosts, to learn about the realities of their lives, and to bear witness to their joys and struggles.

To prepare for this experience, our team will be meeting weekly throughout the upcoming year to learn about the history of the region and country and stories related to the people we'll meet while on the trip. During our weekly meetings and retreats, we'll be reflecting together in order to better understand our relationships to people living in Ecuador and other parts of Central America and Mexico, and through these connections, our relationship with God. As is common with these experiences, we'll also be working to build community among those of us involved in the experience, and participating in various fundraising activities.

I'm sharing this with you because this experience is very important to me. Those who have participated previously have had life-changing, life-defining experiences. Part of our team's collective commitment is to include others in our experience, before and after the trip. I'm writing to invite you to be a part of this journey with me. I'm writing to ask you for your prayers and thoughts about this experience, and if possible, your financial assistance.

Each student involved in the program needs to raise \$1,200-\$1,500 through a letter campaign in order to make this experience a reality for all of us participating in the Arrupe Program and, we hope, to support the communities that we'll be visiting during our trip. Any contribution that you are willing to make is greatly appreciated. Since Boston College is a not-for-profit institution, any financial contribution you make is tax deductible. Should you choose to donate in my name, please visit [www.bc.edu/givearrupe](http://www.bc.edu/givearrupe) and indicate that you wish to make your gift to the "**Arrupe/Ecuador Service Trip**", and please also indicate that you wish to "**sponsor the following student**" - and **type my name** in the text box... If you'd prefer to donate via **post-mail**, please make a check payable to: "Boston College" and please write **my name** and "**Arrupe Ecuador**" on the memo line of the check. Please mail any donation you might be able to make to the address below. Thank you so very much!

I'll be carrying with me throughout this experience all of the people who have been a source of support and wisdom in my life. Please know that you will be with me in this journey, and I look forward to sharing stories of what I learn with you throughout the experience, and hearing your perspective as well. Thank you for whatever support you might be able to offer, and I look forward to continuing this conversation with you.

Sincerely,

Address and send financial contributions to:  
Boston College Office of University Advancement  
Cadigan Alumni Center  
Attn: Oscar Peña - Arrupe Ecuador  
2121 Commonwealth Avenue  
Brighton, MA 02135



# A Harvest of Thanks

This year was the first time, in over 35 years, that the Harvest Festival was postponed due to the weather. Hurricane Joaquín coupled with a nor'easter threatened Lynbrook and we decided for the safety of all to move the festival to the following weekend. Luckily for us, we had a beautiful fall day.

As usual, St John's members rallied together to work at our many tables. This year we had the largest amount of "treasures" donated for our Bric A Brac tables and the committee met over the summer to sort and categorize the many items. Our bake table was filled to capacity with delicious homemade goodies while the scent of freshly made popcorn filled the air nearby. The grill was busy cooking tasty bratwursts, knishes and pretzels, while the cool drinks satisfied the thirsty shoppers. Our favorite DJ Walton provided music throughout the day.

This year we offered St. John's magnets for sale. Stop by the board outside of Pastor's office to see one. They can be used on your car or placed on your refrigerator to hold important papers. They are only \$3.00. If interested, please see either Anna or me.

While it seemed as though there were less visitors to our festival this year, we ended with a profit of over \$4,700. This money will be divided, with half going to St. John's and the other half going to deserving charities or causes.

Anna and I would like to thank everyone who either helped, shopped, baked, set-up, donated, or cleaned up. Remember, it is God's work, our hands and St. John's certainly followed through on that at our Harvest Festival 2015.

New this year we had the Bonus Wheel. If you purchased \$20 of raffle tickets you got to spin the Bonus Wheel. If you landed on a bonus spot you could twice the amount of tickets you purchased. Everyone liked to spin the wheel for more chances to win. Lots of fun at the raffle table!

We would also like to thank Walton for returning as our DJ.

Anna Lenz & Karen Feltkamp  
Co-Chairs

Thanks to the following businesses and people who  
donated/collected items for our raffle baskets

*Almas Garden Center  
A Lá Carte Culinary Services  
Central Florist  
Don Giovanni's  
Hallmark Lynn Gift Shop  
Lynbrook Bagels  
Magic Bagels  
Morris Variety Store  
Nail Fetish  
Papandrew Jewelers  
So Far, So Good  
Sweet Peace Bakery  
Unicorn Jewelers  
Vincent's Pizzeria  
Sue Ellen Coyle  
Pauline Feltkamp  
Doug Feltkamp  
Dan and Anna Lenz  
Janet Pescatore  
Vito and Dot Richetti  
Don and Cora Sarver*

*Angelina's Pizzeria and Restaurant  
The Bold Chocolatier  
DePalma Florist  
F & L Deli  
King Kullen  
Lynbrook Deli  
Moments, Memories and Traditions  
Mitchell's Restaurant  
Nail Gallery  
Sip This  
Stop & Shop  
Tiffany Nail Salon  
US Bagels  
Kim Carlstrom  
Dot Criscuolo  
Bruce and Karen Feltkamp  
Hank and Claire Lenz  
Vin and Sue Masciello  
Tracey Reisert  
Don Roth  
Ruth Williamson*

Thanks to every one of all of their contributions and help as we had another good year, we made a total of \$2,287.20 from both the Pre-Sale and the Festival.

We could not have done it without all of you!

Thanks again for all your time and help!

Diane Dake, Debbie Linderman and Sue Masciello

We'd like to thank everyone who donated goodies to the bake sale table at this year's Harvest Festival. We had an incredible variety of baked goods which resulted in a profit of \$457. We couldn't have done it without you.

Also, a big thank you to our committee members -- Karen Feltkamp, Pauline Feltkamp, Allison Koehler and Ruth Williamson.

You gals are the best!

Carol Clemente and Charlene Comastri Co-Chairpersons

# Calendar of Events for November 2015

Sunday, Nov. 15  
Worship 8:15 am  
Worship 9:30 am  
Sunday School Classes 9:30 am

Thursday, Nov. 19  
Confirmation class 7:00 pm  
Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm

Sunday, Nov. 22  
Worship 8:15 am  
Worship 9:30 am – Commitment Sunday & lunch following worship  
No Sunday School

Wednesday, Nov. 25  
Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve service at Bethany Congregational Church at 7:30pm

Thursday, Nov. 26  
Happy Thanksgiving

Sunday, Nov. 29  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Worship 8:15 am  
Worship 9:30 am  
NO Sunday School Classes – Advent Wreath worship instead  
WELCA sponsored Advent Wreath Making Workshop



## LOOKING FORWARD TO December.....

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9 and 16  
Midweek Advent Worship 7:00 pm

Sunday, Dec. 6  
Chocolate Houses workshop  
Worship & Music Meeting after 9:30 worship

Tuesday, Dec. 10  
Council Meeting 8:00 pm



## THE ADVENT WREATH FAMILY WORKSHOP

Sponsored by WELCA

Come join us on **November 29<sup>th</sup>** 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 will be joining us, please contact the church office by email or phone. See you there!



## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH DURING WORSHIP

We need families or individuals to light a candle on the Advent Wreath and say the blessing during the 8:15 and 9:30 worship services all 4 weeks of Advent. The dates are: November 29<sup>th</sup>, December 6<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup> and December 20<sup>th</sup>. **Once you have signed up, we will give you the blessing to read over before your assigned day.**



## SERVER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2015

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
11/1	8:15					
All Saints	9:30	Erin Milano	Erin Milano	Susan Masciello	Dan Gonzalez	Dan Gonzalez Aurelius Gonzalez
11/8	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	Heidi Scalza
	9:30	Jesse Pace	Jesse Pace	Claire Lenz	Claire Lenz	Bill & Debby Lindman
11/15	8:15					
	9:30	Kevin Hanson		Hank Lenz	Greg Kershner	Carol Clemente & Claire Lenz
11/22	8:15					
Christ the King	9:30	Parker Sloan	Victoria Ramirez	Bill Lindman	Anna Lenz	Carol Clemente
11/29	8:15					
Advent ONE	9:30	Kaylee Palmer	Ashley Gavin	Janet Pescatore	Janet Pescatore	Dorothy & Vito Richetti

## SERVER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2015

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
12/6	8:15			Dot Richetti		Heidi Scalza
ADVENT TWO	9:30	Parker Sloan	N/A	Kim Carlstrom	Kim Carlstrom	Janet Pescatore & Richard Dietrich
12/13	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	Heidi Scalza
ADVENT THREE	9:30	Christopher Dunn	N/A	Janet Pescatore	Greg Kershner	Dorothy Criscuolo & Susan Masciello
12/20	8:15					Heidi Scalza
ADVENT FOUR	9:30	Kaitlyn Gavin	N/A	Katharine Forte	Katharine Forte	Kevin Hanson Kevin Hanson Jr
12/24	7:30 PM	Victoria Dunn	Victoria Dunn	1 Claire Lenz	Dorothy Richetti	Bill Davison
Christmas Eve				2 Dorothy Criscuolo		
	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,