

**St. John of the Incarnation
MESSENGER
FEBRUARY 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

(Pastor's report for 2016)

It was another wonderful year of doing God's work here at St. John's Lutheran Church, and I give thanks to our Lord for continuing to help me lead this faithful and faith-filled congregation. As I reflect on my ministry over the past 12 months, I am not only amazed by the fact that I have now been the pastor of St. John's for three and a half years (and what a blessing it has been!), but more importantly, I am very grateful for all of you and for what we accomplished as a church together in 2016.

One of the things that make St. John's such a special place is that we are more than just the beautiful church with the "Open Sundays" sign. Yes, we are a community of faith, but we are also a church family. We worship together, pray together, eat together, serve together, celebrate and grieve together, study scripture together, "paint & sip" together – the list goes on and on. Whether it's our weekly "Bread, Bowl, and Bible" gatherings during Lent, our summer Bible studies, or simply an afternoon at the bowling alley, the fellowship that we share is something that I deeply cherish, an ever-present reminder of our bond as brothers and sisters in the one body of Christ.

Part of our mission statement says that, "we, through faith, commit ourselves in all we do to reach out and share God's unconditional love". 2016 was certainly no different, and with the help of God we were able to serve our neighbors both near and far. As a church together...

- We raised about \$4300 at our annual Harvest Festival with half of the proceeds going to local charities and organizations.
- We held another successful Vacation Bible School program in August for 20 children. This year the kids went on a "Deep Sea Discovery" where they learned that God is with them wherever they go!
- We participated again the ELCA day of service. This year we put together gift bags for all the officers in the Lynbrook Police Department as both a thank you for their service and a tribute to those lost on 9/11 including first responders.
- We tried some new things like the Advent Tree for the ELCA Good Gifts program. Over \$1,000 in donations were collected and that was in addition to the 76 Christmas gifts that were donated for our annual Giving Tree! We also took a group up to the New LIFE Center and spent a few hours stocking the shelves of the food pantry and filling backpacks with school supplies.

Whenever there was a collection or appeal, this congregation gave generously. You offered your time, talents, and financial gifts to sustain our ministries and even start a few new ones! We could not have accomplished all of this without your faithfulness and support.

In 2016, I administered six baptisms, presided over seven funerals and two committals, gave eight children their first Holy Communion, confirmed two youth, officiated one marriage, offered another "Ashes to Go" at the Lynbrook train station, and even did my first house blessing! I continued in my role as chaplain for the Lynbrook Fire Department, as well as my participation in monthly Ministerium meetings of the SW Nassau Conference. I also finished my third and final year of the Region 7 Leadership Guild for the ELCA (aka "baby pastor school"). One of the big highlights for me in 2016 was preaching and presiding at the service for Pastor Chang's 20th anniversary of ordination in October. What a marvelous celebration it was!

Of course, no pastor's report can be complete without saying thank you, and while I cannot possibly express my full gratitude to all of you who support our congregation in so many different ways, I'd be remiss if I didn't take a moment to thank at least a few individuals who I work with on a regular basis. First, I want to thank our incredibly talented organist, Judy Pang, who's always ready for any improvised curve ball that I throw her way on a Sunday morning. Very few pastors have that luxury! I also want to thank our choir director, Allison Koehler, who not only does a fantastic job leading our choir, but also takes the time to meet with me on a regular basis to select all the hymns that we sing in worship.

A big thank you to Dotty Criscuolo for serving as our Council President AND the chairperson of our Property Committee. Each of those roles comes with many responsibilities, and it should come as no surprise that Dotty did a great job with both. Many thanks also to Katharine Forte who began helping me with confirmation this year! Her presence and teaching experience have been a welcome addition to our confirmation classes and the Sunday School program as well. Finally, I want to thank our amazing church secretary, Andrea Sommella, who makes my job easier in more ways than I can count. Whether it's putting together our weekly bulletins and monthly Messenger or maintaining the church schedule and all correspondence, her dedication to our church goes far beyond her required time.

The biggest item of business for 2016 was our continued merger process with the Lutheran Church of the Incarnation in Cedarhurst. The joint merger committee met on a monthly basis throughout the year to fulfill all of the expectations required by the Metro NY Synod and the State of New York. Thank you so much to those who served on this committee: Gabrielle Barry, Dotty Criscuolo, Bruce Feltkamp, Claire Lenz, Susan Masciello, Dot Richetti, Anne Sheppard, Crystal York, Starr York, and Pastor Mary Chang. We were very blessed to have the support of our conference Dean, the Rev. Edward Barnett, and the guidance of the Rev. Richard Hill who served as a consultant. We plan to submit our final proposal in the spring of 2017 with the hope that we will be officially approved by the end of the year.

God was very good to us in 2016, and our ministry for the year reflected that. Despite all the questions and uncertainties that came up throughout the merger process, we continued to live and serve by faith as we shared God's love with a world in need. Regardless of what 2017 may bring, I pray that we all keep our trust in God and our eyes on Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Alex

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2017

Wednesday, Feb. 1	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Thursday, Feb. 2	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Sunday, Feb. 5	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Worship & Music NO Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am
Tuesday, Feb. 7	Evangelism Meeting Council Meeting	7:00 pm 8:00 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 8	Confirmation class	7:30 pm
Friday, Feb. 10	Girl Scout meeting Cookie Decorating Workshop	3:00 pm 6:45 pm
Sunday, Feb. 12	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Installation of council members Coffee hour Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am
Wednesday, Feb. 15	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Thursday, Feb. 16	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Sunday, Feb. 19	Worship at St. John's Baptism of Gabriella Pirrone NO Sunday School Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am
Tuesday, Feb. 21	Prayer Shawl Meeting	7:00 pm
Wednesday, Feb. 22	NO Confirmation class	
Sunday, Feb. 26	Worship at St. John's NO Sunday School <i>Faschnacht</i> Sunday Coffee Hour Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am



LOOKING FORWARD TO MARCH

Wednesday, March 1	Ash Wednesday worship	7:30 pm
Sunday, March 5	Bowling at RVC Lanes	3:00 – 5:00 pm
Thursday, March 9, 16, 23, 30	Bread, Bowl and Bible	Dinner – 6:00 pm Holden – 7:00 pm

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY 2017

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
2/5	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
	9:30	Tyler Rouse	Tyler Rouse	Dan Gonzalez	Dan Gonzalez	Bill Davison & Bob Reckhart
2/12	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
	9:30	Victoria Ramirez	Victoria Ramirez	Katharine Forte	Katharine Forte	Kevin Hanson & Kevin Hanson Jr.
2/19	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
	9:30	Parker Sloan	Parker Sloan	Dorothy Criscuolo	Greg Kershner	Bill and Debby Lindman
2/26	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
Transfiguration Of Our Lord	9:30	Kaitlyn Gavin	Kaitlyn Gavin	Bill Lindman	Bill Lindman	Kristina & Doug Palmer

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2017

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
3/1						
Ash Wed	7:30 pm	Ashley Gavin	Ashley Gavin	Susan Masciello	Susan Masciello	Al Gonzalez & Dan Gonzalez
3/5	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
LENT 1	9:30	Victoria Dunn	Victoria Dunn	TBD	Christopher Shelton	Bill Davison & Carol Clemente
3/12	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
Lent 2	9:30	Christopher Dunn	Christopher Dunn	Janet Pescatore	Janet Pescatore	Bill & Debby Lindman
3/19	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
Lent 3	9:30	Kaylee Palmer	Kaylee Palmer	Katharine Forte	Katharine Forte	Lori Fernez & Janet Powell
3/26	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
Lent 4	9:30	Elizabeth Hanson	Elizabeth Hanson	Kim Carlstrom	Greg Kershner	Kevin Hanson Kevin Hanson Jr.

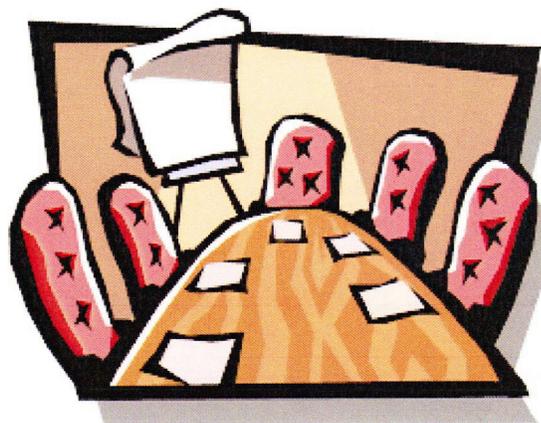
If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator: Pauline Feltkamp: Ushers 599-2273; Claire Lenz: Assisting Ministers & Lectors – 872- 2063; Church Office: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers & Gospel bearers- 599- 0778

St. John's 2017 Church Council



*Dorothy Criscuolo
Richard Dietrich
Dennis Fernéz
Bruce Feltkamp
Joan Pirrone
Kim Carlstrom
Charlene Comastri
Andrew Dunn
Christopher Larke
Ursula Lipitz
Doug Palmer
Janet Pescatore
Bob Reckhart*

*President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Financial Secretary*



Thank you for your dedication and service to our congregation!

New

Choir Members
Welcome!

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 for the Easter Season. Everyone – male & female; young adult & “senior”; soprano, alto, tenor, or bass – is welcome. Have questions? Talk with Allison Koehler, choir director



Lenten

Bread, Bowl and Bible

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

March 9th

March 16th

March 23rd

March 30th

April 6th

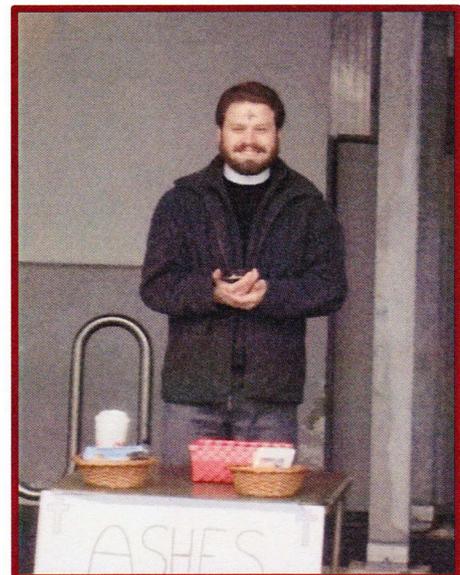
Soup and bread will be served at 6:00 PM

Worship will begin at 7:00 PM.

Hope to see you there!

ASHES TO GO

On Wednesday, March 1st, Pastor Alex will once again be offering ashes to go at the Lynbrook train station from 5:30 am to 7:30 am. This is a great opportunity to receive ashes and a blessing especially if you cannot make it to worship that evening!



Prayer Requests

Larry Lipitz	Inga Chiramonte	Arlene
George Verity	Bob Robon	Sandy
Stephanie Moser	Al Davis	Francesca
Anthony Posimato	Sister Irene	Bill
Donna Valenti	Michael Simmons	Joe
Dorothy Hafner	Dean Veremakis	Joanne
Elaine Smith	Ernest Weber	Ryan
Joann D'Ambrosio	Sherry Powell	Grace
Stephen Suppa	Carver Family	Sue
Jean Weber	John Michael	Faith
Eleanor Haslett	Linda Eagen	Elfride Lynn
Scott Masciello	Vivian Monaco	Herb Lynn
Rachel Jeremie	Robin Kalter	Bernadette Harten
Doreen Tietjen	Larry Rienecker	Our Homebound
Lisa Goldman	Doris Oelschlager	Our Military
Bob T.	Milly Magnusson	Those we pray for
Emily	Irene Hopkins	silently or aloud

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.

**St. John's congregation has donated
316 pounds of food and numerous
baby items to the New Life Center
just for the month of December 2016!**

**Your generosity has helped over
7,000 individuals who are in need.
God's work, our hands!**



*Donations have been made to the
St. John's Fund
in loving memory of
David Pontius
by
Carol Clemente
Dorothy Criscuolo
Joan Pirrone*



*Donations have been made to the
St. John's Memorial Fund
in loving memory of
David Pontius
by
The Richetti Family*

ST. JOHN'S IS GOING BOWLING!

Sunday, March 5, 2017
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
RVC Lanes in Rockville Centre

2 hours of bowling w/ shoes +
slice of pizza & soda

For only \$14 per bowler!

To register, please call the church office
at (516) 599-0778, email us at stjohnslynbrook@aol.com,
or sign up on the sheet in the narthex.

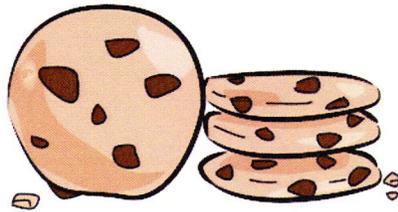
Friends, relatives, and neighbors are all welcome!

Deadline to RSVP & submit payment is Friday, March 3rd.
Cash or check accepted
(payable to St. John's Lutheran Church)



COOKIES & BROWNIES FOR SEAFARERS

We will be sending cookies and brownies to the Seafarers again this year. If you would like to contribute at least one dozen cookies or brownies please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or contact the church office by phone or email. Then all you have to do is them to church on or before March 5th. After our 9:30 am worship that Sunday, the Sunday School children will pack the goodies into the tins to be sent to the Seafarers. Join us after worship March 5th and enjoy the coffee hour hosted by The Evangelism committee!



Dear Friends -

We are tremendously grateful for the outpouring generosity of our Christmas gifts that we received through your Lutheran Church Services.

There are not enough words to express the joy we felt while opening "Gods" "Gifts" - truly, truly a blessing.

God Bless all who volunteer "behind the scenes" - all whose smiles illuminate as we walk through the doors, leaving our struggles behind - because that's just the way we feel when we enter - we feel loved, accepted + not judged - fully blessed!

Thank you all - from our ~~xxx~~ hearts to yours! ~~xxxx~~

God bless and

Thank-you for the help we get. you have helped fill in a BIG gap in our family that we cant afford in term of food, clothes, Diapers and baby foods.

Arenado Family.

Patricia Chim Peto.

Thank You
TO St Lutheran
Social Services
for making my
family's Christmas
one of the happiest
by far.

In Him was life; and the
life was the light of men.

— John 1:4



I just wanted to say thank you for all that you do. Deciding to come for help was a very hard experience for me. The staff here is wonderful and has made me feel very comfortable and not ashamed. Thank you for helping me and my children during this difficult financial time. I cannot express my

gratitude enough. You have made this holiday season joyful for us once again. I feel very blessed to be chosen for christmas gift help for my son. Watching him open

Sending warm wishes for a happy holiday season

gifts on Christmas morning will be the best gift I can ever receive. Thank you again for all you do. It really makes a difference in peoples lives. God Bless.
Eternally thankful,
Elizabeth + Thomas ♡

Thank you
Santa for making
our christmas
wonderful and
god Bless you

Picture by David

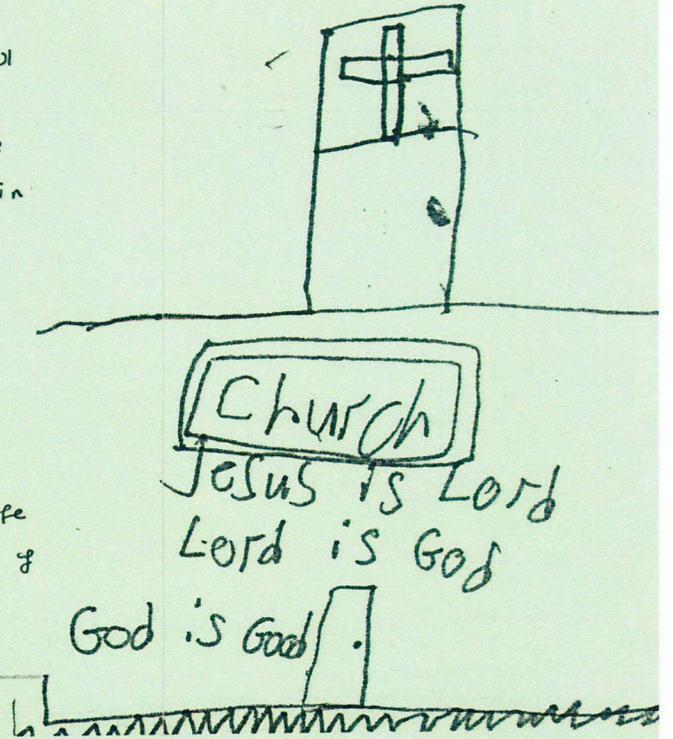
We are so Grateful for the wonderful Gifts that you have given our beautiful Kids Sara, Naomi and Peter.

You have lifted up a big Space for us and have filled it up for us in a way like no other.

We can't wait for Christmas morning knowing that you helped put a smile on their face.

Please may God bless your family too with his goodness always.

Thank-you to the Staff of New Life Centre too for without them none of this would be possible.



Merry Christmas

to all.



To all the wonderful people that give their very best at Lutheran Social Services and all that give their very best through the Church groups, I pray that as you have brought lots of joy, surprises & happy tears (Tears of joy) into our home this year's Christmas that our Lord will reward your kindness in Jesus Name