



ST. JOHN-INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH **MESSENGER**



January/February 2023




13 Blake Avenue
Lynbrook, NY 11563

UPCOMING EVENTS



Sun. 2/12	Worship Scout Sunday Souper Bowl of Caring food collection for New LIFE Center 	8:15am & 9:30am 9:30am
Tues. 2/14	NO Evangelism or Council (moved to 2/21)	
Wed. 2/15	Confirmation class	7:00pm
Sat. 2/18	Fastnacht making	
Sun. 2/19	Worship Sunday School Coffee hour with fastnachts Assembling care packages for college students	8:15am & 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am 10:30am
Tues. 2/21	Evangelism meeting Church Council meeting	6:30pm 7:30pm
Wed. 2/22 	“Ashes to Go” at the Lynbrook Train Station Ash Wednesday Service No Confirmation class	6:30am–8:30am 7:30pm
Thurs. 2/23	Choir rehearsal	6:30am–8:30am
Sun. 2/26	Worship	8:15am & 9:30am

Looking Forward to March:

Thurs. 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30	Bread, Bowl, and Bible 	Dinner – 6:00pm Worship – 7:00pm
Sun. 3/5	Sunday School	9:30am
Sun. 3/12	Daylight Savings Time – spring ahead one hour!	
Sat. 3/17	Moses Trip to Sight & Sound in Lancaster, PA	Departing from SJILC at 7:45am
Sun. 3/26	Assembling Personal Care Kits for New LIFE Center (We will be collecting <i>ONLY</i> the following items: nail clippers, bars of soap, combs, and toothbrushes. Boxes for donations will be in the narthex.)	10:30am
	Church Bowling at San-Dee Lanes in Malverne	12:00pm–2:00pm

Please note: All 9:30am services will be held both **in-person AND remotely via ZOOM** (8:15am is in-person only) with bulletins being sent by email and regular mail. Please contact the church office if you know someone who would like a copy of the bulletin.

WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE FOR

February & March

<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, February 5 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte Kaylee Palmer Assist. Minister Andrew Dunn Lector Chris Shelton Ushers Heidi Scalza & Carol Clemente Zoom Host Jeanette Richetti</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, March 5 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte Christopher Palmer Assist. Minister Katie Forte Lector Katie Forte Ushers Doug & Kristina Palmer Zoom Host Joe Bahadur</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, February 12 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte Sam Barry Assist. Minister Dan Gonzalez Lector Dan Gonzalez Ushers Judy Posimato & Cora Sarver Zoom Host Bruce Feltkamp</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, March 12– 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte Kaitlyn Gavin Assist. Minister Kim Carlstrom Lector Chris Shelton Ushers Bob Reckhart & Sean Rouse Zoom Host Bruce Feltkamp</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, February 19 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte Victoria Ramirez Assist. Minister TBD Lector TBD Ushers Kuno Veygel & Joan Pirrone Zoom Host Susan Masciello</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, March 19 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte Sam Barry Assist. Minister Andrew Dunn Lector Andrew Dunn Ushers Joan Pirrone & Cora Sarver Zoom Host Dan Gonzalez</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ASH WED, February 22 – 7:30pm</p> <p>Assist. Minister Susan Masciello Lector Susan Masciello Ushers Carol Clemente & Cora Sarver Zoom Host Jeanette Richetti</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, March 26 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte Kaylee Palmer Assist. Minister Janet Pescatore Lector Janet Pescatore Ushers Doug & Kristina Palmer Zoom Host Jeanette Richetti</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SUNDAY, February 26 – 9:30am</p> <p>Assist. Minister Dorothy Criscuolo Lector Dorothy Criscuolo Ushers Joan Pirrone & Sue Ellen Coyle Zoom Host Dan Gonzalez</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> We are always in need of more worship servers. Please see Pastor Alex or contact the church office if you are interested in serving! THANK YOU! </p>

We would love to have you serve as an assisting minister, lector, usher, or Zoom host, please contact the church office. (516-599-0778 or email) Children and youth are invited to serve as lectors, acolytes, torch bearers, and ushers.

A Message from Pastor Alex:

These winter months after the holidays can often feel rather long and dreary, but fortunately for us here on Long Island this winter hasn't been all that bad! We've barely had any snow thus far (last week's flurry was the first measurable snowfall this winter at a whopping 0.4" making it the latest "first snow" for our area on record. By comparison, Buffalo got over five feet of snow just in December alone!), and other than a couple of chilly days here and there, the temperatures for the most part have been relatively mild.

Granted, winter isn't over yet! The first official day of spring isn't until March 20th, and if we are to believe a certain groundhog in Pennsylvania, spring won't be coming any sooner in 2023. Could we still see a blizzard in the next few weeks? Absolutely. Will the rest of my winter be one of discontent if the Eagles do not win the Super Bowl this Sunday? Perhaps. But let's hope neither come to fruition!

All joking aside though, I am truly grateful that I live in a nice warm house where I feel safe and protected, especially during this time of year. I can't imagine what it's like to be homeless and have to worry about what I'm going to eat or where I'll be sleeping at night. It reminds me just how fortunate I am to have a consistent place to live, eat, bathe, and sleep. That may not seem like a luxury to most of us, but if you've ever gone a few days without a shower or sleeping in your own bed, you know as well as I do that having a home is truly a blessing.

Speaking of home, I also give thanks to God for this congregation and the faithfulness of its members. As I've said countless times before, your love, kindness, generosity, and commitment to our mission never ceases to amaze me! It doesn't matter whether it's hot or cold, sunny or snowing, St. John-Incarnation continues to answer the call to proclaim the good news and share God's love with all people, especially those in need. We do this not because we have to or because it makes us look good to those around us. No, we love because Christ first loved us! We serve others following his example, trusting that God's Spirit is working through us and enabling us to love one another just as our Lord loves us.

My report for 2022, which you'll find on the next two pages, highlights some of what God has been doing through us the past year. You'll notice, for example, that by the grace of God we collected and donated over 2000 pounds of food to the New LIFE Center! Incredible! Or how about our new outreach to the senior citizens group in Lynbrook? Much like Zoom and "Ashes to Go," this is another great way that we can bring the church (and be the church!) to those who cannot physically join us.

As we look to the year ahead, I'm very excited about the opportunities for ministry that God has in store for this congregation. The harvest remains plentiful, and more workers will always be needed, but we know and trust that God is still doing new things in our midst! As Paul proclaims in his second letter to the Corinthians, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!"

With the start of Lent just over a week away, we now prepare our hearts and minds for another journey to the cross. Walking together side by side and hand in hand, may we continue to live into our baptismal covenant and trust in God's unfailing promises as we bring the love of Jesus to a world in need.

Peace +

Pastor Alex

Pastor's Report for 2022

It's never easy summarizing an entire year of ministry into just a couple paragraphs, especially when we consider all that God is doing each and every day of our lives! 2022 was certainly no different in that respect, and I give thanks to the Lord for not only helping me lead this awesome congregation (and giving me the strength and guidance that I always need!), but also for everything that we were able to accomplish together by the grace of God over these past 12 months. As we like to say, it's "God's work. Our hands!"



Highlights from 2022 include:

- Our new ministry/outreach to the senior citizens group that meets at the Lynbrook recreation center. This began on Ash Wednesday when Paula Williams arranged to have me come and give ashes to the group. Many expressed their heartfelt appreciation and how much it meant to them to get their ashes for the start of Lent. One man even told me that it had been at least 10 years since his last "ashing", and it reminded me that when people are unable to get to church for whatever reason, we can always bring the church to them! And that's what we did! We provided two more luncheons to the group that also included worship, Communion, and lots of great fellowship. They have already invited me back for Ash Wednesday 2023, and I'm really looking forward to it.
- VBS! 18 children joined us at HayDay VBS in August where we learned about our best friend Jesus and how we can grow in friendship with him and with one another. I want to thank Gabrielle Barry for serving once again as VBS co-director (and for another year of teaching Sunday School!) and our marvelous church secretary, Andrea Sommella, who truly went above and beyond to make sure we had everything we needed for the entire week. I also want to thank all of our adult and youth volunteers who helped with decorating, teaching, and leading the various groups and stations, as well as everyone else who donated money and supplies to help off-set expenses. VBS is always a group effort, and as I say every year, we would not be able to provide this wonderful program to the children in our congregation and community without your support!
- Meeting with our Synodical Bishop, the Rev. Paul Egensteiner. It was such a pleasure to meet one-on-one with Bishop Egensteiner when he visited our church in November. I told him all about our congregation and the merger process, and I also shared some of my joys and struggles as a pastor. This was something that I really needed, especially since my colleagues and I have yet to resume our monthly in-person ministerium meetings since Covid started.
- Donations! Donations! Donations! We donated a ton of food in 2022 and that's no hyperbole! In fact, this congregation collected and donated a total of 2129 pounds of food to the New LIFE Center food pantry, which is by far the most we've done in a single year during my time here as pastor! Such generosity! Amen! Add in the school supplies, backpacks, baby items, Christmas gifts, coats, and all the other various donations that were given, and what do you get? A church that clearly loves God and all people. Blessed to a blessing to others, we love because Christ first loved us!

Of course, 2022 wasn't without its fair share of sadness and heartache. We mourned the death of our sister Pauline Feltkamp who was a lifelong, faithful member of this church. We also held a memorial service to mark the one year anniversary of Don Roth's passing and interred his ashes in the memorial garden. Another beloved, longtime member, Paula Williams, moved down to Florida to live with her daughter, and unfortunately, Covid continued to affect and, in some cases, even ruin our various plans, hopes, and goals.

I tried to help with the upkeep of our property whenever needed, from mowing and edging the yard to trimming the hedge and leaf removal. I also finally got around to cleaning out and organizing the church garage so that we have more room for storage and I can park my car inside when the weather is severe. A huge thank you to Vito Richetti who lent me the necessary tools to complete this long overdue project!

I continue to use the Parish Resource Center in Valley Stream on a regular basis. The ladies there are so helpful to me whenever I need additional books or resources, whether it be for Sunday School, confirmation, preaching or just my own continuing education. I also continue to serve as one of the chaplains for both the police and fire departments, although I will admit that it's been awhile since I've been called or available to do any sort of service, blessing, etc. Hopefully I can get a little more involved with one or both of these departments in the year ahead.

Finally, on a more personal note, 2022 was a pretty special year for my family and me. I had the incredible honor and privilege of baptizing my nephew, Shepherd, at my home church in PA. I baptized him at the very same font where I was baptized by my late great grandfather, the Rev. Charles Fisher in 1987. It was a moment that I will truly cherish forever, especially the way that Shep smiled at me that morning. Watching him grow this past year has brought me so much joy, and now that he's walking and beginning to say his first words, the real fun is about to begin! We also celebrated the marriage of my brother, Dexter, and his now wife, Jackie, this summer! I'm so grateful to have another sister-in-law, and now we actually have a Jackie Kennedy in the family! Praise God, from whom all these blessings flow!

I have many hopes for our congregation in the year ahead. Obviously, selling the Cedarhurst building/property remains a primary goal for our congregation so that we can move forward and focus fully on our ministry and mission here at SJILC. Upgrading our technology so that we can connect with more people. Until then, we will continue to trust in God's promises and share the enduring love of Jesus with all people. For God is good all the time, and all the time God is good!

Peace +

Pastor Alex



2022 Pastoral Record

Baptisms: 6

Jaxon Hernandez
Shepherd Kennedy
Hunter LaVista,
Noah & Elijah Speicher,
Mason Tannenbaum

1st Communion: 5

Cassandra Barry
Lucas Clark
Kayden Larke
Arielle & Adrian Sarakos

Confirmed: 0

Marriages: 3

Megan Baron & Matt Fernez
Jaime Sommella & Ed Renne
Karen Posimato & Kevin Halcrow

Funerals/Memorial Services: 2

Don Roth
Pauline Feltkamp

We are praying for ...

Donna Valenti
Stephen Suppa
Eleanor Haslett
Scott Masciello
Sherry Powell
The Carver Family
Colton Youdelman
Sue
Faith
Carmel Wright
Bill Gibbs
May
Michael Singer
Ed Renne
Paula Williams

Bernadette Harten
Mary Rebando
Ed Moglia
Joseph Mihalich
The Forbes Family
Shirley Plows
Edith
Vito Richetti
Bud Ellis
Ginger Freise
Tad Sheppard
Anita Wilder
Harry M.
Family of Paul Hild
Tracylee

Lisa
Charles
Edith
Rocco
Victoria Murillo
Brad Pantall
Barbara Monteleone
Hank Lenz
Jacquie Maidel
Anita Marco
Marina
Salvatore
Allison Koehler
Family of Jim Friel

If you would like to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please write the name(s) on the prayer request poster or call or email the office at 599-0778 or stjohnincarnation@gmail.com. Please write how long you would like the name to remain on the list otherwise it will be removed after three weeks.

*Donations have been made to the
Memorial Fund
in memory of
Paul Hild*

by

**Carol Clemente
Dorothy Criscuolo
Lori & Dennis Fernez
The Richetti Family
Verne Kelley
Joan Pirrone
Cora & Don Sarver
Andrea Sommella**



*Donations have been made to
the Memorial Fund
in memory of
Pauline Feltkamp*

by

**Barbara Fries
Kathy Unkel
Ruth Williamson**





POINSETTIA DONATIONS



In Memory of:

Ruth Wakuluk &
Christina Wakuluk
Joan Geier
Loved Ones
Louis Clemente
Sal Criscuolo,
Dorothy & Julius Roll
and Nelma McMenamin
Pauline & Frank Feltkamp

Christel Hild & Larry Liptiz
Robert Koehler
Christel Hild and
Larry Lipitz
Hans-Gerd Früetel
Our Families
Our Beloved Family
Allen & Dorothy Jimmerson
& Nancy Schroeder
John & Doris Kortlang
Amy & Shelli Kortlang
Tony & Katie Posimato
Susan Reckhart &
Kimberly Paolillo
John Redmond
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Louise Vincent

In Honor of:

Grandpa Bill Wakuluk
Hank Lohse & Arnold Gercken
Karen & Kevin Halcrow
& Anthony Posimato
Our Grandchildren

Given by:

Kimberly, Kristina &
Stephanie Carlstrom
Carol Clemente
Charlene Comastri
Sue Ellen Coyle

Dorothy Criscuolo
Bruce, Karen, Carrie,
& Karl Feltkamp
Paul & Doris Hild
Allison Koehler

Ursula Lipitz
Elfrieda Lynn
Susan & Vinnie Masciello
The Palmer Family

Joan Pirrone

Judy & Anthony Posimato

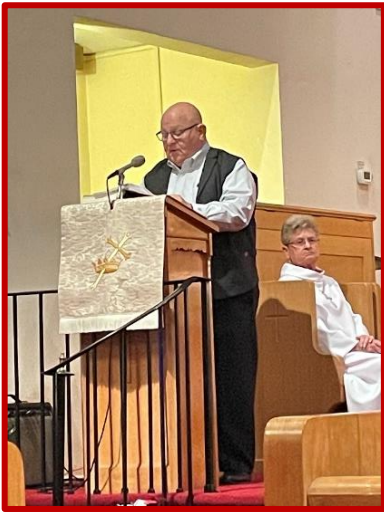
The Reckhart Family
Irene Redmond
The Richetti Family
Cora & Don Sarver
Blanche & Chris Shelton
Andrea Sommella
Carolyn Vincent

Given by:

All of his grandchildren
Ingkelohse & Kerrin Gerckemn

Judy & Anthony Posimato
Blanche & Chris Shelton

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP





Sunday, February 12th

St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church will again be hosting a **Souper Bowl Sunday Food Collection** of non-perishable items for **The New LIFE Center** in Uniondale.

On a day when most of us have too much to eat while watching football, let us remember there are so many with not enough. Sharing our abundance is an important way to show caring for others. Any questions please call the church office at 516-599-0778



We will once again be sending care packages to the college students in our congregation! We have all the items to fill the care packages! But if you would like to help assemble the packages we will be working in the Knotty Pine room after 9:30am worship on Sunday, February 19th. If you are interested in helping, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex, or call or email the church.



Looking back to 2022,
the members of SJILC
donated **2129 lbs. of food**
to the New **LIFE** Center!
THANK YOU!

A Note from
Paula Williams:

1/23/23
Dear Pastor Alex and
my St. John's Incarnation
Family.

Wishing you a

beautiful
day.

Miss you all
My love to you
all always.
Paula Williams



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Like to sing?

We are looking for new members for the SJILC choir.

You are welcome **year-round**, but if you can't commit to coming all year-round, here's your chance to share your gift of music on a short-term basis!

Rehearsals are

Thursday nights at 7:30 PM!

We will prepare to help lead the congregation in song during every worship and **especially for the Easter Season.**

Everyone – male & female; young adult & “senior”; soprano, alto, tenor, or bass – is welcome.

Have questions? Talk with Judy Pang, choir director!

SJILC BOWLING OUTING!

Sunday, March 26 from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

at San Dee Lanes in Malverne



2 hours of bowling w/ shoes + pizza & soda
for ONLY \$15 per bowler!



To register, please sign the sheet in the narthex or contact Andrea in the church office at 516-599-0778.

Friends, relatives, and neighbors are all welcome!

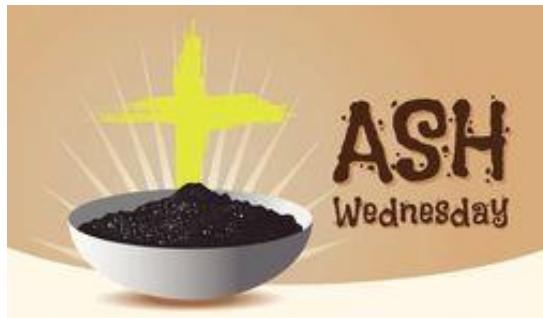
Deadline to RSVP is Friday, March 19th.

Please make checks payable to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd

If you have **palms** from last year that you would like to donate to the church to be burned for ashes, please bring them with you to worship or drop them off during the week.

Thank you!



ASHES TO GO!

Pastor Alex will be at the
Lynbrook Train Station once again on
Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22nd)
from 6:30am–8:30am.

Come get your ashes and a blessing
to start the Lenten season!

Ash Wednesday worship begins at **7:30pm** at
St. John–Incarnation Lutheran Church.

Celebrate Fastnacht Day

**Join us Sunday,
February 19th
after the
9:30am service!**

Bread, Bowl & Bible

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



**March 2nd
March 9th
March 16th
March 23rd
March 30th**



Soup and bread will be served at 6:00 PM.
Holden Evening Prayer will begin at 7:00 PM.
We hope you will join us!



Celebrating the Baptism of

MALEAH GOSSAI



IT'S "TUNE" AMENT TIME!

In the spirit of next month's college basketball tournaments, we will once again be holding our annual hymn tournament here at St. John-Incarnation! Will "In the Garden" win again and become our first repeat champion or will this finally be the year that "A Mighty Fortress" breaks through? Here's your chance to support your favorite hymns and root them on to victory!

A reminder of the rules and format: Please submit your favorite hymn(s) that you would like entered into the tournament by no later than **Tuesday, March 7th**. The 16 hymns that have the most nominations will qualify with seeding determined by number of submissions. When you arrive at church on **Sunday, March 12th** you will find 16 cups on a table placed in pairs. Each cup will have the name of a hymn on it, and matchups will be based on seeding just like the college basketball tournament (#1 vs. #16, #2 vs. #15, etc.)

Voting will be done each round/week by donations – loose change, cash, or checks made out to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church. The cup that has more money in each pairing at the end of the morning will be the hymn that moves on to the next round:
16 → 8 → 4 → 2 → 1

2023 Tournament Schedule

Sweet 16 – Sunday, March 12

Elite 8 – Sunday, March 19

Final 4 – Sunday, March 26

Championship – Sunday, April 2



The hymn that wins the championship will be sung once a month in worship for the next year! The runner-up will be sung quarterly and the remaining two hymns in the Final 4 will be sung three times over the next year!* Let the competition begin!

** In addition to when they are normally scheduled to be sung (i.e. "A Mighty Fortress" on Reformation Sunday)*



HARVEST FESTIVAL & YARD SALE

September 30, 2023

Greetings to All,

We are delighted to announce the forming of a committee for the Harvest Festival/Yard Sale. We are excited to begin the planning and welcome everyone with past expertise and/or new ideas to join in. We would like to bring back some of the past components of the Fair and include a few new ones. Things for the children: games, pumpkin decorating, face painting, sand art, and balloon making character. We will continue and bring back, raffles, 50/50, pumpkin and flower sales, vendor participation, bake sale, and music. Of course our food concession, with a variety of Oktoberfest favorites, Brats, and Hot Dogs, Knishes and more. Some proposed new additions: "Selfie Photo Booth", "Silent Auction Art Table"(calling all church artisans), and publishing a new "St. Johns Incarnation Recipe Book", to start. We are open to other ideas and suggestions so please reach out to either of us or the church office.

We will be engaging our Lynbrook business community and surrounding towns to support the event, through sponsorships, raffle donations, and or participation. We welcome all ideas and suggestions.

If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact us using the information below. We plan to meet once a month and the first week of March will be our next meeting.

Best regards,

Mary Ann Dodd and Anita Marco
Harvest Festival Co-Chairs

Contact Information:

Mary Ann Dodd
marydd@optonline.net
(516) 547-3359

Anita Marco
anitamarco1@yahoo.com
cell (516) 606-8074

Join us for
worship in-person
or via ZOOM!

Sundays at 8:15am (in person only)
& 9:30am (in person & Zoom)

Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5165990778>

Meeting ID: 516 599 0778

By phone:

1-646-558-8656 US (NY)

Meeting ID: 516 599 0778 #

(No attendee code. Just press #)



We now have a **water dispenser** in the Narthex! Please feel free to grab a cup of cold or hot water whenever you need it, especially on those Sundays when Pastor Alex's homily goes a little long! A big thank you to Vinnie Masciello for installing the necessary electrical outlet so we can use this safely!

"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters..." - Isaiah 55:1a

Introducing the 2023 Congregational Council of St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church!



Doug Palmer - President
Chris Shelton - Vice President
Kim Carlstrom - Secretary
Bruce Feltkamp - Treasurer
Joan Pirrone - Financial Secretary



Dorothy Criscuolo
Alois Essex
Dennis Fernz

Katharine Forte
Anita Marco
Susan Masciello

Jeanette Richetti
Nicole Sarakos
Anne Sheppard

+ Many thanks to these faithful leaders of our congregation! +

“God’s Speed” Capital Improvement Campaign

January 24, 2023

Dear members of St. John–Incarnation Lutheran Church,

We are pleased to announce the formation of the Capital Improvement Committee and our latest appeal/campaign to raise money to bring our technology at St. John-Incarnation into the present. We are calling this special campaign "God's Speed!"

The first step of the capital improvement efforts will focus on connectivity capability by adding extended Wi-Fi and wireless internet locations throughout our building. A complete Wi-Fi enabled facility would allow us to connect our phones, computers, and security devices, including our ability to support Zoom for church and other virtual meetings. With this in place, it would simply be a matter of connecting to our internet and we would be able to virtually connect to members of our congregation. Wireless connectivity would also allow us to finally eliminate the unsightly wires that we have temporarily laid throughout the building.

Additional benefits to having full Wi-Fi in our building would include capabilities such as video, sound, internal and external security or even alarms that can be added/or enhanced. Perhaps the most unique aspect of going fully wireless would be the addition of Clover (our new payment processing service) handheld devices which will support point of sale and credit card transactions for events like concerts, the Harvest Festival, etc.

Overall, we will need to define a strategic plan with a prioritized list of technology capabilities - this will be the role of the Technology Committee. Since we all know that technology moves so quickly, we feel that selecting the specific hardware would be one of the last decisions that we make once the funds are in place. The committee knows that the upgrades will not come cheaply, but if implemented with an eye toward longevity, the money will be well spent. As a footnote, this initiative has been on our "Wish List" since 2013!

Respectfully Submitted,

Dorothy Criscuolo & Alois Essex, Co-Chairs of the Capital Improvement Committee
Doug Palmer, Richard Dietrich & Bruce Feltkamp, Members of the Technology Committee