



# ST. JOHN-INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH **MESSENGER** **November 2023**



13 Blake Avenue  
Lynbrook, NY 11563

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Thurs. 11/23

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The church office will be closed Thursday 11/23 and Friday 11/24.  
In case of an emergency please call Andrea at 516-581-3453

Sun. 11/26

Worship

8:15am & 9:30am

Christ the King Sunday

Thurs. 11/30

Confirmation Class & Thursday school  
Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm

7:30pm



Sun. 12/3

Worship Advent 1

8:15am & 9:30am

Family Advent Wreath Workshop & Pizza Lunch

10:45am

Wed. 12/6, 12/13,  
12/20

Advent Holden Evening Prayer Service

7:30pm

Thurs. 12/7

Confirmation Class & Thursday school  
Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm

7:30pm

Sun. 12/10

Worship Advent 2

8:15am & 9:30am

Tues. 12/12

Evangelism Meeting  
Church Council Meeting

6:30pm

7:30pm

Wed. 12/13

Holiday Luncheon w/ Senior Citizens at Greis Park

11:00am

Thurs. 12/14

Confirmation Class & Thursday School  
Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm

7:30pm

Sun. 12/17

Worship Advent 3 (No 8:15am Service)  
Children's Christmas Pageant  
Tree of Light Concert

9:30am

9:30am

12:00pm

Wed. 12/20

Church Decorating

9:00am

Sun. 12/24

Worship Advent 4 (No 8:15am Service)

9:30am

Sat. 12/24

Christmas Eve Worship

7:30pm

Sun. 12/31


Lessons & Carols (No 8:15am Service)

9:30am

## WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2023

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, 11/26 – 9:30am</b> <b>Christ the King</b></p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> Thaddeus Sheppard  <b>Assist. Minister:</b> Andrew Dunn  <b>Lector:</b> Anita Marco  <b>Ushers:</b> Bob Reckhart &amp; Sean Rouse  <b>Zoom Host:</b> Dan Gonzalez</p>	<p>If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator:  <b>Claire Lenz:</b> Lectors &amp; Assisting Ministers: 872-2063;  <b>Andrea:</b> Ushers, Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers, Gospel bearers and Zoom hosts-  <b>Church Office: 599-0778</b></p>
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## WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2023

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAY, 12/3 – 9:30am</b> <b>Advent 1</b></p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> Cassie Barry  <b>Assist. Minister:</b> Janet Pescatore  <b>Lector:</b> Chris Shelton  <b>Ushers:</b> Kristin DeStefano &amp; Janet Powell  <b>Zoom Host:</b> Joe Bahadur</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, 12/17 – 9:30am</b> <b>Advent 3</b></p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> Sam Barry  <b>Assist. Minister:</b> Kim Carlstrom  <b>Lector:</b> Wendy Wolber  <b>Ushers:</b> Tad Sheppard &amp; Joan Pirrone  <b>Zoom Host:</b> Bruce Feltkamp</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, 12/10 – 9:30am</b> <b>Advent 2</b></p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> Charles Shepherd  <b>Assist. Minister:</b> Dan Gonzalez  <b>Lector:</b> Dan Gonzalez  <b>Ushers:</b> Judy Posimato &amp; Heidi Scalza  <b>Zoom Host:</b> Sue Masciello</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, 12/24 – 9:30am</b> <b>Advent 4</b></p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> Chris Palmer  <b>Assist. Minister:</b> Kathy Spatz  <b>Lector:</b> Kathy Spatz  <b>Ushers:</b> Doug &amp; Kristina Palmer  <b>Zoom Host:</b> Jeanette Richetti</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sunday, 12/24 – 7:30pm</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b></p> <p><b>Acolyte:</b> Victoria Ramirez  <b>Assist. Minister:</b> Dorothy Criscuolo  Katie Forte  <b>Lector:</b> Chris Shelton  <b>Ushers:</b> Suzanna &amp; Chris Thomas  <b>Zoom Host:</b> Joe Bahadur</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED</b></p> </div>

## A Message from Pastor Alex:

Our stewardship theme for this year, which has been our focus in worship the past two Sundays, is “**Because of You.**” Because of you, we are a church, a congregation, a community of faith, a family of sisters and brothers joined to Christ and united in his life, death, and resurrection. Perhaps you know the song that many of us learned back when we were in Sunday School: “The church is not building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a people! I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we’re the church together!”

Because of you and your faithful giving of your time, talents, gifts, donations, and offerings, this church continues to be a place of healing and hope as together we share the good news of God’s love in Jesus Christ. Because of your generosity and your kindness, which never cease to amaze me, you are truly making a difference in the lives of so many – more than you’ll ever know, really! A can of soup may not seem like much to you or me, but for someone who hasn’t eaten anything in days or is struggling to feed their family, that’s a blessing beyond words.

Yes, because of you, we are a church that answers God’s call to feed the hungry. Last year, we collected and donated over a ton of food to the New LIFE Center – a total of 2,129 pounds. That’s truly remarkable; well done, church! And considering how much we’ve already donated this year and the amount of food that we’ve collected for the Thanksgiving food baskets, we very well could hit that number again!

And speaking of food, because of you, we were also able to provide a lunch and give Communion to the senior citizens group at the Rec. center at Greis Park, and next month, we’ll be going back and doing the same for Christmas. Hopefully we’ll get to sing a few Christmas carols too!

Because of you, we are also a church that provides coats to help people stay warm during the winter season. So far, about 40 coats have already been donated to the New LIFE Center, not to mention some vests, sweaters, and scarves as well. Because of you, we were able to assemble 535 backpacks filled with school supplies over the summer, some of which were donated by members of this congregation. **Because of you**, we also sent out 12 care packages to all of our college students. And, of course, we cannot forget about our day of service earlier this fall when we put together 75 bags of candy for two local firehouses – a small token of our thanks and appreciation for their courage and willingness to risk their lives in order to help and save others.

There are many other examples that you’ll see on the posters that we made: the Christmas gifts for the Giving Tree... VBS – 19 children got to experience and learn about God’s love this past August, a program that is always funded almost entirely by your donations... our annual baby shower sponsored by WELCA... the Harvest Festival which we offer to the community (the proceeds of which go to various local charities and also the ministry of this congregation, an event that would not happen without those of you who volunteer your time and energy. Again, I want to thank everyone who served on the Harvest Festival committee this year led by Anita Marco and Mary Ann Dodd. You all did an awesome job!)

Yes, because of you, brothers and sisters, we are able to share God’s love in so many wonderful and transformative ways. What isn’t pictured on the poster, although it’s certainly included in the budget overview, is the day-to-day functioning of this church – our building, property, staff, etc. Because of you and your giving, our treasurer, Bruce Feltkamp can pay the

bills for electric, gas, phone, internet, Zoom, insurance, service policies for our organ and copier, and others. It's a big responsibility, and I'm so very grateful to Bruce and Joan Pirrone for their many years of faithfully managing our finances. Thank you also to the members of our church council, your elected leaders, who you've also entrusted to steward and oversee our church's finances. Finally, a big thank you, to those of you who go above and beyond – paying for repairs, altar flowers, new worship furnishings like banners and communion ware (I won't give it away now, but we'll have a big surprise coming in the sanctuary in the new year – all because of someone's very generous donation.

We also receive donations for capital improvements – like new roofs, air conditioning, a new driveway, and now our technology upgrades that we're working on... We even have somebody else who just donated a brand new refrigerator to replace the old one in the church kitchen! The list is endless.

Paul reminds us in his second letter to the Corinthians that you and I give our time, talents, and treasure not because we are forced to or “under compulsion” as he puts it, but rather because God blesses us abundantly! Our good works are our response to God's grace – not the means to it. Yes, “God loves a cheerful giver”, to quote Paul, but I also believe that **God loves all of our gifts and every giver**, because God loves each and every one of us! God loves all of God's people!

And so, we share that love with others because we receive it from others. We love **because God first loved us**, and we trust that God continues to loves us even when we fail to share that love with others as our Lord commands: “love one another as I have loved you.”

Notice the letter “O” in the word YOU? It's not really an O, is it? What's there instead? A heart with a cross inside. Why? Because as Jesus says, apart from him, we can do nothing. All the good that's in you and in me, that's God's doing, not ours!

So thanks be to God! Thanks be to God for each one of you. Thanks be to God for what God is doing through you and your giving. Thanks be to God for the ministry and mission we share here at St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church.

Peace +

*Pastor Alex*



A new command I give you: Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.

John 13:34-35



Dear Member & Friends of St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church

We deeply appreciate your dedication to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church, both in your financial contributions and your generous sharing of time, talents, and faithful service. It is *Because of You* and your commitment to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church that we are united in our mission to worship and support the ministries of our congregation.

During the past two weeks in November, you've had the opportunity to hear inspiring testimonials from fellow members centered around our theme, "Because of You," aimed at fostering growth in faith and commitment to Jesus. As we prepare for the 2024 budget, we invite everyone to participate in this exciting mission of St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church. To achieve this, we kindly request that you take a moment to complete a Commitment Card, enabling us to accurately project our offerings for the upcoming year.

We trust that your prayers and reflections will guide you in responding to God's call. Commitment Cards will be available at the back of the sanctuary for the next four weeks. We encourage you to fill one out and place it in the offering plate. If attending church is not possible, please print a card and mail it to the church at 13 Blake Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563.

The joys of being a faithful and reliable steward await you on this meaningful journey.

In Christ,

Bruce Feltkamp & The Finance & Stewardship Committee

St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church 2024 Commitment Card			
I/we will pledge the following weekly, monthly OR annual amounts:			
For the Mission of St. John-Incarnation:		For the Mission of The Greater Church:	
\$ _____	WEEKLY	\$ _____	WEEKLY
\$ _____	MONTHLY	\$ _____	MONTHLY
\$ _____	ANNUALLY	\$ _____	ANNUALLY
Name: _____		So that others may know God's grace and engage in God's work, I/we plan to give to Christ's mission through the congregation of <b>St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church</b>	
Address: _____			
Phone: _____			
Return this commitment card to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church			

St. John Incarnation Lutheran Church My 2024 Commitment Card			
For the Mission of St. John-Incarnation:		For the Mission of The Greater Church:	
\$ _____	WEEKLY	\$ _____	WEEKLY
\$ _____	MONTHLY	\$ _____	MONTHLY
\$ _____	ANNUALLY	\$ _____	ANNUALLY
Name: _____		So that others may know God's grace and engage in God's work 	
Address: _____			
Phone: _____			
Keep this portion of the card with your offering envelopes			

## *We are praying for ...*

Donna Valenti  
Stephen Suppa  
Scott Masciello  
Sherry Powell  
The Carver Family  
Colton Youdelman  
Carmel Wright  
Bill Gibbs  
Tad Sheppard  
Bernadette Harten  
Mary Rebando  
Ed Moglia  
Joseph Mihalich  
The Forbes Family  
Shirley Plows

Vito Richetti  
Bud Ellis  
Jacquie Maidel  
Brad Pantall  
Barbara Monteleone  
Victoria Murillo  
Hank Lenz  
Steve Lombardi  
Anthony Posimato  
Benjamin Lomot  
Merri Becker  
Ed Kass  
Anne Sheppard  
Marion Galfs  
Susan Rossi

Edith  
Kevin Redman  
Ruth McDade  
Keith Goldstein  
Adrienne Cates  
Michelle Basso  
Joan Puleo  
Margaret Tomasulo  
Patricia Hollen  
Martha  
Anita Marco  
Bill Emswiler  
Cecelia Salamone  
Bettye Steinberg  
William Meyers

**If you would like to request prayers** for yourself or someone else, please write the name(s) on the prayer request poster, welcome card or call or email the office at 599-0778 or [stjohnincarnation@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnincarnation@gmail.com). **The names will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks only. You can renew your request after the 3 weeks.**



### God's Speed!

### Capital Improvement Internet Fund



**The God's Speed Capital Improvement Internet Fund** is a fund that has been established to help St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church update our Wi-Fi and computer systems so that we can be connected more efficiently with our congregation. You can make donations in memory or in honor of someone or just as a generous contribution to the fund.



Rehearsals are held on **Thursdays at 7:30 pm!**  
If you are interested, please speak with our choir director,  
Judy Markson. All are welcome!



We will be collecting coats and jackets for those in need now and throughout the winter! Please drop off new or gently used coats in the marked boxes in the narthex. Your donation will help bring the warmth of God's love to someone this winter.

Join us on December 3 after the 9:30am service for our annual



## **FAMILY ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP**



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 add your name and the number of people attending to the sign-up sheet in the narthex or contact the church office.

See you there!

Sponsored by WELCA

## **Lighting the Advent Wreath**

We are seeking families and individuals to help light a candle on our Advent Wreath and lead the special prayer during our worship services throughout the Sundays of Advent:

**Dec. 3, Dec. 10, Dec. 17, and Dec. 24**

If interested, please contact the church office or look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Once you have signed up, we will give you the blessing to read over before your assigned day.

ADVENT  
WEDNESDAYS

Holden  
Evening  
Prayer



December 6<sup>th</sup>, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
& December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm  
in the sanctuary and on Zoom.





St. John-Incarnation will be  
hosting a special  
**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

for the senior citizens at the Lynbrook Rec.Ctr. on 12/13 at 11:00am  
If you would like to help at this event please contact the church office!



Join us on Wednesday,  
**December 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**  
to help decorate for Christmas!



Join us for the  
**Children's Christmas program on**  
**December 17<sup>th</sup> at the 9:30am service**

## Christmas Eve Poinsettias

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 plate or mail it. You can also call the office @ 516-599-0778



If you would like to send Christmas/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 list.



We will be holding another wonderful Tree of Light music concert on December 17<sup>th</sup>!  
Stay tuned for more information!



# THE GIVING TREE

## BRINGING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS TO FAMILIES IN NEED

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, St. John's has delivered some wonderful Christmas gifts to families who may have had no gifts at all. We will soon be setting up our Giving Tree once again, and we are hoping to deliver more of God's love this Christmas season. **There are two ways that you can participate in donating for the Giving Tree this holiday season.**

**(1) The traditional Giving Tree with gift tags is set up in the narthex.**

As we've done in the past, you may select the tag(s) you would like and sign the accompanying sheet with your name and the information requested.

**(2) For those who are more comfortable donating gifts from home, we will have a selection of gift tags that you can choose from.** If you are interested in donating this way, send an email or call by phone as outlined below, indicating how many gifts you would like to donate. You may request a specific age range, gift type (clothes/toys/etc), and/or a price range. **On a first response basis, you will be assigned gifts that match your requests as best as possible based on what is still available.** Please respond early for best selection. Once we receive your request and confirm the gifts you want to donate, a virtual tag with gift information will be emailed (or texted or mailed if you prefer) to you with instructions.

- By email: LoriF60@aol.com or stjohncarnation@gmail.com no later than Sunday, November 26th.
- By phone: at St. John's 516-599-0778 or Lori Fernez 516-596-1538.

**All donations need to be returned no later than Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>.**

**Gifts can be returned, unwrapped, in any of the following ways:**

- Drop off in the assigned box in the narthex before or after church service, or anytime convenient (by calling ahead).
- Drop off in the outside drop off box at St. John-Incarnation, near the outside entrance to the Knotty Pine Room.
- Call the phone numbers as listed above for pick up of your gifts.

**It is essential to begin and end this project early in order to get the gifts to their recipients in time for the holidays.** Your generosity will bring joy to someone in need this holiday season and will reinforce the true meaning of Christmas.

**Thank you for your support! - Lori Fernez**

St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church is sponsoring a trip to Sight & Sound Theatre in Lancaster, PA on Saturday, March 16, 2024



From the fiery furnace to the infamous den of lions, **DANIEL** is a spectacular theatrical experience for the whole family. Witness one of the Bible's most hope-filled stories as it comes to life in this brand-new original stage production from Sight & Sound Theatres.

Departing St. John-Incarnation at 7:45 a.m.

Lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord with an Amish Family Style Meal  
all you care to eat, including:

Appetizers • Soups (8 options) • Salads • Breads  
Hot Entrees • Carving Station • Dessert Station

Show at 3 p.m.

Departing Lancaster at 5:45 p.m.

Arriving back in Lynbrook at approximately 10 p.m.

Cost: \$185 per adult; \$124 per child 3-12 payable upon making reservation.  
Tickets are limited to 50

Questions, please contact Janet Pescatore 516-581-1221

# The Holidays are coming!

## Gift cards make perfect gifts! And you help SJILC!

TURN SHOPPING INTO EARNING



### Experience the right way to fundraise

Gift card fundraising is the best way to raise money. Buy gift cards from your favorite brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. No extra money spent. No extra time wasted.

Easily raise \$1,000 or more every year



**You buy a gift card**

You get the full value.



**The brand gives back**

No extra money comes  
out of your pocket.



**Our organization earns**

Impacting what  
matters most to you.

*\*Our enrollment code is **13FLFD8683371**. Please use this code when you first enroll and do not share on social media. Contact Janet Pescatore at 516-581-1221 or [mrsp061601@gmail.com](mailto:mrsp061601@gmail.com) with any questions.*

Join us for worship  
in person  
or on ZOOM!

Sundays at

8:15am — in person only

9:30am — in person & on 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 #*