



ST. JOHN-INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH **MESSENGER** **December 2023**



13 Blake Avenue
Lynbrook, NY 11563



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sun. 12/17	Worship – 3 rd Sunday in Advent (No 8:15am Service) Children's Christmas Program Tree of Light Concert	9:30am 9:30am 12:00pm
Wed. 12/20	Church Decorating Advent Holden Evening Prayer Service	9:00am 7:30pm
Thurs. 12/21	Confirmation & Thursday Bible School Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm 7:30pm
Sun. 12/24	Worship – 4 th Sunday in Advent (No 8:15am Service) Christmas Eve Worship (Special music begins at 7:15pm)	9:30am 7:30pm
Sun. 12/31	Service of Lessons & Carols (No 8:15am Service)	9:30am



Wed. 1/3	Evening Prayer & Healing Service	7:30pm
Thurs. 1/4	Confirmation & TBS Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm 7:30pm
Sat. 1/6	FDNY St. George Association Scholarship Test	8:00am–12:00pm
Sun. 1/7	Worship	8:15am & 9:30am
Tues. 1/9	Evangelism Church Council meeting	7:00pm 7:30pm
Thurs. 1/11	Confirmation & TBS Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm 7:30pm
Sun. 1/14	Worship	8:15am & 9:30am
Thurs. 1/18	Confirmation & TBS Choir Rehearsal	7:00pm 7:30pm
Sun. 1/21	Worship	8:15am & 9:30am
Mon. 1/22	All Committee reports are due to the office	
Thurs. 1/25	Confirmation & TBS classes	7:00pm
Fri. 1/26	Girl Scout Event	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Sun. 1/28	Worship (No 8:15am Service) Annual Congregational meeting	9:30am after worship

WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2023

Sunday, 12/17 – 9:30am Advent 3 Acolyte: Sam Barry Assist. Minister: Kim Carlstrom Lector: Wendy Wolber Ushers: Tad Sheppard & Joan Pirrone Zoom Host: Bruce Feltkamp	Sunday, 12/24 – 9:30am Advent 4 Acolyte: Chris Palmer Assist. Minister: Kathy Spatz Lector: Kathy Spatz Ushers: Doug & Kristina Palmer Zoom Host: Jeanette Richetti
Sunday, 12/24 – 7:30pm Christmas Eve Acolyte: Victoria Ramirez Assist. Minister: Dorothy Criscuolo & TBD Lector: Chris Shelton Ushers: Suzanna & Chris Thomas Zoom Host: Joe Bahadur	Sunday, 12/31 – 9:30am LESSONS & CAROLS Acolyte: Thaddeus Sheppard Assist. Minister: Dorothy Criscuolo Lector: Dorothy Criscuolo Ushers: Wendy Wolber & Cora Sarver Zoom Host: Jeanette Richetti

WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2024

Sunday, 1/7 – 9:30am Baptism of Our Lord Acolyte: Chris Palmer Assist. Minister: Dorothy Richetti Lector: Chris Shelton Ushers: Doug & Kristina Palmer Zoom Host: Susan Masciello	Sunday, 1/21 – 9:30am Acolyte: Victoria Ramirez Assist. Minister: Katie Forte Lector: Katie Forte Ushers: Suzanna & Chris Thomas Zoom Host: Bruce Feltkamp
Sunday, 1/14 – 9:30am Acolyte: Charles Sheppard Assist. Min. Susan Masciello Lector: Anita Marco Ushers: Tad Sheppard & Judy Posimato Zoom Host: TBD	Sunday, 1/28 – 9:30am Annual Meeting Acolyte: Cassie Barry Assist. Minister: Dorothy Criscuolo Lector: Dorothy Criscuolo Ushers: Bob Reckhart & Shaun Rouse Zoom Host: Dan Gonzalez
If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator: Claire Lenz (Lectors & Assisting Ministers): 516-872-2063 Andrea (Ushers, Acolytes, and Zoom hosts): 516 599-0778	<p style="text-align: center;"> We would love to have more people serving in worship! If you would like to serve or have any questions, please speak with Pastor Alex. All are welcome! Thank you! </p>

A Message from Pastor Alex:

One of the trivia questions that I asked during our holiday luncheon for the senior citizens at the Lynbrook Recreation Center this past week was to finish the following quote from the movie *Elf*: “The best way to spread Christmas cheer is _____.” The answer? Singing loud for all to hear!*

And that’s what we did! After lunch and trivia, we handed out music and sang some Christmas carols together. There was no piano or accompaniment. We simply lifted our voices and made “a joyful noise to the Lord,” the One for whom we prepare in this Advent season. I saw a lot of smiles around the room that morning, which is always uplifting and gives me great joy, but there were also tears – both while we sang and during Communion. The flood of emotions stirring within us this time of year is to be expected. We are human, after all.

Yes, for many people (and sometimes myself included!), these days are anything but “merry and bright,” and the notion of feeling Christmas cheer is challenging enough, much less singing about it or sharing it with others. The memories are bittersweet as we recall those wonderful Christmases with loved ones who are no longer with us. Maybe you’ve had a really tough year filled with countless struggles and setbacks. When will those better days that are supposedly ahead actually show up? Will they ever? I think of the words in psalm 13: “How long, O Lord? How long will you hide your face? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart?”

Or perhaps you’re feeling disheartened that your age is catching up to you, and you can no longer do many of the things that you once used to. Dealing with chronic pain and ongoing suffering is incredibly exhausting, to say the least, and it affects us and those we love in more ways than one. Christmas cheer? How about a message of reassurance and hope? Could we start there instead?

Of course, such pleas are even more prevalent and pressing when we consider everything that’s happening in the Middle East and other parts of the world right now. Singing hymns like “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” “Silent Night” and “Joy to the World” will resonate much differently this Christmas and it should, especially as we worship in the safety of our church building and homes. How truly fortunate we are to live and worship in peace. What a blessing that we so often take for granted!

The Christmas story reminds us that all was not calm and well when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Our Lord entered a world that was broken and marred by sin and death, very much like the world we find ourselves in now. And yet, the good news of the gospel is that Jesus came as the light for all people in every time and every place. As we sing in Marty Haugen’s Holden Evening Prayer, “Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world; the light no darkness can overcome... Let your light scatter the darkness, and shine within your people here.”

John the Baptist points us to the light in this Advent season by calling us to repentance through the gift of our baptism. And so, as we return to the Lord who is both merciful and just, we sing and pray: “O come, o come Emmanuel.” Come, Prince of Peace, and bring an end to the wars and violence. Remove the hatred that has been sown in our hearts and let your everlasting love prevail, that the world might indeed lay in solemn stillness to hear the angels and your people sing.

And sing we will, brothers and sisters! Even as the tears flow and our grief remains, we will light candles and lift our voices to the One who restores us and makes all things new. Rejoice! A child has been born for us, a son given to us! Do not be afraid! May his wondrous birth give you renewed hope and remind you that you are always loved, and may we as the body of Christ continue to share that love with others. Merry Christmas, my friends, and God bless you!

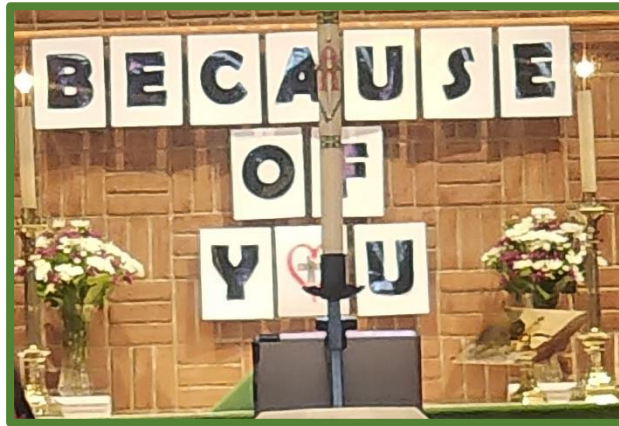
Peace +

Pastor Alex

**PS: I’ve included the rest of the trivia questions and a separate answer sheet at the end of this Messenger! Feel free to share; it’s a fun activity to do with family and friends!*

BECAUSE OF YOU

2023 Stewardship Appeal



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: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____

Return this commitment card to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church



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
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

So that others may know God's grace and engage in God's work.



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

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 Gralfs

Edith
Bettye Steinberg
Adrienne Cates
Irina Sargent
Ginger Freise
Michelle Basso
Anita
Tony
Arlene Lockwood
Bob Reckhart
Doug
Shirley Plows
Susan Rossi

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. **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.



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 for the **Children's Christmas Program** on Sunday, December 17th during 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



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



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. Thank you!



Please join is for our last
Advent Holden Evening Prayer service
on December 20th at 7:30pm
in the sanctuary and on Zoom.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

for the Lynbrook senior citizens – 12/13/23



ADVENT WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP - 12/3/23

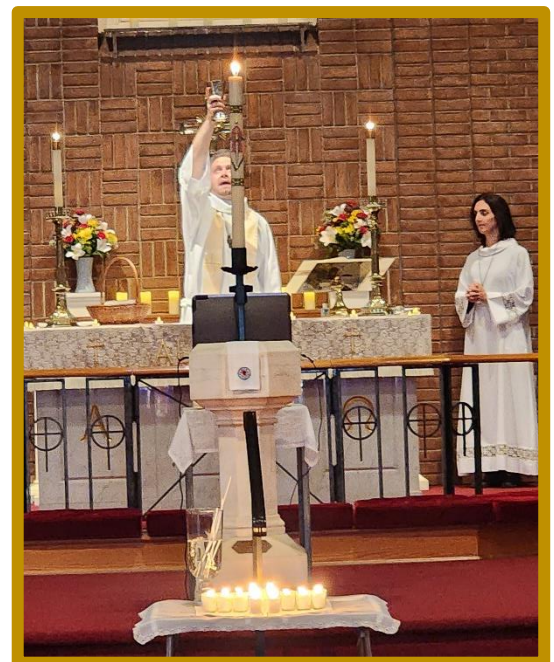


WELCOMING SJILC'S NEWEST MEMBERS!

*Pictured left to right: Ingke Lohse, Kerrin Gercken
Jacquie Maidel, and John & Martha Meyer*



All Saints Sunday



THE GIVING TREE WAS A GRAND SUCCESS!

This year St. John-Incarnation supplied Christmas gifts for 10 families in need this holiday season. We managed to donate over 75 gifts for those families – all returned, wrapped and delivered on time!

Thank you all for your incredible generosity and Christmas spirit! A special thank you goes to Andrea, our church secretary, who was helpful in so many ways with this project. Merry Christmas to all!

If you are out taking advantage of half price sales after Christmas, the Giving Tree could use the following items for next year:

- Tags for gifts (preferably stickers)
- Tissue paper
- Boxes (all sizes)
- Gift Bags (all sizes)
- Scotch Tape

Lori Fernez



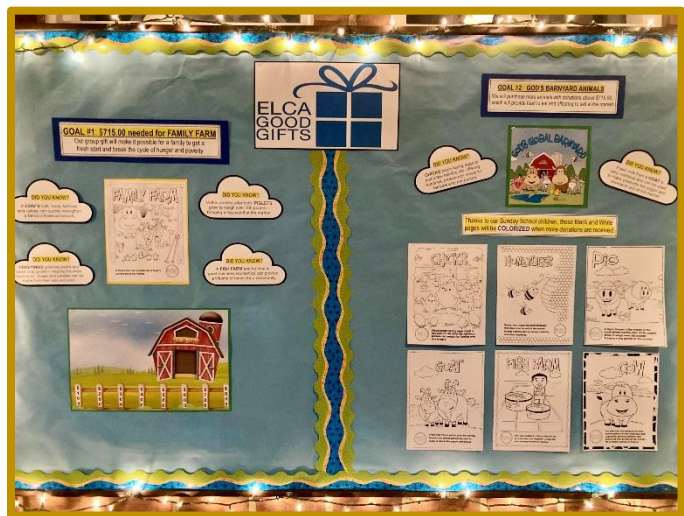
The members of St. John-Incarnation donated a total of **682 lbs. of food** for the Thanksgiving Basket food drive!
Thanks be to God for your generosity and love!

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

We are once again participating in the ELCA Good Gifts program by collecting donations for “God’s Global Barnyard”! Our first goal is raising \$715 for a family farm, which will include a cow, some goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training. Our group gift will make it possible for a family to get a fresh start and break the cycle of hunger and poverty.

Our second goal will be to purchase more animals, which will provide food to eat and offspring to sell at the market. Ornaments with various animals will be posted on the bulletin board after we reach our first goal. According to the ELCA Good Gifts webpage, “Your gifts to God’s Global Barnyard support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, resources (and much more) to help the community care for animals and create new market opportunities like starting a small business selling eggs, meat or dairy products. Your gifts support this comprehensive approach to animal husbandry.” For more information, please visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/>

Thank you for helping us share God’s incarnate love around the world this Christmas!



MADELAINE CHOCOLATE SALE

Sponsored by the Evangelism Committee



**Purchase your Christmas candy here at SJILC
and help support our ministry!**

MILK MINI PRESENTS
MILK SANTAS & ELVES
DARK CHRISTMAS BALLS
MILK CHOCOLATE RAISINS

DARK CHOCOLATE RAISINS
PREMIUM BRIDGE MIX 1/2 LB - \$8
MILK CHOCOLATE FOIL WRAPPED
SANTAS \$3 EACH

Sale will be before and after each service in the narthex

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

DEADLINE TO RSVP: Feb. 1, 2024

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 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 #



A Fun Medley of Christmas Trivia



1. Finish this line from It's a Wonderful Life: "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his _____."
2. How many reindeer are mentioned in the poem, "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"?
3. Describe the Grinch in three words.
4. What do kids in Sweden leave out for Santa?
5. Elvis is not going to have a *white* Christmas, he's going to have a _____.
6. How many ghosts are there in 'A Christmas Carol'?
7. Which reindeer shares the same name as another holiday figure?
8. Name two types of Christmas or evergreen tree.
9. What will you find in your stocking if you're on Santa's naughty list?
10. How many sides does a snowflake have?
11. What is the color of the berries on mistletoe?
12. Who appeared to tell Mary she was pregnant?
13. In the movie Elf, Buddy the Elf says, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is... "
14. What Christmas carol does the Peanuts gang sing at the end of "A Charlie Brown Christmas?"
15. In the song "Frosty the Snowman," what made Frosty come to life?
16. What popular holiday beverage is also called "milk punch"?
17. Complete the lyrics from the song, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing":
Peace on _____ and mercy mild, God and _____ reconciled.
18. What is the name of the traditional warm holiday beverage that's made from mulled wine or cider, orange, cinnamon and other spices?
19. What's the name of the Grinch's dog?
20. This beverage company has been using Santa Claus in its advertising since 1931.
Hint: they share the same colors!

21. Which two gospels contain stories about the birth of Jesus?
22. In the song Twelve Days of Christmas, what is given on the 10th day?
23. Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on?
24. What holiday was the song "Jingle Bells" originally written for?
25. Finish the lyric: "Silent Night. Holy night. All is calm, all is _____."
26. How many total gifts are given in the song of the 12 Days of Christmas?
27. In the movie, Miracle on 34th Street, what's the name of the lawyer who defends Kris Kringle in court?
28. What food do children typically leave out for reindeer on Christmas Eve?
29. Who was the prophet that foretold a virgin shall give birth to a son called Emmanuel?
30. In the movie, A Christmas Story, what was the secret message Ralphie deciphered from the Little Orphan Annie radio show?
31. Which fairy tale was the inspiration behind the first gingerbread house?
32. What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
33. In the movie, "Home Alone", what is the name of the traveling polka band that Kevin's mother travels with on her way home to Kevin?
34. True or False: Sugar plums are a fruit.
35. Originally from Mexico, this red and green plant is used to decorate homes and churches around Christmas.
36. Which reindeer is named after the German word "thunder"?
37. In the Christmas carol, "We Three Kings," which way is the star of wonder leading the kings?
38. In which direction should you stir mincemeat for good luck?
39. "Do You Hear What I Hear" was originally sung by _____.
40. What is a manger?

A Fun Medley of Christmas Trivia – ANSWERS

1. Finish this line from It's a Wonderful Life: "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his ____." **Wings**
2. How many reindeer are mentioned in the poem, "'Twas the Night Before Christmas"?
Eight (no Rudolph!)
3. Describe the Grinch in three words. **Stink, stank, stunk.**
4. What do kids in Sweden leave out for Santa? **Coffee**
5. Elvis is not going to have a *white* Christmas, he's going to have a _____. **Blue Christmas**
6. How many ghosts are there in 'A Christmas Carol?' **Four (Jacob Marley, past, present, yet to come)**
7. Which reindeer shares the same name as another holiday figure? **Cupid**
8. Name two types of Christmas or evergreen tree. **Fir, Spruce, Pine, Hemlock**
9. What will you find in your stocking if you're on Santa's naughty list? **Lump of coal**
10. How many sides does a snowflake have? **6**
11. What is the color of the berries on mistletoe? **White**
12. Who appeared to tell Mary she was pregnant? **The angel, Gabriel**
13. In the movie Elf, Buddy the Elf says, "The best way to spread Christmas cheer is... "
Singing loud for all to hear
14. What Christmas carol does the Peanuts gang sing at the end of "A Charlie Brown Christmas?"
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
15. In the song "Frosty the Snowman," what made Frosty come to life? **An old silk hat**
16. What popular holiday beverage is also called "milk punch"? **Egg nog.**
17. Complete the lyrics from the song, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing":
Peace on _____ and mercy mild, God and _____ reconciled. **Earth / sinners**
18. What is the name of the traditional warm holiday beverage that's made from mulled wine or
cider, orange, cinnamon and other spices? **Wassail**
19. What's the name of the Grinch's dog? **Max**
20. This beverage company has been using Santa Claus in its advertising since 1931.
Hint: they share the same colors! **Coca-Cola**

21. Which two gospels contain stories about the birth of Jesus? **Matthew and Luke**
22. In the song Twelve Days of Christmas, what is given on the 10th day?
Lords a-leaping
23. Which real-life person is Santa Claus based on? **The Christian bishop, St. Nicholas**
24. What holiday was the song "Jingle Bells" originally written for? **Thanksgiving**
25. Finish the lyric: "Silent Night. Holy night. All is calm, all is _____. "**Bright**
26. How many total gifts are given in the song of the 12 Days of Christmas? **364**
27. In the movie, Miracle on 34th Street, what's the name of the lawyer who defends Kris Kringle in court? **Fred Gailey**
28. What food do children typically leave out for reindeer on Christmas Eve? **Carrots**
29. Who was the prophet that foretold a virgin shall give birth to a son called Emmanuel? **Isaiah**
30. In the movie, A Christmas Story, what was the secret message Ralphie deciphered from the Little Orphan Annie radio show? **Be sure to drink your Ovaltine.**
31. Which fairy tale was the inspiration behind the first gingerbread house? **Hansel and Gretel**
32. What did the other reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?
Join in any reindeer games
33. In the movie, "Home Alone", what is the name of the traveling polka band that Kevin's mother travels with on her way home to Kevin? **The Kenosha Kickers**
34. True or False: Sugar plums are a fruit. **False** (they are a type of candy!)
35. Originally from Mexico, this red and green plant is used to decorate homes and churches around Christmas. **Poinsettia**
36. Which reindeer is named after the German word "thunder"? **Donner**
37. In the Christmas carol, "We Three Kings," which way is the star of wonder leading the kings?
Westward
38. In which direction should you stir mincemeat for good luck? **Clockwise**
39. "Do You Hear What I Hear" was originally sung by _____. **Bing Crosby**
40. What is a manger? **A feeding trough**