



November 2011

## NOVEMBER 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

pg 1

- Tuesday, 11/1 Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
Worship & Music Committee, 7:30 PM
- Wednesday, 11/2 Choir, 7:30 PM  
**No Confirmation** (Pr. Becky on vacation)
- Sunday, 11/6 **All Saints Sunday**  
**Daylight Saving Time Ends – Turn Your Clocks Back!**  
Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM  
Sunday School, 10 AM (Jonah & the Big Fish)
- Tuesday, 11/8 Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
Church Council, 8 PM
- Wednesday, 11/9 Choir, 7:30 PM  
Confirmation, 7:30 PM
- Sunday, 11/13 **Commitment Sunday**  
Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM  
**No Sunday School** (Veteran's Day weekend)  
Concert against Hunger @ Lutheran Church of the Incarnation, Cedarhurst, 3:30 PM
- Tuesday, 11/15 Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Wednesday, 11/16 Choir, 7:30 PM  
Confirmation, 7:30 PM
- Sunday, 11/20 **Christ the King Sunday** (end of the church/liturgical year)  
Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM  
Sunday School, 10 AM (Jonah & the Big Fish)
- Tuesday, 11/22 Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM  
Evangelism & Social Ministry Committee, 7:30 PM
- Wednesday, 11/23 Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ St. John's, 7:30 PM  
(No Confirmation – come to worship)
- Thursday, 11/24 **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**
- Sunday, 11/27 **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM  
**No Sunday School** (Thanksgiving Weekend)
- Tuesday, 11/29 Sewing Ministry, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Wednesday, 11/30 Advent Craft + Pizza, 6 PM  
Advent Evening Prayer, 7:30 PM

### Coming events...

- Wednesdays, 12/7 & 12/14 Advent Evening Prayer, 7:30 PM
- Sunday, 12/11 Music Sunday – Free Concert with The Bel Canto Choral performing  
Wine & Cheese Reception following, 4 PM

## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS ~

“Is it that time of year again?” I thought the other day as I turned on the radio. I frequently listen to a public radio station, and as I tuned in that morning, I heard the familiar, unmistakable sound of the tri-annual pledge drive. There they were again, asking for my money.

Andy & I are sustaining members; we have money automatically withdrawn from our checking account each month to help support the station. I listen even when it is pledge drive time, despite the regular requests for money from those who have yet to make a pledge. Still, though, I sometimes wish that there was a special code or button I could push as an already-contributing member to just bypass the drive so I wouldn't have to hear their pleas for money.

Perhaps you feel the same way every fall when the church enters into its annual financial stewardship program. “This again?” Maybe you make a pledge and give faithfully every year and wish you could just skip having to hear about it again. Or maybe you don't pledge (or can't give as much as you think you should be giving), and would rather not be reminded or asked again, year after year.

I can understand either of those feelings. Yet churches continue to do annual giving programs every year because it is easy for us to lose sight of why we give, and important that we take time regularly to reflect on God's giving and our response. We seem to have a natural tendency to look around us and notice what we don't have, to pay attention to the things that seem to be lacking, rather than recognizing the abundance God has poured out on us. Even when we feel most financially strapped, most of us have more than enough; most of us have enough that we have enough to share.

The annual stewardship program is one way that we as a church seek to remind all of us of how God provides what we need. It's an invitation for us to seek God's face and prayerfully think and talk about how we might give back to God and God's work in response. It's a challenge (sometimes a hard challenge!) for us to put our trust in God, especially when we don't know what our futures will hold. It's often even more difficult to put that trust into action by making a commitment to give to and through God's church at St. John's. Yet when we do that, when we make a commitment to give, and even to grow in our giving over time, it's amazing what happens. We tend to pay closer attention to how God continues to provide and our faith and trust grow deeper as a result! The church benefits from your giving, of course – it's everyone's offerings that allow us to provide worship and Christian Education and outreach and all of the other ministries that take place within our walls and in our communities – but the giver benefits too, from the increased faith, gratitude, and joy that come along with giving.

With that in mind, I offer a few practical suggestions as you think about what God is calling you to give in the coming year. First, look at your income (weekly, monthly, or annually), and see what percentage you are currently giving. Then determine to grow in your giving. A good model to follow is **the 10-10-80 plan**: 10% to the church, 10% to savings, and 80% to do God's work through your daily living (housing, transportation, clothing, etc.). If you're not anywhere near 10%, you're not alone. But why not try to grow 1% in your giving each year, until you are at or beyond 10%? I've never met a tither (someone who gives 10% of their income away) who has regretted it. (Andy & I tithe, and we rejoice in doing it!) Next, set aside that money 1<sup>st</sup> thing when you get paid. I write out my offering checks at the beginning of the month, so I know that I won't “accidentally” spend that money on something else. Finally, know that as your income changes, your giving should adjust as well. If you get a raise, increase your giving. If you take a pay cut, your offering can be decreased. And if you fall on desperate financial times, know that the church will understand, and will try to help as we can.

Imagine what our church could do for God's mission in the world if all of us gave 10% of our income to what God longs to do in us and in our communities! Our budget concerns of how we will meet our expenses would immediately be transformed into concerns of what to do with all of the resources God has placed at our disposal through you! It's a great joy at every October Council meeting as we sit around the table trying to determine how to give our Harvest Festival proceeds away!

Giving thanks to God with and for you all,

*Pr. Becky*

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS

**Next Youth Group meeting:** November 6th.

- Our next project will be the “**Giving Tree**”. Gift tags are hung on a small tree asking for Christmas gifts for families in need. Our congregation has been so incredibly generous in the past, and we are hoping to provide gifts for another 15 people this year. If you are able to contribute a gift or two, please stop by the Giving Tree, which will be set up in mid-November. All gifts will be wrapped and delivered by the Youth Group. By donating, you will be making Christmas a little brighter for someone!
- Thanks to **Dot Richetti** for giving free bowling passes to the Youth Group. We look forward to using them some time soon, and we thank her so much for always thinking of us.

**The Youth Group received the following thank you notes from our visits on September 11<sup>th</sup>:**

*“Thank you for your visit and gift. It is very much appreciated.” – Sincerely, Nan & Bill Moser*

*“Loved the visit and the goodies. Thank you, you made my day.” – Regina Davison*

*“Thank you so much for the great gift bag I received on Sunday and the kind words. The Youth of our church are friendly, polite, talented, and a pleasure to know. I have not met any one of them that do not offer to help you even when not asked. If they see me getting out of the car, they are right there at the door to hold it open and then to help me with the chairlift. God bless you all!” – Marie Obst*

*“Thank you so much for the nice visit and all the “goodies” plus flowers. It was so nice of you all.” – Eda Meurer*

*“I would like to thank all for my mother and I for the visit to my mother at the Rockville Nursing Center. It was so nice of everyone to come and bring a bag filled with nice items to eat. We cannot thank everyone enough. A very nice and caring thing to do – we both are very proud members to belong to St. John’s Church.” – Paul Simchock & Caroline E. Roberts*



## YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Begins: Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>

4:00 PM

St. John’s Church, Knotty Pine Room

Save the date! Join us for a lively discussion; topic to be announced one week prior to meeting. Open to all college-age and 20 “something” young adults.

For more info, email:

[LoriF60@aol.com](mailto:LoriF60@aol.com) OR [TJDCPOWELL@aol.com](mailto:TJDCPOWELL@aol.com)

## **Sunday School Update**

Sunday School will be held on November 6 and 20. Continuing with our water-themed stories, we'll learn about Jonah and the Big Fish during November!

There is no class on November 13 (Veteran's Day Weekend) or November 27 (Thanksgiving Weekend).

Families are invited to come for a special Wednesday night event – Advent Wreath Making! We'll get together for pizza, drinks, and desert at 6 PM, Wednesday, November 30 and make an Advent Wreath to take home and use as we wait for Christmas to come. Evening Prayer will follow at 7:30 PM. Come for one or come for both! Bring a friend! (A freewill offering will be accepted to help offset the costs of the food and wreath supplies.)

Looking ahead, mark your calendars now for the Sunday School Christmas Play. The kids will share the Good News of God's greatest gift during the 10 AM worship on December 18. Rehearsal will be on Saturday, Dec. 17, followed by everyone's favorite, the making of Chocolate Houses!

Don't forget about the Wall of Fame! All children who learn The Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and the Apostles' Creed by heart will get their picture taken to be put up on the Wall of Fame. They also get a special medal to celebrate their accomplishment. If you need copies of any of those three items, let a Sunday School teacher or Pastor Becky know. It's a great way for you to help your children to learn these basics of the Christian faith at home, and a wonderful chance to help them see that your faith is important to you too!



### **ADVENT EVENING PRAYER**

Wednesdays Nov. 30 & Dec. 7 & 14, 7:30 PM

Set aside some time during this busy season to enter into God's presence.

Sing beautiful music (Holden Evening Prayer).

Listen to scripture.

Embrace silence.

Be still and know God.

Worship begins at 7:30 PM and lasts about ½ hour.

## Harvest Festival 2011 Update

It was another successful year for St Johns' Harvest Festival. I won't say that I didn't lose sleep the night before when I heard the rain, but the good Lord was good to us and we had the most beautiful sunny day.

Our profit this year was \$3832.00, and that is because of our members at St John's. They not only worked many hours before and all day of the event, but they are the most generous congregation. Everything was donated – from tablecloths, pumpkins, apples, hot dogs, wurst, raffle prizes, and even those who gave to our \$200.00 gift certificate.

We had a steady flow of people all day, and the children enjoyed the pony rides, and holding and feeding the animals from the petting farm. All these events added to the success of the day.

This year the Church Council has decided to share our profits with the following worth while causes:

Barbara Semmig Scholarship

New Life Center in Uniondale

The Su Casa Mission Trip of Susquehanna University, which helps people in Costa Rica and Nicaragua and a Costa Rican Lutheran Church

Fly with the Owls

Adopt a family at Christmas organized by our Youth Group

It is always a pleasure to work with everyone who helps to make our Annual Harvest Festival a day that enables St. Johns' to serve so many others.

In His Love,

Pauline Feltkamp Chair person



## **A BIG THANK YOU FROM THE BRIC-A-BRAC COMMITTEE**

The entire Bric-A-Brac Committee would like to thank everyone for all of their help during this years Harvest Festival. With this help we were able to raise \$1,370.98 from the sale of all the merchandise that had been donated. All the merchandise that did not sell was donated to the Lupus Foundation. Thanks Again!

Diane Dake  
Susan Masciello  
Lori Diamond

## **Christmas – at – Sea**

Seafarers and International House port chaplains deliver satchels filled with gifts to the seafarers they meet in port in the weeks prior to Christmas. Later, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, when the ship is in the middle of the ocean, the captain will hold a celebration, and all the crew will open their satchels, each containing:

**One sweatshirt – hooded or un-hooded (size L-XL),**

**Three pairs of socks – thermal or white gym,**

**One casual pullover T-shirt (size M-L),**

**One knit winter cap,**

**One can of nuts or bar of chocolate, and**

**A Christmas card from you.**

What might otherwise have been another lonely night at sea becomes instead a joyous occasion, not only because of the beautiful gifts, but because strangers ashore have taken the time to share the spirit of Christmas with these seafarers.

We will again be supporting this wonderful, meaningful, heartwarming endeavor by collecting the above items on the Sundays of November 27<sup>th</sup>, and December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

We will have the empty satchels available on the same three Sundays. In a small way we are sharing our congregation's gifts from God with others throughout the world. You may complete a satchel with all of the listed items, or simply bring in as many of the different items as you can. Don't forget to include a card with your name & St. John's Lutheran Church in it. May God continue to bless us so that we may be a blessing to others.

## **NOVEMBER FOOD COLLECTION**

Fill the cornucopia to overflowing!

In this season of giving thanks, St. John's offers you a chance to give back.

Throughout November, we're accepting donations of non-perishable foods for the food pantry at the New LIFE Center of Lutheran Social Services in Uniondale. They also welcome grocery store gift cards or financial gifts.

Hunger is on the rise here in Nassau County. Please give what you can to help those in need!

## **ADVENT CRAFT NIGHT + PIZZA!**

**Come make an Advent Wreath for your home!**

Wednesday, November 30 @ 6 PM

Leave dinner to us – we're having pizza and salad, followed by brownies and cookies for dessert.

A free-will offering will be received to help offset the costs of the food and the wreath supplies.

Look for the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or call/email the office (599.0778/stjohnslynbrook@aol.com) to let us know you'll be coming!

Sponsored by WELCA



## **THANKSGIVING EVE INTERFAITH WORSHIP**

Wednesday, Nov. 23 @ 7:30 PM

Hosted here at St. John's

Join with your neighbors from East Rockaway and Lynbrook.  
Sing, pray, & hear the word of God. Dcn. Tony Cedrone of Our  
Lady of Peace will preach.

A reception with light refreshments will follow worship.

Come give thanks to God for the blessings of another year!

# 1912 MEMORABLE MOMENTS 2012

**DID YOU KNOW?**

1911: The D. W. Griffith SILENT movie "The Stuff Heroes are Made Of" was shot in Lynbrook.

The first Church Council meeting was held in 1912 with 7 members.

1928: The first talking movie "The Patriot" was filmed in Lynbrook.  
Can anyone recall who starred in the movie? It definitely was not Mel Gibson.

One Sunday it was so hot, some choir members passed out. Does anyone remember that?

Pastor Emeritus Robert H. Arnold was a son of St. Johns congregation. He was baptized, confirmed, and married in this Church. *The Grapevine* (*The Messenger's* predecessor) tells of a wedding presided at by Pastor Arnold. It consisted of 1 or 2 policemen, but the Groom failed to show up!



## SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER 2011

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>ASSISTING MINISTERS</u>	<u>LECTORS</u>
<b>All Saints Sunday</b>				
11/6	8:30AM	Jessica Muck	Jason Lipitz	Walter Wright
	10:00 AM	Jesse Pace	Michael Fernež	Joan Pirrone
	Crucifer	Nils DeStefano		
<b>Commitment Sunday</b>				
11/13	8:30AM	Christian Gianokos	Joan Pirrone	Arnelle Blinderman
	10:00AM	Carrie Feltkamp	Karen Feltkamp	Karen Feltkamp
	Crucifer	Jason Pace		
<b>Christ the King Sunday</b>				
11/20	8:30AM	Lillian Mata	Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti
	10:00AM	Nils DeStefano	Susan Masciello	Susan Masciello
	Crucifer	David Powell		
<b>Advent 1</b>				
11/27	8:30AM	Emma Lenz	Janet Pescatore	Janet Pescatore
	10:00AM	Danielle Dake	Kim Barbaro	Claire Lenz
	Crucifer	Margaret Milano		





## Roof Appeal Update

As was stated in the September Messenger, the roof of the parsonage at St. John's needs replacing. So far we have had a wonderful response to this project and we thank those who have contributed. Our goal is 200 shingles and to date we have 33 shingles sold.

Please help us cover the cost of replacing the roof of the parsonage and adjacent garage by buying a shingle. Each shingle costs \$100.00. You can buy more than one, or you can get together with others to share the cost of a shingle.

Check the model house in the showcase across from the coat rack in the entryway to see our progress. The more shingles visible on the house the closer we are to our goal.

We'd love everyone to participate in this project. We need your help to make this appeal a success.

Thank you on behalf of the Stewardship & Finance/Roof Committee.

---

Roof Shingle

In Memory of

---

In Honor of

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_