



WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



**Regular Worship Services
at 8:30AM & 10:00AM**

**Sunday School (K - Grade 6)
Sundays at 10:00AM**

***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things
have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”***

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

The Messenger

is a monthly publication of
St. John's Lutheran Church
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Anyone wishing to include an article in
The Messenger should email it directly to
the Editor @ KCProducer@aol.com or
mail it to the church (Attn: Editor).

Deadline for all submissions
is the 20th of each month.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year!

At this time of the year, I often think of a line from the movie, *Forrest Gump*. On New Year's Eve in New York, one of the women who Forrest finds himself with says, "Don't ya just love New Year's? Everybody gets a chance to make a new start." I think that's why we celebrate the beginning of a new year. Whatever has gone before in the past year, when the new year dawns, we feel like we are getting a chance to start over. We look over what has happened in the past year, and we make resolutions about what we would like to do differently going forward.

Now, I'm not one who usually makes New Year's resolutions, because I know how easy they are to break. But this year, I have resolved that I will make an effort to reconnect with people "the old-fashioned way" - by phone calls and cards and maybe even an actual letter or two (although I'm not holding my breath about that one), instead of just e-mailing or using Facebook to communicate. I love those two tools, but there's just something missing. So I've decided to make time and make the effort to reach out in ways that make me feel more connected.

As we begin this new year, I am reminded that God is a God of new starts and fresh beginnings, too. And God has also made a resolution. Over and over again, the Bible tells us that God has resolved to stick with

us no matter what. Throughout the Old Testament, we read stories of how God makes a covenant with God's people. "I will be their God, and they shall be my people," God says (Jer. 31:33). And this covenant wasn't just for a people who lived a long time ago in a land far away. God's covenant is with us too, and we hear that promise each and every week as we gather for communion. Jesus says, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin."

God reaches out again and again to reconnect with us, to call us into a deeper relationship, one that is based on more than our sporadic e-mails or Facebook communication. So this year, why not answer that call and renew your commitment to the One who offers everyone a fresh start? Come to worship and experience God present in Water and Wine and Word. Come and reconnect! Make the time. Make the effort. It's worth it - God promises.

Peace as we enter a new year,

Pastor Becky

MEMORIAL FUND

A donation to the Memorial Fund has been made in memory of Joan Geier by Doty Criscuolo.

FROM THE EDITOR

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas, and that the blizzard of 2010 didn't damper the holiday spirit!

May you experience the joy of good health, the love of family and the warmth of friendship in the year ahead, and keep St. John's in your prayers as we look forward to celebrating our 100th Anniversary!

Kimberly Carlstrom

ANNUAL ADULT RETREAT FEBRUARY 4-6, 2011

Looking for a chance to get away and recharge? Looking to connect more deeply with God and others? Come to our annual adult retreat! We begin at 6 PM Friday with dinner and end on Sunday at lunch time. (You can be home in time for the Super Bowl!) This year the retreat will be led by Pr. Marianne Tomecek, a pastor from our SW Nassau Conference. The theme is yet to be announced, but it's always a good time of learning, growth, relaxation, and fun! The cost is \$145 and includes all meals (home-cooked by the nuns), private rooms, and a beautiful setting at the sisters' retreat house at Graymoor in Garrison, NY. Please sign up on the bulletin board as soon as possible! Invite a friend! (Checks can be made out to St. John's - just put "retreat" in the memo line.)

100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE & SUB-COMMITTEES FORMING!

Did you know that St. John's will be turning 100 in September 2012? We'll kick-off our anniversary celebrations in the fall of 2011, so we need to start planning now. Please look for more information in the February *Messenger*. If you have ideas to share or would like to help with one of the sub-committees, please talk with Dotty Criscuolo or Joan Pirrone, who have graciously agreed to co-chair the 100th Anniversary Committee.

Thanks, *Dotty & Joan!*

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Giving Tree Project, which again was a huge success. We helped to brighten Christmas for six families this year!

Upcoming events and activities:

January 2: 9:15AM: Breakfast for Chime Choir & St. John's Players, to appreciate their time and effort, and gift of music.

10:00AM - Youth Group meeting, meet in Knotty Pine Room. We will take down the Christmas tree in the Knotty Pine Room and put away any costumes or props that were needed for the Sunday School play.

Jan. 23: Youth Sunday. Arrive at 9:30AM in church attire.

Feb, 11: Lock-In, More info to follow.

HOW DO I GET THE PICTURES OUT???

Having trouble downloading your digital pictures to your computer or on Facebook? Come to the Digital Camera workshop on Sunday, January 30th after the 10 a.m. service to find out what to do with all those pictures stored in your camera! Janet Pescatore will lead us through the maze of Facebook and other online picture services. Please bring your camera and a laptop computer, if you have one. If you want to assist in the workshop and/or have a laptop that we can use for the workshop, please call Janet at 516-581-1221 or email her at mrsp061601@optonline.net.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 23, 2011

We invite and encourage all members of St. John's to come to our annual congregational meeting after our 10 AM worship on January 23. We'll have goodies and drinks to sustain us until lunch. Not only that, it's a great opportunity to hear about what God has been doing through the people and ministries of St. John's this past year and to talk together about what God is calling us to in the coming year(s). God is changing lives through what we do together here, but a lot of times, people have no idea how much St. John's does. Come and find out!

This meeting is also important because we will elect new leaders to our congregational council, which meets monthly to listen for God's voice and carry out the work of the church. We will also review and vote on the proposed budget for the year. We value your participation - your opinion matters! Child care will be provided.

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

DATE		ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS
JANUARY						
1/2	10:00AM	Danielle Dake	10:00AM	Janet Pescatore	10:00AM	Janet Pescatore
1/9	8:30AM	Katie Lenz	8:30AM	Jason Lipitz	8:30AM	Carol Larson
	10:00AM	Kyle O'Connor	10:00AM	Joan Pirrone	10:00AM	Joan Pirrone
		Crucifer Ryan Milano				
1/16	8:30AM	Elizabeth Hanson	8:30AM	Dot Richetti	8:30AM	Dot Richetti
	10:00AM	Matthew Fernéz	10:00AM	Ryan Dusenbury	10:00AM	Karen Feltkamp
		Crucifer Tori DeStefano				
1/23	8:30AM	NO SERVICE				
	10:00AM	Youth Sunday	10:00AM	Youth Sunday	10:00AM	Youth Sunday
		Crucifer Youth Sunday				
1/30	8:30AM	Jessica Muck	8:30AM	Susan Masciello	8:30AM	Walter Wright
	10:00AM	Nils DeStefano	10:00AM	Kim Barbaro	10:00AM	Bob Koehler
		Crucifer Matthew Fernéz				

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator:

Bob Koehler: Assisting Ministers and Crucifers/Gospel bearers- 678-6623

Dot Richetti: Acolytes and Torch bearers- 599-8702

Claire Lenz: Lectors - 872-2063

JANUARY 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, Jan. 2	One Worship, 10 AM - Service of Lessons and Carols No Sunday School - but bring White Christmas gifts!
Wednesday, Jan. 5	Choir, 7:30 PM & Confirmation, 7:30 PM
Sunday, Jan. 9	Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM & Sunday School, 10 AM Stewardship & Finance Meeting, after 10 AM worship
Tuesday, Jan. 11	Sewing Group, 9:30 AM & Council, 8 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 12	Choir, 7:30 PM & Confirmation, 7:30 PM
Sunday, Jan. 16	Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM & Sunday School, 10 AM
Monday, Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Tuesday, Jan. 18	WELCA Meeting, 7:30 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 19	Choir, 7:30 PM & Confirmation, 7:30 PM
Sunday, Jan. 23	No 8:30AM Worship Worship, 10 AM - Youth Sunday & Sunday School, 10 AM Annual Congregational Meeting, after 10 AM worship
Tuesday, Jan. 25	Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting, 7:30 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 26	Choir, 7:30 PM & Confirmation, 7:30 PM
Sunday, Jan. 30	Worship, 8:30 & 10 AM & Sunday School, 10 AM Digital Camera Workshop, after 10 AM worship

Looking Ahead...

Tuesday, Feb. 1	Worship & Music Meeting, 7:30 PM
Wednesday, Feb. 2	Choir, 7:30 PM & Confirmation, 7:30 PM
Fri., Feb. 4 - Sun. Feb. 6	Annual Adult Retreat