



ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

December 2013



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Services

9:30 AM

Sunday School Classes (K-Grade 6)

9:30 AM

Confirmation Classes (7-8 Grades)

Wednesdays 7:00 PM

Calendar of Events for December 2013 ~

Sunday, December 8	Worship, 9:30 AM - Second Week of Advent Sunday School 9:30 AM Decorating the Church for Christmas after worship Youth/Bible Study Meeting with Pastor Alex after worship
Tuesday, December 10	Council Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, December 11	Advent Service 7:00 PM
Thursday, December 12	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM WELCA Holiday Luncheon 12:00 Noon Men welcome too!
Sunday, December 15	Worship 9:30 AM – Third Week of Advent Sunday School 9:30 AM
Wednesday, December 18	Advent Service 7:00 PM
Sunday, December 22	Worship – Fourth Sunday of Advent Sunday School Christmas Pageant during Worship
Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship 7:30 PM
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day, no worship service

Looking forward to January.....

Sunday, January 5	Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School goes to church!
Tuesday, January 7	Music and Worship Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, January 8	Confirmation Class 7:30 PM



Advent Services will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM in the church. The services will be held on December 11th, and 18th.

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2013

DATE	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
Second Sunday of Advent 12/8	9:30 AM	Elizabeth Hanson	9:30 AM	Dorothy Richetti	9:30 AM	Dorothy Richetti
Third Sunday of Advent 12/15	9:30 AM	Katie Lenz	9:30 AM	Roger Vargas	9:30 AM	Anna Lenz
Fourth Sunday of Advent 12/22	9:30 AM	Kaitlyn Gavin	9:30 AM	Janet Pescatore	9:30 AM	Janet Pescatore
Christmas Eve	7:30 PM	Jesse Pace	7:30 PM	AM Bill Lindman	7: 30 PM	Claire Lenz
	Crucifer	Jesse Pace		AM Debby Lindman		
	Torch Bearer	Erin Milano				
	Torch Bearer	Katie Lenz				
	Gospel Bearer	Jason Pace				
12/29	9:30 AM	Kyle O'Connor	9:30 AM	Kim Carlstrom	9:30 AM	Hank Lenz

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 678-6623

Jill Pace: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers and Gospel bearers- 599-8896


Claire Lenz: Lectors - 872-2063



The WELCA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON
will be held on December 12th at 12:00 Noon.

If you are attending, please call or email the church office and leave your name and the number of guests that will be joining you.

A Message from Pastor Alex ~



There's a story about a grandfather who found his grandson jumping up and down in his playpen, crying out at the top of his voice. When little Johnnie saw his grandfather, he reached up with his little chubby hands and said, "Out, Grandpa, out!" Feeling moved by his grandson's plea, the grandfather decided to lift him out of his dilemma. But as he bent down to grab him, the boy's mother came into the room and said, "No, Johnnie, you are being punished so you must stay in there."

The grandfather was torn over what to do. The child's tears and tiny hands reached deep into his heart. But the mother's firmness in correcting her son could not be taken lightly. So he thought for a moment and soon he came up with a solution. The grandfather could not take his grandson out of the playpen, so he climbed in with him.

Have you ever found yourself feeling like little Johnnie? Stuck. Trapped. Idle. Bugged down. The stresses and circumstances of life can be so overwhelming sometimes that we're left feeling absolutely helpless. We don't know what to do or where to go next, and so we cry out to God, pleading that God will reach down and pull us out of whatever rut or mess or predicament that we find ourselves in.

Now God doesn't wave a magic wand and make everything instantly better nor does God promise us that life will be easy. But God DOES promise to be with us in the midst of our struggles, our pain, and our suffering. Just like Johnnie's grandfather, the good news of Christmas is that God climbed down into this world to be with us! We hear at the beginning of John's Gospel that *"the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."*

As we begin this season of Advent, we await with great hope and expectation for the coming of the one who would take away the sins of the world. For in Jesus we have seen the love of our Heavenly Father, and we have been given a new hope, a new peace, and a new joy. So this Christmas, I invite you to live in this joy and share it with those you encounter. Remind others why we truly celebrate Christmas – that love came down and was born in Bethlehem. For you and for me.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Alex





SEAFARERS & INTERNATIONAL HOUSE CHRISTMAS-at-SEA DONATIONS

Seafarers and International House port chaplains deliver satchel 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:

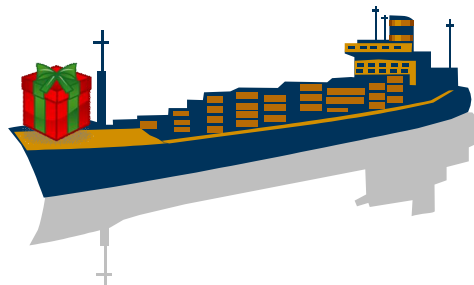
- ☆ One sweatshirt – hooded or un-hooded (size LXL)
- ☆ Three pairs of socks – thermal or white gym
- ☆ One casual pullover T-shirt (size M-L)
- ☆ One knit winter cap
- ☆ One can of nuts or bar of chocolate
- ☆ A Christmas card from you

(You pick the colors, styles and brands you wish, but please, no substitutions from the list. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be comparable for each member of the ship's crew.)

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.

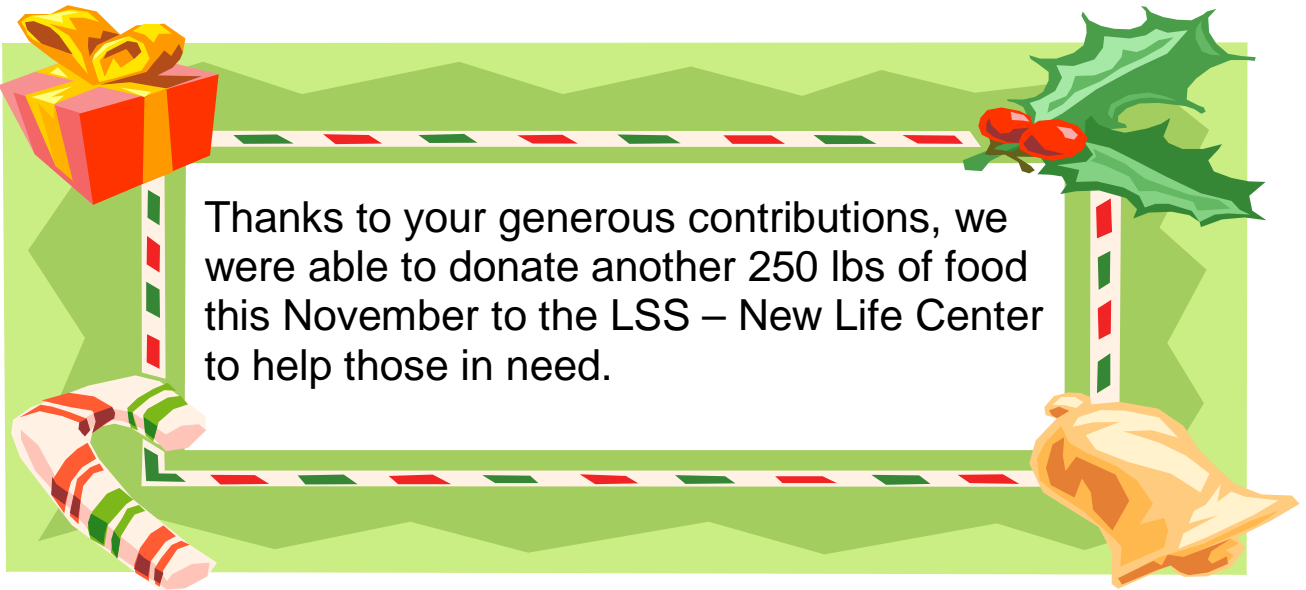
We will again be supporting this wonderful, meaningful, heartwarming endeavor by collecting the above items on the **Sundays of December 8th and 15th. December 15th is the last day we will be collecting for the Seafarers.**

We will have the empty satchels available on the these 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.





Thank you to the Gavin, the Gianokos, the Lenz and the Hanson Families for reading the Advent prayer litany and lighting our church Advent Wreath this year!



Thanks to your generous contributions, we were able to donate another 250 lbs of food this November to the LSS – New Life Center to help those in need.

WE ARE IN NEED OF 4 USHERS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP AT 7:30 PM. IF YOU HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED AND WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT THIS SPECIAL WORSHIP, PLEASE CONTACT BOB KOEHLER. YOU CAN EMAIL HIM AT: AWRCKoehler@optonline.net OR CALL HIS HOME AT: 516 678-6623. Thank you.