



St. John's Altar at Christmas Time



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Regular Worship Services

9:30 AM

Sunday School (K-Grade 6)

9:30 AM

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, February 3rd after the 9:30 AM worship

Calendar of Events for January 2013 ~



Sunday, Jan. 6	Worship, 9:30 AM - Epiphany Sunday School 9:30 AM Youth Group Meeting 9:30 AM
Tuesday, Jan. 8	Council, 8:00 PM
Thursday, Jan. 10	Choir, 7:30 PM
Sunday, Jan. 13	Worship, 9:30 AM - Baptism of the Lord Sunday School 9:30 AM
Tuesday, Jan. 15	Worship & Music, 7:30 PM
Thursday, Jan. 17	Choir, 7:30 PM
Sunday, Jan. 20	Worship, 9:30 AM No Sunday School – MLK weekend
Thursday, Jan. 24	Choir, 7:30 PM
Sunday, Jan. 27	Worship, 9:30 AM
Tuesday, Jan. 29	Evangelism and Social Ministry, 7:30 PM Sunday School 9:30 AM

Looking ahead to February...

Sunday, Feb. 3	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ~ following 9:30 am worship. All voting members encouraged to attend.
Wednesday, Feb 13	Ash Wednesday - One Service at 7:30 PM
Sunday, Feb. 17	First Sunday of Lent
Sunday, Feb. 24	Youth Sunday



A Message from Pastor Jeff Laustsen ~

“And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.” – Matthew 2:12

It isn't very often that the first Sunday of a new year is January 6, the day we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord with the story of the Wise Men who came to Bethlehem asking, *“Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”* (Matthew 2:2). These Magi from the East (Matthew's Gospel does not give a number; our tradition of Three Kings comes from the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that brought; some traditions even give them the names Casper, Balthazar, and Melchior) come to find the child born of Mary to pay respect to the one they identify as the Savior of all nations. They recognize that Jesus has been born so that God's promises might be fulfilled to all who believe that the Christ child is their Lord; for *“to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God...”* (John 1:12).

Our Epiphany Gospel ends with the report that after the Magi found the child of Mary and presented their gifts, they returned home by another road after having been warned not to return to Herod, whose murderous intentions will be revealed in Matthew 2:16-18 (warning: this is a very disturbing story, but a reminder of the evil world into which our Savior was born). They journeyed upon another road in order not to be detected by Herod's soldiers, but they also journeyed along a different route because their lives had been forever changed because they had been in the presence of the one who was born King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the child who would change the course of history through his death and resurrection, the Redeemer who promises a new and wondrous life for all who would follow the different path of discipleship our Lord invites us to journey. The road upon which the Magi traveled was not merely another way back to their former lives; it was a new path they journeyed into a transformed life because they had been in the presence of the Lord of all nations.

On the first Sunday of this New Year, we are invited to join the Wise Men in paying homage to the child of Mary who was born to be the Savior of all peoples and all nations. We are invited to kneel before the manger and consider what it means that *“to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.”* (Luke 2:11). And like the Magi, we are invited to travel along a different path than the one that brought us here; for every time we come into the Lord's presence, we are invited to travel along another road, one that leads us *“in paths of righteousness for his name's sake”* as we follow our Lord Jesus Christ in his journey of discipleship. It's a road that isn't always easy, and might even be fraught with danger and uncertainty, but we know its destination: our eternal home, where as *“surely as goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life... I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* (Psalm 23).

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Jeff Laustsen

The Messenger

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's,

We regret to inform you that this will be the last bulk mailing of **The Messenger**. The expense of this mailing has become prohibitive. As you know we have been emailing **The Messenger** to our members who have requested to receive **The Messenger** by email and it has worked successfully. **The Messenger** can also be found on our web site www.stjohnslynbrook.org. This is a great way to find out what is going on at St. John's.

If you have not given us your email address and would like to receive **The Messenger** by email, please email the church at stjohnslynbrook@aol.com with Email address for The Messenger in the subject area, and we will be sure to add your name and email address to the list.

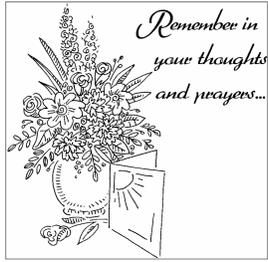
We understand that there are members and friends who do not have email, so we will be sure to have a number of copies of **The Messenger** available in the narthex of the church.

We would ask that anyone who would like to continue receiving a paper copy of the Messenger, call the church at (516) 599-0778 and leave a message with your name and address.

Please note that **The Messenger** is still a means to communicate with our members and friends.

Sincerely,

The Church Council



OUR SYMPATHY and CONDOLENCES

St. John's extends our sympathy and condolences to the families of Michael Scalza, Ruth Wuerth, and Caroline Roberts.

May our love and prayers continue to surround all who loved them.

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

On November 9th we were also pleased to welcome Samantha Gene Zoffinger to God's family and the family at St. John's through the sacrament of baptism! Welcome Samantha.

MEMORIAL FUND DONATIONS

Donations have been made to the St. John's Memorial Fund in memory of:

Michael Scalza by Elaine Neimeth
 by Dr. and Mrs. Salvatore Gnoffo
Ruth Wuerth by Christel and Paul Hild



Donations have been made to the Barbara Semmig Scholarship Fund in memory of :

Michael Scalza by W.E.L.C.A.
 by Merle and Paula Williams
 by Donald and Cora Sarver
Ruth Wuerth by Cora Sarver
Caroline Roberts by Cora Sarver

Dear W.E.L.C.A.,

The Family of Michael R. Scalza thanks you sincerely for your thoughtful kindness at a time when it was deeply appreciated. Thank you for the donation to the scholarship fund and for your help at the funeral.

*Love,
Heidi*

To All,

I, Paul John Simchock, wish to thank everyone for their kindness and their caring. For the visits and Sympathy for the loss of my mother, Caroline E. Roberts, a church member along with myself, her son Paul John Simchock.

Your kindness with members visiting my Mother at her viewing, the use of the church and the organist will always be remembered.

Thank you again.

Very truly yours, Paul John Simchock, Mrs. Caroline Robert's son.



Thank you for your Christmas Flower Donations

Bill & Annette Benson	in Memory of Jeffrey Benson
Carol Clemente	in Memory of Al Geier
Charlene Comastri	in Memory of my Loved Ones
Dotty Criscuolo	in Memory of Sal Criscuolo and Dorothy and Julius Roll
The Dake Family	in Memory of Jean Rienecker
Bill Davison	in Memory of Regina Davison
Frank & Pauline Feltkamp	in Honor of our Children and Grandchildren
The Fernež Family	in Memory of Helen Fernež
Ellen & Bob Giambalvo	in Honor of Gerda Weber
Marjorie Gorr	in Memory of Charles & Beatrice Gorr
Paul & Christel Hild	in Memory of all our Loved Ones
The Lipitz Family	in Memory of all our Loved Ones
Laurie Maske	in Memory of William Peck
Arlene Moglia	in Memory of our Loved Ones
Diane Moser & Joe Posillico	in Memory of William Moser
Pastor Annemarie Noto	in Memory of my Loved Ones
Harry Obst	in Memory of Marie Obst
Janet Pescatore	in Memory of Michael Scalza
Joan Pirrone	in Memory of Dorothy and Allen Jimmerson
Judy and Anthony Posimato	in Memory of John Kortlang, Amy Kortlang, Shelli Kortlang, Katie & Tony Posimato.
Judy and Anthony Posimato	in Honor of Doris Kortlang and Karen & Anthony Posimato
The Richetti Family	in Memory of our Loved Ones
Lawrence Rienecker	in Memory of Jean Rienecker
Don Roth and Family	in Memory of Dot and Henry Roth, Bob Weber And Loved Ones
Don & Cora Sarver	in Memory of Loved Ones
Heidi, Julie & Amanda Scalza	in Memory of Michael Scalza
Gerda Weber	in Memory of Bob Weber
Stanley & Ruth Williamson	in Memory of Our Loved Ones



Harvest Festival Raffle Winners

A Special Congratulations to all the winners of the Harvest Festival Raffle and 50/50 prizes. Thank you for helping to make the 2012 Harvest Festival a huge success!

Advent Wreath and Pizza Lunch Family Day

Many thanks to all who participated in the Advent Wreath Making event and for your donations toward the cost. Not only did your generosity cover all the expenses, but also we had a wonderful time with family and friends!

W.E.L.C.A. Holiday Luncheon

The W.E.L.C.A. Holiday Luncheon was well attended and a great success. Thank you for the generous gifts that helped fill the food pantry and our Discretionary Fund. Thanks to the Holiday Luncheon committee for doing a great job! And thank you to all who provided the food and desserts. Thanks to Arlene and Ed Moglia for doing the program, to Allison Koehler for leading us in singing the Christmas Carols and for Pastor Church for giving the blessing. God Loves You – What a Great Day!

Christmas Caroling

Many thanks to you and your intrepid group of carolers who braved the elements on Sunday night, December 15th! What a joy it was to hear the familiar Christmas Hymns, with a Happy Birthday included and to top it off, a gingerbread house made by the young people!

What a wonderful caring congregation we have at St. John's

Bill and Annette Benson

Ten members from St. John's Lutheran Church just left my home after making me feel so good inside. It seems that my church family, who seem to appreciate me, pays all that I have done in the past back. To see 10 members of the Youth Group in my living room singing Christmas Carols brings great joy to my heart. God bless them for coming out on a rainy night to make someone feel the working of the Holy Spirit. I've heard how some of the homebound in the past have appreciated such an event and now I understand. Thank you to the Youth Group of St. John's.

God Bless You. Bob Koehler



Christmas-at-Sea Program

For the fourth year, St. John's brought joy to seafarers who would not be home with their families for Christmas.

We supported the Christmas-at-Sea program run by Seafarers International, a Lutheran organization. We collected 40 bags of clothing, snacks and greetings that port chaplains deliver to the seafarers they meet in port prior to Christmas. In addition, this year we donated \$100 from our Harvest Festival profit. With all the troubles we have had with hurricane Sandy, and with all the troubles that is happening in the world, it is really special that we can think of others in this way. Feel the Holy Spirit working within us. May God continue to bless us individually and as a Congregation!

Peace and Love, Evangelism Committee

Youth Group News

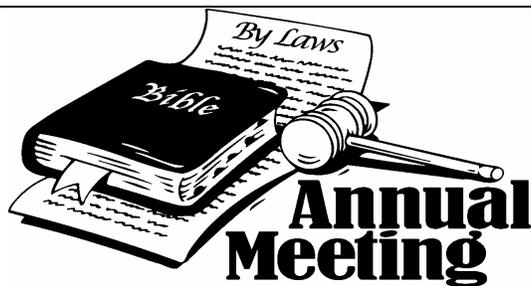
Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Giving Tree gift collection – due to the overwhelming generosity of our congregation, every gift request on our tree was fulfilled!

Our next Youth Group meeting will be on **Sunday, January 6th at 9:30 am.** We will be taking down and putting away all the Christmas decorations and costumes, and we will start preparations for Youth Sunday.

Youth Sunday is scheduled for February 24th. Anyone who has not yet handed in their writing assignment, please do so at once. We would like 100% participation on Youth Sunday!

Our annual lock-in is tentatively scheduled for January. Please watch emails for more details.

Lori Fernez' & Janet Powell



Annual Meeting

All Committee reports must be submitted to the church by January 6th.

You can email or drop off the report to the church office anytime before that.

Annual Congregational Meeting February 3, 2013 After the 9:30 AM worship

Attention all voting members of St. John's!

You are invited and encouraged to come to our annual meeting, after the 9:30 AM worship on February 3rd.. It's your chance to hear about what St. John's is doing to carry out God's mission and ministry in our church, community, and beyond – you may learn something you've missed over the past year!

This meeting is your chance to ask questions, to share suggestions, and to be involved in the bigger picture of our congregation. In addition to sharing stories of what has happened in the past year, we'll be looking ahead to the coming year, choosing new council leaders, and voting on our annual budget. Snacks and drinks will be provided to hold you over until you get home for lunch. We look forward to your participation and input!



Finance Committee End of Year Statements 2012

The End -of-Year Statements of Giving for 2012 are located in the Narthex of the church. Please pick up your statement to help us save on stamps for mailing. If you find any discrepancies on your statement, please contact our financial recording secretary Joan Pirrone at (516) 593-4922 or email Japirrone@aol.com with End-of-Year Statement written in the subject area.

If you haven't already picked up your 2013 envelopes they are also located in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support of the church through your faithful and generous contributions.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee

SERVERS FOR JANUARY 2013

DATE	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
1/06	9:30 AM	Kyle O'Connor	9:30 AM	Debby Lindman	9:30 AM	Arlene Moglia
Epiphany	Crucifer	Kyle O'Connor				
1/13	9:30 AM	Victoria Dunn	9:30 AM	Andrew Dunn	9:30 AM	Janet Pescatore
Baptism of our	Crucifer	Nils Destefano				
1/20	9:30 AM	Ryan Milano	9:30 AM	Kim Barbaro	9:30 AM	Karen Feltkamp
	Crucifer	Ryan Milano				
1/27	9:30 AM	Jason Pace	9:30 AM	Kim Carlstrom	9:30 AM	Bruce Feltkamp
	Crucifer	Jason Pace				

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

Messenger 100th Anniversary Review

1912-2012

Over the past year we have been celebrating the 100th Anniversary of our church. It has been an exciting year starting off with our Kick-Off Sunday on Sept. 25, 2011.



"Our Church Bell" which was gifted to St. John's in 1934, was rung for the first time in our narthex in honor of the 100th Anniversary.

At our coffee hour we received citations and good wishes from Mayor William Hendricks, Assemblyman Brian Curran, and Chris Shelton for Councilman Anthony Santino.



In December the Bel Canto Chorale performed "Choose Something Like a Star" in the church in honor of Betty Johnson who was our organist and choir director for 32 years.



The celebration continued in 2012 with History Sunday in February which included bulletin boards, displays filled with history, and a slide show presentation of St. John's different activities, Pastors and the construction of the church. In March an interfaith service was held with the Girl Scout Troops in our area who were also celebrating their 100th Anniversary.

In May, St. John's marched in the Lynbrook Memorial Day parade handing out water to those along the route.



In June an awesome church service was held in Greis Park followed by wonderful old-fashioned church picnic.

Also in June The Rev. Rebecca J. Fetters resigned after her husband The Rev. Andrew Fetters accepted a call in Wisconsin.

On September 30, 2012 a wonderful year of celebration came to an end with Bishop Robert Alan Rimbo who is the Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America leading us in worship with the assistance of Pastor Noto. The reception at Pompei brought together family, friends, and honored guests. The history of the church, slideshow presentation, and music all added to the festivities. Citations from Supervisor Kate Murray, Senior Councilman Anthony Santino, and New York State Assemblyman Brian Curran were presented. As was stated in a thank you letter received from a former member, "Thanks so much for inviting us to St. John's big celebration-we had a wonderful time and I was so happy to see a number of people I hadn't seen in quite some time and also meeting a number of others."



Thanks to Florence Ward Williams, Jan Arena, Grace West, and Barbara Leahy for contributing monetarily to the celebration. So many hands have helped to make this year a memorable year for St. John's. Thank you to all who have contributed your time, talents, and untiring efforts to make this a wonderful year of celebration. With your continued help and support, St. John's will continue on for another 100 years.

When you think about all of the people who have served on committees and the different ministries of the church to keep the work of "Sharing God's Love" in our community and the wider church for so many years, we should count our blessings. As we pass this milestone and move forward to the next years in St. John's history we must recognize the need for dedicated members and friends to keep this ministry alive.

Remember "Open Sunday!" is not the only day that God's work is being done at St. John's. Our ministries are being carried out during the week as well. Stay involved and give a helping hand. As is written in the Bible:

"But Jesus looked at them and said to them, with men this is impossible, but with 'God all things are possible.'" Matthew 19:26

May God Bless You All,

Dorothy Criscuolo & Joan Pirrone
100th Anniversary Co-Chairs