



# **ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER**

## **OCTOBER**

### **2014**

#### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Worship Services**

**9:30 AM**

**Sunday School Grades K-6**

**9:30 AM**

**Sunday Nursery Program**

**9:30 AM**

# Calendar of Events for October 2014 ~

Sunday, Oct. 12	Worship 9:30 AM Worship & Music Meeting after service Sunday Nursery Program 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Clothing Drive for Beacon House
Tuesday, Oct. 14	Council Meeting 8:00 PM
Wednesday, Oct. 15	Confirmation Class 7:00 PM
Thursday, Oct. 16	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Saturday, Oct. 18	Girl Scouts 11:00 – 12:30
Sunday, Oct. 19	Worship 9:30 AM <b>NO Nursery Program 9:30 AM</b> Sunday School 9:30 AM Clothing Drive for Beacon House
Wednesday, Oct. 22	Confirmation Class 7:00 PM
Thursday, Oct. 23	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Friday, Oct. 24	Brownies 3:15 - 4:45 PM
<b>Sunday, Oct. 26</b>	<b>Worship 9:30 AM - REFORMATION SUNDAY (wear red!) Sunday School &amp; Nursery Program 9:30 AM Last Day Clothing Drive for Beacon House Last Sunday for our organist Denise Fillion</b>
Wednesday, Oct. 29	Confirmation Class 7:00 PM
Thursday, Oct. 30	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM

## Looking forward to November.....

Sunday, Nov. 2	Worship 9:30 AM – ALL SAINTS DAY Pony Express Kick Off Change clocks.... SET back an hour
Sunday, Nov. 30	Advent Wreath Making Event sponsored by WELCA

# SERVERS FOR OCTOBER 2014

DATE	AM TIME	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	USHERS
10/26	9:30	Kyle O'Connor	Kyle O'Connor	Hank Lenz	Hank Lenz	Doug & Kristine Palmer

# SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER 2014

DATE	AM TIME	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	USHERS
11/2	9:30	Parker Sloan	Ashley Gavin	Bill Lindman	Arlene Moglia	Heidi Scalza & Carol Clemente
11/9	9:30	Jason Pace	Jason Pace	Michael Fernež	Roger Vargas	Kevin Hanson & Kevin Hanson Jr.
11/16	9:30	Christopher Dunn	Erin Milano	Susan Masciello	Gerda Weber	Bill & Debby Lindman
11/23	9:30	Kaitlyn Gavin	Jesse Pace	Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	Jill & Joe Pace
11/30	9:30	Victoria Ramirez	Not needed	Andrew Dunn	Anna Lenz	Bill Benson & Bill Davison

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

The Church Office: Assisting Ministers 599-0778

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

Claire Lenz: Lectors - 872-2063

Pauline Feltkamp: Ushers 599-227

If anyone is interested in becoming an Assisting Minister, a Lector or Usher for our worship services, please speak with Pastor Alex. He will be happy to show you what the responsibilities are for each position.

**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK AND SEE THE WONDERFUL PHOTOS OF THE HARVEST FESTIVAL....THANKS TO THE PHOTOGRAPHY TALENTS OF DORIS HILD!**

# *From The Desk of Pastor Alex*

One of the best TV shows that I watched this past summer was *The Leftovers*, a new drama series on HBO. *The Leftovers* takes place three years after a worldwide event known as the "Sudden Departure", which occurred on October 14<sup>th</sup> and caused the unexplainable disappearance of 140 million people, roughly 2% of the world's population. The story focuses mainly on the Garvey family and a few others who live in the fictional town of Mapleton, New York. Mapleton lost 100 people in the departure, leaving the "leftovers" in the community to figure out what happened and what it means for them.

Now I want to make it very clear that this show is not for children or the faint of heart. It is dark, graphic, and for the most part, downright depressing. So why in the world did I watch the entire first season!? Why didn't I switch to something more pleasant, funny, or uplifting???

Well for one, like many people, I've always had a curious fascination with things like the end times and Judgment Day. I've never read any of the popular *Left Behind* series, but I have read books like *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy and I've certainly seen plenty of what you would call "apocalyptic" movies, such as *War of the Worlds*, *The Day After Tomorrow*, *Armageddon*, *Independence Day*, *I Am Legend*, and *World War Z*. I could list many more but you get the point.

The other reason I kept watching this show was that there was one particular character who I found quite compelling – an Episcopalian priest named Matthew Jamison. Like everyone else, Reverend Jamison struggles to make sense of what happened three years earlier. He doesn't believe that it was an act of God (for many reasons that I won't give away), but he has no alternate explanation. And so, with no answers for his people and various religious cults in Mapleton gaining followers, Reverend Jamison finds himself with a church that barely has any money and even fewer remaining members.

Reverend Jamison's situation got me thinking: what would I do as a pastor if something like this ever happened? Could I keep my faith in God if I was "left behind"? And what message would I preach the following Sunday to those of you remaining? Well before I allowed myself to get too carried away, I decided to turn to scripture and do some research. Here's what I found...

While the word "rapture" appears nowhere in the Bible (and yes, that includes the book of Revelation), there are at least two references to the idea of believers being "transported" or taken up to Heaven. The first appears in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17:

"For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever."

The second reference to a rapture-like event comes right from Jesus, himself. In Matthew 24, the disciples ask our Lord about when he will return and the signs that will indicate His coming. Jesus responds, “Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know what day your Lord is coming.”

Now most scholars believe that Paul was being more metaphorical rather than literal in the passage from 1 Thessalonians. After all, Paul firmly believed that Christ’s return was imminent and he was convinced that the Second Coming would occur during his lifetime. Thus, given this sense of urgency, Paul may have written these verses more as a means of persuasion so that his fellow Christians would be ready when the day came.

The same argument can be made for Matthew, which was written some fifty years after Jesus’ life. Matthew’s gospel is not a verbatim report of Jesus’ words and actions, but rather a compilation of stories and sayings that were passed down orally in the years following Jesus’ ascension. Now does that mean that Jesus never said these things about the end of the age? Absolutely not. It just means that we need to be mindful of context. Matthew obviously believed that Christ would return sooner rather than later so he needed to make sure that the community of Christians who he was writing to was prepared.

So what does all of this mean? Is there really going to be a rapture that leaves some people behind? And if so, when will it happen? I have absolutely no idea and neither do you. As our Lord reminds us, only God knows the answers to these questions: “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” In other words, to worry about the particulars of when and how is pointless. In the end, the only thing that matters is that Jesus wins.

Are we living in the end times? Yes, but we have been ever since Jesus rose from the tomb on Easter morning. And when He does return (which he will), we can take comfort in knowing that through faith our sins will be forgiven, our tears will be wiped away, and everything will be made new. Take that, HBO!

See you in worship,

*Pastor Alex*

Pastor Alex



# Air Conditioner Fund Update

We now have a grand total of \$6635.00 toward the \$35,000.00 goal for the air conditioner fund. Your donations In Honor of and In Memory of dear friends, plus funds that have been matched by a very generous person who still will match dollar-for-dollar all funds received, has made this possible. Thank you!

We wish to acknowledge and thank you for the following additional donations that have been made and were not listed in last month's Messenger.

## IN HONOR OF

Paula Williams by Karen & Norm Irving

Don Roth by Jane Sloan

Harvest Festival by Joan Pirrone

Harvest Festival by Susan and Vincent Masciello

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Merle Williams by Sue Ellen Coyle

Loved Ones by Dan & Anna Lenz

Ruth Wakuluk by William Wakuluk

Loved Ones by Doris Hild

Robert Klipfel by Albert Klipfel

Robert Koehler by Sue Ellen Coyle

Salvatore Criscuolo by Dorothy Criscuolo

Merle Williams by Jim Grasso & Sue Ellen Coyle

Salvatore Criscuolo by Dorothy Criscuolo

Bob Weber by Gerda Weber



Please check the bulletin board in the narthex across from the coat rack to see our progress. It is our hope and prayer that you will consider making a donation to this fund. Enclosed is a form that can be used for this purpose.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Finance and Stewardship Committee

## **Help Us Reach Our Goal!**

St. John's Lutheran Church

Air Conditioner Fund

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_

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

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your contribution to:

St. John's Lutheran Church Air Conditioner Fund

13 Blake Ave.

Lynbrook, NY 11563

Or, please drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you!

**A HARVEST OF THANK YOU'S**

## **BRIC-A-BRAC THANKS**

Thanks to everyone for all of their contributions to the Bric-a-Brac sale and their help before and during the Harvest Festival! This year as we reached another new sales record. We made a total of \$2,535.18 at both of the pre-sales and at the festival! We could have not done it without all of you. Thanks again for all of your help and time, it is greatly appreciated.

Diane Dake and Susan Masciello



We'd like to thank everyone who donated goodies to the bake sale table at this year's Harvest Festival. We had an incredible variety of baked goods which resulted in a profit of \$514. We couldn't have done it without you.

Also, a big thank you to our committee members -- Maryann Dodd, Karen Feltkamp, Pauline Feltkamp, Allison Koehler and Ruth Williamson.

You gals are the best!

Carol Clemente  
Charlene Comastri  
Co-Chairpersons

## **CREPE SALE THANKS**

We want to thank Alexandra Dunn, Ursula Lipitz, and Heather Hanson and Victoria Dunn for introducing the new Crepe station to our Harvest Festival. Their culinary skills in making these crepes brought a delicious addition to the epicurean delights already available at our Harvest Festival. We also want to thank all the kids who were able to help at the game table. Your participation helped make our Harvest Festival an even bigger success!

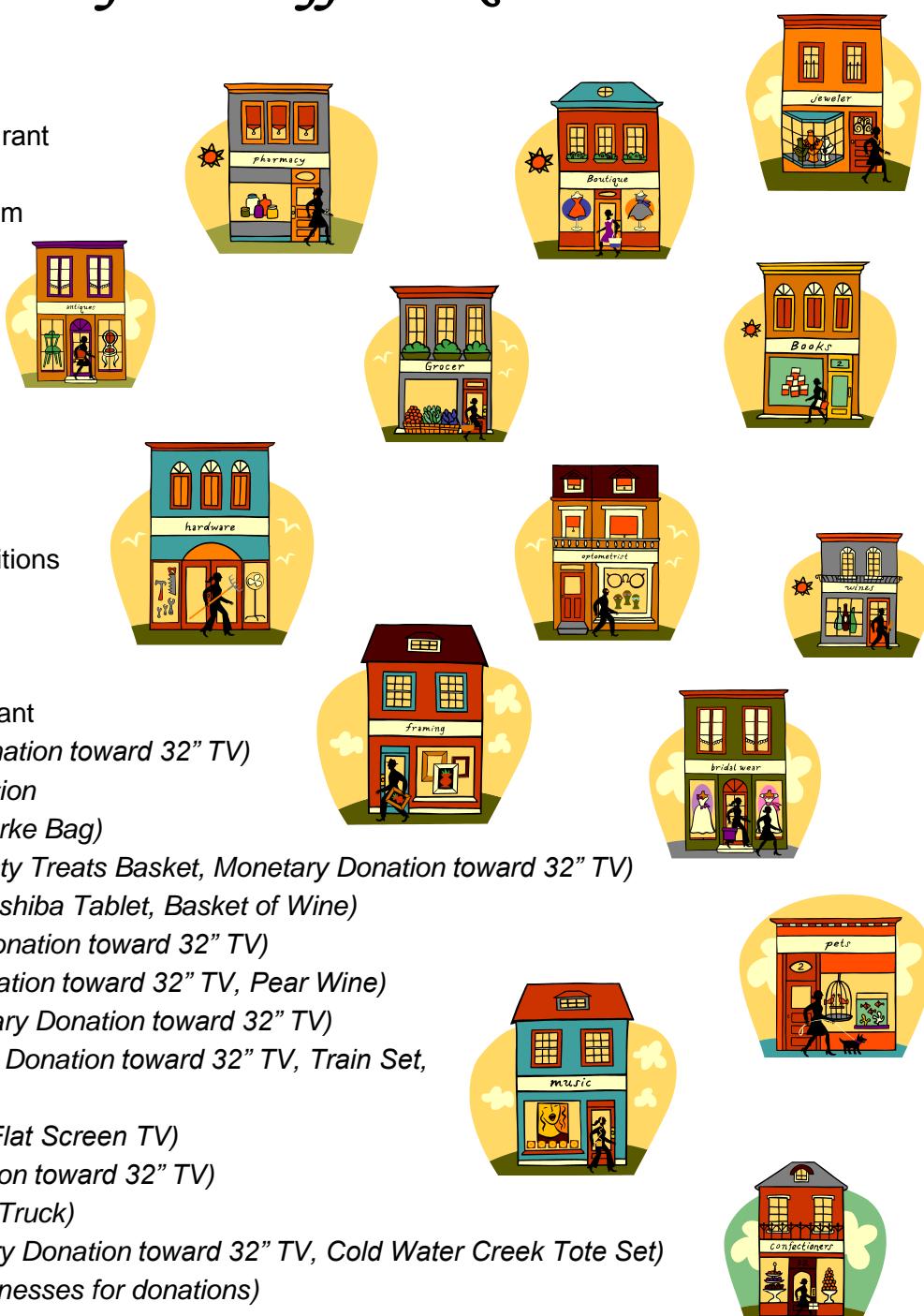


## **THANKS TO EVERYONE**

A big Thank you to everyone who helped with the Harvest Festival. Together we made a total of \$4495.00. This money will be distributed to various local charities in St. John's name.

# *Thanks to the following businesses and people who donated or solicited items for our raffle baskets:*

- Ála Carte Culinary Services
- Angelina's Pizzeria and Restaurant
- Connolly Station
- DePalma's Florist, Valley Stream
- Dunkin Donuts
- F and L Deli
- Freyhammer's Florist
- Hallmark Lyn Gift Shop
- Lynbrook Bagels
- McQuade's Pub Restaurant
- Metro Diner
- Miller's Hardware Store
- Moments, Memories, and Traditions
- Sip's in Valley Stream
- Sweet Peace Bakery
- TropiCuts Hair Salon
- Vincent's Pizzeria and Restaurant
- Carol Clemente (*Monetary Donation toward 32" TV*)
- Dot Criscuolo (*Monetary Donation*)
- Alexandra Dunn (*Dooney & Burke Bag*)
- Pauline Feltkamp (*Bicycle, Tasty Treats Basket, Monetary Donation toward 32" TV*)
- Bruce and Karen Feltkamp (*Toshiba Tablet, Basket of Wine*)
- Aurelio Gonzalez (*Monetary Donation toward 32" TV*)
- Allison Koehler (*Monetary Donation toward 32" TV, Pear Wine*)
- Henry and Claire Lenz (*Monetary Donation toward 32" TV*)
- Dan and Anna Lenz (*Monetary Donation toward 32" TV, Train Set, Tower of GS Cookies*)
- Vin and Susan Masciello (*40" Flat Screen TV*)
- Joan Pirrone (*Monetary Donation toward 32" TV*)
- Vito and Dot Richetti (*Monster Truck*)
- Don and Cora Sarver (*Monetary Donation toward 32" TV, Cold Water Creek Tote Set*)
- Sue Ellen Coyle (*Solicited businesses for donations*)
- Pastor Alex Kennedy (*Solicited businesses for donations*)



**Special thanks to Cora Sarver and Dan Lenz for a great job in selling our raffles and 50/50 chances at the table.**

Many thanks to all who helped make this another successful year.

Sincerely,

*Anna Lenz and Cora Sarver*

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RAFFLE WINNERS

## Basket Winners:

1. **40" Toshiba Flat Screen TV:** Judy Posimato
- 1A. **32" JVC Flat Screen TV:** Arthur Clark
2. **Toshiba Excite Go Tablet:** Ursula Lipitz
3. **Roadmaster 24" Mountain Bike:** Robyn Gilloon
4. **Southwest Special Freight Train Set:** Agnes Kress
5. **\$100 in a frame:** Joan Pirrone
6. **\$100 in a frame:** Joan Pirrone
7. **Dining Out:** Tracy Santoro
8. **Basket of Wine:** Bill Benson
9. **Very Pretty:** Heidi Scalza
10. **Commuter Girl:** Agnes Kress
11. **Keurig supplies:** Amy O'Connor
12. **Ready to Go:** MaryEllen Sobel
13. **Scorpion Pro Monster Truck:** Samantha DeWeil
14. **Tasty Treats:** Danny Gonzalez
15. **Tower of Girl Scout Cookies:** Denise the Organist
16. **2 American Girl Doll figurines:** Daphne
17. **Animal Fun:** Cora Sarver
18. **Wrap It Up:** The Larke Family
19. **Ooh, Baby, Baby! :** Patti Weiss
20. **Serve This:** Ann Rebman
21. **Floral Display from Freyhammer's Florist in Lynbrook:**  
*Ruth Williamson*

22. **Date Night:** Adam Sosnik
23. **Sweet Treats:** Kate Budd
24. **Bonus Basket:** Denise the Organist

50/50 = \$103.00: Vinny Masciello

*Thank yous from our college kids!*



I would like to thank the congregation for the lovely care package. It made my day, and it is so nice to know that the church is thinking of me while I'm away at school. It kept my usually grumbling stomach quiet throughout class. Thanks again for thinking of me and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone when I am home. Thanks again!  
Love,  
Danielle Dake



Dear Pastor Alex and of course, the Congregation of St. John's,

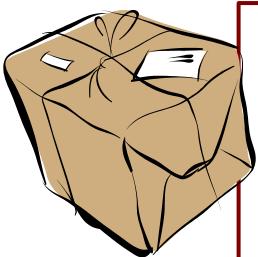
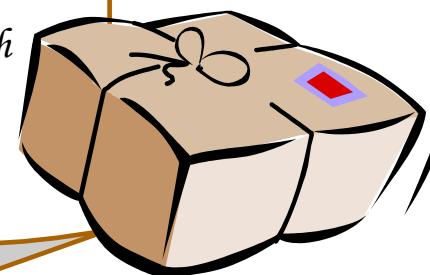
For many of you college probably seems like a lifetime ago. But it's obvious that your understanding of the undergraduate palette has not dwindled with experience. I am so grateful for the generosity of St. John's and no amount of thank you letters (and I've penned many to the church throughout my life) could truly capture that. But I hope this letter, hastily written between GRE studies and Quantum Mechanics homework, is enough to say thank you and to let you know that I think of you as much as you think of me.

Sincerely,  
Mike Fernez

Dear Pastor Alex and the Congregation of St. John's,

I am so thankful to be part of this church all my life! The gratefulness never goes in which I am still remembered even though I am attending college. I am proud to be a member at St. John's Church and so thankful for all the snacks in the gift bag. Thank you for always being there for me.

Sincerely,  
Matt Fernez



Dear Pastor Alex and the Congregation of St. John's, I just wanted to thank you for the college care package. It was a really sweet gesture and I will be sure to use it all.

Thanks again!  
Carrie Feltkamp

#### THE ST. JOHN'S SEWING MINISTRY

We are not sure if you have noticed, but St. John's no longer has a Sewing Ministry. St. John's Sewing group- which is part of WELCA, met on Tuesday mornings, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We were a small group, whose members included Christal Hild



(who was in charge), Jan Arena, Ruth Williamson, me, (Carol Clemente) and for the last few years, Joan Pirrone.

The ministry is not longer active because of many different factors.

But I wanted to take the time to give you a brief history of this wonderful ministry and explain to you what the sewing ministry actually did while it was active.

Christal started going to sewing around 1967. Ruth started around 1995, I started around 2004. I wasn't able to find out exactly what year the sewing group began but according to Christal it was active for many years before she joined. The group used to meet all day long. Some members would come in the morning, and some would come in the afternoon. Christal relayed that they had even set up a small area with toys and things for the children that the women may have brought with them.

Over the years many of St. John's women have participated in the sewing group. Christal said that at one time there were even 3 women from the Catholic church who would join us to sew.

The women sewed and knitted and crocheted many different items that were donated to different places. Here is a list of items made in 1982:

143 dresses, 25 layettes, 5 slips, 13 pairs of pants, 1 shirt, 2 jackets, 7 hats, 6 tablecloths, 8 pillows, 10 lap robes, 32 wheel chair bags, 63 pairs of booties, 8 bibs, 5 sweaters, 4 wash clothe, 1 vest, 3 pairs of mittens and Christmas gifts that were sent to ?Suffolk Development, the Holly Patterson home, and other places. Christal also mentioned that they made children's pajamas that were sent to Viet Nam. At one time the sewing group made children's clothes for an orphanage.

These past years we have been making many things for the Holly Patterson Home, lap robes, neck pillows, booties, wheelchair bags, lap quilts, etc. Ruth said the group also made costumes for the Sunday School Christmas Pageant

We have also gone to the Parish Resource Center to make Banners for St. John's. It was a very productive sewing ministry, It is a bit sad that the ministry is not longer active but whether by choice or economic necessity, many women have careers or need to work outside the home. The Sewing Ministry was a wonderful ministry that was productive with many women sharing the work and the fellowship. I am very happy I was part of the sewing group. I have made good friends had the chance to help those in need in a very special way.

Sincerely,

Carol Clemente

***The Return of the PONY EXPRESS!***



That's right, saddle up stewards... it's delivery time! On Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be starting our annual stewardship appeal with a familiar program - **The Pony Express**. For those of you who are new to our church, the idea is simple.

Each person/couple/family within our congregation serves as a "Route Rider", receiving a saddlebag and then relaying it to one other person/couple/family in their neighborhood or area. The program is modeled after the original Pony Express from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century where each rider knew he could count on the next rider to relay the message or package to its intended destination. Therefore, just like last year, the success of this program will depend on the dedication, commitment, and teamwork of each member of our congregation.

During the course of the three-week period following Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, you will receive a saddlebag containing an overview of our budget and ministries, an Estimate of Giving card, and directions for completing the card. After reading these materials, you will fill in your card, seal it in an envelope, and place it into the saddlebag. Then, you will deliver the saddlebag to the next family on the Route List, which will be attached to the saddlebag.

The nice thing about this program is that you will be able to make your decision about your financial support in the privacy of your home. We've also added an extra week this year so that you can take the necessary time to prayerfully consider your pledge and commitment to the congregation.

Let's join together in making this year's stewardship campaign a success. It is only through *your* continuing support that God's work can be accomplished at St. John's.

*Pastor Alex*