



ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

JANUARY

2015

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 January 2015 ~

Friday - Sunday, Jan. 9-11	Confirmation Retreat at Koinonia Camp
Sunday, Jan. 11	Worship – Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 AM Sunday School and Nursery School Program
Tuesday, Jan. 13	Council Meeting 8:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan. 14	Confirmation Class 7:00 PM
Thursday, Jan. 15	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Friday, Jan. 16	All Committee Reports due for Annual Meeting Brownie Meeting 3:35 PM
Sunday, Jan. 18	Worship 9:30 AM Sunday School NO Nursery Program today WELCA Meeting after worship
Monday, Jan. 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – no school
Wednesday, Jan 21	Confirmation class 7:00 PM
Thursday, Jan 22	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Friday, Jan. 23	Girl Scout Meeting 6:30 PM
Sunday, Jan. 25	Worship 9:30 AM Sunday Nursery Program 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Evangelism Meeting after worship
Wednesday, Jan 28	Confirmation class 7:00 PM
Thursday, Jan 29	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Friday, Jan. 30	Brownie Meeting 3:15 PM Girl Scout Event 6:00 – 10:00 PM

Looking forward to February...

Sunday, Feb. 1	Congregational Annual Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday
Sunday, Feb. 22	First Sunday of Lent

SERVERS FOR JANUARY 2015

DATE	AM TIME	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	USHERS
1/11	9:30	Erin Milano	Erin Milano	Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Criscuolo
1/18	9:30	Emma Lenz	Elizabeth Hanson	Janet Pescatore	Janet Pescatore	Doug and Kristina Palmer
1/25	9:30	Christopher Dunn	Jason Pace	Andrew Dunn	Gerda Weber	Lori Fernéz & Janet Powell

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

PLEASE NOTE- ALL SERVERS SHOULD ARRIVE TO CHURCH AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS.

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.

Total Offering for the month of December: \$23,253.50
Total Expenses for the month of December: \$14,268.59

A Message from Pastor Alex

What an awesome gift it was to celebrate another Advent and Christmas season with all of you in worship. From the beautiful music offered by our organist, Judy Pang, and our church choir directed by Allison Koehler to the splendor of God's sanctuary with all the lights, paraments, and Christmas decorations (not to mention our marvelous Advent wreath), the services here at St. John's were truly wonderful. I cannot thank our worship committee enough for your continued help and hard work. Without each one of you, our worship wouldn't be possible!

Now it's a new year... 2015 to be exact. God has lovingly blessed us once again with the birth of a Son and now we think about the possibilities of the year to come: plans, goals, hopes, maybe even fears. How many of you made a New Year's resolution this year? I'm sure some of you did, making a vow to improve yourself in a certain way or do something kind for someone else. Maybe you promised to lose weight by eating healthier and exercising more (the gyms are always packed in January. February is a different story). Perhaps you've sworn to quit smoking, drink less alcohol, manage your stress better, or simply get away and go on a trip. Maybe you're determined to get a degree, a promotion, or a better job. Or perhaps you made an oath to pray more, be closer to God, or volunteer some time to help those in need.

"Out with the old and in with the new," we boldly declare. Time to improve; time to change. But do these New Year's resolutions really hold and endure or do we find ourselves making them again the following year? A study conducted by an Australian website last year found that out of 2000 participants only 42% made a New Year's resolution, and of those who did, two out of three people did not follow through with their resolution (Thank you, Wikipedia).

Granted, it's only one study with a relatively small sample size, but if you ask me I think there's some truth in that data. Sometimes we do succeed with our New Year's resolutions. With God's help and the encouragement and support from family and friends, we accomplish what we set out to do because the resolution was either reasonable or absolutely necessary. However, it seems that more often than not, we come up terribly short in carrying out these personal assertions. Why? Two reasons. First, we have a tendency to make big resolutions that aren't realistic. I mean, let's face it - what's a New Year's resolution if it's not impressive and challenging? The problem though is that the goal becomes too overwhelming so we begin to make compromises and then eventually we give up. The second reason that we fail is that 12 months is a very long time! New Year's resolutions require a great deal of endurance and 365 days is plenty of time to find a convenient excuse or reason to quit.

But what if we decided to make a resolution together? After all, we are a community of faith that loves, encourages, and supports one another. We have a shared identity and mission, which means that our goals are essentially the same anyway! Therefore, as we look forward to 2015, let us make a resolution together as a congregation to look more outward rather than inward. Let's vow to continue to dedicate ourselves to the calling that Christ has given us as we share God's love with those in this community. With God's help and blessing, we CAN do this together and we WILL. See you in worship!

Pastor Alex

Air Conditioner Fund Update

We now have a grand total of \$23,295.00 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!

As we look forward to the Christmas Season wearing sweaters, hats, and warm jackets we are hoping that you will remember this fund so we can enjoy a comfortable church in the hot days of the summer.

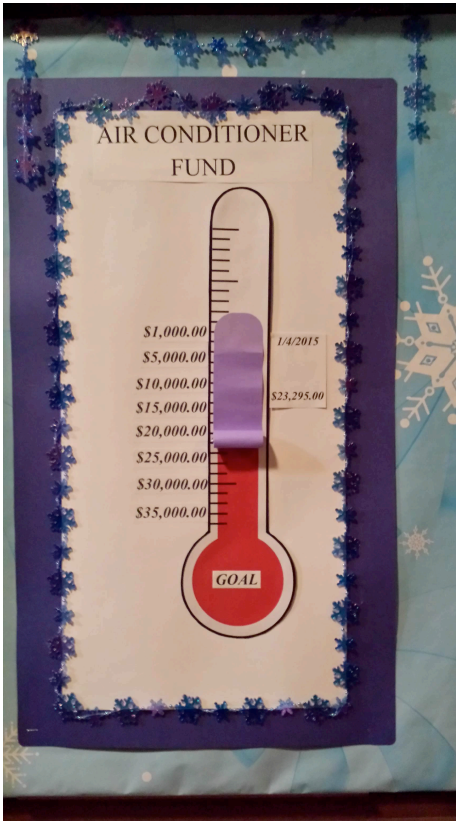
We wish to acknowledge and thank you with the following updated list for the generous donations that have been made thus far.

AIR CONDITIONER FUND 2014-2015 IN LOVING MEMORY OF

*Mildred & Horace DuBose by Dennis & Lorí Fernéz
Robert Koehler by Allison Koehler
Mom (Irma Kaemph) & Merle Williams by Karen and Norm Irving
Salvatore Criscuolo by Dorothy Criscuolo
Noemí Castrence by Andrea Sommella
Norma González by Andrea Sommella
Loved Ones by Charlene Comastri
Nelma McMenamin by Dorothy Criscuolo
Nelma McMenamin by Carol Clemente
Nelma McMenamin by Pauline Feltkamp
Nelma McMenamin by Joan Pirrone
Nelma McMenamin by Don & Cora Sarver
Nelma McMenamin by Andrea Sommella*

AIR CONDITIONER FUND 2014 - 2015 IN HONOR OF

*Dad (Bob Kaemph) & Paula Williams by Karen & Norm Irving
St. John's members by Inger Gundersen*



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. Below 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!

THE GIVING TREE: ***THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!***

Once again, I would like to thank all of you for supporting the Giving Tree Project by donating gifts (as well as supplies) and continuing to make this a success year after year.

Thanks to the Youth Group and Young Adult members who helped assemble the gift tags: **Carrie Feltkamp, Matt Fernez, Kayla O'Connor and Kyle O'Connor**. And thanks to those who came to wrap the gifts: **Carrie Feltkamp, Kyle O'Connor and Jill Pace**. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Many Christmas wishes were answered, as every tag from the tree was fulfilled—the Giving Tree provided over 60 gifts to 5 families. We are so blessed to have such a generous congregation!

Thanks to you all, and a blessed Christmas to you and your families.

Lori Fernez

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HELPED
DECORATE AND “UN-DECORATE” THE CHURCH
FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON. IT COULD NOT
HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT YOUR HELP!

St. John's donated \$234.00 to the INN from the
collection given at the
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service!
God's work, Our Hands!

