

ST. JOHN-INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH **MESSENGER**

NOVEMBER 2019



Sunday Worship – 8:15am and 9:30am
Sunday School – 9:30am

Calendar of Events:

Sun. Nov. 3 ALL SAINTS	Worship services "We Are Called" Stewardship Appeal Begins (WORSHIP)	8:15 & 9:30am
Mon. Nov. 4	Yoga class	7:00pm
Sun. Nov. 10	Worship services (We Are Called to LOVE)	8:15 & 9:30am
Sun. Nov. 17	Worship services (We Are Called to SERVE) Sunday School Assembling Personal Care Kits for New LIFE Center	8:15 & 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am
Mon. Nov. 18	Yoga class	7:00pm
Tue. Nov. 19	Evangelism meeting Council meeting	6:30pm 7:30pm
Thurs. Nov. 21	Choir rehearsal	7:30pm
Sun. Nov. 24	Worship service (We Are Called to GIVE – Commitment Sunday) Guest speaker: Branden Dupree – Interim Director for Evangelical Mission of the Metropolitan NY Synod (NO 8:15am service!) Fellowship & coffee hour	9:30am 10:30am
Mon. Nov. 25	Yoga class	7:00pm
Thurs. Nov. 28	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	



LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER:

Sun. Dec. 1	Worship services FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday School Advent wreath workshop	8:15 & 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am
Mon. Dec. 2	Yoga class	7:00pm
Tue. Dec. 3	Knitting circle	7:30pm
Wed. Dec. 4	Confirmation class	7:00pm
Thurs. Dec. 5, 12, 19	Advent Holden Evening Prayer service	7:00pm
Fri. Dec. 6	Girl Scout Event	3:30pm - 5:30pm
Tue. Dec. 10	Evangelism meeting Council meeting	6:30pm 7:30pm
Thurs. Dec. 12	WELCA Christmas Luncheon	12:00pm



A Message from the Pastor...

In *Speaking of Stewardship*, James E. Mead shares the following:

“On a recent mission trip to India, I learned about a fascinating practice of the Evangelical Church of India. When the church baptizes a new believer, this new member of Christ’s church is given the gift of a coconut palm tree. The new believer takes it home and plants it, and within four years, this tree starts to bear fruit. When the coconut palm is young, it will bear about fifty dollars’ worth of coconuts a year, and when it matures, it will provide about one hundred dollars of annual income. In India, one hundred dollars of yearly income is a significant amount of money, even for the middle class.

The church gives new believers coconut palms for two reasons. First, almost everyone in India is needy, and the income helps to provide for their needs. Second, the coconut palms teach a lesson about Christian stewardship. The church tells each new believer that it expects them to give 10 percent, a tithe, of whatever income they get out of that coconut palm tree.

The ‘coconut tree plan’ is a wonderful idea and a great expression of the deeper meanings of Christian stewardship. The income the family gets from the tree comes free, entirely as a gift. They don’t buy the tree; it is given to them. Also, the tithe, the 10 percent, is money they get free. The family is able to enjoy the fruits of a gift given freely to them and also to have the joy of freely giving something away themselves.

Moreover, these new Christians play a crucial role as stewards in all of this. They have a choice. If they wish, they can take the tree home, throw it in a corner, and let it die, never growing any coconuts. But they also can choose to plant their tree in a good spot, take care of it, watch over it, and harvest the coconuts. Everything depends on their decision making. No one forces them to tithe... People are free to choose to give or not.

The idea that human possessions are really gifts comes from the Bible. The biblical understanding of wealth and possessions is that everything comes from God and everything belongs to God. Nothing actually belongs to us; rather, as Psalm 24 puts it clearly, ‘The earth is the LORD’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.’ Everything and everybody belongs to God...

Sometimes it is difficult to remember that God really owns everything, because you and I work hard for our incomes... We have toiled for what we have. But... To remember that God owns everything prompts a remarkable shift in our view of stewardship. Usually when we think of stewardship (of giving to charitable causes, if you want), we define it as our giving to God or to the church something that belongs to us. In the Bible, stewardship is just the reverse – our freely using, enjoying, and giving what already belongs to God.”

As we focus this month on our baptismal call to worship, to love, to serve, and to give, we remember that God is indeed the source of all that we have and need in our lives. Though we often fall into the trap of thinking that our wealth and possessions are *ours* and proudly claim them as such, we are reminded in the words of scripture that *everything* belongs to God and that God, our provider, blesses us with these gifts so that we may be a blessing to others, especially those in need. And so, we are grateful to be called beloved children of God and disciples of Jesus. We want to be good stewards of God’s abundant love and *we can be* because we know that the One who calls us has already gone before us and prepared the way.

As we approach another Commitment Sunday, let us reaffirm our call to discipleship and the ministry of our congregation. Let us be “coconut trees” to our community and those we help, so that, by God’s grace we may continue to worship, love, serve, give and LIVE as church together.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Alex



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Larry Lipitz
Anthony Posimato
Donna Valenti
Stephen Suppa
Eleanor Haslett
Scott Masciello
Sherry Powell
The Carver Family
John Michael
Vivian Monaco
Family of Brenda Essex
Vincent S.
Mary Rebando

Arlene
Sandy
Bill
Orlando Castrence
Joanne
Ryan
Grace
Sue
Bernadette Harten
Carmel Wright
Larry Rienecker
Owen Roventini

Bill Gibbs
Charles
Karissa Heap
Joe
Alisa Queen
Tad Sheppard
Harold Walker
Bob T.
Faith
Amie Hanna
Joshua Emswiler
Debbie Beckman

If you would like to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please write the name(s) on a prayer request card or call or email the office at 599-0778 or stjohnincarnation@gmail.com. Please write how long you would like the name to remain on the list otherwise it will be removed after three weeks. Feel free to repeat your request at any time; we can all use prayers.



CHURCH DIRECTORY PHOTOS!

Sign up in the narthex or email the church office at stjohnincarnation@gmail.com to schedule your appointment. Pictures are usually taken on Sundays after church or can be scheduled on weekdays during office hours.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH!

We are seeking families or individuals to help light a candle on our Advent Wreath and lead the special litany during our worship services throughout the 4 Sundays of Advent: **December 1st**, **December 8th**, **December 15th** and **December 22nd**.

If interested, please contact the church office or look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex. Once you have signed up, we will give you the blessing to read over before your assigned day.



Once again, in conjunction with our annual Giving Tree Project, we would like to help the ELCA during this holiday season with some of the wonderful things they provide for the underprivileged in other parts of the world. Some of the ways you can help fight hunger and poverty along with the ELCA through this program: Donations of ...

- ✓ \$10 buys a Bible, chicks, a fruit tree seedling, or a backpack stocked with food
- ✓ \$10 buys a warm blanket for a child
- ✓ \$12 buys water jugs, \$20 buys honey bees, and \$38 will train an evangelist
- ✓ \$30 buys a pig, vaccinations for a child, or supports a young adult in a global mission for a day
- ✓ \$40 pays for school fees and uniforms
- ✓ \$50 buys a goat
- ✓ \$125 buys a sheep
- ✓ For additional gifts please see the catalogs on the table

How YOU can help ...

Our Advent Tree will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex near the bell. The tree will have ornaments in all the varied amounts stated above. Before or after either service on Sunday mornings (**beginning December 1st**) you can go to the tree and select the ornament with the amount and type of giving (for example, honey bees for \$20) that you would like to donate. (If you do not see what you are looking for on the tree, please ask, as we do have extras.)

Please give your donation (cash or check made out to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) to Pastor Alex or place it in the offering plate -- and you may keep the ornament to hang on your Christmas tree at home, as a reminder that Christmas is all about giving to others! **Donations will be collected through December 30th.** Thank you for your generosity and have a blessed Christmas season!



THE GIVING TREE

BRINGING THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS TO FAMILIES IN NEED

Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, St. John-Incarnation has delivered some wonderful Christmas gifts to families over the years who may have had no gifts at all. We will soon be setting up our Giving Tree once again, and we are hoping to deliver more of God's love this Christmas season.

Can you please help us bring some Christmas spirit to some families in need? **Beginning on Sunday, November 17th**, there will be a small table-top Christmas tree set up in the narthex with "gift tags" hung on its branches. These tags will list a name and one specific item requested by that individual. Most items requested are very basic things – a pair of pajamas, a sweatshirt, or a simple toy.

If you would like to donate one or more items, select a gift tag from the Giving Tree and follow the instructions given. **Donations need to be brought in by Sunday, December 8th:**

It is essential to begin and end this project early in order to get the gifts to their recipients in time for the holidays.

Your generosity will bring some joy to someone in need this holiday season and that is the true meaning of Christmas! Thank you for your support! – Lori Fernéz

Mark your calendars!!!

**ANNUAL
ADVENT WREATH
MAKING WORKSHOP!**



Come join us on **December 1st** after the 9:30 AM worship and create your own family advent wreath!

A pizza lunch, including beverages and dessert will follow.

A free-will offering will be received to help cover the costs of pizza and craft supplies.

If you are planning to join us, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex along with the number of people who will be attending with you.

You can also register by contacting the church office at 516-599-0718 or stjohnincarnation@gmail.com

We hope to see you there!

Sponsored by WELCA



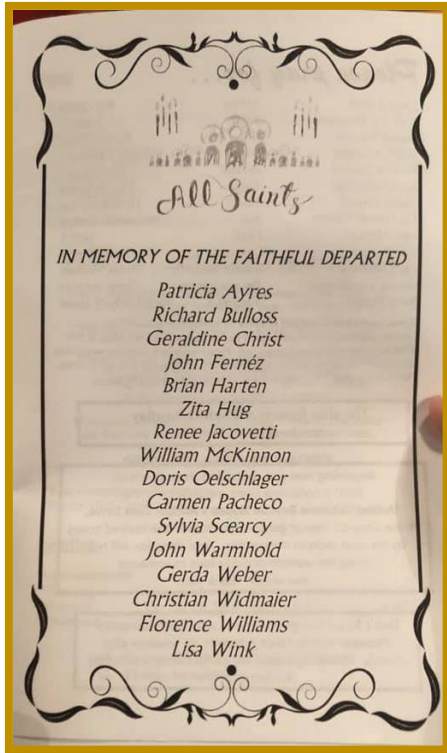
WELCA will be hosting their annual **Christmas Luncheon** on **Thursday, December 12th at 12:00 pm.**

If you would like to join us, please add your name to the sign-up sheet posted in the narthex.

Bring a neighbor or friend!

All are welcome!

All Saints Sunday



Cross String Craft Event



HALLOWEEN PARTY!



CHURCH SIGN BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT!

Thank you to the members of the St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church congregation for your support in completing my Eagle Project, the brick wall and garden surrounding the sign. I have several organizations and individuals I need to thank. First, I must thank the Church Council for helping to fund my project, giving valuable feedback, and leading me to good choices for retailers. A big thank you to both Hicks Nursery and State Materials for providing generous discounts on the project materials.

And finally, I must thank each member of the congregation, my family and Scout Troop 336 who donated to me directly and at the Harvest Festival:

Pastor Alex, Vinnie Masciello, Rob Reckhart, Kimberly Carlstrom, Donald and Cora Sarver, Don Roth, Ruth Williamson, Lori Fernez, Chris Larke, Robert Clark, Jeanette Richetti, Joan Pirrone, Ken Jackson, Mary Dodd, The Berkowitz Family, Ursula Lipitz, Doris Hild, Janet Pescatore, Judy Posimato, Kathy Kranseler, Ian Bifet, Dan Cullen Jr., Liam Gattis, Jason Huffine, Luke Maroney, Connor Connelly, Alex Guerriero, Joanne and Tom Huffine, Kevin and Heather Hanson, Scout Master Steve Maroney, Assistant Scoutment Dan Cullen and District Eagle Advisor John Plackis.

Thank you all so much for your support, it makes me so happy to finally complete my project after years of working through the ranks of scouting.

Gratefully,
Kevin Charles Hanson Jr.



St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church
presents a special showing of:

STAR WARS: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER



December 31st at 9:30 AM

Bellmore Playhouse Theatre

\$12 per person

Includes small popcorn & small drink

Tickets MUST be purchased in advance.

*** No reserved seating**

Payments by Cash or Check made out to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church
See Gabrielle Barry or Andrea Sommella (secretary)

St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church
Roof Fund Appeal
UPDATE

The Stewardship and Finance committee is pleased to let you know the work on the roof above the old church which is above the knotty pine room, church office, council room and nursery is done.

Unfortunately, we have not reached our goal of \$20,000.00 which was needed to cover the cost of the roof. We are **\$2610.00 short of our goal** which doesn't even cover the extra expense incurred with the unforeseen water damage to the roof that had to be addressed. We are still collecting funds to cover the cost of the roof.

A big thank you to all who have so generously contributed to this appeal!

With the additional work that was needed to be done, it is our hope and prayer that more donations to this new roof will be made.

Donations can be made in “Memory of” or in “Honor of” anyone you wish to be remembered or honored. Donations will be shared each month in our Messenger and displayed on our bulletin board in the Narthex.

Enclosed is a form that may be used for your donations.

Please look for regular updates from our Finance Committee.

Thank you!

Joan Pirrone
Stewardship and Finance Committee
Financial Recording Secretary



Check out the bulletin board across from the coat rack and see how our worker climbs the ladder to our goal!



Help Us Reach Our Goal!

St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church Roof Fund

Name _____

Amount _____

Envelope # _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

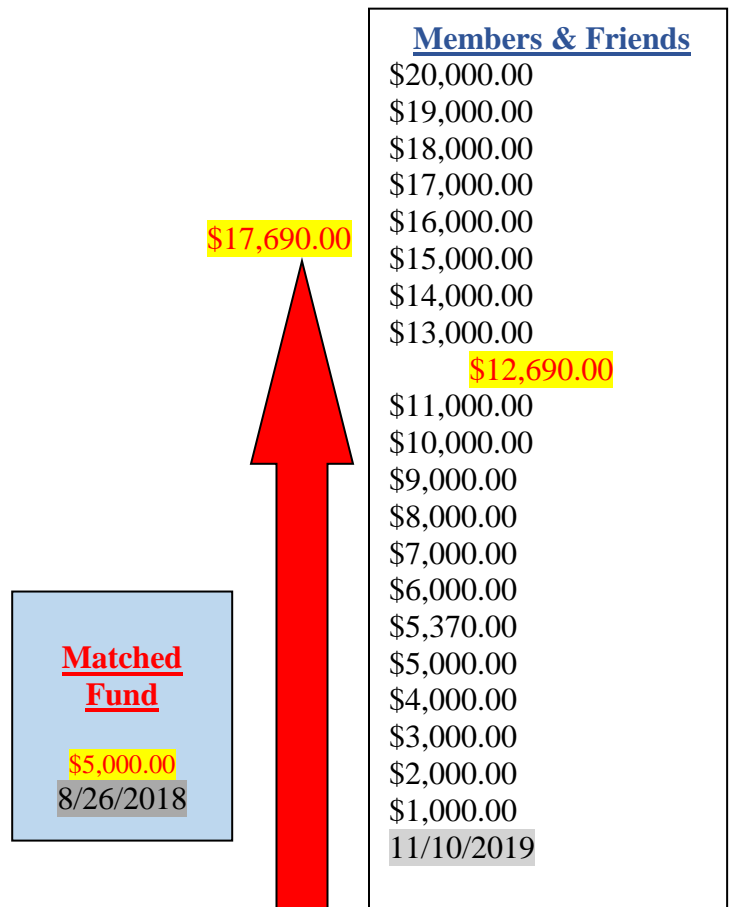
Please mail your contribution to:

St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church Roof Fund
13 Blake Ave.
Lynbrook, NY 11563

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

Thank you

**St. John-Incarnation
Roof Appeal 2018-19
With Matching Funds**



**We wish to acknowledge and thank all who have already contributed to the
Roof Fund of St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church!**

IN HONOR OF...

Dorothy Criscuolo's 75th birthday

*Karen & Anthony Posimato
Dot & Vito Richetti 50th Wedding Anniversary
Loved Ones
Pauline, Bruce (my godson) & Karen Feltkamp
An Offering
St. John-incarnation
Our grandchildren
Paula Williams
Dorothy Criscuolo's 75th Birthday
The 50th Anniversary of Dot & Vito Richetti
Raquel, Robert Sr., Robert Jr. & Lucas Clark
Cuffia B. Reitler
Joyce, Gregory & Andrew
My children Allison & Joseph &
Grandchildren Giovanni & Gabriella
Gerda Weber
An Offering
St. John-Incarnation
Carol Clemente's 75th Birthday
Cora Sarver's 75th Birthday
St. John-Incarnation
My Grandchildren*

BY:

*Carol Clemente, Allison Koehler,
Joan Pirrone, Cora Sarver, &
Judy and Dave Opatow*

*Judy and Anthony Posimato
Dot & Vito Richetti
The Lipitz Family
Grace West
Anonymous
Anna & Dan Lenz
Chris & Blanche Shelton
Heidi Scalza
Joann Leone
Dorothy Criscuolo
Virginia & Arthur Clark
Edward G. Reitler
Edward G. Reitler*

*Joan Pirrone
Parker Sloan & Jane Sloan
Anonymous
Edward Reitler
Dorothy Criscuolo
Dorothy Criscuolo
Edward Reitler
William Wakuluk*

IN MEMORY OF...

*Loved ones
Loved one
Herbert Lynn
Anthony Masciello*

BY:

*The Lipitz Family
Don Roth
Elfriede Lynn
Susan & Vinnie Masciello*

*My siblings Joan, Al & Bill
Robert Weber
Sam & Alice Bachelor
Glenn Heap
Loved ones
Ralph F. Williams
Loved ones
Loved ones
Frank Feltkamp
Cappy & Jack Sheppard
Loved ones
Our mothers-Dorothy Jackson & June Conklin
Dorothy & Julius Roll, Sal Criscuolo,
& Nelma McMenamin
Loved Ones
Kimberly Ann Paolillo
Susan K. Reckhart & Kimberly Ann Paolillo
Merle Williams
Louis Clemente
Louis Clement
Irma & Bob Kaempf
Louis Clemente
My wife Ruth Wakuluk
Allen & Dorothy Jimmerson
Loved ones
Bob & Irma Kaempf
Bill Davison
William J. Telesky
Loved ones
Gerda Weber*

*Carol Clemente
Gerda Weber
Gabrielle Barry
Claire & Hank Lenz
Chris & Blanche Shelton
Florence Williams
Doris Hild
Paul & Christel Hild
Pauline Feltkamp
Anne & Tad Sheppard
Arlene & Ed Moglia
Ken Jackson & Kathy O'Mara*

*Dorothy Criscuolo
Charlene Comastri
John Paolillo
Robert Reckhart
Paula Williams
Judy & Dave Opatow
Dorothy Criscuolo
Bob & Diane Kaempf
Carol Clemente
William Wakuluk
Joan Pirrone
Cora Sarver
Karen & Norm Irving
Sue Ellen Coyle
Mary Ann Dodd
Eleanor Haslett
Carol Clemente, Dorothy
Criscuolo, Sue & Vinnie
Masciello, Joan Pirrone,
Cora & Don Sarver,
Catherine Ruzika, Jerry Esposito
Christel & Paul Hild, Marilyn
Sobel, Don Roth, The Tripodi
Family, Kerry & Glenn Kaplan
Louise Sasso, Sharon & Steve
Sarelson, The Stegman Family,
Lisa Crowley, Pauline Feltkamp
Muriel Roth, Debra Roth*

Harry Obst

*Irma and Bob Kaempf
Doris Oelschlager*

*Loved Ones
John Fernéz*

*Charles Henshaw
Patricia Ayres & William McKinnon
Loved Ones*

*Dorothy Criscuolo, Joan Pirrone
Carol Clemente
Brian, Christine, Joanne & Noah
Dot and Vito Richetti, Cora Sarver,
Dorothy Criscuolo, Joan Pirrone,
Vinnie & Susan Masciello,
Carol Clemente
Walter F. Wright Jr.
Dorothy Criscuolo, Joan Pirrone
Cora Sarver
Dorothy Criscuolo
Dorothy Criscuolo
Ed & Arlene Moglia*