

ST. JOHN-INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2020



13 Blake Avenue
Lynbrook, NY 11563

Calendar of Events

All Sunday worship services and Thursday night Vespers Prayer services will be held remotely via ZOOM with bulletins being sent by email and regular mail. Please contact the church office if you know someone who would like a copy of the bulletin so we can be sure to send it.

***All events from now until the end of January will be held via Zoom.**

DECEMBER:

Thurs. 12/24	Christmas Eve worship (family service) on Zoom	3:00pm
	Christmas Eve worship (traditional) on Zoom	7:30pm
Sun. 12/27	Lessons & Carols on Zoom	9:30am
Thurs. 12/31	NEW YEAR'S EVE (No Vespers) Last day for all ELCA Good Gifts donations!	

Looking ahead to JANUARY:

Fri. 1/1	Happy New Year!	
Sun. 1/3	Worship on Zoom	9:30am
Thurs. 1/7	Virtual Vespers on Zoom	7:30pm
Sun. 1/10	Worship on Zoom	9:30am
Tue. 1/12	Evangelism meeting	6:30pm
	Council meeting	7:30pm
Thurs. 1/14	Virtual Vespers on Zoom	7:30pm
Sun. 1/17	Worship on Zoom	9:30am
Thurs. 1/21	Virtual Vespers on Zoom	7:30pm
Sun. 1/24	Worship on Zoom	9:30am
Thurs. 1/28	Virtual Vespers on Zoom	7:30pm
Sun. 1/31	Worship & Annual Congregational Meeting on Zoom	9:30am



PLEASE NOTE:

We will continue to have **plastic bins** outside by the side door of the church for any food donations to the **New LIFE Center in Uniondale**. Thank you!

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR ALEX...

Oh how I hoped beyond hope that we would be able to gather for worship in our sanctuary this Christmas Eve! After everything we have endured these past 10 months, I wanted nothing more than to have a “normal” celebration of our Lord’s birth with all of you, and frankly, the notion of going back to fully remote services was one I didn’t even want to think about, much less consider! Whether it was optimism or denial (I think it was a little bit of both!), I was certain that we would somehow figure out a way to be physically together on Christmas Eve.

Unfortunately, however, with COVID numbers quickly rising again in our community and around the world (not to mention that we are now in the dreaded “flu season”), I recognize that we are no longer able to safely worship in-person even with masks and social-distancing. Therefore, **we are suspending all in-person services at St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church from now until at least the end of January. All worship services will be held on Zoom only during this time.** This decision follows a recommendation made by our Bishop and the Synod office to all the Lutheran congregations in the Metro NY Synod (including our neighboring churches here in the SW Nassau Conference) that "all our members celebrate this holy season online, and that all in-person worship be suspended until the end of January 2021, at which point we will reassess the situation."

Please know that this was not an easy decision. It required *a lot* of prayer, and there were definitely some tears and sleepless nights as I wrestled with our options. However, I do firmly believe that this is the right call for our congregation. I know it’s not what any of us wanted or hoped for, but I love you all too much to put you at risk, and as your pastor there is nothing more important to me than your safety and well-being.

Will this keep us from worshipping on Christmas Eve and in the weeks ahead? Absolutely not! Our celebration of Christ’s birth will go on, my dear friends, and through the gift of Zoom we will be able to worship and praise God together from our homes (this will also allow us to sing, which we **would not** have been able to do if we were gathering in-person!). So here’s the plan: We will have **two** virtual services on Christmas Eve – a family service with a special children’s message at **3:00pm** and our regular service at **7:30pm**. Both services will include music (the hymns will be different) and each should run no longer than an hour. We **will** be singing “Silent Night” at the 7:30pm service so make sure you have a candle ready to light if possible! On Sunday, December 27 we will have our annual service of Lessons and Carols at 9:30am via Zoom and on Thursday, January 7th we will resume our Thursday night services with a “Virtual Vespers” at 7:30pm.

We will make every effort to deliver the best video and audio quality that we can for these services, but in order to do this we will need your help. It’s wonderful that we can worship live in real-time, but the downside of this format is that any background/ambient noise interferes with the audio of our worship. Zoom can only handle one audio source at a time so if other devices (i.e. your phones, computers, tablets, etc.) are not muted, the sound will cut in and out. Our Zoom hosts can mute people individually, but that’s a difficult task when we have lots of people on Zoom and some insist on being un-muted. This needs to be a collective effort; otherwise, people won’t be able to hear and then we may have to consider pre-recorded services, which we want to avoid if we can.

Please note that there will be no distribution of Holy Communion in worship until we resume in-person services. That being said, I will be available for 1-on-1 meetings including prayer, Communion, and spiritual care. If you need to speak with me or you have a pastoral emergency, you can reach me directly at 484-400-4777. You may also schedule a time to come to the church and see our Memorial Garden at night, which we have decorated with Christmas lights. It’s a wonderful place to spend some time in prayer or you can even bring your children to see the lights and hear the bells if you’re looking for a reason to get out the house ☺

May God bless us and help us to open our hearts in love as we prepare for the coming of the One who is “the reason for the season.” Trusting in that good news of great joy for all of God’s people, we will join our voices as together we sing, “Joy to the world! The Lord is come!”

Peace +

Pastor Alex

DECEMBER 2020

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTE	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR
20	9:30		Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo
24	9:30	Kaylee Palmer	Claire Lenz	Chris Shelton
Christmas Eve		Christopher Palmer		
27	9:30		Kim Carlstrom	Kim Carlstrom

JANUARY 2021

DATE	TIME	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR
3	9:30	Janet Pescatore	Janet Pescatore
10	9:30	Dan Gonzalez	Chris Shelton
17	9:30	Hank Lenz	Claire Lenz
24	9:30	Susan Masciello	Susan Masciello
31	9:30	Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator: Claire Lenz: Lectors & Assisting Ministers – 872-2063; Pauline Feltkamp: Ushers - 599-2273 Andrea: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers and Gospel bearers - 599-0778. If you are making a change in the schedule, please notify the office so all information can be updated.

✝ There will be no service at 8:15am.

✝ Services will held ONLY on Zoom

Please pray for...

Larry Lipitz	Arlene	Karissa Heap
Anthony Posimato	Sandy	Orlando Castrence
Donna Valenti	Bill	Tad Sheppard
Stephen Suppa	Joe	Harold Walker
Eleanor Haslett	Joanne	Bernadette Harten
Scott Masciello	Ryan	Mike T.
Sherry Powell	Grace	Mary Rebando
The Carver Family	Sue	Ben Lynch
John Michael	Faith	Bob T.
Vivian Monaco	Carmel Wright	Ginger Freise
Colton Youdelman	Joshua Emswiler	Janet Habermann
Amie Hanna	Christel Hild	Our Homebound
Bill Gibbs	Charles	Our Military
Ann B.	Neil B.	Healthcare Workers
Arlene Moglia	Baby Jack Francis	First Responders
		Those we pray for silently or aloud

If you would like to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please write the name(s) on a prayer request poster 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.

*To the glory of God and in
Honor of
Gregory, Tracey, Mia and Jack
A gift has been made to the
St. John-Incarnation Fund
by
Don and Cora Sarver*

If you would like to donate flowers in honor or memory of someone for one of our worship services, please mail your donation to the church office with the date and names. Suggested donation is \$30.



SJILC donated 206 lbs of food, numerous baby items and a \$50 gift card to the New LIFE Center for the month of November! Thank you for your generosity and helping us to share God's love!

WE HAVE MET OUR GOAL AND BEYOND!

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS IS DECEMBER 31ST.

This year, we are planning to collect a group donation as a church so that we may purchase a FAMILY FARM as a Christmas gift for a family living in poverty. The goal is \$715, which will provide a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds and agricultural training. With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can make all the difference. We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity as together we share God's incarnate love during this Advent season!

You can contribute toward the FAMILY FARM online at

<https://goodgifts.elca.org/group-gift/st-john-incarnation-lutheran-church>

OR

Fill out the envelope marked **ELCA GOOD GIFTS**
and drop it off in the offering box

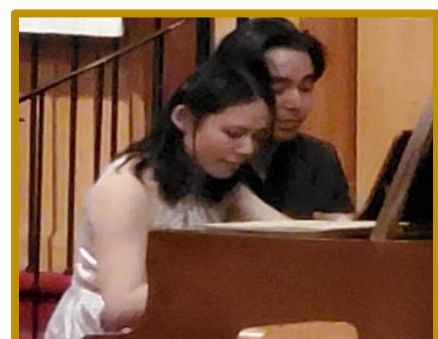


**CURRENT TOTAL AS OF 12/19:
\$1685.00**

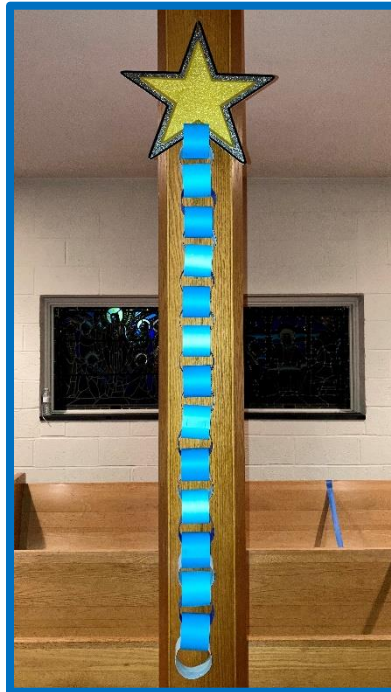


A THANKSGIVING CONCERT FEATURING THE MARKSON DUO

Oliver and Judy Markson



Advent at SJIC





Giving Tree Update

In this year that was like no other, St. John-Incarnation still managed to work together and supply Christmas gifts for 8 families in need this holiday season. All returned, wrapped and delivered on time! All done socially distanced and safely! We managed to donate 61 gifts for those families plus 2 extras for New Life to distribute as needed.

Thank you all for your incredible generosity and Christmas spirit! A special thank you goes to Andrea, our church secretary, who was so helpful in so many ways. Merry Christmas to all!

Lori Fernez



MANY THANKS to Lori and Dennis Fernez for coordinating the program and wrapping all the gifts!



Spread the Warmth Annual Coat Drive

Beginning **November 1st** and continuing through winter, **SJLIC** will be collecting coats and jackets for the **United Veterans Beacon House's Annual Coat Drive.**

Please drop off new or gently used coats in the marked boxes by the coat racks in the narthex. Your donation will help bring the warmth of God's love to someone this winter.

Thank you!

Join us for worship on ZOOM!

Sundays at 9:30am &
Thursdays at 7:30pm (Zoom only)

Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5165990778>

Meeting ID: 516 599 0778

By phone:

1-646-558-8656 US (NY)

Meeting ID: 516 599 0778 #

No attendee code. Just press #



Ways You Can Give to SJILC

PAYPAL:

Log-in to your PayPal account. If you do not have PayPal, you can sign-up for free at <https://www.paypal.com/us/webapps/mpp/account-selection> Once you're logged in, choose the "send" option to send money and type in our church email address: stjohnincarnation@gmail.com.

After you have entered the amount you would like to give, please select the "**Sending to a friend**" option to send your donation for free. **This is important! Otherwise, PayPal will charge you a small transaction fee!**

Confirm payment and you're done!

MAIL:

You can also send your offering to church through the mail or by dropping it in our white mailbox on the side door of the church by the Knotty Pine Room.

Please make checks payable to **St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church** and address to:

St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church

13 Blake Avenue Lynbrook, NY 11563

THANK YOU for supporting our ministry during this difficult time! God's blessings to you and your loved ones!