



ST. JOHN-INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

December 2017

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Services

8:15 and 9:30 am at St. John's

11:00 am at Incarnation

Sunday School – Grades K-6

9:30 AM at St. John's

A Message from Pastor Alex...

Is there really a “war on Christmas”? Well, I suppose that depends on how you define *war* or perhaps better yet, your understanding of Christmas. This popular and often heard expression suggests that Christmas is under attack, besieged by a 21st century culture that has commercialized and secularized the holiday. Now Christmas parties have become holiday parties. Jesus has been replaced by Santa Clause. “Merry Christmas” has turned into “Happy Holidays.”

Now as someone who grew up in eastern Pennsylvania, I totally get it. Having lived near places like Nazareth, Emmaus, and Bethlehem (aka Christmas City, PA) where Protestant churches abound, I’m used to being among people who not only look like and sound like me, but who also believe what I believe. I know what it’s like to live in areas where there are Christmas putzes, villages and markets, where giant stars made up of Christmas lights are lit on mountainsides and crèches can be found on every block. So I understand why many Christians feel that our society is at war with Christmas, and I will be the first to admit that there are times when I get a little annoyed hearing someone say “Happy Holidays,” especially when it happens on Christmas Day!

But is Christmas simply about the words that we say and how we greet people or is it more about what we do in these days and weeks ahead? If Jesus is indeed “the reason for the season”, then how do our actions reflect what it is that we’re celebrating? One Jesuit priest says, “I don’t think Jesus would care much about whether we say ‘Merry Christmas’ or not because He was not concerned about promoting Himself, but promoting what He called ‘the reign of God.’ This reign, this community of justice, peace and love – that, to him, was more important than any title for himself... more important than saying ‘Merry Christmas’ is to live it. That is, to live as Jesus did, to live a life of simplicity, a life of generosity, a life of service, a life of welcome and hospitality to others.”

Wars are violent and destructive. They are filled with hatred, terror and bloodshed, none of which our Lord ever advocated for during his lifetime. Unlike Christians in other countries of the world who are *literally* attacked and killed for practicing their beliefs, we don’t have to worry about losing our lives for simply celebrating Christmas. So ignore the hype and don’t let yourself get distracted by the semantics of the season. Instead, keep your eyes and your heart on the manger. Use this Advent as a time to remind yourself what a “Merry Christmas” really means. The Prince of Peace is coming. He is coming very soon.

Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and God’s peace to you and your loved ones in 2018.

Peace +

Pastor Alex

A Message from the Financial Secretary of St. John's...

Dear Members and Friends,

In anticipation of our merger with Incarnation Lutheran Church in Cedarhurst our envelopes (which must be ordered a year in advance) have had St. John of the Incarnation Lutheran Church written on them. Our envelopes for 2018 also have St. John of the Incarnation Lutheran Church written on them.

Please do not write checks to St. John of the Incarnation Lutheran Church. Our bank will not cash them.

Please continue to write your checks to: St. John's Lutheran Church.

As you know the Synod Council of the Metropolitan NY Synod unanimously approved our proposal for merger with Incarnation Lutheran Church in Cedarhurst! Our legal paperwork will be submitted to the Attorney General of NY for final approval, which we hope/anticipate will happen soon. Our new name will be St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church. Thanks be to God!

I will keep you updated on any changes that will need to be addressed.

May God bless you always! Thank you for your continued support of our church.

Sincerely,

Joan Pirrone

Financial & Recording Secretary

**Offering
Envelopes**



To the members of St. John's Lutheran Church

I want to express my sincere thanks for your thoughtfulness in sending the wonderful box of goodies. It was so nice to receive a great surprise and treat during my first semester at Binghamton!

Sincerely,

Sarah Walsh



**Lutheran Social Services
of New York**

Administrative Office
475 Riverside Dr. Suite 1244
New York, NY 10115-0046

Ph: 212.870.1100

Fx: 212.870.1101

LSSNY.org

October 2017

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
13 Blake Ave
Lybrook, NY 11563

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your generous contribution of 74 lbs. of Food which is helping Lutheran Social Services of New York to serve more than 7,000 individuals in need every day. Your commitment to the work we do through this compassionate gift ensures that we can continue to fulfill our mission of encouraging and assisting all people in reaching their full potential.

We are blessed for you and countless others who have supported our ministries, giving us the resources to assist our neighbors in need to improve their lives. Gifts such as yours help move people from survival to self-reliance.

Thank you for your commitment to our programs; you make lives better every day through our mission of service.

Sincerely,

Calendar of Events for December:

Saturday, December 9	Decorating at St. John's for Christmas	9:00 am
Sunday, December 10 Advent 2	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Chocolate House decorating Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:00 am
Tues., December 12	Evangelism meeting Church council meeting	6:30 pm 7:30 pm
Wed., December 13	Confirmation Class	7:30 pm
Thurs., December 14	Holiday Luncheon sponsored by WELCA Holden Evening Prayer Advent Service	12:00 pm 7:00 pm
Friday, December 15	Girl Scout Meeting Little Minds Montessori School Winter Concert	4:15 pm 5:00 pm
Sunday, December 17 Advent 3	Worship at St. John's NO 8:15 SERVICE Sunday School Christmas Pageant Pizza lunch Worship at Incarnation	9:30 am 10:45 am 11:00 am
Wed., December 20	Confirmation Class	7:30 pm
Thurs., December 21	Holden Evening Prayer Advent Service	7:00 pm
Sunday, December 24 Advent 4	Worship at St. John's NO 8:15 SERVICE NO Worship at Incarnation Christmas Eve Worship Service at St. John's	9:30 am 7:30 pm
Mon., December 25	Christmas Day	NO Services at St. John's or Incarnation
Sunday, December 31	Worship at St. John's Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 11:00 am



WELCA is hosting a
**POTLUCK CHRISTMAS
 LUNCHEON**

Thursday, December 14th, at 12:00 pm.

If you would like to join us, please add your name to the sign-up sheet posted in the narthex or call/email the church office! Bring a friend!!

SERVERS FOR DECEMBER 2017

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFERS	ASSIST. MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
12/3	9:30	Parker Sloan	Parker Sloan	Katharine Forte	Katharine Forte	Richard Dietrich & Janet Powell
	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
12/10	9:30	Kaylee Palmer	Kaylee Palmer	Susan Masciello	Susan Masciello	Dan Gonzalez & Bob Reckhart
		NO	8:15	SERVICE		
Pageant 12/17	9:30	Victoria Ramirez	Victoria Ramirez	Hank Lenz	Hank Lenz	Young members
Christmas Eve DAY	8:15	NO	8:15	SERVICE		
Lessons & Carols 12/24	9:30	Parker Sloan	Parker Sloan	Claire Lenz	Claire Lenz	Bob Reckhart & Tyler Rouse
Christmas Eve	7:30 pm	Tyler Rouse	Tyler Rouse	Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	Richard Dietrich &
12/24	Torch B.	Kaitlyn Gavin	Ashley Gavin	& Katharine Forte	& Katharine Forte	Bob Reckhart
	Gospel B.	Victoria Ramirez				
New Year's Eve 12/31	9:30	Tyler Rouse	Tyler Rouse	Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	Vinnie & Susan Masciello

Prayer Requests

Larry Lipitz	Bob Robon	Bill
George Verity	Gerda Weber	Ryan
Stephanie Moser	Sherry Powell	Grace
Anthony Posimato	Carver Family	Sue
Donna Valenti	John Michael	Faith
Dorothy Hafner	Doris Oelschlager	Elfride Lynn
Elaine Smith	Vivian Monaco	Herb Lynn
Joann D'Ambrosio	Larry Rienecker	Don Roth
Stephen Suppa	Arlene	Frank Zirilli
Jean Weber	Sandy	Denis Bradler
Eleanor Haslett	Joe	Joshua Emswill
Scott Masciello	Joanne	Bill Lindman
Doreen Tietjen	Inga Chiramonte	Bernadette Harten

If would like to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please write the name(s) on a prayer request card in church or call or email the office at 599-0778 or stjohnslynbrook@aol.com. Please write how long you would like the name to remain on the list otherwise it will be removed after three weeks.



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 mosquito net, chicks, a fruit tree seedling, or a backpack stocked with food
- ✓ \$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

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 November 19th) 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 Lori Fernex in the Narthex -- 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!

Thank you for your generosity and have a blessed Christmas season.

Donations will be collected through December 24th.



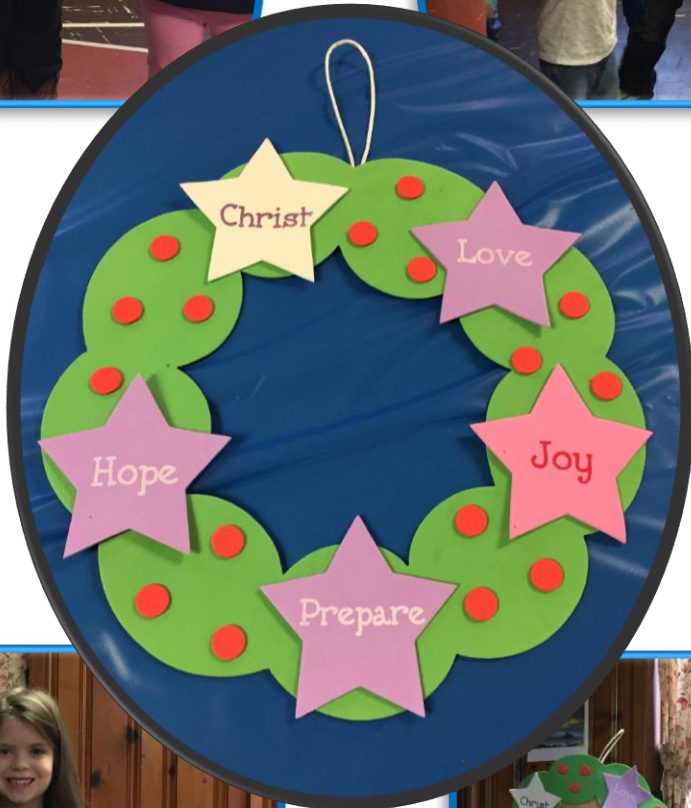
We want to thank the following families for leading us in lighting our Advent wreath during our worship services.

**The Palmer Family
The Larke Family
The Straub Family
The Barry Family**



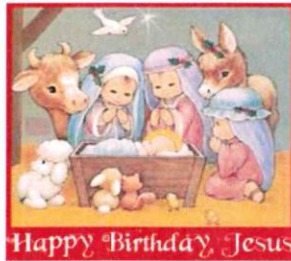
FAMILY ADVENT WREATH MAKING

WORKSHOP HOSTED BY WELCA





Food for the Month Program



December is our month to support the Lutheran Social Services of New York Hungry Prevention Program at the **New LIFE Center-Long Island**. Food is needed for the elderly, the unemployed, and for families and children. You can help by contributing items from the list below:

Non-Perishable Items

Rice (1 or 2—pound bag/box)
Macaroni & Cheese/Pasta/Spaghetti
Pancake Mix/ Syrup
Coffee/Tea/Hot Chocolate/Parmalat Milk
Flour/Sugar
Cookies/Cake Mix & Frosting/Brownies
Cereal (cold & hot)
Canisters of Oatmeal

Canned Goods

Juices/Canned Fruits
Canned Meats/Tuna/Salmon/Sardines/Chicken/Ham
Vegetables/Soup with Meat
Pasta Sauce
Dried and Canned Beans
Peanut Butter/Jelly/Jam

Condiments

Salad Dressing/Ketchup/Mayonnaise/Mustard/Salt/Pepper/Oil

Baby Items

Formula/Baby Food/Diapers/Shampoo/Lotion/Wipes
Diapers (size 4,5&6)

Personal Items

Paper Products/Shampoo/Soap/Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/Shaving Cream
Feminine Products
Plastic or Paper Grocery Bags (new or used)



Lutheran Social Services of New York

New LIFE Center—Long Island
311 Uniondale Ave. Uniondale, NY 11553
Telephone (516) 483-3240



*COME JOIN
US TO
DECORATE
CHOCOLATE
HOUSES*

On Sunday, December 10th after the
9:30 Service. Everyone is invited to
decorate a

Chocolate House
\$10.00 each

Please Sign Up, So We Know How Many Houses to Make
Donations of Candy to Decorate Houses Appreciated



Proceeds will go to support
St. John's Sunday School
Program, Youth Activities
and Vacation Bible School