

St. John of the Incarnation **MESSENGER** March 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 Chang

*Refreshed by Joy
The Rev. Mary L.H. Chang*

It was really good to have a vacation seeing my family and friends for Chinese New Year in Taiwan and Hong Kong. I felt like the Apostle Paul in Romans 15:32 that I was visiting them in joy, by the will of God, and being refreshed by their company. The relaxation gave me time to enjoy the surroundings also, allowing myself the space and time to encounter new experiences.

In my hometown, there were changing cultural habits even within our Chinese New Year's customs. Usually the family would gather for home-cooked meals before enjoying the blessings of lucky money, lion dancing, and Chinese opera performances to honor God or goddesses. Now we were eating in a huge restaurant filled with many families, in a festive atmosphere of tables covered with red tablecloths. Most likely everybody ordered similar dishes. It felt as though the whole restaurant was one big family for New Year's Eve dinner to celebrate the Year of the Rooster! Other highlights of my trip:

- 1 A friend of my sister fascinated me by saying her job was making pies for church. I was curious about the factory and café where she works. Since 1998, Mom's Pies has become a popular bakery for homemade American country-style pie, using seven vans every day to deliver them to markets throughout Taipei. The proprietor -- known as "Mrs. Ei" from the Chinese sound of their shop's name (www.imomi.com.tw) -- is a Caucasian-American woman who moved to Taipei 30 years ago with her husband. Now known as "Pastor Ei," his name is Gary G. Edmonds, originally from an Apostle's church in Florida. Together they built up a four-point worship ministry in a four-mile radius. One by one, the followers learned to become lay leaders to pray and worship. They meet for an hour before worship for confession and prayer, two by two. During the last half hour of worship, Pastor Ei dressed in a Chinese jacket sings songs he has composed, while going through the congregation to lay hands on everyone. What a spiritual uplift this was for me! Mrs. Ei says that the proceeds of all her pie sales go toward buying a piece of land for church use. What an inspiring model of self-supporting mission in action!
- 2 A reunion with my former student fellowship outreach group from "Unilu," University Lutheran Church of the Incarnation in Philadelphia: I was so happy to see how they have grown strong in faith and maturity, and in their professions. Personal hardships have not separated them from the Lord, or from confessing Jesus Christ as their Savior. Eating with them and listening about their journeys made my heart ache for them; but I felt joy at the same time, realizing how God has watched over his little lambs from 20 years ago, and still cares for them continuously. What a blessing we share, living under the Good Shepherd's care! We confess that our living God is Love and are able to let our brokenness be healed by Jesus's own suffering. We will depart from this world with trust and hope in the Lord!
- 3 I seldom watch TV in Taiwan, but one program that attracted me was a well-known "Good TV" program featuring the Rev Paul Liu from our Taiwanese Lutheran Church in California. His way of talking, his customs, and articulation of the faith in Taiwanese made it very easy for viewers to want to tune in. What a new way to serve the flock! This was my first encounter with Pastor Liu's show. Lord, please continue to inspire all of us in new ways to reach people beyond our church walls! Almighty God have mercy on us, and let your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, Amen.
- 4 Friends from the Lutheran Bible Institute Hong Kong have had several reunions since the 1970s. This time, my classmate the Rev. Law Shuk Ling welcomed me to a surprise afternoon tea in Yuen Long! We were all happy to see Wong Mei Kam from Brazil, Ning Yen Mei from New Zealand, Sarah Yeung who is a retired teacher from Hong Kong to meet with me, the ELCA pastor from New York. What joy and excitement we shared, catching up after many years apart. Even though we have all changed in many ways, our high calling has remained the same. We still live to love our Lord! Years ago, we were taught the Bible and evangelism by Ms. Alice Anderson, Ms. Stella Carlson and Pastor Palmer Anderson from Augustana Swedish Mission in Minnesota. We went from village to village telling stories of Jesus. I was one of the young leaders who set up the team for the Statin Train Station Area Outreach. Many beautiful reflections have been imprinted on our lives.

- 5 An inspiring visit with my former coworker in the Metropolitan New York Synod of the ELCA. The Rev. Ian Cheung is now back in Hong Kong serving at the Church of Christ in China, a small congregation on an island. We've been concerned about change of leadership at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hong Kong. We also worry about how more congregational and academic theologians will be needed for the coming era. Pastor Cheung's two daughters are both in seminaries and receiving training beyond Lutheran studies in Hong Kong. I was impressed by how he and his wife raised two daughters to want to serve the Lord as a full-time career. Pastor Cheung said that since they're very young, the best job to do is to be a pastor and serve people in the parish. It is meaningful for life and good to help others as well as oneself. For more detail, we will have to interview Ian Cheung again.
- 6 A rewarding visit with a musician, Mr William Wan. He is fully occupied in music and education, plays a pipe organ at church on Sunday, and is involved with performing arts in Salvation Army schools. His dedication inspires me!
- 7 Positive insights from my former piano teacher and accompanist, Mr. Eric Tseng. Trained in Vienna, Austria, before returning to Hong Kong, he has known me for 35 years before and after I became a pastor. I had the privilege of learning music and piano from him, and I always liked consulting with him on my Royal Music School examination or performance pieces. Just before getting ready to fly back to the U.S. from the Hong Kong International Airport, we had a quick coffee break chat. Mr. Tsang is a wise person who has helped me to view life in positive ways due to his faith. His father was the former president of the Basel mission (organized by Germans and Swedish Lutherans in 1847), now known as the Tsung Tsin Mission of Hong Kong, reaching Hakka people especially. Mr. Tsang says, "Look at the positive; get away from people who stop you from moving ahead." He has refreshed me not only for piano skills but for my outlook on life.

What a gift to me to relearn to face today's changing world and reflect on life for Christ. God gives us ways to reach out to God's people whether they are Lutheran or not. Most of my life I've been impacted by missionaries from Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland, England and Germany. And I have learned a great deal from others who are not Lutheran. This vacation gave me even more openness to others for Jesus's sake.

Our pasts influence our present, and both are foundations for building up our future. May God be the glory forever, Amen! May God the Creator hold us together around one round table to eat, drink and be merry...with Christ's Body and Blood to renew and refresh us. May we repent in him and have a new life in Christ to face the changing world!

3-3-17



Calendar of Events for March 2017

Wednesday, March 1	Ash Wednesday Ashes to Go – Lynbrook Station Ash Wednesday Worship at St. John's	5:30 – 7:30 am 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 2	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Sunday, March 5	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Packing Cookie Tins for Seafarers Worship at Incarnation Bowling at RVC	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 3:00 pm
Tuesday, March 7	Prayer Shawl Knitting/Crocheting	7:30 pm
Wednesday, March 8	Confirmation class	7:30 pm
Thursday, March 9	Bread, Bowl & Bible <i>Dinner</i> 6:00 pm <i>Holden</i> Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm 7:30 pm
Friday, March 10	Girl Scout Meeting	3:00 pm
Saturday, March 11	Girl Scout Event (Knotty Pine Room)	2:00 pm
Sunday, March 12	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am
Tuesday, March 14	Evangelism Meeting Council Meeting	6:30 pm 7:30 pm
Wednesday, March 15	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Thursday, March 16	Bread, Bowl & Bible <i>Dinner</i> 6:00 pm <i>Holden</i> Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm 7:30 pm
Sunday, March 19	Worship at St. John's NO Sunday School Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 11:00 am
Wednesday, March 22	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Thursday, March 23	Bread, Bowl & Bible <i>Dinner</i> 6:00 pm <i>Holden</i> Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm 7:30 pm
Friday, March 24	Girl Scout Meeting	3:00 pm
Sunday, March 26	Worship at St. John's Sunday School Worship at Incarnation	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 am
Tuesday, March 28	WELCA Mock Baby Shower for New Life	7:30 pm
Wednesday, March 29	Confirmation class	7:00 pm
Thursday, March 30	Bread, Bowl & Bible <i>Dinner</i> 6:00 pm <i>Holden</i> Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm 7:30 pm



LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL

Thursday, April 6

Bread, Bowl and Bible **Dinner** – 6:00 pm **Holden** – 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 9

Palm Sunday Worship at St. John's 8:15 & 9:30 am
Palm Sunday Worship at Incarnation 11:00 am

SERVER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 2017

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
3/1						
Ash Wed	7:30 pm	Ashley Gavin	Ashley Gavin	Susan Masciello	Susan Masciello	Al Gonzalez & Dan Gonzalez
3/5	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
LENT 1	9:30	Victoria Dunn	Victoria Dunn	Janet Pescatore	Christopher Shelton	Bill Davison & Carol Clemente
3/12	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
Lent 2	9:30	Christopher Dunn	Christopher Dunn	Katharine Forte	Katharine Forte	Vinnie & Susan Masciello
3/19	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
Lent 3	9:30	Kaylee Palmer	Kaylee Palmer	Janet Pescatore	Janet Pescatore	Lori Fernz & Janet Powell
3/26	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
Lent 4	9:30	Elizabeth Hanson	Elizabeth Hanson	Kim Carlstrom	Greg Kershner	Kevin Hanson Kevin Hanson Jr.

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator: Pauline Feltkamp: Ushers 599-2273; Claire Lenz: Assisting Ministers & Lectors – 872- 2063; Church Office: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers & Gospel bearers- 599- 0778



Lenten

Bread, Bowl and Bible

Please join us on Thursday nights
during Lent for “Bread, Bowl & Bible”!

March 9th

March 16th

March 23rd

March 30th

April 6th

Soup and bread will be served at 6:00 PM

Worship will begin at 7:00 PM.

Hope to see you there!

Ecumenical Lenten Services

Wednesday, March 8th @ 7:30 pm – St. John’s Evangelist (49 Blake Avenue, Lynbrook)

Thursday, March 16th @ 7:00 pm – St. John’s Lutheran (Holden Evening Prayer)

Thursday, March 23rd @ 7:30 pm – Bethany Congregational Church (100 Main Street, East Rockaway)

Prayer Requests

Larry Lipitz	Inga Chiramonte	Arlene
George Verity	Bob Robon	Sandy
Stephanie Moser	Al Davis	Francesca
Anthony Posimato	Sister Irene	Bill
Donna Valenti	Michael Simmons	Joe
Dorothy Hafner	Dean Veremakis	Joanne
Elaine Smith	Ernest Weber	Ryan
Joann D'Ambrosio	Sherry Powell	Grace
Stephen Suppa	Carver Family	Sue
Jean Weber	John Michael	Faith
Eleanor Haslett	Linda Eagen	Elfride Lynn
Scott Masciello	Vivian Monaco	Herb Lynn
Rachel Jeremie	Robin Kalter	Bernadette Harten
Doreen Tietjen	Larry Rienecker	Our Homebound
Lisa Goldman	Doris Oelschlager	Our Military
Bob T.	Milly Magnusson	Those we pray for
Emily	Irene Hopkins	silently or aloud

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. Feel free to repeat your request at any time, we can all use prayers.



*A Donation has been made to the
St. John's Fund
In honor of the Baptism of
Gabriella Ava Pirrone Dueñas
by her grandparents,
Joan and Anthony Pirrone*

*Congratulations to Joseph Pirrone
& Katherine Dueñas Pirrone
on the baptism of their daughter,
Gabriella Ava Pirrone Dueñas.*



ST. JOHN'S EVENTS

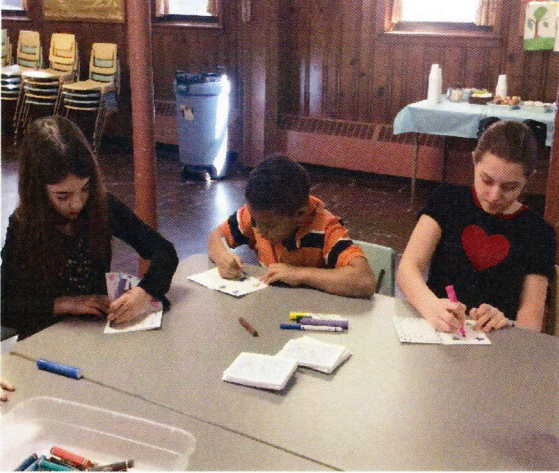
Cookie Decorating Workshop at St. John's!



ST. JOHN'S ANNUAL BOWLING OUTING



OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN PACK COOKIES & BROWNIES FOR THE SEAFARERS 3/5/17



OUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT THE NEW LIFE CENTER 2/22/17



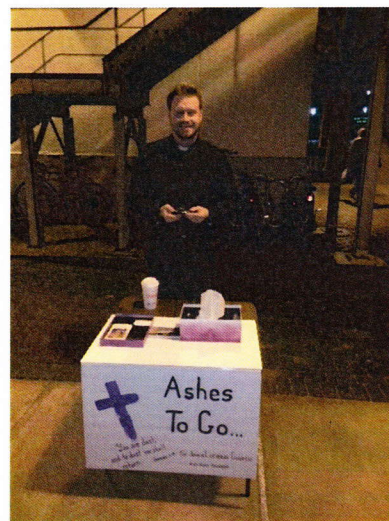


ASHES TO GO

On Wednesday, March 1st, Pastor Alex was once again offering Ashes to Go at the Lynbrook train station.

It was a great success as many took this great opportunity to receive ashes and a blessing on their way to work or school!

Pastor Alex was very grateful for the new sign created by Carrie Feltkamp and for the warmer weather we had that day!



Can You Help Fill The Eggs For The Annual Easter Egg Hunt?

Please Bring in a Bag Of Small Wrapped Candy By Sunday April 9th

Thank You



MARCH MADNESS HYMN TOURNAMENT

Wouldn't it be great if your favorite hymns were sung in church more often? Imagine if you could sing "Amazing Grace" or "On Eagles' Wings" every month! Well, now's your chance to make that a reality. Later this month, we will have a hymn tournament here at St. John's in conjunction with **March Madness** – the annual Division 1 men's college basketball tournament.

Here's how it will work: Before Sunday, March 19th, please submit your favorite hymn(s) that you would like to be entered into the tournament. You can either call/email the church office or write them down on a sheet of paper and bring them to church on Sunday, March 12th or Thursday March 16th (Bread, Bowl, and Bible). The 16 hymns that have the most "nominations" will qualify for the tournament with seeding determined by number of submissions.

The first round of the tournament will take place on Sunday, March 19th. When you come to church that morning, you will find 16 cups on a table in the narthex placed in pairs. Each cup will have the name of a hymn on it, and the matchups will be based on seeding just like the college basketball tournament (#1 vs. #16, #2 vs. #15, etc.) Voting will be done every round by donations – loose change and cash only for the first two rounds; checks will be allowed (and encouraged!) for the Final 4 and Championship. The cup that has more money in each pairing at the end of the morning will be the hymn that moves on to the next round.

Tournament Schedule

Sweet 16 – Sunday, March 19th

Elite 8 – Sunday, March 26th

Final 4 – Sunday, April 2nd

Championship – Sunday, April 9th (Palm Sunday)

The hymn that wins the championship will be sung in worship once a month for the next year! The 2nd place hymn will be sung quarterly (4x) and the other two hymns in the Final 4 will be sung three times over the course of the next year. *

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO THE ST. JOHN'S YOUTH GROUP!



* In addition to when they are normally scheduled to be sung (i.e. "A Mighty Fortress" on Reformation Sunday)