



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

## **January 2018**

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday Services**

**8:15 and 9:30 am**

**Sunday School – Grades K-6**

**9:30 am**

## *A Message from Pastor Alex...*

Happy New Year! I hope you had a blessed and joy-filled Christmas with friends and loved ones. 2018 is here and with it the long-awaited news that our merger has finally been approved by the state of New York! **THANKS BE TO GOD!** It has been quite a ride for both of our congregations since we began this journey way back in 2015 and it will certainly be very bittersweet to say goodbye to our building down in Cedarhurst after 80 years of faithful ministry, but God has helped see us through this process and now we look forward in faith at the exciting possibilities before us.

This will be a landmark year for us as we become a new congregation with a new name: **St. John – Incarnation Lutheran Church.** We will need new signage outside, new envelopes and pew cards, a new church directory, a new constitution, a new email address and voicemail for our phone number, etc., etc. Some of these things will require the formulation of a committee and time spent in conversation. Other important decisions like the sale of the property in Cedarhurst will also need to be discussed. Therefore, I want to strongly encourage all of you to attend our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 21 following worship. Not only will this be our first meeting as SJILC, but it will also give us an opportunity to begin these conversations and seek volunteers to serve on committees. There will be votes taken that you won't want to miss so please join us if you are able!

I would also like to invite you to join us this Sunday, January 14 for our guest speaker, The Rev. John Burk, who will be at both services to talk about a ministry called Food for the Poor. Food for the Poor is a nonprofit organization that provides relief and assistance to the poor throughout 17 countries in the Caribbean and Central America as well as here in the U.S. Pastor Burk, who is a retired ELCA ordained minister, will share stories and information with us about their ministry and how we as a congregation can help! Check out the next few pages in this edition of the Messenger to learn more.

The new mission statement that our merger committee developed says, “St. John – Incarnation Lutheran Church is a diverse family of followers of Christ who share God’s unconditional love with all people through word and deed and actively encourage them to grow in their commitment to serve God, the world, and our local community.” May this be so in 2018 as we begin this new chapter together and give thanks together for the wonderful new thing that God is doing here at SJILC!

Peace +

*Pastor Alex*



## FOOD FOR THE POOR, INC.

6401 Lyons Road, Coconut Creek, FL 33073 • (954) 427-2222 • [www.FoodForThePoor.org](http://www.FoodForThePoor.org)

### Food For The Poor Fast Facts

- ✧ Now celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> year of operation, Food For The Poor (FFP) is an interdenominational Christian relief and development organization working primarily in 17 countries in the Caribbean and Latin America. By working together with pastors, missionaries, partner organizations, clinics, community leaders and churches in these regions, we ensure that aid reaches those who need it most.
- ✧ Food For The Poor does much more than feed hundreds of thousands of people each day. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicines, educational materials, homes, support for orphans and the aged, skills training and micro-enterprise development assistance.
- ✧ Since our founding, Food For The Poor has provided billions of dollars in aid and has built more than 121,000 housing units for the destitute. As of August 2017, Food For The Poor has built 4,254 housing units for families in need of safe shelter. Since inception, Food For The Poor has provided more than \$13.5 billion in aid.
- ✧ In the last decade, we have completed more than 1,824 water projects that provide lifesaving water and sanitation to hundreds of thousands of people in need.
- ✧ As of August 2017, Food For The Poor has shipped 2,363 tractor-trailer loads of aid.
- ✧ Over the last 10 years, fundraising and other administrative costs averaged less than 5 percent of our expenses; more than 95 percent of all donations went directly to programs that help the poor.
- ✧ FFP's Fishing Village program supplies destitute coastal villages with fiberglass boats with outboard engines, global positioning systems, fishing tackle, 100-quart coolers, safety equipment, a gear shed with a freezer, a generator and a powerful solar light for the village common area, as well as training in deep-sea fishing. There are 16 fishing villages in operation in Jamaica, 44 in Haiti and 15 in Honduras. Food For The Poor established its first fishing village in the Eastern Caribbean in Castle Bruce, Dominica, in 2017.
- ✧ Our fruit tree program, started in 2007, has resulted in the planting of more than 2 million fruit trees in Haiti, Jamaica and Nicaragua.
- ✧ We have completed 366 aquaculture projects that supply much-needed protein to malnourished children and their families, while also promoting self-sufficiency in the participating communities.
- ✧ Our Angels Of Hope sponsors support almost 6,700 children in 170 orphanages where the children receive food, clothing, shelter, education and lots of love throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.
- ✧ In a survey of the 100 largest U.S. charities for 2016, *Forbes* magazine has given Food For The Poor outstanding ratings of 96 percent in charitable commitment and 97 percent in fundraising efficiency contrasted with an industry average of 89 percent. *December 2016*
- ✧ In recognition of its efficiency and transparency, Food For The Poor has consistently received the highest possible rating – five stars – from *Ministry Watch*. Food For The Poor is among the upper echelon for cost-efficiency within the MinistryWatch.com database, where it ranks 14<sup>th</sup> out of 423 ministries. *August 2016*
- ✧ *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* has ranked Food For The Poor as one of the largest international relief organizations in the United States, and the 13<sup>th</sup> largest overall charity in the nation. (*Rankings based on private support.*) *October 2016*



- ☞ *The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance* reports that Food For The Poor meets the extensive standards of America's most experienced charity evaluator. *May 2015 - July 2017*
- ☞ *Charity Navigator* reports that Food For The Poor has earned a 4-star rating, the highest possible rating and indicates that the charity adheres to sector best practices and executes its mission in a financially efficient way. Attaining a 4-star rating verifies that Food For The Poor exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its area of work. *February 2017*

# "Do not forget the poor!"

## - His Holiness Pope Francis

**W**e invite you to partner with Food For The Poor to answer our Holy Father's call. We never forget the poor. We provide critical support to the daily works of mercy of clergy, religious leaders and 102 Catholic Dioceses in primarily 17 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. From building homes to feeding the hungry, Food For The Poor saves lives and renews hope for the destitute. A large amount of parishes in the United States welcome Food For The Poor each year. Trusting us as partners to help the poor are some of the highest ranking members of the Catholic Church in the regions where we work.

**His Eminence Óscar Andrés Cardinal Rodríguez Maradiaga, S.D.B., Coordinator of Pope Francis' Council of Cardinal Advisors is on Food For The Poor's Board of Directors.**

"I pray you will partner with us in our ministry to be the hands and feet of Christ to the church in the developing world."



**Leopoldo José Cardinal Brenes Solórzano, Archbishop of Managua (Nicaragua)**  
 "I urge my brother Bishops and Archbishops around the world to join Food For The Poor and to open the doors of their dioceses to Food For The Poor. Under this union, they will efficiently respond to the Holy Father's petition of coming together for the good of the poor."

**Charles H. Dufour, Archbishop Emeritus of Kingston in Jamaica**  
 "It is quite impossible to find the words to express the appreciation for Food For The Poor, for the invaluable assistance given to all the dioceses I served over the last 35 years in Jamaica."

**Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, Apostolic Nuncio in Nicaragua**  
 "Food For The Poor is evidently a good channel for good-hearted Catholics who wish to learn of the severe needs worldwide, and who seek a reliable channel to exercise their personal giving or prayer and financial support."

**Max Leroy Mesidor, Archbishop of Cap-Haitien, Haiti, puts it best:**  
 "If Food For The Poor had not existed, it would be necessary to invent it."



Robin Mahfood, Food For The Poor President/CEO, and his wife, Gail, meet with His Holiness Pope Francis.

Founded in 1982, Food For The Poor is one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the United States. Over the last 10 years, more than 95% of all donations went directly to programs that help the poor.

# **A Message from the Financial Secretary of SJILC...**

Dear Members and Friends,

The 2018 offering envelopes are located in the narthex of St. John's Lutheran Church for both the members of St. John's Lutheran Church and Lutheran Church of the Incarnation. All the envelopes for 2018 have St. John of the Incarnation Lutheran Church written on them.

**Please disregard this name and do not write checks to  
St. John – Incarnation Lutheran Church.**

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

**Members of Lutheran Church of the Incarnation:  
Please continue to write your checks to:  
Lutheran Church of the Incarnation.**

Once we are joined legally by NYS all members of both congregations will be members of **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



# Calendar of Events for January:

<b>Sun., January 14</b>	Worship services <i>Guest speaker: The Rev. John Burk – Food for the Poor</i> Sunday School Coffee Hour WELCA meeting	8:15 & 9:30 am  9:30 am 10:30 am 11:00 am
<b>Mon., January 15</b>	Committee reports due for congregational meeting	
<b>Tues., January 16</b>	St. John – Incarnation merger committee meeting	7:30 pm
<b>Wed., January 17</b>	Confirmation Class	7:30 pm
<b>Thurs., January 18</b>	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
<b>Sun., January 21</b>	Worship services Sunday School <b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am 10:30 am
<b>Wed., January 24</b>	Confirmation Class	7:30 pm
<b>Thurs., January 25</b>	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
<b>Sun., January 28</b>	Worship services Sunday School (Snow date for congregational meeting)	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am

## LOOKING FORWARD TO FEBRUARY:

### ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>

Ashes to Go at the Lynbrook Train Station  
Ash Wednesday service

5:30 am to 8:00 am  
7:30 pm

Look for Pastor Alex Kennedy on the Lynbrook Train Platform Wednesday Morning -February 14th. He will be offering "Ashes To Go" for Christians who will be preparing for the start of the Lenten period.

We will also be holding our weekly Lenten event on Thursday Evenings. All are welcome to our Bread, Bowl, and Bible. We have a modest soup dinner from 6-7 pm followed by the beautiful Holden Service (1/2 hour song, prayer, and reflection).

Starting Thursday 2/22/18 through Thursday 3/22/18.

## SERVERS FOR JANUARY 2018

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFERS	ASSIST. MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
1/14	9:30	Victoria Dunn	Victoria Dunn	Susan Masciello	Susan Masciello	Dan Gonzalez & Dotty Criscuolo
	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
1/21	9:30	Kaylee Palmer	Kaylee Palmer	Claire Lenz	Claire Lenz	Lori Fernéz & Janet Powell
	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
1/28	9:30	Victoria Ramirez	Victoria Ramirez	Dan Gonzalez	Dan Gonzalez	Doug & Kristina Palmer

## SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY 2018

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFERS	ASSIST. MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
2/4	9:30	Ashley Gavin	Ashley Gavin	Kim Carlstrom	Chris Shelton	Bob Reckhart & Tyler Rouse
Transfig.	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
2/11	9:30	TBD	TBD	Katharine Forte	Katharine Forte	Janet Pescatore & Richard Dietrich
Ash Wed.				Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
2/14	7:30 pm	Tyler Rouse	Tyler Rouse	Susan Masciello	Susan Masciello	TBD
Lent 1	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
2/18	9:30	Elizabeth Hanson	Elizabeth Hanson	Hank Lenz	Hank Lenz	TBD
Lent 2	8:15 am			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
2/25	9:30 am	Kaitlyn Gavin	Kaitlyn Gavin	Claire Lenz	Claire Lenz	TBD

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

Andrea: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers and Gospel bearers- Church Office - 599-0778

Pauline Feltkamp: Ushers- 599-2273

***We can always use more people to help serve at worship.  
Please consider volunteering one Sunday a month to help.***

# Prayer Requests

Larry Lipitz  
George Verity  
Stephanie Moser  
Anthony Posimato  
Donna Valenti  
Dorothy Hafner  
Elaine Smith  
Joann D'Ambrosio  
Stephen Suppa  
Jean Weber  
Eleanor Haslett  
Scott Masciello  
Doreen Tietjen  
Stanley Williamson  
Marina

Bob Robon  
Gerda Weber  
Sherry Powell  
Carver Family  
John Michael  
Doris Oelschlager  
Vivian Monaco  
Larry Rienecker  
Arlene  
Sandy  
Joe  
Joanne  
Inga Chiramonte  
Edith  
May

Bill  
Ryan  
Grace  
Sue  
Faith  
Elfride Lynn  
Herb Lynn  
Don Roth  
Frank Zirilli  
Denis Bradler  
Joshua Emswill  
Christy Beurnier  
Bernadette Harten  
Charles

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](mailto: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.

## YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE AND YOU new guidelines



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018

1:00 P.M.

St John -Incarnation Lutheran Church

13 Blake Ave.

Lynbrook NY (corner of Merrick Rd & Peninsula Ave)

Please join us as we learn more about the new blood pressure guidelines.

**FREE BP Screening**

Healthy Snacks!

Speaker: Dr. Ahmed Elkoulily

Express Medical Care Group

232 Merrick Rd, Lynbrook

Call 516-581-1221 or email [mrsp061601@optonline.net](mailto:mrsp061601@optonline.net) for reservations

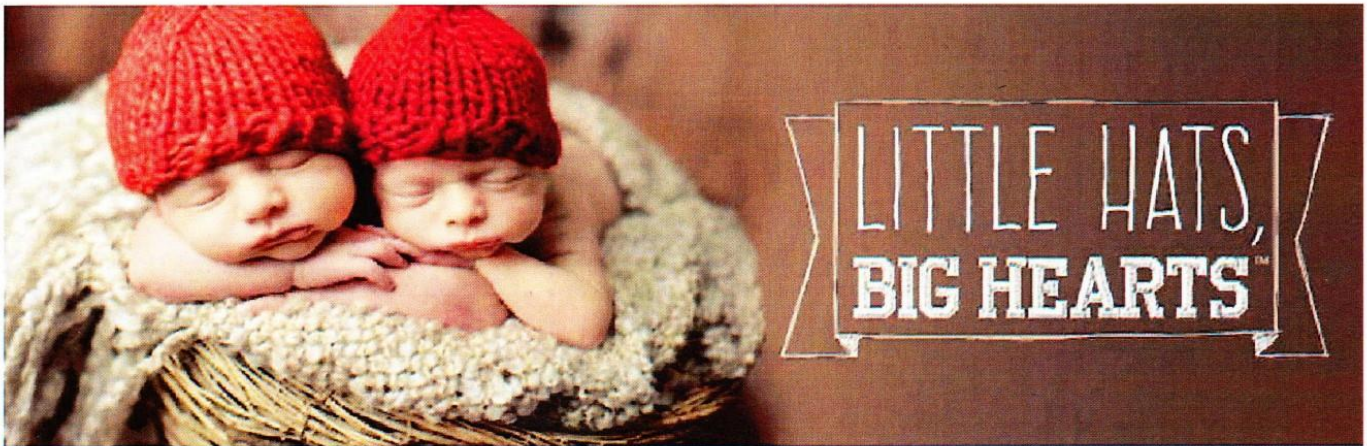


# CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS 2018





# KNITTING CIRCLE MINISTRY



For our next project, St. John-Incarnation's knitters and crocheters will be joining volunteers from around the country knitting and crocheting red hats for babies born in February at participating hospitals. Every year, tens of thousands of babies are born with a congenital heart defect, the most common type of birth defect in the country. To raise awareness, The American Heart Association (AHA) and The Children's Heart Foundation have launched "Little Hats, Big Hearts," a campaign that aims to don all babies born at participating hospitals with knitted red caps during the month of February. Health starts from the moment a baby takes its first breath. Through its Little Hats, Big Hearts program, the AHA is empowering moms to live heart-healthy lives and to help their children do the same. Together, volunteers and the AHA are working to raise awareness, provide resources and inspire moms to take their family's heart health to heart while also raising awareness about congenital heart defects. In addition to using red hats to raise awareness of heart disease and congenital heart defects, the program also drives awareness for the AHA's Support Network, an online forum for families affected by heart disease and stroke.

Little Hats, Big Hearts started in February 2014 in Chicago, IL, collecting 300 hats in its first year and has since grown to include 660 hospitals in 40 states, handing out more than 100,000 hats.



Our Fall 2017 project was devoted to making hats and scarves for the Seafarer's International Christmas drive sponsored by the Evangelism Committee. We are pleased to report that we contributed 8 hat and scarf sets to the collection.

Our pocket prayer shawl project has been a huge success having sold over 75 squares to date. We will continue this project for the foreseeable future, however, if you don't see the display in the narthex, please email the church and we will have some available the following Sunday.

Please join us as we start our next project knitting and crocheting red hats for babies for the Little Hats, Big Hearts campaign. We meet the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the knotty pine room. No need to know how to knit or crochet. We can teach you!

God's work, our hands!



# **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 those who helped wrap the gifts: **Ursula Lipitz** and **Jill Pace** (and thanks to **Dylan Lipitz** for helping to carry them down to the auditorium each week). Also, a big thanks to our secretary, **Andrea**, who helped me print out the gift tags for the tree. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Many Christmas wishes were answered — **the Giving Tree provided 62 gifts to 8 families.** A picture of all the gifts is shown below, just before they were about to be delivered, so you can get a sense of how large our donation really was! We are so blessed to have such a generous congregation. *Thank you all again for your support.*

Lori Fernez



## **ELCA GOOD GIFTS ADVENT TREE**

Thank you to all who donated to ELCA Good Gifts through our “Advent Tree”. This program provides gifts to help communities in impoverished nations survive. Our very generous congregation helped to donate the following:

- 1 latrine
- 1 microloan
- 7 piglets
- 4 chicks
- 1 rooster
- 10 gifts of honey bees
- 4 goats
- 1 pair of goats
- 1 school fee & uniform for a child
- 3 gifts of school supplies for a child
- 2 vaccinations for a child
- 2 Bibles
- 1 backpack stocked with food

Thank you to **Dotty Criscuolo** and **Dennis Fernez** for helping to collect donations.

**The total collected was an amazing \$1,204!** Your generous gifts will surely go far to help the hungry and the poor.

*Lori Fernez*



# Paint Night Saturday!

**Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 PM**

**Doors open at 6:45 PM**

Hosted by St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church  
Evangelism Committee

**Bring your friends!**  
**\$30 per person**

*Includes step by step instructions  
and all the painting supplies*

Bring your own snacks and beverages!

Your spot will be reserved upon payment so please fill out the slip  
below and return with your payment  
to Gabrielle Barry, Susan Masciello or the church office.  
Space is limited so reserve your spot ASAP!

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## Paint Night Registration

*Name:*

*Number attending:*

*Phone number:*