

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

## **March 2018**

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sunday Services**

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

**Sunday School – Grades K-6**

**9:30 am**

# IT'S OFFICIAL!

We are excited to announce that our merger has finally been approved by the state of New York! As of February 22, 2018, we are now legally and officially St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church. THANKS BE TO GOD!

SUPREME COURT - STATE OF NEW YORK

PRESENT: HON. JACK L. LIBERT,  
Justice.

In the Matter of the Application of  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION,  
Petitioner,

-against-

For Leave to merge with ST. JOHN'S ENGLISH  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Pursuant to Section 13 of the Religious Corporation Law  
Respondents.

TRIAL PART 25  
NASSAU COUNTY

MOTION # 01  
INDEX # 612862/17  
MOTION SUBMITTED:  
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

The following papers having been read on this motion:

Notice of Petition/Order to Show Cause.....1  
Cross Motion/Answering Affidavits.....  
Reply Affidavits.....

Upon the foregoing papers, the unopposed Order to Show Cause seeking an order, pursuant to Section 13 of the Religious Corporation Law, approving the plan of merger of The Lutheran Church of the Incarnation with St. John's English Evangelical Lutheran Church and allow the surviving entity to be named St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church is **granted**.

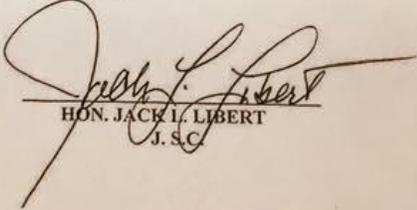
All necessary parties have been served with notice of this application, and further, the relief requested is appropriate.

This constitutes the decision and order of the court.

Submit Order on Notice.

ENTER

DATED: February 22, 2018

  
HON. JACK L. LIBERT  
J. S.C.

## *A Message from Pastor Alex (and the late Paul Harvey)...*

A few of you have asked me for a copy of the "Open Letter from God" by Paul Harvey that I read in my sermon on Sunday, March 11. Given that Passover begins on Good Friday this year and that our Jewish brothers and sisters will be worshipping the same God on the same holy day, I decided that I would share this with all of you as food for thought in the weeks ahead. Certainly, the notion of God wanting nothing more than for us to love one another is familiar to us Christians. We will hear that command from our Lord on Maundy Thursday with the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. That theme will also lead us right into Good Friday when we will behold the very definition of love as we stand together at the foot of the cross. "The rest of the story" as Mr. Harvey would say will come on Easter Sunday where joy, surprise, and new life await all of us.

As we continue our Lenten journey to Holy Week, may we keep our eyes on the destination and our hearts on Christ's command to love **all** of God's children. In the words of 1 John 4:19, "We love because he first loved us."

Peace +

*Pastor Alex*

### **An Open Letter from God**

My Dear Children (and believe me, that is all of you),

I consider myself a pretty patient guy. I mean, look at the Grand Canyon. It took millions of years to get it right. And about evolution? Boy, nothing is slower than designing that whole Darwinian thing to take place, cell by cell and gene by gene. And I have been patient through your fashions, your civilizations, wars and schemes, and the countless ways that you take me for granted until you get yourselves into big trouble again and again.

I want to let you know about some of the things that started ticking me off. First of all, your religious rivalries are driving me up a wall. Enough already! Let's get one thing straight. These are YOUR religions, not mine. I'm the whole enchilada; I'm beyond them all. Every one of your religions claims that there's only one of me (which by the way, is absolutely true), but in the very next breath, each religion claims that it's my favorite one. And each claims its bible was written personally by me, and that all of the other bibles are man-made. Oh, me! How do I ever begin to put a stop to such complicated nonsense?

Alright, listen up now. I am your Father and Mother, and I don't play favorites among my children. Also, I hate to break it to you, but I don't write. My longhand is awful, and I've always been more of a "doer" anyway. So ALL of your books, including those bibles, were written by men and women. They were inspired men and women, they were remarkable people, but they also made mistakes here and there, and I made sure of that, so that you would never trust a written word rather than your own living heart.

You see, one human being to me -- even a bum on the street -- is worth more than all of the holy books in the world. That's just the kind of guy I am. My Spirit is not an historical thing; it's alive right now, right now, as fresh as your next breath. Holy books and religious rites are sacred and powerful, but they are not more so than the least of you. They were only meant to steer you in the right direction, not to keep you arguing with each other, and certainly not to keep you from trusting your own personal connection with me.

So I want you to stop thinking of *religion* as some sort of a loyalty pledge to me. The true purpose of your *religions* is so that YOU can become more aware OF ME, not the other way around! Believe me, I know you already. I know what's in each of your hearts, and I love you anyway with no strings attached. So lighten up and enjoy me. That's what religion's best for.

What you seem to forget is how mysterious I am. You look at the petty differences in your scriptures and you say, "Well, if *this* is the truth, then *that* can't be!" But instead of trying to figure out my paradoxes and unfathomable nature (which by the way, you never will), why not open your hearts to the simple common threads of every religion?

You know what I'm talking about: Play nice with each other. Love and respect everyone. Be kind. Even when life is scary or confusing, take courage and be of good cheer, for I am always with you! And learn how to be quiet, so that you can hear my still, small voice (I don't like to shout). Leave the world a better place by living your life with dignity and gracefulness, for you are my *own* child. Hold back nothing from life, for the parts of you that can die surely will, and the parts that can't, won't. So don't worry, be happy! (I stole that last line from Bobby McFerrin, but... who gave it to him in the first place?)

Simple stuff now. Why do you keep making it so complicated? It's like you're always looking for an excuse to be upset. And I am very tired of your main excuse. Do you think I care whether you call me God or Yahweh or Jehovah, Allah, Waka-tonka, Brahma, Father, Mother, even the Void of Nirvana? You can call me any name you choose, if only you will go about my business of loving one another as I love you. How can you keep neglecting something so simple?

No, I am not telling you to abandon your religions. Enjoy your religions, honor them, learn from them, just as you should enjoy, honor, and learn from your parents. But do you walk around telling everyone that *your* parents are better than theirs? Your religion, like your parents, may always have the most special place in your heart; I don't mind that at all! And I don't want you to combine all the great traditions into one big mess! Each religion is unique for a reason. Each has a unique style so that people can find the best path for themselves.

My blessed children of earth, the world has grown too small for your pervasive religious bigotries and confusion. The whole planet is now connected -- by air travel, satellite dishes, telephones, fax machines, rock concerts, diseases, and mutual needs and concerns. Get with the program! If you *really* want to help me, then commit yourselves to figuring out how to feed your hungry, and clothe your naked, and protect your abused, and shelter your poor. And just as important, make your *own* everyday life a shining example of kindness and good humor. I've given you all of the resources you need, if only you abandon your fear of each other and begin living and loving and laughing together.

Finally, my children everywhere, remember the fearlessness with which my Son Jesus chose to live and die. As I love Him, so do I love each of you. Now, I am not really ticked off. Not really. I just wanted to grab your attention because I hate to see you suffer! But I gave you free will, so what can I do now other than to try to influence you through reason, persuasion, and a little old-fashioned guilt and manipulation? After all, you know I AM the original Jewish Mother. I just want you to be happy... and I'll sit in the dark. I really am, indeed I swear, with you always. Always, trust in me.

Your One and Only,  
God

# HYMN TOURNAMENT – FINAL 4 MATCHUPS!

#9 Christ, Be Our Light

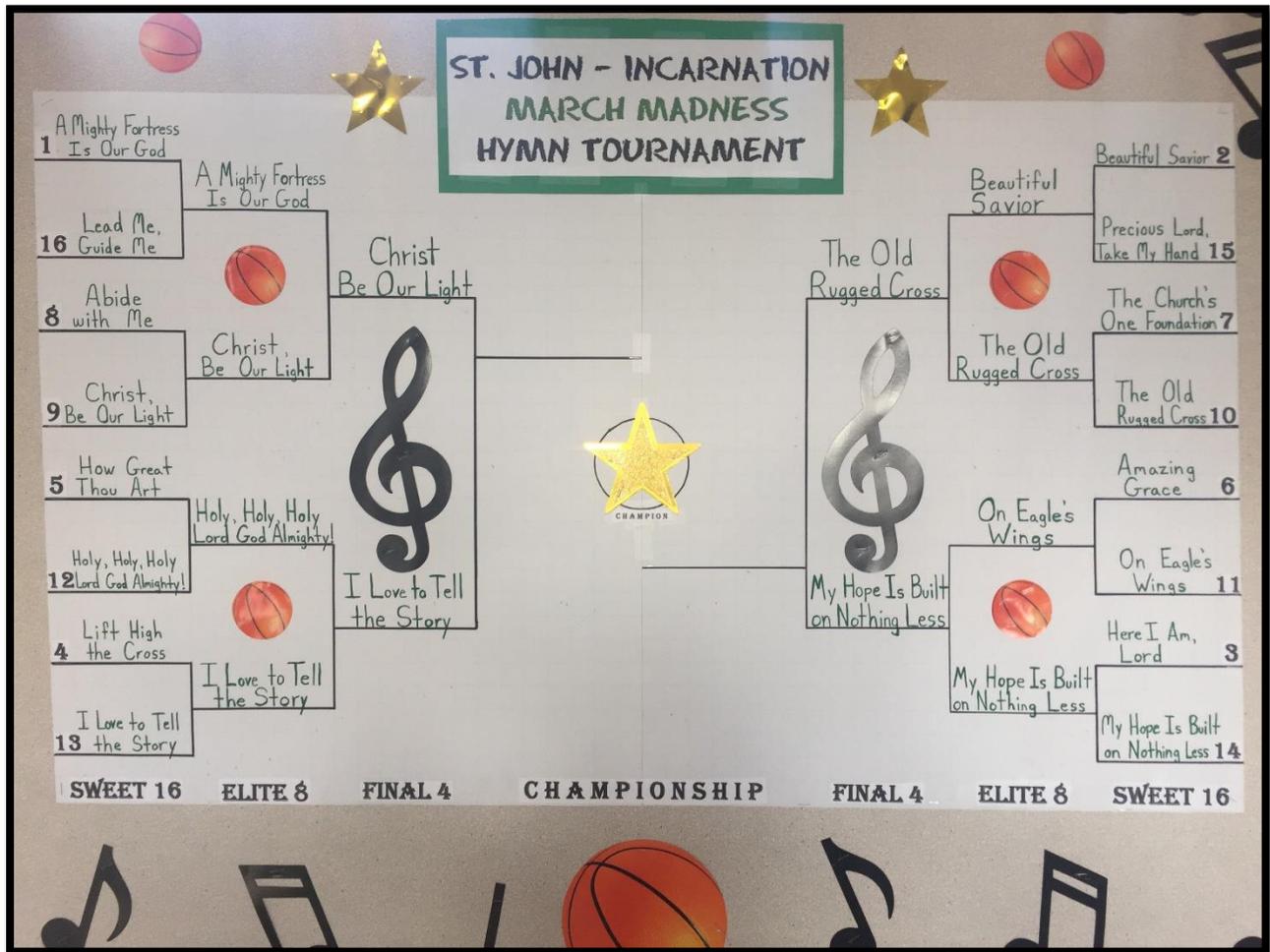
vs.

#13 I Love to Tell the Story

#10 The Old Rugged Cross

vs.

#14 My Hope Is Built...



The Final 4 will take place on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> and the championship will be on Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The hymn that wins the championship will be sung in worship once a month for the next year. The runner-up will be sung quarterly (4x) and the other two hymns in the Final 4 will be sung three times over the next year!\*



# **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 March:

Wed., March 14	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm
Thurs., March 15	Bread, Bowl & Bible Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm 7:30 pm
Sun., March 18	Worship services Sunday School <b>Last service at Cedarhurst location</b>	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am <b>3:30 pm</b>
Wed., March 21	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm
Thurs., March 22	Bread, Bowl & Bible Choir Rehearsal	6:00 pm 7:30 pm
Sun., March 25 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	Worship services Sunday School	8:15 & 9:30 am 9:30 am
Wed., March 28	Confirmation Class	7:00 pm
Thurs., March 29	<b>MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE</b>	7:30 pm
Fri., March 30	<b>GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE</b>	7:30 pm
<i>LOOKING FORWARD TO APRIL...</i>		
Sun., April 1	<b>EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP</b> Easter Egg Hunt	<b>9:30 am</b> <b>11:00 am</b>
Tues., April 17	WELCA Baby Shower	7:30 pm
Sun., April 22	Baptism of Anneliese Sarakos	9:30 am

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## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*

**Palm Sunday – 8:15 & 9:30 am**

**Maundy Thursday – 7:30 pm**

**Good Friday – 7:30 pm**

**Easter Sunday – 9:30 am**

*\* There will be no 8:15 am service on Easter Sunday*

## SERVERS FOR MARCH 2018

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFERS	ASSIST. MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
Lent 3	8:15 am			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
3/4	9:30 am	Christopher Dunn	Christopher Dunn	Janet Pescatore	Janet Pescatore	Richard Dietrich & Dorothy Criscuolo
Lent 4	8:15 am			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
3/11	9:30 am	Victoria Dunn	Victoria Dunn	Susan Masciello	Chris Shelton	Lori Fernez & Janet Powell
Lent 5	8:15 am			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
3/18	9:30 am	Kaylee Parker	Kaylee Parker	Dan Gonzalez	Dan Gonzalez	Bob Reckhart & Tyler Rouse
Palm Sun	8:15 am			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
3/25	9:30 am	Tyler Rouse	Tyler Rouse	Kim Carlstrom	Anna Lenz	Doug & Kristina Palmer
	Torch B.	Parker Sloan	Victoria Ramirez			
	Gosp. B.	Elizabeth Hanson				
Maundy Thurs. 3/29	7:30 pm			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	
Good Fri 3/30	7:30 pm			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	

## SERVERS FOR APRIL 2018

DATE	TIME	ACOLYTES	CRUCIFERS	ASSIST. MINISTERS	LECTORS	USHERS
Easter						
4/1	9:30 am	Ashley Gavin	Ashley Gavin	Dorothy Criscuolo	Chris Shelton	Alexandra & Andrew Dunn
	Gosp. B.	Parker Sloan				
	Gosp. B.	Kaitlyn Gavin				
	Torch B.	Kaylee Palmer				
	8:15 am			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	
4/8	9:30 am	Christopher Dunn	Christopher Dunn	Janet Pescatore	Andrew Dunn	Anna & Dan Lenz
	8:15			Dorothy Criscuolo	Dorothy Criscuolo	Jill Pace &
4/15	9:30	Victoria Dunn	Victoria Dunn	Claire Lenz	Claire Lenz	Kristen DeStefano
4/22	8:15			Dorothy Richetti	Dorothy Richetti	Kevin Hanson &
	9:30	Elizabeth Hanson	Elizabeth Hanson	Kim Carlstrom	Anna Lenz	Kevin Hanson Jr.
4/29	8:15					Suzanna Thomas
	9:30	Tyler Rouse	Victoria Ramirez	Katharine Forte	Dan Gonzalez	Bob Reckhart

# Prayer Requests

Larry Lipitz	Bob Robon	Carmel
George Verity	Sherry Powell	Elfride Lynn
Stephanie Moser	The Carver Family	Louis Clemente
Anthony Posimato	John Michael	Faith
Donna Valenti	Doris Oelschlager	Denis Bradler
Dorothy Hafner	Vivian Monaco	Gerda Weber
Elaine Smith	Larry Rienecker	Don Roth
Joann D'Ambrosio	Arlene	Joshua Emswiler
Stephen Suppa	Sandy	Bernadette Harten
Jean Weber	Bill	Barbara Monteleone
Eleanor Haslett	Joe	Frank Abrams
Scott Masciello	Joanne	Chris Shelton
Rachel Jeremie	Ryan	Inga Chiramonte
Doreen Tietjen	Grace	Sue
Ramonita Garcia	The family of Susan Devito	

**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.



## **MADELAINE CHOCOLATE SALE**

*SPONSORED BY THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE*

**Purchase your Easter candy here at SJILC  
and help support our ministry for future events!  
The sale will be before and after each service in the narthex.**

## **Bread, Bowl & Bible!**



Please join us for our last "Bread, Bowl & Bible" of the Lenten season on **Thursday, March 22.**

Soup and bread will be served at 6:00 PM and worship will begin at 7:00 PM.

**We hope you will join us!**



# *St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church*

*invites you to join us for a final worship service  
to recognize the 80 years of faithful ministry completed by God's  
grace  
through the members of the  
Lutheran Church of the Incarnation.*

**Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm**



*Please join us for food and fellowship  
immediately following the service!*

*"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."*



# BEAUTIFY ST. JOHN-INCARNATION AT EASTER TIME

If you would like to have Easter Flowers on the altar during the Easter season in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the Easter Flower form at the bottom of this page. You can mail it or drop it in the offering basket with your free will donation.



## To Beautify St. John-Incarnation at Easter Time

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

OR in Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Donor \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with your Free Will Offering to the Church. The Church will order the flowers. After the holiday season, the flowers will be given to the sick and homebound.

**THIS IS A FREE WILL OFFERING**



### WELCA Mock Baby Shower

Come join us for a fun filled evening on  
Tuesday, April 17th at 7:30 PM.  
to benefit the New Life Center



## **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!**

**Palm Sunday:** We are seeking readers to help with next Sunday's gospel reading of the Passion of our Lord. Reading parts include a narrator, Jesus, Peter, Judas, Pontius Pilate, the High Priest, the Centurion and others. The assembly will read in unison the part of the People.

**Maundy Thursday:** We also need some individuals to help with the stripping of our altar at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday worship service. There will be a rehearsal on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm to go over the particulars.

**If you can help with one or both, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex!  
Thank you!**



### **SW NASSAU CONFERENCE LENTEN SERVICE**

*Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 pm  
The Lutheran Church of the Epiphany*



Please join us for a Lenten worship service with our Lutheran brothers and sisters of the Southwest Nassau Conference.

*Epiphany is located at 35 Fulton Avenue, Hempstead, NY 11550*

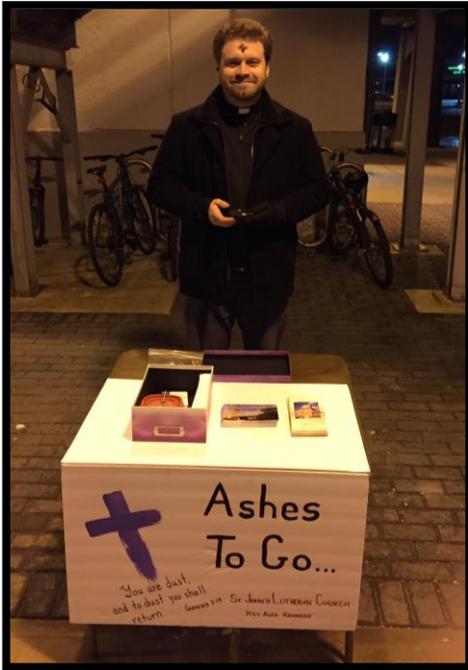
### **WELCA BARBARA SEMMIG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Thanks for all who had put loose change in the WELCA bottle, we collected \$30.00. Please keep contributing to **Barbara Semmig Memorial Scholarship** fund. Your generosity enables us to help our high school seniors pay for their continuing education. Also, a special thanks to Arlyne and Richard Barschow for their generous contribution to Barbara Semmig Memorial Scholarship fund.

Peace and love,  
Cora Sarver and Pauline Feltkamp

# ANOTHER YEAR OF ASHES TO GO!

On Ash Wednesday, February 14, Pastor Alex gave out ashes to about 60 people at the Lynbrook train station. Mother Lynn Collins from our neighboring church, St. John the Evangelist, joined Pastor Alex and the two of them gave “ashes to go” to those getting on the train (you can tell from the pictures that it was VERY early in the morning ☺). Make sure to look for Pastor Alex next year on Ash Wednesday, which will be March 6, 2019!



**THANK YOU!**

*Many thanks to Janet Pescatore for baking the communion bread for our Sunday worship services throughout Lent!*





## Yoga is for EVERY BODY!

Have you ever thought about trying yoga and told yourself that you CAN'T?

Here at St. John's – Incarnation, anyone can be a yogi! On Monday evenings, starting on April 30<sup>th</sup>, we'll be offering a yoga class at 7pm led by Jeanette Richetti. We will be practicing gentle yoga poses modified with the use of a chair as needed. There are always different options to suit every different body!

Yoga can give you more flexibility and stability, physical and mental strength, increased energy, improved memory and clarity, better concentration, improved overall health and a sense of inner peace. Chair yoga is also useful to help prevent falls by building strength and a better sense of balance.

Please join us starting Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The cost will be \$12 per person and yogis of all experience levels are welcome.

# PAINT AND SIP EVENT

On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, we had our second “Paint and Sip” at St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church. 32 people participated and everyone had a great time. Many thanks to Gabrielle Barry for organizing this fun event!

