



ST. JOHN-INCARNATION
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MESSENGER
WINTER/SPRING 2026

13 Blake Avenue
Lynbrook, NY 11563



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH

Sun. 3/29 **PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP** 8:15am & 9:30am

APRIL:

Wed. 4/1 Stripping of the Altar Rehearsal 7:00pm

Thurs. 4/2 **Maundy Thursday Worship** 7:30pm

Fri. 4/3 Good Friday Worship 7:30pm

Sun. 4/5 **EASTER SUNDAY Worship** (No 8:15am service) 9:30am

Sun. 4/12 Worship (No 8:15am service) 9:30am

Sun. 4/19 Evangelism meeting after 9:30am service

Sun. 4/26 Worship 8:15m & 9:30am
Pastor Patty Avila, Assistant to the Bishop, visiting 9:30am service only



Palm Sunday
March 29 -
8:15am & 9:30am

Maundy Thursday
April 2 - 7:30pm

Good Friday
April 3 - 7:30pm

Easter Sunday
April 5 - 9:30am



Fellowship Hour & Easter Egg Hunt!



Join us for a joyful celebration this Easter Sunday!

After the 9:30 a.m. Easter service, all children are invited to take part in our **Easter Egg Hunt** on the church grounds.

Each child will also receive a beautiful Easter Plant—

a reminder of the new life we share in **Christ**.

While the children hunt for eggs, adults can enjoy a time of fellowship with coffee, beverages, and homemade sweets.

Come celebrate the hope and joy of Easter together!

WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE – April 2026

<p style="text-align: center;">Maundy Thursday, 4/2 – 7:30pm</p> <p>Acolyte: Cassie Barry Assist. Minister: Dotty Criscuolo Lector: Kathy Spatz Ushers: Doug & Kristina Palmer Zoom Host: Gabrielle Barry</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 4/12 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Charles Sheppard Assist. Minister: Kim Carlstrom Lector: Cassie Barry Ushers: Tad Sheppard & Sue Ellen Coyle Zoom Host: Kathy Spatz</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Good Friday, 4/3 – 7:30pm</p> <p>Acolyte: Irina Sargent Assist. Minister: Wendy Wolber Lector: Gabrielle Barry Ushers: Bob Reckhart & Shaun Rouse Zoom Host: Jeanette Richetti</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 4/19 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Aurelia Bahadur Assist. Minister: Andrew Dunn Lector: Andrew Dunn Ushers: Susanna & Chris Thomas Zoom Host: Joe Bahadur</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Easter Sunday, 4/5 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Victoria Ramirez Torch Bearers: Sam Barry & Irina Sargent Gospel Bearer: TBD Crucifer: Bobby Clark Assist. Minister: Tom Sargent Lector: Chris Shelton Ushers: Heidi Scalza & Judy Posimato Zoom Host: Janet Powell Zoom Host: TBD</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 4/26 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte : Sam Barry Assist. Minister: Tom Sargent Lector: Jennifer Cline Sargent Ushers: Doug & Kristina Palmer Zoom Host: Gabrielle Barry</p>

WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE – May 2026

<p style="text-align: center; color: green; margin: 0;">Sunday, 5/3 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Irina Sargent Assist. Minister: Janet Pescatore Lector: Janet Pescatore Ushers: Heidi Scalza & Janet Powell Zoom Host: Jeanette Richetti</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: green; margin: 0;">Sunday, 5/24 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Victoria Ramirez Assist. Minister: Kathy Spatz Lector: Kathy Spatz Ushers: Susanna & Chris Thomas Zoom Host: Joe Bahadur</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: green; margin: 0;">Sunday 5/10 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Charles Sheppard Assist. Minister: Janet Pescatore Lector: Janet Pescatore Ushers: Judy Posimato & Sue Ellen Coyle Zoom Host: Kathy Spatz</p>	<p style="text-align: center; color: green; margin: 0;">Sunday, 5/31 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Thaddeus Sheppaerd Assist. Minister: Wendy Wolber Lector: Gabrielle Barruy Ushers: Tad Sheppard & TBD Zoom Host: Susan Masciello</p>
<p style="text-align: center; color: green; margin: 0;">Sunday 5/17 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Sam Barry Assist. Minister: Dotty Criscuolo Lector: Jennifer Cline Sargent Ushers: Bob Reckhart & Shaun Riouse Zoom Host: Bruce Feltkamp</p>	

We are praying for ...

Stephen Suppa	Terry	Verne Kelley	Colton Youdelman
Anthony Posimato	Christian Porter	Tad Sheppard	Benjamin Lomot
Tracey Knox	Bernadette Harten	Marianne Grahlfs	Donald S.
Mary Rebando	Anne Sheppard	Victor Rapp	Shirley Plows
Bettye Steinberg	Chris	Vito Richetti	Tom Wolber
Joe Nace	Bud Ellis	Kathy Frontino	Susan Cass
John B.	Margaret Tomasulo	Victoria Murillo	Our homebound
Angela Dodd	Edward Plows	Marianne Rice	Our military
Barbara Monteleone	Michael Koehler	John Meyer	Healthcare workers
Orlando Castrence	Michael Ugliano	Chris Speicher	First responders
Baby Violet Diaz	Janet Brennan	Family of Bob Rogers	Those we pray for
Family of Lorraine DeVoe			silently or aloud
Family of Marie Andruszkiewicz			

If you would like to request prayers for yourself or someone else, please write the name(s) on the prayer request poster, welcome card or call or email the office at 516-599-0778 or stjohnincarnation@gmail.com. Please note: Please let the church office know how long you would like the person's name to remain on this list or removed from this list.



A donation to the
**St. John-Incarnation
Memorial Fund**
has been made
in memory of
Our Loved Ones
given by
Chris & Blanche Shelton



A donation to the
**St. John-Incarnation
Memorial Fund**
has been made
in memory of
Jacque Maidel
given by
The Richetti Family



Donations to the
St. John-Incarnation Memorial Fund
have been made in memory of
Hank Lenz
given by
Florence Beattie
Charles & Denise Dammeyer
Ken & Sue Dammeyer
Stu & Lynn Dammeyer
MaryAnn Dodd
Dennis & Lori Fernéz
Peter & Diane Ford
Bruce & Kathy Heap
Claire Lenz
Ursula Lipitz
Susan & Vincent Masciello
Lynne Maser
Karen & Michael Nespoli
Joan Pirrone
The Richetti Family
Cora & Don Sarver
Victoria Siegmund
Deane & Jerry Wansor



A donation to the
**St. John-Incarnation
Memorial Fund**
has been made in
memory of
Gerhard Schultz
given by
Kerrin Gercken



A donation to the
**St. John-Incarnation
Memorial Fund**
has been made in
memory of
Thomas Jackson
given by
John & Martha Meyer

A Message from Pastor Alex:

I'll admit, it's been a particularly long and difficult Lent for me this year (*not that Lent has ever been easy, nor should it be!*), and in many ways I feel like I've been walking (wandering?) through the valley ever since my beloved dog Jasper died back in November, if not longer. The gospel readings this Lenten season have been especially relatable. Like Nicodemus, I've been coming to Jesus with questions at night, longing to be close to Him and have Him put my busy mind and troubled heart at ease. Like the Samaritan woman at the well, I find myself thirsting for the living God and the water that only he can give. No, I may not be blind like the man Jesus healed, but sometimes it's as if I'm living in a sort of figurative darkness, and no matter what I do or how much/hard I pray, I just can't seem to see the light in that moment.

Do you know the feeling? It's a real struggle, isn't it? We know the Lord is with us and promises to be with us always until the end, and yet, somehow, he still feels so far away, almost absent. And so, we cry out in despair: "Help me, Lord! Come to my aid and rescue me! Free me from my sinfulness! Unbind me from my stress, my worries, and my fear! Heal me! Restore me! Raise me up to new life in you!"

Yes, we've all been down in that pit of despair. Maybe you're there at this very moment, calling out to God in the midst of your pain, your suffering, your grief. Please know that I am praying for you, and I am with you in the valley. You are not alone, and neither am I. We have one another, and more importantly, we have Jesus – the one who heals us with his wounds and, like Lazarus, calls us forth from death to newness of life. As Paul states in his letter to the Romans: "The night is nearly over, the day has drawn near."

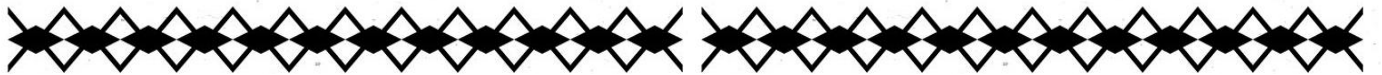
The season of Lent takes us into the wilderness and all the way to the cross at Calvary. And so, as we prepare to enter Holy Week, the most sacred and important week of the year in the Christian faith, I want to invite you to join me as we walk, wander, and wonder together through the greatest love story of all time – a story of sacrifice, forgiveness, redemption, hope, and new life. Holy Week reminds us, to quote Pastor Rick Warren, that God's love is "wide enough to be everywhere... long enough to last forever... deep enough to handle anything... high enough to overlook your sins."

So, whether you've been to every service this Lent or it's been a while since you worshiped at St. John-Incarnation, know that there is a place for you here this Holy Week and Easter season. Come as you are with an open and honest heart, even if yours is heavy or completely broken (remember that Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."). Come and hear the good news of God's love for you, me, and the whole world. Come and remember the promises that God made with you in baptism as you are washed and wash someone else. Come, taste and see the goodness of the Lord. Bring your family. Bring a friend or a neighbor or someone you just met. Join your sisters and brothers in sharing the love of Jesus as together we experience the peace, renewal, and joy that this holy season offers.

In Christ's Love +

Pastor Alex

Advent Workshop



THE GIVING TREE

This year St. John- Incarnation supplied Christmas gifts for 11 families in need this holiday season. We managed to donate over 75 gifts for those families – all returned, wrapped and delivered on time! **Thank you all for your incredible generosity and Christmas spirit!** We are so thankful for your donations of gifts, money and supplies to help with this project. also thanks to **Kristen Destefano, Janet Powell** and **Heidi Scalza** for wrapping gifts, **Dennis Fernez** for helping to sort through the many bags of gifts and pack them for delivery, and to **Pastor Alex** for delivering the gifts.



Lori Fernéz

The ABC's of Christmas



OUR NEW ORGAN!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP



ASHES TO GO

Pastor Alex, Tom Sargent gave ashes and blessings on Ash Wednesday at the Lynbrook train station. Many thanks to Tom, as well as Kim Carlstrom and Howie Frauenberger who greeted people and handed out brochures of our church and little Jesuses.



SJILC GOES BOWLING



Lenten Bread, Bowl & Bible

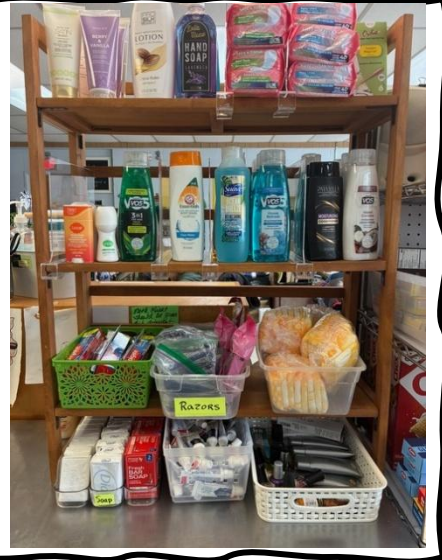


The **W.E.L.C.A.** Baby Shower
All items are donated to the
New LIFE Center's Layette Program
run by **Diane Kelly!**



Thanks to the generosity of the members of SJILC, The New LIFE Center now has a Personal Hygiene counter for their clients!

Our church also donated a total of 862 lbs. of food during the months of January and February.



The New LIFE Center is in need of the following Personal Hygiene Products.

- 1) Ladies Feminine Products – all pads
 - 2) Shampoo and Conditioner
 - 3) Deodorant for men and women
 - 4) Body Gels and Bar Soap
 - 5) Toothpaste and Toothbrushes***
 - 6) Moisturizing Lotions
 - 7) Anti-bacterial Hand Soap
 - 8) Band aids
 - 9) Cotton Swabs
 - 10) Ladies Razor Blades
 - 11) Boutique Tissue Boxes
- * Very much in demand



Thank you to the following members who have donated their c Thrivent Choice Dollars to SJILC:

*Tricia Berkowitz
Matthew S. Buck
Susan Masciello
Vincent Masciello
John Meyer
Martha Meyer
Tom Sargent
Chris Shelton
Wendy Wolber*

Congratulations! In 2025, St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church received \$2078 through the Thrivent Choice® program — and that's worth celebrating!

You can give to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church by scanning the QR code which will take you to our online donation page. Thank you for supporting our ministry and for helping us share God's love with others!



SJILC HYMN TOURNAMENT 2026

ROUND 1 – “The Sweet 16”

- | | |
|--|--|
| #1 – Here I Am, Lord – \$2.00 | #2 – Christ, Be Our Light– \$8.00 |
| #16 – Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory – \$0.00 | #15 – Holy, Holy, Holy– \$0.00 |
| #8 – A Mighty Fortress– \$5.00 | #7 – Lift High the Cross– \$5.00 |
| #9 – You Are Mine– \$1.00 | #10 – I Love to Tell the Story– \$0.00 |
| #5 – How Great Thou Art– \$13.00 | #6 – On Eagle’s Wings– \$1.00 |
| #12 – This Little Light of Mine– \$8.00 | #11 – Eternal Father, Strong to Save– \$8.00 |
| #4 – We Are Called– \$1.00 | #3 – In the Garden– \$5.00 |
| #13 – Beautiful Savior– \$10.00 | #14 – Amazing Grace– \$1.00 |

ROUND 2 – “The Elite 8”

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| #1 – Here I Am, Lord– \$9.00 | #2 – Christ, Be Our Light– \$5.00 |
| #8 – A Mighty Fortress– \$18.00 | #7 – Lift High the Cross– \$1.00 |
| #5 – How Great Thou Art– \$10.00 | #3 – In the Garden– \$25.00 |
| #13 – Beautiful Savior– \$12.00 | #11 – Eternal Father, Strong to Save – \$40.00 |



ROUND 3 – “The Final 4”

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| #8 – A Mighty Fortress– \$36.00 | #2 – Christ, Be Our Light– \$16.00 |
| #13 – Beautiful Savior – \$53.00 | #11 – Eternal Father, Strong to Save – \$62.00 |

Round 3 Donations: \$167.00

Total Donations: \$355.00

Championship

#13 – Beautiful Savior

#11 – Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Voting will be done through donations. Root for your favorite hymn(s) by putting your loose change, cash, or checks made out to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church into the designed coffee can(s). You can also vote/donate via Clover. Just make sure to indicate the hymn or hymns that you are voting for. The hymn cup that receives the most money in each matchup will move on to the next round. Voting will end at noon each Sunday!

The hymn that wins the championship will be sung once a month in worship for the next year!!! Second place will be sung quarterly and the remaining two hymns in the Final 4 will be sung an extra three times over the next year! So root on your favorite hymns to victory and let the competition begin!