



ST. JOHN-INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER


December 2024

13 Blake Avenue
Lynbrook, NY 11563



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

| | | |
|-------------|---|------------------|
| Sun. 12/22 | Worship services – ADVENT 4  | 8:15am & 9:30am |
| Tues. 12/24 | Christmas Eve Special Music Christmas Eve Worship | 7:15pm 7:30pm |
| Wed. 12/25 | Merry Christmas! | |
| 12/25 – 1/3 | The church office will be closed. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Andrea @ (516) 581-03453 | |
| Sun. 12/29 | Lessons & Carols (no 8:15am service) | 9:30am |

JANUARY

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| Sun. 1/5 | Worship services (The Epiphany) Evangelism meeting | 8:15am & 9:30am 10:45am |
| Wed. 1/8 | Confirmation class Healing service | 7:00pm 7:30pm |
| Thurs. 1/9 | Choir rehearsal | 7:30pm |
| Sun. 1/12 | Worship services | 8:15am & 9:30am |
| Mon. 1/13 | SJILC Crafters | 10:00am |
| Tues. 1/14 | Church Council meeting | 7:30pm |
| Wed. 1/15 | Confirmation class | 7:00pm |
| Thurs. 1/16 | Choir rehearsal | 7:30pm |
| Sun. 1/19 | Worship services | 8:15am & 9:30am |
| Mon. 1/20 | SJILC Crafters | 10:00am |
| Wed. 1/22 | Confirmation class | 7:00pm |
| Thurs. 1/23 | Choir rehearsal | 7:30pm |
| Sun. 1/26 | Worship services (no 8:15am service) Congregational Annual Meeting | 9:30am <i>Immediately following service</i> |
| Mon. 1/27 | SJILC Crafters | 10:00am |
| Fri. 1/31 | Girl Scout event | 6:30pm |

A Message from Pastor Alex:

It's no secret that I love Christmas lights. When I was a kid, I preferred the colorful ones, and to be honest it always annoyed me a bit that my parents put white lights on our Christmas tree, which to me were rather boring! Even so, my excitement quickly prevailed, especially once we started to hang ornaments like those old "magic" Hallmark ones from the early 90's that would light up and even move. Every year when my dad plugged those in, I would just stand there for a moment and marvel at our glorious tree.

As a teenager, when my Eagles fandom really started to kick in, I hung green Christmas lights all around my bedroom. How I managed to pull that one off and get parental approval, I do not know! I probably would have done the same to my college dorm room, too, had it not been for my roommate who, despite also being a lifelong Eagles fan, didn't love the idea of having green Christmas lights up the entire year! So we ultimately went with white instead. A far better choice, right?

Speaking of green and white lights, I actually hung white lights in the living room of the parsonage when I first moved in (although they came down a long time ago now!), and as some of you may recall, I also used to cover all the bushes in front of the parsonage in green Christmas lights during this time of year. Now it's just the light above my front door that I keep green and that's year-round. Go Birds :-)

Fast forward to December 2020. We were nine months into a pandemic and found ourselves having to remain isolated, quarantine, and practice social distancing. I must admit I felt quite lonely and discouraged that Advent as I prepared for a Christmas that was going to be unlike any other we had ever experienced, and it was!

And so, wanting (needing) to get outside and clear my head, what did I do that year? I hung Christmas lights in the memorial garden. Not colorful ones, mind you! That would have been too gaudy, and green, of course, was out of the question! No, instead I covered every bush with warm white lights, and with our statue of Jesus in the center and the lights twinkling behind him, it was truly a wondrous sight to behold!

This year, however, I decided to put those white lights out front so that every person passing by each night can see them. Who knows, maybe they'll draw someone in who's looking for a new church home or just a place to worship on Christmas Eve! I know I'd want to check out our church if I was driving by! I also added a beautiful nativity outside to remind us all the real "reason for the season" – the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the Word who "became flesh and lived among us."

So instead of looking up in the night sky for mysterious drones, let us turn our gaze, our minds and our hearts toward the one who said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." Whenever I'm putting up Christmas lights I think of these words spoken by Immanuel (God with us), as well as the opening chapter in the gospel of John: "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

Yes, the darkness of sin and death still lingers in our lives, and we all know what it's like to walk through that valley of the shadow of death. Indeed, sometimes it even feels like the whole world is covered in darkness, especially when we turn on the news and it's seemingly one tragedy, crime, scandal, act of violence, etc. after another. Jesus reminds us, of course, that this is nothing new, for "people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil."

And yet, there is good news, my friends. There is good news for you, for me, and for all people that gives us great joy, renewed hope, and everlasting peace: to us is born a savior who is Christ the Lord – not because we deserved Him, but because God so loved the whole world and sent that love down in Christ. As the prophet Isaiah declares: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined."

Do you see the light? Can you feel it warming your heart and calming all of your worries and fears? It's still here shining brightly in the darkness, and it always will be until Jesus, the light of the world, comes again to bring all things to completion. Until then, may we continue to let our light shine as together we follow Jesus in faith and in love.

Wishing you and your loved ones a merry Christmas and a blessed new year.

Peace +

Pastor Alex



We are praying for...

Donna Valenti
Stephen Suppa
Scott Masciello
Carver Family
Colton Youdelman
Carmel Wright
Tad Sheppard
Bernadette Harten
Mary Rebando
Shirley Plows
Vito Richetti
Bud Ellis
Cynthia
Rich

Brad Pantall
Barbara Monteleone
Victoria Murillo
Hank Lenz
Anthony Posimato
Benjamin Lomot
Marianne Grahlfs
Anne Sheppard
Bettye Steinberg
Ginger Freise
Arlene Lockwood
Irina Sargent
Ed
John B.

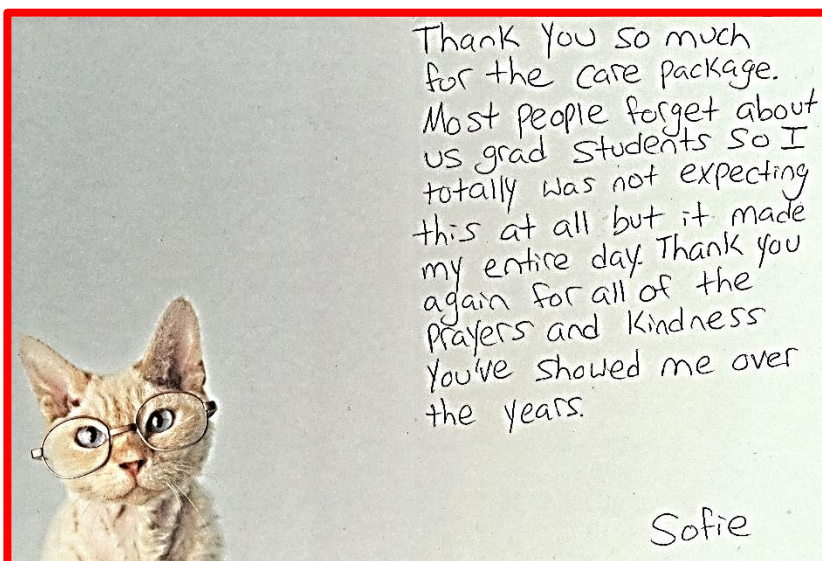
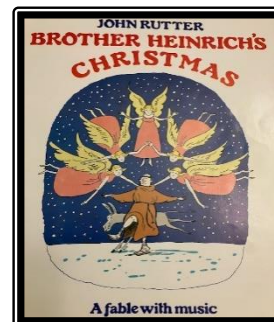
Olivia M.
Kathy Frontino
Margaret Tomasulo
Michael Ugliano
Tom Wolber
Verne Kelley
Janet Prag
Jacquie Maidel
Christian Porter
Chris
Kenny Berman
Baby Blake
Baby Michael

Our Military especially... Anthony & Olivia Marco

Our Homebound, First Responders, Healthcare workers and those we pray for in our hearts.

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: the names will remain on the prayer list for three weeks only. You can renew your request if needed.**

A heartfelt thank you to **Wendy Wolber** for generously covering the expenses for the three musicians who performed with us in "Brother Heinrich's Christmas Fable."
This donation is made in loving memory of her parents, especially her mother, whose passion for music will always be cherished.



WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE – December 2024

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|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 12/22 – 9:30am ADVENT 4</p> <p>Acolyte: Charles Sheppard Assist. Minister: Susan Masciello Lector: Chris Shelton Ushers: Tad Sheppard & Heidi Scalza Zoom Host: Bruce Feltkamp</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday, 12/24 – 7:30pm Christmas Eve</p> <p>Acolyte: Chris Palmer Assist. Minister: Dorothy Criscuolo & Andrew Dunn Lector: Chris Shelton Ushers: Bob Reckhart & Shaun & Tyler Rouse Zoom Host: Susan Masciello</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 12/29 – 9:30am Lessons & Carols</p> <p>Acolyte: Sam Barry Leaders: Bruce Feltkamp & Susan Masciello Ushers: Sue Ellen Coyle & Judy Posimato Zoom Host: Jeanette Richetti</p> | |

WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE –January 2025

| | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 1/5 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Aurelia Bahadur Assist. Minister: Tom Sargent Lector: Tom Sargent Ushers: Heidi Scalza & Kathy Spatz Zoom Host: Joe Bahadur</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 1/19 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Cassie Barry Assist. Minister: Wendy Wolber Lector: Wendy Wolber Ushers: Judy Posimato & Tad Sheppard Zoom Host: Gabrielle Barry</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 1/12 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Victoria Ramirez Assist. Minister: Andrew Dunn Lector: Andrew Dunn Ushers: Susanna & Chris Thomas Zoom Host: Susan Masciello</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 1/26 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Chris Palmer Assist. Minister: Tom Sargent Lector: Tom Sargent Ushers: Doug & Kristina Palmer Zoom Host: Bruce Feltkamp</p> |

WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE –February 2025

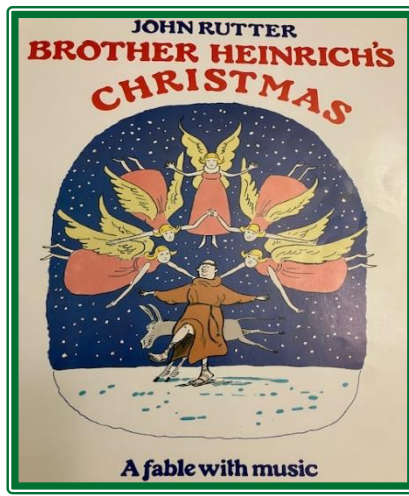
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|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 2/2 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Sam Barry Assist. Minister: Janet Pescatore Lector: Janet Pescatore Ushers: Bob Reckhart & Shaun Rouse Zoom Host: Jeanette Richetti</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 2/16 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Aurelia Bahadur Assist. Minister: Susan Masciello Lector: Tad Sheppard Ushers: Judy Posimato & Heidi Scalza Zoom Host: Joe Bahadur</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 2/9 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Charles Sheppard Assist. Min: Dorothy Criscuolo Lector: Chris Shelton Ushers: Janet Powell & Kristen DeStefano Zoom Host: Gabrielle Barry</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday, 2/23 – 9:30am</p> <p>Acolyte: Thaddeus Sheppard Assist. Minister: Kim Carlstrom Lector: Susan Wilson Ushers: Tad Sheppard & Kathy Spatz Zoom Host: Susan Masciello</p> |

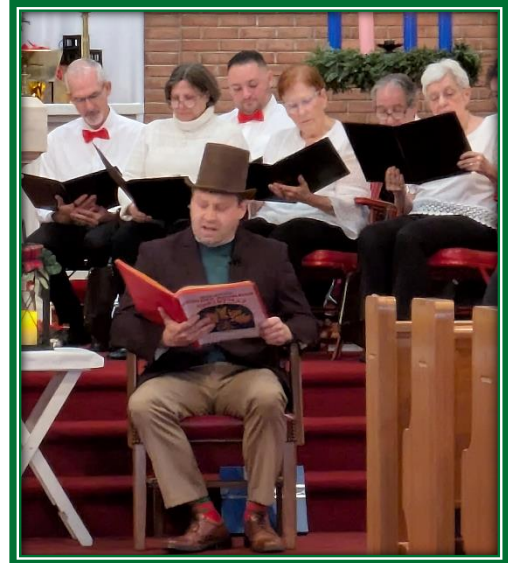
ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING



Senior Luncheon









THE GIVING TREE

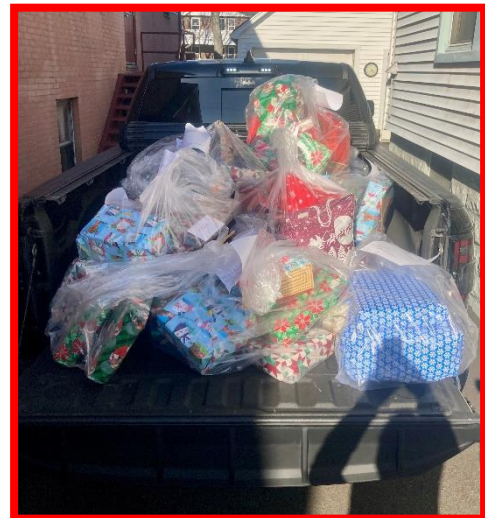


The New LIFE Center

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. Over 75 gifts were donated by the members. A special thank you goes to **Andrea**, our church secretary, who was helpful in so many ways with this project; also **Janet Powell** for wrapping gifts, **Susan Masciello** for getting financial support from Thrivent, **Pastor Alex** and **Dennis Fernez** for delivering the gifts, **Joan Pirrone** for helping load up the truck, and to **Joan** and **Cora Sarver** for helping with pictures. Merry Christmas to all!

If you are out taking advantage of half price sales after Christmas, the Giving Tree could use the following items for next year:

- **Tags for gifts (preferably stickers)**
- **Tissue paper**
- **Boxes (all sizes)**
- **Gift Bags (all sizes)**
- **Scotch Tape** or Fernez



If you would like to send Christmas/Holiday wishes to our homebound members, there is a list of names and addresses at the back of the church. You can also email the church office and we will be happy to email you the list.



We will be collecting coats and jackets for those in need now and throughout the winter! Please drop off new or gently used coats in the marked boxes in the narthex. Your donation will help bring the warmth of God's love to someone this winter.

GLOVE, SCARF, HAT & MITTEN TREE

Now thru the end of the year, our Giving Tree located in the narthex has been transformed into a Glove, Scarf, Hat and Mitten Tree.

Your donations will make a real difference to the families we serve at the New **LIFE** Center.

All sizes needed!

Thanks for caring and sharing!



Use this special link to enroll and start shopping! If you have any questions about the program or how to use the website please see Janet Pescatore, 516-581-1221 or email mrsp061601@gmail.com <https://tinyurl.com/sjil>



Turn everyday shopping
into fundraising dollars

 **RaiseRight**
Simply the right way to fundraise

POINTSETTIA DONATIONS

In Memory of:

Alice & Sam Batchelor
Ruth Wakuluk & Christina Wakuluk

Our Loved Ones

My Loved Ones
Sherry Powell & My Loved Ones
Louis Clemente
Sal Criscuolo, Dorothy & Julius Roll,
Nelma McMenimen & Thelma Browne
Chris Francis & Neil B.
Pauline & Frank Feltkamp
James K. Friel
Arnold Gercken
Paul & Christel Hild
Robert Koehler
Paul & Christel Hild & Lawrence Lipitz

Hans-Gerd Früetel & Charlotte Hautkappe
Jean & Karl & Geoffry Altwein
Bill & Helen Pratt, Hans & Anni Meyer,
Bill Pratt Jr., Herb & Doris Meyer, Millie Balint

My Loved Ones

My Loved Ones

Herbert & Lillian Plows
John & Doris Kortlang, Amy & Shelli Kortlang
Johnny Kortlang, Tony & Katie Posimato
Susan Reckhart & Kimberly Paolillo

Our Loved Ones
Alice Koenig
Our Loved Ones
Our Loved Ones
My Loved Ones
Louise Vincent

Given by:

The Barry|& Sheppard Families
Trish, Adam, Emilia, AJ, Noah,
Skyla Berkowitz
Trudy & Ed Blohm & Susan Blohm

Carol Cle|mente
Charlene Comastri
Sue Ellen Coyle

Dorothy Criscuolo
MaryAnn Dodd
Bruce, Karen, Karl, Carrie & Matt
Peggy Friel
Kerrin Gercken
Doris Hild
Allison Koehler
The Lipitz Family

Elfriede Lynn
Anita & Tony Marco

John & Martha Meyer

Janet Pescatore

Joan Pirrone

Margaret Plows

Judy & Anthony Posimato
The Reckhart Family
The Richetti Family
Jenny Rudolph
Cora & Don Sarver
Blanche & Chris Shelton
Andrea Sommella
Caroline Vincent

In Honor of:

Olivia Oberle & Scarlett Picarello
Hank Lohse
The Boynton & Streithorst Families
The Paterson & Moyer Families
Karen & Kevin Halcrow,
Anthony Posimato & Cristina
Our Loved Ones
Our Grandchildren
Luke Anthony Renne
My Family
John & Martha Meyer

Given by:

Great-Aunt Charlene
Ingke Lohse
John & Martha Meyer
Richard & Amy Moyer
Judy & Anthony Posimato
The Richetti Family
Blanche & Chris Shelton
Andrea Sommella
Kathy Spatz
Joyce, Lee, Tyler & Ashley Streithorst



GIVE ONLINE TO SJILC USING CLOVER!

You can give to St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church by scanning the QR code below, 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!



Join us for worship
in person
or on ZOOM!

Sundays at
8:15am – in person only
9:30am – in person & on Zoom



Online:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5165990778>
Meeting ID: 516 599 0778

By phone:

1-646-558-8656 US (NY)
Meeting ID: 516 599 0778 #
No attendee code. Just press #

