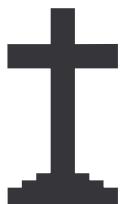




## **WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**



**Regular Worship Services at 8:30AM & 10:00AM**  
**Advent Mid-Week Services on Thursdays at 7:30PM**  
**Christmas Eve Service on Fri., Dec. 24th at 7:30PM**  
**NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS DAY - DEC. 25TH**  
**One Worship Service on Sun., Dec. 26th at 10:00AM**  
**Sunday School (K - Grade 6) Sundays at 10:00AM**

***“For unto you is born this day in the city of David  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”***

***- Luke 2:11***

## ***The Messenger***

is a monthly publication of  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
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Rev. Rebecka J. Fetters, Pastor

Kimberly Carlstrom, Editor

Anyone wishing to include an article in *The Messenger* should email it directly to the Editor @ KCPproducer@aol.com or mail it to the church (Attn: Editor).

Deadline for all submissions is the 20th of each month.

## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

I had plenty of experience with babies before I became a mother. I babysat newborns and older babies and toddlers in high school. I watched my sister's kids from time to time when I was visiting home. I've spent time with lots of friends who have kids. But it's a different thing when you are the one in charge (and I imagine many of you reading this nodding your heads and smiling at the naïveté of your pastor: "Of course it's different!") It's a strange new world to have someone who relies on you so completely for everything, to know that she needs you to feed her and change her and sing to her and rock her and play with her and take care of her needs all day every day. To do all of those things is to recognize how vulnerable she is on her own, how defenseless, and to realize how utterly dependent babies are on the adults in their lives.

This year, as a new mom coming to the season of Advent, looking forward to the celebration of Christmas, knowing what I am beginning to know about parenthood, I am astounded at the audacity, the boldness, the bravery of God. Audacious because God dared to send a helpless baby into the world and call him Savior of that world. Who can imagine a baby who can't

do anything for himself as the Savior of the world, yet that is what God says Jesus is. But bold and brave because God dares to send this babe, God's only begotten Son, into the world. God sends him into this often dark and dangerous world - and then God leaves him in someone else's care. God entrusts this one and only Son into the hands of human beings. Most moms and dads I know have a hard time leaving their baby with the babysitter or in day care just for a little while (at least initially). And here God sends Jesus to be raised and cared for by Mary and Joseph for life! I can't imagine doing it or how even God could do it.

But the Bible gives us the reason why God does it. It's right there in John 3:16 & 17. (Verse 17 is less well-known, but to my mind, it's just as important!)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

For God so loved the world... and all I can say is that that is a mighty powerful love that could send the only Son to become flesh and dwell with us, to take on our vulnerabilities, to enter into our dependence so that we might learn Who we can depend on. God sends Jesus into the world as a human baby so that we might begin to understand how deep, how intense God's love is for us - and that we might be transformed and saved by that love.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Help us to see God's love for us in your life, beginning to end. May we be amazed and changed by what you have done for us, and empowered to share that love with the world around us this Christmas and always.

In the peace of the One who is, who was, and is to come,

*Pastor Becky*

## FROM THE EDITOR

MERRY CHRISTMAS! Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas holiday and a new year full of renewed hope and faith.

This is a busy time for everyone, but I hope that in the midst of all the hustle and bustle, we take time to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and how our Lord really wants us to celebrate it.

Please note that there will **not** be a service on Christmas day this year. The Music and Worship Committee asked Council to consider not holding a service on that day because of the fact that we have a Christmas Eve service on Friday, and we will have one service at 10:00AM on Sunday, the 26th, and Council agreed. To the few worshippers who traditionally come Christmas Day morning, please join us on Christmas Eve and again on the 26th.

*Kimberly Carlstrom*

## HANGING OF THE GREENS DECEMBER 18 - 9:30AM

Want to help make St. John's beautiful for our Christmas celebrations? Everyone is welcome to come join in the fun as we decorate the sanctuary and narthex (entryway) for Christmas. Just come to the church at 9:30, Saturday, December 18! Hope to see you there!

## MEMORIAL FUND

Donations to the Memorial Fund have been made in memory of Joan Geier by Robert Kaempf, Marie and Harry Obst, Paul and Christel Hild, Joan Pirrone, Jan Arena and Gerda Weber.



## SHAKING THINGS UP AT ST. JOHN'S

I don't know how many of you are aware of this, but we now have a Saturday morning Zumba class being offered in the auditorium at 9:30AM. Zumba, from what I've heard, is a form of dance-exercise in which the participants get a great workout while dancing to salsa and Latin music. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this, please contact the instructor, Lorraine Parrino at (516) 314-5949 or email her at lopar1@verizon.net.

## CHRISTMAS AT SEA

There's no good time to be lonely, but over the holidays is the worst time. There's very little festivity, warmth or blessing aboard a merchant ship on the North Atlantic Ocean in December. So what does Christmas-at-Sea accomplish?

First, Christmas-at-Sea gifts remind the seafarers that even in the middle of the ocean, they are remembered, not forgotten. They are spiritually connected, not isolated.

Second, Christmas-at-Sea gifts remind the seafarers of their holiday traditions and gatherings back home. Even though they're away at sea, the gifts evoke fond memories of family and friends and joyous hope for future reunions.

Third, Christmas-at-Sea gifts magically transform us ashore into shepherds following the Star of Bethlehem. This outreach to seafarers enriches our observance of the spirit of Christmas—welcoming and praising the Holy Infant Child.

Please pick up one or more bags that will be in the narthex of our church. They must be returned by Sunday, December 12th. You don't have to give all the items on the list, nor do you have to be limited to just one of each of the item(s) you select. A Christmas card for each bag would be meaningful to the seafarer.

Peace and Love,

Evangelism and Social Ministry

## CORRESPONDENCE

### **Thank You...**

Dear Lori, Janet & the Youth Group,

Thank you for the beautiful basket, filled with yummy treats. It was wonderful to be remembered on 9/11. We almost lost Larry on that day. We thank God we didn't. It means so much to us to have so many people care about us! God bless you all!

Love, *Larry & Ursula Lipitz*

To the St. John's Youth Group,

I want you to know how much I appreciate the many times you have blessed me with your thoughtful gifts and your visits. Thank you so much. God bless you all.

In His Love, *Betty Johnson*

My sincere thanks to the wonderful Youth Group who took the time to come to visit me on September 11th. It was so nice to meet each one of you, and I thank you for the delightful basket of goodies you brought. But most of all I commend you for your remembrance of the values of that special day. Thank you also to Lori Fernéz and all who teach the youth in learning the correct paths to follow.

In Christ's Love, *Betty Johnson*

Dear St. John's Youth Group,

Thank you so much for the basket of goodies and your visit to us. It was a pleasure to see so many polite young people. Also thank you to Lori and Dennis Fernez for setting such good examples of caring. Thanks again and keep up the good work.

*Nan & Bill Moser*

To Mike, Matt, Erin, Margaret, Ryan, Jason, Jesse, Owen & Charlotte,

We cannot thank you all enough for taking the time and seeing my mother Caroline E. Roberts at the Rockville Nursing Center. We did not expect this kindness and caring everyone showed us on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010. Each and everyone are due a very big thank you for the gift basket from St. John's Church.

Sincerely,

*Paul Simchock and Caroline E. Roberts*

P.S. We are so proud to be members of St. John's.

### **Condolences to...**

Bill Wakuluk on the sudden passing of his nephew, Andy Merochek.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL BRIC-A-BRAC

The Bric-A-Brac committee would like to thank all of the people who donated merchandise, helped haul it up from the basement and made purchases at our Pre-Sale. With all of this help we were able to raise \$1,440.16. This is our all time record breaking goal, thanks again!

*Diane Dake, Susan Masciello &  
Lori Diamond*

Please note the following organizations will be receiving donations from our church from the funds we generated at this year's Harvest Festival:

Pinecrest Camp, Barbara Semmig Scholarship Fund, New Life, the Seminary, Adopt-a-Family, Fly With The Owls (benefitting youth in the Lynbrook community) and Avon Walk for Breast Cancer research. Our local efforts and donations have far-reaching effects.

## **ADVENT SERVICES**

This year the Advent midweek service has been changed to Thursdays at 7:30PM.

The Advent Service is a lovely evening prayer setting that is simple and memorable. The music is that kind that has you humming the tunes when you leave church.

Take time out of your busy day and week to join us for a short service of meditation and prayer.

The first service will be on Thursday December 1st at 7:30 p.m.

Come and join us. See you there.

## **CAN YOU DONATE A FEW ITEMS FOR A GREAT CAUSE?**

Karl Feltkamp (through his school) will be participating in a mission trip to Costa Rica and Nicaragua in January. They will be there for two weeks providing much needed basic medical care and helping with some construction work on community buildings and in an orphanage as well.

His chaplain at college has asked him to spread the word about collecting children's chewable vitamins and new athletic shoes for kids and adults. Both of these items are in great need in Latin America because of the lack of sidewalks and the high risk of disease which is spread through the mud and bare feet. Karen Feltkamp will placing a box in the narthex, so please look for it and give what you can.

Thank you, Karl, for being a shining example of what good stewardship is all about. Good luck on your trip!

## **YOUTH GROUP NEWS**

### **The Giving Tree Project:**

Last year, we had great success with our Giving Tree Project, and we were able to provide some wonderful Christmas gifts to families who may have had no gifts at all. We will once again be setting up our Giving Tree in mid-November, and we are hoping to deliver more of God's love this Christmas season. All information will be posted in the narthex on how you can participate. It is essential to begin and end this project early in order to get the gifts to their recipients in time for the holidays. Please donate if you can, and if you have any questions at all, see Lori Fernéz or Janet Powell.

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations to Kristina Carlstrom who recently passed all of her statewide certification tests and is officially a teacher.

Kristina will be graduating from Hofstra University on December 19th with a Bachelor's Degree. She double majored in Elementary Education and History and managed to do this in just 3 1/2 years.

Best of luck in all you do!



## SERVER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER

DATE DECEMBER	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
12/5	8:30AM 10:00AM Crucifer	Danielle Dake Ryan Milano Dusenbery	8:30AM 10:00AM	Roger Vargas Michael Fernéz	8:30AM 10:00AM	Janet Pescatore Chris Powell
12/12	8:30AM 10:00AM Crucifer	Katie Lenz Nils DeStefano Michael Fernéz	8:30AM 10:00AM	Jason Lipitz Ryan Dusenbury	8:30AM 10:00AM	Carol Larson Joan Pirrone
12/19	8:30AM 10:00AM Crucifer	Erin Milano Jason Pace David Powell	8:30AM 10:00AM	Janet Pescatore Bruce Feltkamp	8:30AM 10:00AM	Dot Richetti Karen Feltkamp
12/24	7:30PM Crucifer Torch B Gospel B	Matthew Fernéz Kristin Lindman Danielle Dake Carrie Feltkamp Tori DeStefano	7:30PM	Debby Lindman Bill Lindman	7:30PM	Claire Lenz
12/25	<b>NO SERVICE</b>					
12/26	10:00AM	Jesse Pace	10:00AM	Michael Fernéz	10:00AM	Susan Masciello

## DECEMBER 2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2	Advent Evening Prayer	7:30PM
December 5	Second Sunday of Advent Worship Sunday School	8:30 & 10:00AM 10:00AM
December 7	Worship & Music Committee	7:30 PM
December 9	Advent Evening Prayer	7:30 PM
December 12	Third Sunday of Advent Worship Sunday School	8:30 & 10:00AM 10:00AM
December 14	Church Council	8 PM
December 16	WELCA Potluck Luncheon	Noon
December 16	Advent Evening Prayer	7:30 PM
December 18	Sunday School Christmas Play Rehearsal Chocolate House Decorating	9 AM After Play Rehearsal
December 19	Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Sunday School - Christmas Play	8:30 & 10:00AM 10:00AM (worship)
December 19	Christmas Caroling to homebound	6 PM
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship	7:30 PM
December 25	Merry Christmas (no worship)	
December 26	Worship - 1 service	10:00AM
And looking ahead...		
January 2	Worship - 1 service	10:00AM
January 4	Worship & Music Committee	7:30 PM
January 6	Epiphany	