

ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

**DECEMBER
2014**



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship Services

9:30 AM

Sunday School Grades K-6

9:30 AM

Sunday Nursery Program

9:30 AM

Calendar of Events for December 2014 ~

Wednesday, Dec. 10	Confirmation Class 7:00 PM
Thursday, Dec. 11	Advent Service 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 14	Worship 9:30 AM 3rd Sunday of Advent Sunday School 9:30 AM Nursery Program 9:30 AM Decorating the Church for Christmas Christmas Caroling 5:00 PM
Monday, Dec. 15	Blessing of the Crèche 6:00 PM (at the corner of Merrick & Peninsula)
Tuesday, Dec. 16	Council Meeting 8:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 17	Confirmation Class 7:00 PM
Thursday, Dec. 18	WELCA HOLIDAY LUNCHEON 12:00 PM Advent Service 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Saturday, Dec. 20	Sunday School Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Decorating Chocolate Houses – Pizza Lunch
Sunday, Dec, 21	Worship 9:30 AM – 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday School Christmas Pageant Selling of Chocolate Houses after worship WELCA Meeting after worship
Wednesday, Dec. 24	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE 7:30 PM
Thursday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day – No worship service
Sunday, Dec. 28 Carols	Worship 9:30 AM – Service of Lessons & Carols Sunday Nursery Program 9:30 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM

Third Sunday
in Advent



Fourth Sunday
in Advent



Christmas
Eve



Looking forward to January...

Tuesday, January 6	Epiphany of Our Lord
Weekend of Jan 9 – 11	Confirmation Retreat at Koinonia Camp
Sunday, Jan 11	Baptism of Our Lord
	Worship & Music Meeting
Tuesday, Jan 13	Council Meeting

SERVERS FOR DECEMBER 2014

DATE	AM TIME	ACOLYTE	CRUCIFER	ASSISTING MINISTER	LECTOR	USHERS
3 rd Sun of ADV 12/14	9:30	Victoria Ramirez	LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH PALMER FAMILY	Janet Pescatore	Janet Pescatore	Dot & Vito Richette
4 th Sun of ADV 12/21	9:30	SUNDAY Parker Sloan	SCHOOL	CHRISTMAS Andrew Dunn	PAGEANT Gerda Weber	CONFIRMATION STUDENTS
THE EVE 12/24	7:30 PM	Jason Pace	Jason Pace	(1) Claire Lenz (2) Susan Masciello	Volunteer NEEDED	Richard Dietrich Bill Davison
Gospel Bearer		Jesse Pace				
2 Torch Bearers		Elisabeth Hanson	Victoria Dunn			
12/25		CHRISTMAS	DAY	NO	SERVICE	
12/28	9:30	Kyle O'Connor	Kyle O'Connor	Susan Masciello	Susan Masciello	Dotty Criscuolo Heidi Scalza

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator:

The Church Office: Assisting Ministers 599-0778;

Jill Pace: Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers and Gospel bearers- 599-8896

Claire Lenz: Lectors - 872-2063;

Pauline Feltkamp: Ushers 599-227

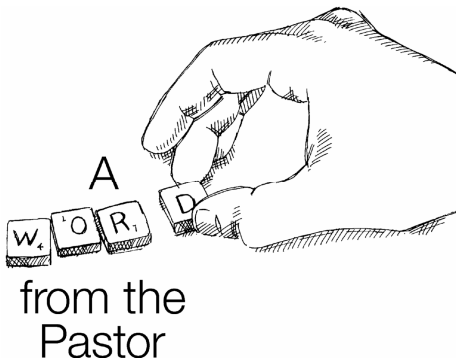
**PLEASE NOTE- ALL SERVERS SHOULD ARRIVE
TO CHURCH AT LEAST 15 MINUTES
BEFORE WORSHIP BEGINS.**

If anyone is interested in becoming an Assisting Minister, a Lector or Usher for our worship services, Please speak with Pastor Alex. He will be happy to show you what the responsibilities are for each position.

Total Offering for the month of November: \$7,691.08

Total Expenses for the month of November: \$9,409.10

DECEMBER, 2014



In the CBS sitcom “The Big Bang Theory”, there’s an episode where one of the main characters named Sheldon receives a Christmas gift from Penny, his neighbor who lives across the hall. Sheldon is quite surprised by the gesture: “Wait! You bought me a present? Why would you do such a thing?” he asks her. “I don’t know. ‘Cause it’s Christmas?” Penny answers him sarcastically. Sensing the severity of his situation, Sheldon responds, “Oh, Penny. I know you think you are being generous, but the foundation of gift giving is reciprocity... The essence of the custom is that I now have to go out and purchase for you a gift of commensurate value and representing the same perceived level of friendship as that represented by the gift you've given me. You haven’t given me a gift. You’ve given me an obligation!”

Well as rude and outrageous as Sheldon’s response may be, he’s certainly not wrong when it comes to the tradition of gift giving at Christmas time. Think about it. A gift is something that is given willingly without any expectation of payment or return. At least, that’s what a gift is *supposed* to be. However, when it comes to Christmas, giving gifts can sometimes feel more like an obligation than something that we actually want to do. Take Christmas cards for example. If you receive a card from someone who is not on your mailing list, you still send him or her a card back nonetheless! Sure, you didn’t intend to send that person or family a Christmas card, but social convention dictates that you do so as a courtesy.

Sheldon also makes an interesting point when it comes to reciprocity. We’ve all been on both ends of a gift exchange where the one gift was significantly better or more expensive/thoughtful than the other gift. It’s an awkward situation even though it’s not supposed to be! So what do we do? We come up with gift swapping games that have spending limits (i.e. Secret Santa, White Elephant, etc.) to keep everything fair and balanced.

Well the good news of Christmas is that God gives us the most wonderful gift, a gracious present that comes with no conditions or expected payments in return: Jesus Christ. God comes down to us with a love so great that God becomes flesh and lives among us, shining light into the darkness.

I invite you to share this gift this Christmas with someone who has never heard the wonderful story of Jesus. Indeed, our Lord is the best gift that we will receive this Christmas and He is the best gift that we can give to others.

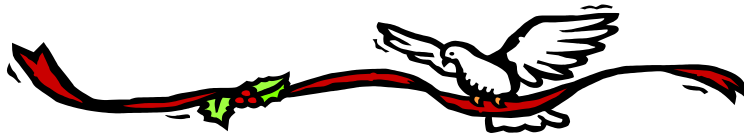
See you in worship,

Pastor Alex

Air Conditioner Fund Update

We now have a grand total of \$9,375.00 toward the \$35,000.00 goal for the air conditioner fund. Your donations In Honor of and In Memory of dear friends, plus funds that have been matched by a very generous person who still will match dollar-for-dollar all funds received, has made this possible. Thank you! As we look forward to the Christmas Season wearing sweaters, hats, and warm jackets we are hoping that you will remember this fund so we can enjoy a comfortable church in the hot days of the summer.

We wish to acknowledge and thank you with the following updated list for the generous donations that have been made thus far.



Air conditioner fund 2014 - 2015 In honor of

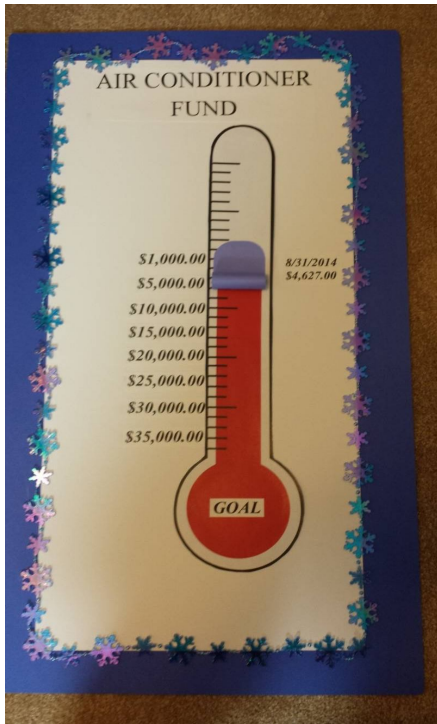
***Flower Power Fund Raiser by Janet Pescatore
The Baptism of Giovanni Allen Pirrone Dueñas
by Anthony & Joan Pirrone
The Baptism of Giovanni Allen Pirrone Dueñas
by Kathy & Joseph Pirrone
My Godson Bruce Feltkamp and his family by Grace West
Paula Williams by Karen & Norm Irving
Don Roth by Jane Sloan
Harvest Festival by Joan Pirrone
Harvest Festival by Susan and Vincent Masciello
Pastor Alex (Jasper & Lillian - Lily) by Dorothy Criscuolo
The Members of St. John's by Dorothy Criscuolo***

**Air Conditioner fund
2014-2015
In LOVING memory of**

Merle Williams by Ruth & Stanley Williamson
Merle Williams by Bob Kaempf
Merle Williams by Joan Pirrone
Mark Oelschlager by Joan Pirrone
Merle Williams
by Becky H. Peters of Sizemore & Sizemore Inc.
Merle Williams by Charlene Comastri
Merle Williams by Fran & Roger Coleman
Merle Williams by Dotty Criscuolo
Russell Oelschlager by Joan Pirrone
Russell Oelschlager by Carol Clemente
Merle Williams by Steven G. Burak
Merle Williams by WELCA
Robert Koehler by Pauline Feltkamp
Robert Koehler by Carol Clemente
Edward Andrew Johnson by Carol Clemente
Robert Koehler by Dotty Criscuolo
Robert Koehler by The Evangelism Committee
Robert Koehler by Karen & Bruce Feltkamp
Robert Koehler by Joan Pirrone
Edward Andrew Johnson by Joan Pirrone
Robert Koehler by Gerda Weber
Robert Koehler by Don & Cora Sarver
Edward Andrew Johnson by Don & Cora Sarver
Robert Koehler by Annette & Bill Benson
Merle Williams by Ed & Arlene Moglia
Robert Koehler by Heidi Scalza
Robert Koehler by Richard Ludington
Robert Koehler by Dave & Judy Opatow
Salvatore Criscuolo by Dorothy Criscuolo
Loved Ones by Don Roth

Robert Koehler by Andrea Sommella
James S. Hausle by Eileen Lauber Hausle
Merle Williams by Karen & Norm Irving
Loved Ones by The Richetti Family
Loved Ones by Cora & Don Sarver
Merle Williams by Sue Ellen Coyle
Loved Ones by Dan & Anna Lenz
Ruth Wakuluk by William Wakuluk
Loved Ones by Doris Hild
Robert Klipfel by Albert Klipfel
Robert Koehler by Sue Ellen Coyle
Salvatore Criscuolo by Dorothy Criscuolo
Merle Williams by Jim Grasso & Sue Ellen Coyle
Salvatore Criscuolo by Dorothy Criscuolo
Bob Weber by Gerda Weber
Noemi Castrence by Joan Pirrone
Jeffrey Benson by Bill & Annette Benson
Noemi Castrence by Carol Clemente
Norma González by Carol Clemente
Noemi Castrence by Dorothy Criscuolo
Noemi Castrence by Pauline Feltkamp
Norma González by Pauline Feltkamp
Norma González by Joan Pirrone
John & Lillian Lindman, Leonard Sokolowski, Neil Pierson
by The Lindman Family
Noemi Castrence by Gerda Weber
Norma González by Dorothy Criscuolo
Dorothy Roll, Julius Roll & Salvatore Criscuolo
by Dorothy Criscuolo





Please check the bulletin board in the narthex across from the coat rack to see our progress. It is our hope and prayer that you will consider making a donation to this fund. Below is a form that can be used for this purpose.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Finance and Stewardship Committee

Help Us Reach Our Goal!
St. John's Lutheran Church
Air Conditioner Fund

Name _____

Amount _____

Envelope # _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Please mail your contribution to:

St. John's Lutheran Church Air Conditioner Fund

13 Blake Ave.

Lynbrook, NY 11563

Or, please drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you!



Thank you for beautifying our church with your Christmas Flower Donations

In Memory of:

*Joan Geier
Loved Ones
Frank Feltkamp
Dorothy and Julius Roll,
Salvatore Criscuolo
Telesky Family
Frank Feltkamp
Loved Ones
Scott Hafer
Robert and Katharina Klipfel,
Leonard Sololowski,
Neil Pierson,
Lillian and John Lindman
Anthony Masciello
Loved Ones
William Moser
Our Loved Ones
Mark Oelschlager,
Russell Oelschlager
Allen and Dorothy Jimmerson,
Fran Pirrone
William Moser,
Angelina Posillico
John and Doris Kortlang
Tony and Katie Posimato
Amy and Shelli Kortlang
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Loved Ones
Robert Weber*

In Honor of:

*Anna Moser
Karen and Anthony Posimato
My Children and Grandchildren*

Given by:

*Carol Clemente
Charlene Comastri
Sue Ellen Coyle

Dorothy Criscuolo
Mary Ann Dodd
Pauline Feltkamp
Paul and Christel Hild
Pastor Alex
Albert Klipfel*

*The Lindman Family
Susan and Vinnie Masciello
Ed and Arlene Moglia
Nan Moser
Pace Family*

Janet Pescatore

Joan Pirrone

Diane and Joe Posillico

*Judy and Anthony Posimato
Richetti Family
Don Roth
Cora and Don Sarver
Gerda Weber*

Given by:

*Diane and Joe Posillico
Judy and Anthony Posimato
Gerda Weber*



If you would like to have a Poinsettia(s) on the altar during the Christmas season in memory or in honor of a loved one, please complete the Christmas 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's at Holiday Time

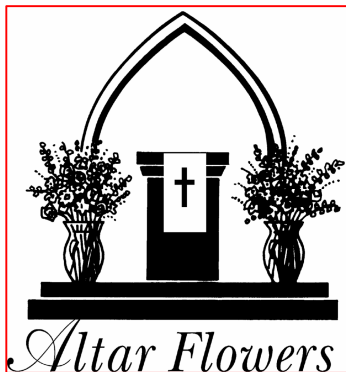
In Memory of _____

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 in case you want to donate flowers throughout the year.....
Each Sunday throughout the year, with the exception of the Lent and Advent seasons, our church altar is adorned with flowers. It is often through the generosity of our members that these flowers beautify St. John's. Traditionally, the flowers are given in memory of a Loved one, in Honor of someone still living or to Celebrate a special event such as a Baptism or First Communion. When flowers have been given by a member, the bulletin will note the designation of that morning's flowers. After the worship, you may pick up the flowers you have requested. If the flowers are not claimed, they will be placed on the altar, there are Altar Flower envelopes in each pew that you can fill out or you can contact the church office. Your support of this ministry is greatly appreciated!

If you would like to send Christmas and 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.

HELP DECORATE ST. JOHN'S FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
Join us on December 14th after the 9:30 worship to help decorate the church for Christmas this year!

W.E.L.C.A. HOLIDAY LUNCHEON PARTY

Thursday, December 18th at noon.

Men are invited too!

Please join us and bring a dish to share.

No desserts please.

Please bring a non-perishable item for the needy.



CHOCOLATE HOUSES

**CREATED BY OUR SUNDAY
SCHOOL STUDENTS**

The Sunday School Students are making Chocolate Houses again this year. These houses can be purchased for \$10.00 each. If you would like to purchase a chocolate house or two please NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE BY EMAIL OR PHONE CALL and give your name and the number of houses you would like to buy. The houses will be ready to buy on December 21st (the day of the Christmas Pageant) after worship.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL
DECORATING THE CHOCOLATE HOUSES**

On December 20th, at 10:00 AM there will be a Christmas Pageant rehearsal for all the children in the play. After rehearsal, the Sunday School children will be decorating the chocolate houses. All children are asked to bring in 1 bag of candy to use for decorating. If the candy can be dropped off at the church before December 20th it would be very helpful in preparing for the decorating. Please label anything you drop off- Sunday School/Chocolate Houses. And if any other member of the congregation would like to donate a bag of candy, we would be more than happy to accept. We are also accepting donations of soda and water for the Pizza Lunch after the house decorating.

St. John's will be going Christmas Caroling **DECEMBER 14TH** at 5:00 PM to our homebound members. If you would like to join us, meet at St. John's Church promptly at 5:00 PM. We will come back to St. John's Knotty Pine room for some pizza and refreshments! Hope to see you there.

Thank you to the Gavin, the Lenz, the Palmer and the Hanson Families for reading the Advent prayer litany and lighting our church Advent Wreath this year!

St. John's donated 492 pounds of food to the New Life this Thanksgiving!
Thank you for your generosity in helping those less fortunate.

*Dear Pastor Alex and the Congregation of St John's,
Thank you so much for the beautiful plant we received after the passing of my father's sister, Norma Gonzalez. Although her passing was unexpected and very difficult for our family, we were overwhelmed with the kind words, little notes of sympathy and genuine concern that was expressed by Pastor and the congregation. Those simple and kind actions meant a lot to our family.*

*God Bless you all,
Al Gonzalez, Daniel Gonzalez and family*

Dear Pastor and the Church Community of St. Johns,

Thank you so much for the generous care package. When I first received a package from the church I was puzzled because I had no idea what it might've been. I was pleasantly surprised to find several items and even a mug with a little note attached. After reading the note and looking at the contents I was left feeling so grateful to have such an amazing church and pastor, who cared enough to keep all of the college students in their thoughts when they were away at school. This effort was such a great gesture and it was much appreciated.

Sorry this wasn't sent sooner, the workloads been heavy this semester. Thanks again!

Tori De Stefano

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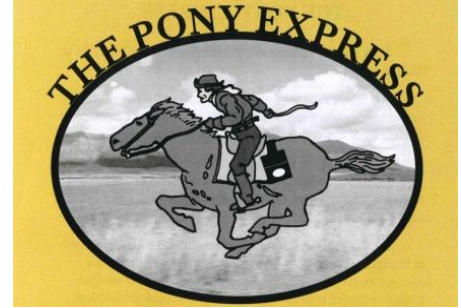
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*Dear Pastor Alex and the Members of St. John's,
Thank you so much for the Peace Lily Plant, and the kind expressions of sympathy. Your support during this difficult time is greatly appreciated.*

Peace and Love, Cora Sarver and Family

THE PONY EXPRESS 2015

December 11, 2014



Dear Members,

Thank you very much to all who participated in our Stewardship Appeal. We hope you enjoyed meeting each other on The Pony Express again this year. Our congregation is a blessing to many in our community, members and non-members alike. With your constant support and God's help we will continue to be a strong congregation that spreads God's Love to others.

Pastor Alex has been a wonderful addition to our congregation. His leadership in bringing back Vacation Bible School, committing to our youth and enhancing our service will help us grow and to live generously in Christ. As faithful stewards of St John's ministry and mission, your gifts make a difference. How wonderful to be a part of the St. John's family. What a great feeling it is to know that we have made a difference by helping others less fortunate than ourselves. Through programs such as our Harvest Festival, The New Life Center food baskets for the hungry, and the Long Island Council of Churches Outreach Program to mention a few, we are spreading God's Love to people in need. With your help, our Sunday School and youth groups are learning about the Bible and the importance of helping others. By supporting our Synod we are ensuring that God's work is being done locally and around the world. Working together we are changing lives and are making this world a better place.

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for your support of St. John's Lutheran Church.

In Christian fellowship,

Joan Pirrone Recording Financial Secretary

Let us ***REJOICE*** in his life
And **BELIEVE** in his love
And **CELEBRATE**
his promise
This Christmas and
ALWAYS!

From
Pastor Alex and the
St. John's Church Council
We wish you a very blessed
Christmas!