

# **ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER**

## **JANUARY 2014**

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Worship Services**

**9:30 AM**

**Sunday School Classes (K-Grade 6)**

**9:30 AM**

**Confirmation Classes (7-8 Grades)**

**Wednesdays 7:00 PM**

# Calendar of Events for January 2014 ~

Sunday, January 12	Worship, 9:30 AM – Baptism of Our Lord Sunday School 9:30 AM
Tuesday, January 14	Council Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, January 15	Confirmation Class 7:30 PM
Thursday, January 16	Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM
Friday, January 10	Cadette Girl Scout Meeting 3:00 PM
Sunday, January 19	Worship 9:30 AM –Baptism of <i>Kalyn Grace Petriello</i> Sunday School 9:30 AM
Tuesday, January 21	WELCA Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, January 22	Confirmation Class 7:30 PM
Friday, January 24	Girl Scout Ceremony 5:00 PM
Sunday, January 26	Worship 9:30 AM <b>Congregational Annual Meeting after Worship</b>
Tuesday, January 28	Evangelism Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, January 29	NO CONFIRMATION CLASS

## Looking forward to February.....

Sunday, February 2	Worship 9:30 AM Presentation of Our Lord
Tuesday, February 4	Music and Worship Meeting 7:30 PM
Wednesday, February 5	Confirmation Class 7:30 PM

# SERVERS FOR JANUARY 2014

DATE	ACOLYTES	ASSISTING MINISTERS	LECTORS
<b>1/5</b> 9:30 AM	Ashley Gavin	9:30 AM Kim Barbaro	9:30 AM Arlene Moglia
<b>Baptism of Our Lord 1/12</b> 9:30 AM	Victoria Dunn	9:30 AM Susan Masciello	9:30 AM Janet Pescatore
<b>1/19</b> 9:30 AM	Kyle O'Connor	9:30 AM Andrew Dunn	9:30 AM Andrew Dunn
<b>1/26</b> 9:30 AM	Ryan Milano	9:30 AM Kim Carlstrom	9:30 AM Carol Larson

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

Bob Koehler: Assisting Ministers 678-6623

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

Claire Lenz: Lectors - 872-2063

# ***A Message from Pastor Alex ~***

Happy New Year! I hope that you and yours had a wonderful and peace-filled Christmas. If you were able to join us for our worship service on Christmas Eve, I'm sure you will agree that it was, quite simply, a wonderful evening. Whether it was the beauty of our sanctuary, singing those beloved Christmas hymns, or seeing all the kids come up for the children's sermon, I found myself feeling that familiar sense of joy and belonging that I've come to associate with Christmas Eve, and for that I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As we begin the new year, I'd like to let you know about some exciting opportunities that will be taking place here at St. John's beginning next month:

- 1. Weekly Bible study** – Who was Eutychus and why was he so sleepy? What in the world is Revelation really all about? Why did Luther refer to the book of James as an “epistle of straw”? Join us on **Thursday mornings at 10:30am** and you will discover the answers to these questions and more. If you have any requests for a particular book or topic, please let me know!! Our first Bible study will begin on **Thursday, February 6**.
- 2. New member classes** – Interested in becoming a member of St. John's? Do you know any one who is looking for a new church family? New member classes will take place on **February 6 & 13 at 7:00pm**. The first class will cover Lutheran tradition and theology, while the second class will focus more on our history and the ministries here at St. John's. Please call the church office or email me if you are interested in joining us!
- 3. First Communion classes** – Please contact me if you would like your child to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. There is no set age or grade level requirement, but your child must be old enough to be able to understand the basics. Classes for children and parents will be held on **February 20, 27, and March 6 at 7:00pm**. We will celebrate First Communion during our worship service on Sunday, March 9.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the mission and ministries of our congregation. Of course, if you have any ideas or suggestions for the coming year, please let us know! Looking forward to doing God's work with you in 2014.

Blessings,

*Pastor Alex*

# **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**SUNDAY JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>**

**AFTER THE 9:30 WORSHIP**

*Meeting will be held in the Auditorium*

*Coffee and... will be served*



**ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND**



*Thank you for beautifying our church with your  
Christmas Flower Donations*

The Posimato Family

Susan & Vinnie Masciello  
Janet Pescatore  
Joan Pirrone

The Richetti Family  
Heidi, Julie & Amanda Scalza  
Roger & Melitza Vargas  
Don Roth  
Ruth & Stan Williamson  
Bill Davison  
Viola Lemin

Paul and Christel Hild  
Carol Clemente  
Mary Ann Dodd  
Karen, Bruce, Karl & Carrie  
Feltkamp

The Lindman Family  
Arlene Moglia  
Gerda Weber

The Larson Family  
Dorothy Criscuolo  
Bob Kaempf  
Sue Ellen Coyle  
Bill & Annette Benson  
Pauline Feltkamp  
Charlene Comastri  
Chris & Blanche Shelton

In Memory of Doris, John, Amy Kortlang; Katie & Toni Posimato; Shelli Kortlang  
In Honor of: Karen & Anthony Posimato  
In Honor of our grandchildren Clara & Cassie Larke, Bauer & Tenley Masciello  
In Memory of Leroy Oelschlager  
In Memory of Allen & Dorothy Jimmerson  
In Honor of Fran Pirrone  
In Memory of our Loved Ones  
In Memory of Mike Scalza  
In Memory of Robert MacFadden  
In Memory of Dot & Henry Roth and Bob Weber  
In Memory of our Parents  
In Memory of Regina Davison  
In Memory of William Lemin  
In Memory of Pauline and Tony Mugno  
In Memory of Loved Ones  
In Memory of Loved Ones  
In Honor of Marge T. & Emma D.

In Memory of Frank Feltkamp  
In Memory of John & Lillian Lindman and Leonard Sokolowski  
In Memory of Loved Ones  
In Memory of Bob Weber  
In Honor of children & grandchildren  
In Memory of Family Members  
In Memory of Sal Criscuolo, and Dorothy & Julius Roll  
In Honor of Karen Irving, my daughter  
In Memory of Mr. Frank Feltkamp  
In Memory of Jeffrey Benson  
In Memory of my Dear Frank  
In Memory of Loved Ones  
In Memory of Loved Ones  
In Honor of our grandchildren: Maxine, Marysia, Ryan & Liam

## ***The Giving Tree: Thank you for your generosity!***

Once again, I would like to thank all of you for supporting the Giving Tree Project by donating gifts (as well as wrapping paper & other supplies) and continuing to make this a success year after year.

The Giving Tree is a project that was begun by the Youth Group in 2009. It is tied to the Christmas gift-giving program at the New Life Center in Hempstead, who gather names of local families in need during the holiday season. St. John's has supported this program for many years, and years ago members of WELCA – and later the Youth Group – would shop for the gifts for several people or one “adopted” family. It was something we all felt so good about, and one year we decided to try something different: we could not only help more families in need, but allow more people to experience the true magic of Christmas by opening it up to everyone in the congregation. And so, the Giving Tree was born at St. John's.

Our little Christmas tree typically holds the holiday wishes of about 15 “adopted” people – children, teens or seniors – who generally ask for simple items such as a shirt, shoes, pajamas or sometimes a toy for a young child. Those 15 people make up about 4 or 5 different families, all who live on Long Island in neighboring towns. New Life requests that each person receive two gifts, but our goal has always been three gifts per person, with at least one of those gifts (even if it's not requested) to be a toy or a fun item for each child or teen. In addition – because our congregation has proven to be so generous and all the gift tags are almost gone the first week the tree is up -- we also have given three “family” gifts which include candy, cookies and a gift card to a grocery store, to be enjoyed by the whole family.

This Christmas, we provided 60 gifts for 15 people of 4 families. In addition to the gifts donated by our congregation, St. John's Council also approved \$100 from Harvest Festival proceeds to be gifted to these families.

Your generous donations this year and every year go a long way to give wonderful Christmas memories for these families, and a big thank you to all of you for participating in this program and recognizing that the true joy of the season is to give to others. God Bless you all!

Lori Fernez

P.S. A special thank you to Erin Milano, Ryan Milano, Jill Pace and Alice Gianokos for their help with this project.



# EVANGELISM:

*Sharing Christ With Others*

## CHRISTMAS AT SEA

### The Seafarers and International House



Seafarers and International House port chaplains' satchels filled with gifts to the seafarers they meet in port in the weeks prior to Christmas. Later, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, when the ship is in the middle of the ocean, the captain will hold a celebration. At that time all the crew will open their satchels, filled with items from evangelists wishing them well. True joy is felt when the items are purchased, and then more so when distributed. This year at St. John's and with the help of some of Pastor Anne Marie Noto's congregation, we were able to deliver 48 bags of joy and fellowship. May God continue to bless you for your generosity and kindness to all of God's people.

Peace and Love,

The Evangelism Committee

***St. John's received this thank you from the crew of M/V Oberon:***

### A Message from one Crew

We just celebrated Christmas onboard our vessel, M/V Oberon (pictured). We received each one of us from you a bag full of gifts. I thank you for your gifts to us. All the winter clothes in these bags will keep us warm now when we are sailing to the north of Europa and then back to Tacoma.

God bless you all!

### A Message from Us

All of us at Seafarers & International House thank you for your generous Christmas-at-Sea gifts. This year we gathered over 1,700 satchels from all you folks, filled with wonderful clothing, eatibles and greeting cards.

Thank you so very much for your generosity!

Seafarers & International House  
125 East 15th Street  
New York, NY 10003-3002



11563259999

# LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF NEW YORK HOLIDAY FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS

St. John's donates many times during the year to the Lutheran Social Services programs. This Christmas season St. John's again showed their kindness and generosity to those less fortunate. In a letter from the LSS Ronald S. Drews, President and CEO writes:

*"On behalf of the Lutheran social Services of New York, and of all the individuals and families we serve, I want to express deep gratitude for your generous contribution of 353 lbs\* of food to the Healthy LIFE Program towards our organization. Your compassionate gift ensures that LSSNY can continue to work daily to help people in New York to reach their full potential."*

*Most Sincerely,  
Ronald S. Drews*



**\* This total is a combined amount for December.**

## THANKS TO ALL...

During my recent hospital stay I just want to send out a BIG Thank You! Pastor Alex for his visit and flowers, and for all the cards and phone calls that were made to me checking on my progress.

Thanks again for all of your prayers!

Diane Dake ☺

A special thank you to Grace West for sending a donation to cover the postage for the Messengers we mail.

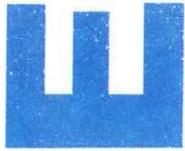
Please accept this gift for St. John's Lutheran Church. I have wanted to do this for a long time, but couldn't. However, now that I have sold my apartment, and I will be moving to Maryland I can do this.

My love and prayers will always be with St. John's and its members. I hope to see all of you on my visits to New York.

May God Bless you,  
Marjorie A. Gorr

I felt the joys and anticipation of Christmas one Sunday afternoon when Pastor and 17 members of St. John's Youth Group arrived Christmas Caroling. Not only did they bring joy to me but a very tasty Chocolate House made by the Sunday School Children. I am glad St. John's has such a wonderful youth group that I can enjoy all the good they do and share. One touching moment for me during the holiday season was when Kevin Hanson Jr. helped me down the stairs after Christmas Eve worship. He was making certain I wouldn't fall. Peace and Love to all, especially the youth and their leaders of St. John's!

Bob Koehler



# Lutheran Social Services of New York



Strengthening

Lives  
Families  
Communities

Administrative Offices  
475 Riverside Dr.  
Suite 1244  
New York, NY 10115-0046

Main 212.870.1100  
Fax 212.870.1101  
www.LSSNY.org

**LIFE INITIATIVES**  
(Lutheran Initiatives for  
Enrichment)

CONGREGATION LIFE  
member services

E-LIFE  
elder wellness

Full LIFE  
children & families

HEALTHY LIFE  
hunger prevention

HOME LIFE  
safe, decent affordable  
housing

LIFE SAVERS  
volunteer services

LIFE SHIELD  
immigrants and refugees  
support

NEW LIFE ADOPTION  
connecting children to  
families

Project LIFE  
disaster preparation

THE NEW LIFE SCHOOL  
educating at risk children

Young ADULT LIFE  
developing tomorrow's  
leaders

January 9, 2014

Dear Pastors, Church Members and Friends,

*"To know that people are out there who care...it gives people hope."*

What a wise and insightful saying. Though none of us at the New LIFE Center can take credit for having said it, we certainly understand how true that simple statement really is. We see it each and every day as our clients come to us looking for help, and leave with a feeling of hope.

Yet we can only offer that hope because of YOU, the "people out there who care". And never is your caring more apparent than during our annual Christmas Gift Program. This year the needs were greater than ever, and once more your love and generosity overflowed. More than 1000 gifts in boxes and bags of all sizes for families and children of all ages brought hope and peace and joy, the real Presence of Christmas, into the lives of our client families. Through your loving care, they see God's loving care. There is no greater gift to give or receive.

So once again, on behalf of all of us at Lutheran Social Services of New York, and most especially our New LIFE families, we extend humble and heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. Your continued support blesses us in countless ways. May the coming year be filled with all of God's good gifts, but most especially Hope!

Sincerely,

Hylkije Halili  
Program Coordinator



Called by God, we enable people to reach their full potential

New LIFE Center—Nassau, 311 Uniondale Ave, Uniondale, NY 11553  
516.483.3240 F 516.483.3242



In special family of  
Grace Lutheran of  
Bellmore:

Thank you so very much  
for the warm wishes and  
beautiful gifties!  
Let the spirit of Xmas  
gently fill your hearts  
with peace and love

My fan  
would like  
Lutheran  
for our  
kindness  
you're  
generosity and  
shown

I'm so lucky  
you are always  
so great to me!  
From The  
Everett Family



Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Years,  
Dashawn Jones

Thank you for  
the donations!  
Henry Jones and  
Natasha family.

Thank you very much for  
the gift I received  
at Xmas  
with heartfelt  
appreciation  
Welle

# News from St. John's Council

## FINAL REPORT FROM THE 2013 HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Annual Harvest Festival grossed \$5,052.00 and netted \$4,476.00.  
The funds were allocated as follows:

- ❖ \$1,492 stayed with the Church for expenses.
- ❖ \$750 was sent to Pinecrest with a funds grant from Thrivent.
- ❖ \$250 was sent to "Fly with the Owls" the Lynbrook.
- ❖ \$300 was used for the awards to the Barbara Semmig Scholarship Fund.
- ❖ \$300 was sent to Lutheran Social Services.
- ❖ \$200 to the Seafarers and International House.
- ❖ \$200 to the INN (the Interfaith Nutrition Network).
- ❖ \$100 for the advertisement in the Malverne School Marching Band Journal.
- ❖ \$300 was sent to Steven Suppa to help defray the costs of getting medical services.
- ❖ \$584 will be used for local charities that may be in need throughout the year.

Share  
*Your*  
Faith

A stylized black and white logo featuring two figures, possibly representing a man and a woman, holding hands. The figures are positioned behind the word 'Your' in the 'Share Your Faith' text.