



ST. JOHN-INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

February 2025

13 Blake Avenue
Lynbrook, NY 11563



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

Sun. 2/23	Worship	8:15am & 9:30am
Mon. 2/24	SJILC Crafters	10:00am
Wed. 2/26	Confirmation class	7:00pm
Thurs. 2/27	Choir rehearsal	7:30pm

March

Sun. 3/2	Worship Coffee hour Sponsored by Evangelism Sunday School Bowling	8:15am & 9:30am 10:45am 9:30am 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Mon. 3/3	SJILC Crafters	10:00am
Wed. 3/5	Ashes to Go at the Lynbrook train station Ash Wednesday service	6:30am – 8:30am 7:30pm
Thurs. 3/6	Choir rehearsal	7:30pm
Sun. 3/9	Worship Daylight Savings Time	8:15am & 9:30am
Mon. 3/10	SJILC Crafters	10:00am
Tues. 3/11	Stewardship & Finance meeting Church Council meeting	10:00am 7:30pm
Wed. 3/12	Confirmation Class	7:00pm
Thurs. 3/13	Bread, Bowl & Bible Choir rehearsal	Dinner – 6:00pm; service – 7:00pm 7:30pm
Sun. 3/16	Worship	8:15am & 9:30am
Mon. 3/17	SJILC Crafters	10:00am
Wed. 3/19	Confirmation Class	7:00pm
Thurs. 3/20	Bread, Bowl & Bible Choir rehearsal	Dinner – 6:00pm; service – 7:00pm 7:30pm
Sun. 3/23	Worship	8:15am & 9:30am
Mon. 3/24	SJILC Crafters	10:00am
Wed. 3/26	Confirmation Class	7:00pm
Thurs. 3/27	Bread, Bowl & Bible Choir rehearsal	Dinner – 6:00pm; service – 7:00pm 7:30pm
Sun. 3/30	Worship	8:15am & 9:30am





Pastor's Report 2024

As presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting
January 26, 2025



At the end of his book, [The Pastor: A Spirituality](#), author Gordon W. Lathrop writes the following: “In Gian Carlo Menotti’s opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, one of the Magi—seemingly nearly mad—carries around a portable box of personal treasures and candies. With Amahl himself as audience, he sings the wonderful song, ‘This is my box. This is my box. I never travel without my box!’... I think that pastors never travel without this box: Word and Sacraments full of the gospel of Jesus Christ for a needy assembly, for a needy world. Bread. In fact, I think that there are no real pastors without this box. Maybe slightly mad, beggars all, carrying this box and bringing out its astonishing contents constitutes their spirituality.”

Well, I too carry a box with me when I make pastoral visits, whether it be at the hospital or in someone’s home, and like that one Magi, I never travel without it! This precious box, which holds the sacrament of Holy Communion, is kept in my truck so that I have it wherever I go and whenever it’s needed. (Sadly, I finally had to “retire” my first one at the start of 2024, which was actually my great-grandfather’s Communion kit that he used during his ministry! I was able to get one last decade out of that very special box, and now it sits in my office as a reminder of my beloved Gramps and all the faithful believers that it fed and nourished over the years.)

My new Communion kit certainly saw plenty of use in 2024 as I brought out its “astonishing contents” on countless occasions. I spent more time visiting parishioners in hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, etc. than ever before in my ministry, which was challenging at times, but also very rewarding. Indeed, the longer I’m a pastor the more I realize what a privilege it truly is to be able to pray with those who are suffering, or bless someone who is dying, or give Jesus to a person who hasn’t had Communion in months or even years. These are incredibly sacred experiences for me as a pastor – indescribable, really – and I give thanks to God for them just as I do for all the miracles and healings and moments of joy in your lives and in my own!

Yes, we are all beggars, as Martin Luther once wrote, and this includes your perhaps slightly mad pastor. I’ll admit there are days when I feel unworthy and ill-equipped for this call to ministry. There are times when I am completely overwhelmed with doubt and despair, and I find myself asking the same question over and over again: “Why, Lord?”

Don’t get me wrong, I love being a pastor, and the blessings of this vocation definitely outweigh the burdens (especially here at St. John-Incarnation Lutheran Church! 😊). However, ministry can still be very wearing and wearying, and the risk for burnout is always there. The statistics back it up.

So aside from making sure to take my days off and spend time with my family in PA when I can, I also try to accept my limitations and not be so hard on myself. This is much easier said than done, of course, and when I struggle with it, I remember what the Lord said to Paul: “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:9)

Yes, God’s grace is more than enough for us, and like Paul, I trust that “whenever I am weak, then I am strong” because I know that Christ dwells within me! Everything else I take to the Lord in prayer – the One who called me to ministry and has given me all the gifts that I need for the journey. I thank God for being with me on my good days and my bad ones, and I thank God every day for blessing me with this awesome congregation – a congregation that not only loves me and supports me, but more importantly is faithful to its mission of sharing the love of Jesus with all.

A few notable highlights from 2024:

- **New Members** – we officially welcomed four more new members into the congregation – Barbara Brown, Tom & Vicky Jackson, and Anne Moffat. Hopefully there will be many more in 2025!
- **“Ashes to Go!”** – in addition to giving out ashes to the commuters at the Lynbrook Train Station and to the senior citizens at Greis Park, I also gave ashes to the residents and staff at the rehab and nursing home in Island Park. As I like to say, when people can’t get to church, it’s our job to bring the church to them, and “Ashes to Go” is one of the many ways that we do that here at SJILC.
- **Hometown Nazareth VBS** – 22 children and 8 youth joined us in August for another great week of Vacation Bible School! A huge thank you once again to everyone who contributed and helped out in any capacity, especially my fellow co-director, Gabrielle Barry, and our church secretary, Andrea Sommella. We have yet to pick a theme for 2025 so if you have any ideas or want to help with that, please let me know and we’ll start planning!
- **Serving as Coverage Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Malverne** – this was a first for me and a role that, frankly, I was a bit reluctant to take on. However, after much prayer and with the support and approval of the council, I decided to accept the call and serve as Grace’s coverage pastor, which began at the end of May and concluded the second week in December with Grace calling their next pastor, the Rev. L.B. Tatum. I really enjoyed getting to know the people at Grace, and I learned some new things in observing how their congregation functions and does ministry. Leading the chapel services for the students at the school was by far my favorite part!

As we look ahead to 2025, I remain very optimistic and hopeful that this will be the year that we finally sell the Cedarhurst property and can move forward in our congregation’s long-term planning. One area that I’d like us to focus on in 2025 is how we can become a more *inviting* church and not just a welcoming one. There are many people in our community who do not have a church home and are looking for one. They are young and old, rich and poor, formerly “churched” and “unchurched”, and yet, all are seeking and longing to be a part of something bigger than themselves just like us. Can we be that place? Can we commit ourselves not only to the ministry of this congregation, but also its reach? How will our neighbors know about us? The council has already begun this conversation, and thanks to Tom Sargent and our Synod, we also have access to the demographics of our surrounding community. With the new apartments across the street opening this summer, for example, we have some amazing opportunities to welcome and invite!

What a blessing that we are able to share God’s love with a hungry and needy world! What a joy to know the gospel of Jesus Christ and bring this good news to others! Let us continue to love one another as Christ loves us, that all may know us by our love that He has given us. It is an honor to serve as your pastor and be your partner in this ministry we share. Thank you!

Soli Deo Gloria +

Pastor Alex

2024 Pastoral Record

Baptisms: 5 – Jaheir Boothe, Judah Boothe, Jahi Boothe, Adelyn LaVista, Daraius Pinto

Confirmed: 1 – Andrew Reitler

Marriages / Vow Renewals: 2

New Members: 4 – Barbara Brown, Anne Moffat, Tom Jackson, Vicky Jackson

House Blessings: 1

Funerals / Committals: 6 – Albert Klipfel, Rose Myers, Nan Moser, Sherry Powell,



We are praying for.....

Stephen Suppa
Colton Youdelman
Tad Sheppard
Bernadette Harten
Mary Rebando
Shirley Plows
Vito Richetti
Bud Ellis
Cynthia
Rich
Brad Pantall
Barbara Monteleone
Victoria Murillo
Angelo

Hank Lenz
Anthony Posimato
Benjamin Lomot
Marianne Grahlf's
Anne Sheppard
Bettye Steinberg
Ginger Freise
Arlene Lockwood
Irina Sargent
Olivia M.
Margaret Tomasulo
Michael Ugliano
Marisa DeAngelis
The Streng Family

Tom Wolber
Verne Kelley
Janet Prag
Jacquie Maidel
Christian Porter
Chris
Tracey Knox
Ed
John B.
Kathy Frontino
Vicky
Nancy Q.
Tom
Donald S.

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.**



In Loving Memory

A donation to
**The Barbara Semmig
Scholarship Fund**
has been made in
loving memory of
Nan and Bill Moser
given by the
Moser-Posillico family.



A donation to the
St. John-Incarnation Fund
has been made in
honor of
John and Martha Meyer
given by
Doris Pratt



A donation to the
Barbara Semmig Scholarship Fund
has been made in honor of
Don and Cora Sarver
given by
Richard and Arlyne Barschow



WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE – February 2025

Sunday, 2/16 – 9:30am	Sunday, 2/23 – 9:30am
Acolyte: Aurelia Bahadur Assist. Minister: Andrew Dunn Lector: Tad Sheppard Ushers: Judy Posimato & Heidi Scalza Zoom Host: Joe Bahadur	Acolyte: Thaddeus Sheppard Assist. Minister: Kim Carlstrom Lector: Susan Wilson Ushers: Tad Sheppard & Kathy Spatz Zoom Host: Bruce Feltkamp

WORSHIP SERVERS SCHEDULE – March 2025

Sunday, 3/2 – 9:30am	Ash Wednesday, 3/5 – 7:30pm
Acolyte: Chris Palmer Assist. Minister: Dotty Criscuolo Lector: Dotty Criscuolo Ushers: Doug & Kristina Palmer Zoom Host: Bruce Feltkamp	Acolyte: Cassie Barry Assist. Minister: Kathy Spatz Lector: Kathy Spatz Ushers: Kristen DeStefano & Janet Powell Zoom Host: Gabrielle Barry
Sunday, 3/9 – 9:30am – LENT 1	Sunday 3/16 – 9:30am – LENT 2
Acolyte: Victoria Ramirez Assist. Minister: Tom Sargent Lector: Tom Sargent Ushers: Susanna & Chris Thomas Zoom Host: Joe Bahadur	Acolyte: Charles Sheppard Assist. Minister: Janet Pescatore Lector: Janet Pescatore Ushers: Tad Sheppard & Heidi Scalza Zoom Host: Jeanette Richetti
Sunday, 3/23 – 9:30am – LENT 3	Sunday, 3/9 – 9:30am – LENT 4
Acolyte: Sam Barry Assist. Minister: Andrew Dunn Lector: Andrew Dunn Ushers: Bob Reckhart & Shaun Rouse Zoom Host: Susan Masciello	Acolyte: Thaddeus Sheppard Assist. Minister: Susan Masciello Lector: Chris Shelton Ushers: Judy Posimato & Kathy Spatz Zoom Host: Bruce Feltkamp

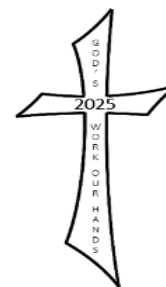
If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, please find a replacement and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator: Claire Lenz: Lectors & Assisting Ministers: 872-2063; Andrea: Ushers, Acolytes, Crucifers, Torch bearers, Gospel bearers and Zoom hosts- Church Office: 599-0778



We're always in need of more individuals to join our worship server team! If you know anyone who might be interested in getting involved, please encourage them to consider helping out in any capacity. Your dedication is truly appreciated, and having a few more hands on deck would make a big difference in our worship experience. Thank you for your support! Andrea

Introducing the Congregational Council of St. John–Incarnation Lutheran Church for 2025!

Doug Palmer– President
Kathy Spatz– Vice President
Kim Carlstrom – Secretary
Bruce Feltkamp – Treasurer
Joan Pirrone – Financial Secretary
Dorothy Criscuolo
Karen Feltkamp
Dennis Fernež
Susan Masciello
John Meyer
Bob Reckhart
Jeanette Richetti
Tom Sargent



*Many thanks to these leaders
of our congregation!*

COAT DRIVE



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

SJILC IS GOING BOWLING!



Sunday, March 2, 2025

12:00 PM – 2:00PM

Maple Lanes in RVC



2 hours of bowling w/ shoes + pizza & soda

For only \$20 per bowler!

Sign-up on the sheet in the narthex or
email stjohnincarnation@gmail.com.

Spots still open! All are welcome to join!

Join the SJILC Choir! All Are Welcome!

Love to sing? Now's your chance to share your gift of music!

*While we welcome new members year-round,
you can also join us for a short-term commitment—
just in time to help lead the congregation in song,
especially for the Easter season.*

Our rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30 PM

*Everyone can join! Male & female, young adults & seniors,
sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses—all voices are needed!*

*Come be a part of something
Special and lift your voice in praise*

Questions?

Talk to Judy Markson,
our choir director!



Sunday School is Returning!



We're thrilled to introduce a special **three-event Sunday School program** designed to engage, inspire, and bring our children closer to faith!

First Session: Sunday, March 2nd

The children will begin by attending the **9:30 AM worship service**. After the children's sermon, they'll be escorted to our **newly renovated Sunday School classroom** for a fun and meaningful session, including:

- ✦ A faith-based lesson
- 🎨 An arts and crafts activity
- ☐ A fellowship project



Ash Wednesday is March 5!

Pastor Alex will be at the Lynbrook train station from 6:30am to 8:30am to give out ashes!



Ash Wednesday service at the church in person and on Zoom at 7:30pm.

BREAD, BOWL & BIBLE!

Thursday nights during Lent:

March 13th, March 20th, March 27th, April 3rd, and April 10th

Soup and bread served at 6:00pm followed by a short Lenten service at 7:00pm.

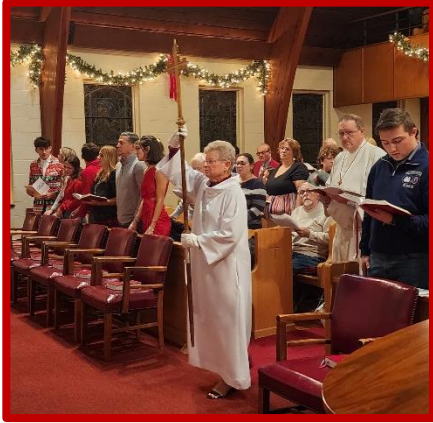
Bring a friend! All are welcome!

If you can, please sign up to provide, soup, bread, dessert, or drinks.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



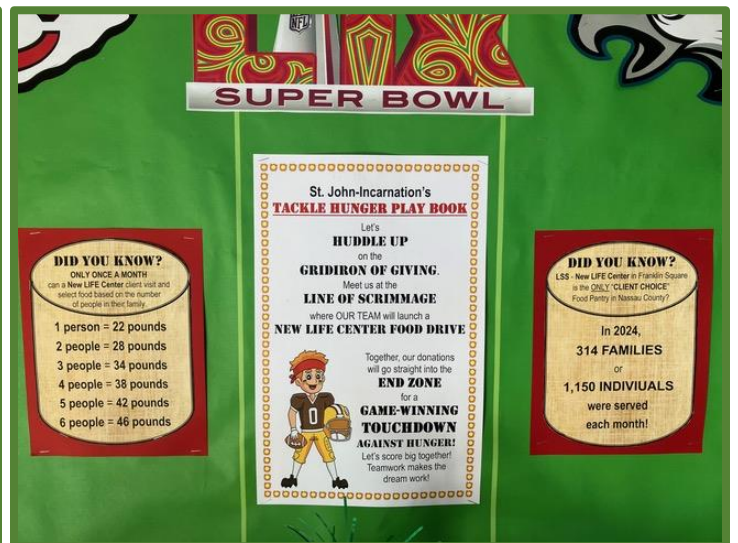
Christmas Eve



The Confirmation Students assist at our monthly healing services!



SUPER BOWL SUNDAY'S FOOD COLLECTION WAS A BIG SUCCESS. WE COLLECTED 510 LBS OF FOOD!



Thank You

The New LIFE Center thanks SJILC for a total of 1,667 lbs of food plus toiletry items and gently-used coats given for the months of October, November and December.

Thanks to Kim Carlstrom, who secured a generous donation from the **LIONS CLUB**, along with contributions from two church members and support from a Thrivent Action Team donation, **SJILC** was able to purchase **56 brand-new children's and young adult coats**. These coats were donated to The New LIFE Center, helping to keep those in need warm this season. We are truly grateful for the support that made this possible!

Thanks to the generosity of our Thrivent members we have to SJILC. Last year SJILC received a total of **\$925 through Choice Dollars**. We have also received a number of Action Team cards that help defray the cost of many of our events, including the Harvest Festival, VBS, The Giving Tree and ELCA Good Gifts. If you are a Thrivent member in order to transfer last year's funds from Choice Dollars you must put in the transfer by March 31, 2025.

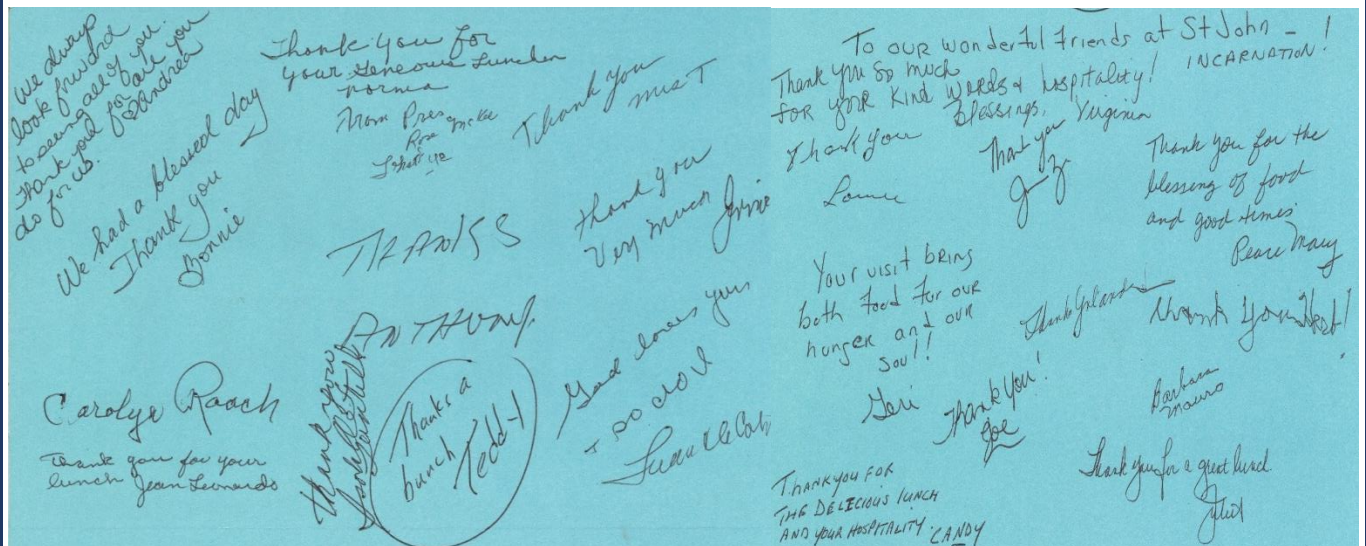
ELCA Good Gifts

We are happy to say that we again reached our goal for the ELCA Good gifts. Thank to your generosity we were able to purchase...

- 1 Family farm;
- 1 herd of goats + 7 more goats;
- 1 rooster; 1 flock of chicks +4 more chicks
- 2 piglets



From the Senior Group at Greis Park for the Christmas Luncheon



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 #

Looking back in Time: *Celebrating a Baptism (2014)*

