

The Lantern

St. John's Lutheran Church

145 Mortimer Avenue

Rutherford, NJ 07070

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Dear Family in Christ,

Every Advent/Christmas is special at St. Johns, but this year we have added the recording session of Teresa's original works for the first Sunday in Advent. There will be no liturgy, no sermon, no communion, no hymns from the hymnal. The time from 10:15am forward will be devoted to congregational singing of Teresa's compositions as well as the opportunity to listen to smaller groups bless



us with their musical gifts. These will include the children's choir, adult choir, men's chorus, women's chorus all singing Teresa's original compositions or arrangements that have blessed us through the years. There will also be a guest tenor soloist and guest flutist joining Teresa for her amazing rendition of The Lord's Prayer. It will certainly be an Alleluia, Shine with God morning and a fantastic beginning to our Advent worship.

The day would not be possible without the efforts of so many. I am particularly reminded of Lloyd and Clara Dean who lived humble lives in Rutherford, but who left St. Johns a gift sufficient to purchase a Steinway grand piano. I am also reminded of all who made it possible for us to have a pipe organ to enjoy these past years, with Henry and Frieda Thumann being the major financial donors. So it will be a day to give thanks to God not only for those who made it possible for us to have such grand instruments, but for the talents of Teresa and the talents of all who are lending their hearts and voices. It will be a day to remember and a day to look ahead to the blessings that await us as we try to be faithful to our inheritance in faith, the legacy on which we stand each time we open our doors and the goodness of God that never fails.

One thing we all know about our beloved St. Johns is that the architecture of the building, the intimacy and beauty of the sanctuary and most of all, the loving hearts of our family of faith all combine to make the whole experience of being at church greater than its individual parts. If you want to be close to God, if you want to feel cherished and loved, St. Johns is the place for you.

I know Teresa and I thank God for every Sunday we are privileged to lead worship at St. Johns, and we are especially grateful for the memories of Christmas eve services and Advent worship in years past. As a new church year begins, I encourage, invite, cajole all who are reading this article to make the most of the opportunity to be part of something as special and unique and wonderful as a Sunday or special service at St. Johns.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our Lantern readers a most blessed and joyous and Holy Advent, Christmas Eve and Christmas experience. I know Teresa joins me in this wish as well as all of our church staff and our dedicated and talented church council.

From your Council President

This, my friends, is going to be my last Lantern article as your council president as I am going off council February 3rd. It has been my pleasure to serve. You have consistently elected an excellent group of hard workers whose only interest is St. John's to serve with me on council. Over the last 4 years we have brought in some excellent programs. Personally, I think our concentration on living well was a highlight as we looked at our health, our eating habits, and our financial future. There were many other programs, but that was an innovative and important program that impacted all of us.



It is hard to believe we are so close to Christmas once again. I hope your Thanksgiving was spent with loved ones. I like that this season makes us reflect on our blessings, remember and be thankful for the ones we love, and brings us hope for the future. Speaking of the future, the children's pageant will be on December 23. This program is always one that fills our hearts and souls with such joy.

I hope I will see you in church Christmas Eve at 7:30. Every year this candle light service seems to get more special. The Christmas tree seems to shine brighter with all the different angels, each with their own story. The celebration of the birth of Jesus brings us such profound peace. Pastor's sermon always brings us comfort, and Teresa's music, so magnificent, brings many of us close to tears, especially during Silent Night.

My friends, St. John's is such a special place thanks to all of you. We truly are family.

Lisa

We Come and we Go.

.As I started to bring Samantha to St. Johns Sunday School back in 1999/2000, I never dreamed we would be a part of such a close knit caring church community as we are today. The history that everyone shared, the stories, the experiences, the generations of those before me, were all so foreign to me. The children who grew up and were now parents and the past friends who were no longer around, were subjects that I could not participate in nor share. But being around for almost 20 years now, I have become part of the next generation. I have watched Sam and Vickie and Megan and Ryan and Will and Eddie all grow up. I have watched our friends move away and our friends pass away.



We are so fortunate to see our church family grow and thrive when so many are barely hanging on. We strive to make our friendship heart felt to visitors in the hope that they will see who we are, feel good about it, (love the shape that the grounds are kept!!) and then come back next Sunday and many Sunday's thereafter.

We have seen many GO for many reasons, ...job, school, life changes and of course their final calling. We share the sadness regardless the reason We don't often get to say congratulations when someone leaves us. Six years ago Donna Strauss came to us asking if we could help her out as her counseling practice was new and she wanted to know if she could use the library a few days a week as her office for seeing Rutherford clients. We agreed and over these six years, Donna's business has blossomed very successfully. So much so that at times, the library, the overflow room and the choir rooms were all in use at the same time. Connect Counseling & Wellness has grown so much that Donna has outgrown our facility. With December, Donna begins a new chapter in her business career as she is relocating to Lyndhurst into real office quarters. Our generosity and flexibility played a huge part in this. We opened our space and again, watched as another part of us grew up and moves on. So this is not a sad good bye by any means. It is a congratulations, good luck and lets hope in a few years she will need even more space. Good Luck to Connect Counseling & Wellness.

See you in Church,
Vince
VP & Property Chair

Altar Guild

Thank you all for ordering poinsettias to beautify our altar on Christmas Eve. You can pick up your plant right after the service. They do make a lovely gift for whoever is hosting Christmas dinner.

For anyone new to us this year, our Christmas tree has only angel ornaments on it. Each ornament is from a church member. So, as we decorate the tree, we read the name, and tell our memories or stories of each person. If you are new to us, please bring in an angel ornament for our tree. We will be decorating on Saturday, Dec. 15th. If you cannot make it to help us, simply bring in your angel on Sunday, Dec. 16th, or 23rd, and place it on the tree. Hopefully, you can find a place to write your name, and you can just leave it for us to store until next year so you will become part of us.

Just a note....remember you can purchase a bouquet of flowers for our Sunday service. They are \$15.00 each. You can dedicate them "in honor of" or "in memory of" and then take them with you after service. Pastor will use them if he is visiting someone who is ill, but if not, they are yours. Purchasing them will help us out. There are special envelopes in the pews, but if you don't see one you can just write out your dedication on paper, then just place it in the offering plate with your check.

And, again, if you would like to serve on the altar guild, just let any of us know. We will train you well before you go on your own, don't worry. We do need the help.

Your Altar Guild

A Note Of Thanks

Each year we spend around \$200.00 to purchase our Christmas tree, wreaths, and garland to decorate our church for Christmas. Each year someone so generously donates toward this expenditure. We are always so thankful. This year we want to thank Connect Counseling & Wellness, Donna Strauss' business, for her generosity. We also need to thank Joyce Miceli for ordering all the decorations each year and making all those beautiful bows. We cannot forget Vince who gets his team together to put up and take down the tree, the garland, and the wreaths. Last, we need to thank everyone who shows up to make sure all the other decorating gets done. Come and help us decorate this year, September 15 starting at 11pm. **Thank you, one and all.**

Our awesome group of kids, TFSS packed 5 shoe boxes for our collection for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child this year

Mary Ann Mastro





We are very happy to say **“WELCOME!”** to 10 new members to our St. John’s family!

We are truly blessed to add as new members Vincent and Barbara LaBosco, Michael and Lesley Pesick and daughters Payton and Dylan and John and Loren Lichtenberger and their daughters Emily and Meghan.

We look forward to getting to know you better and chatting with you during coffee hour.

Thank you for joining our church family! St. John’s is blessed to have you!



A **BIG** thank you to Lori Torsiello and her group of volunteers for hosting a 'Healthy Eating Night' at St. John's. Thank you also to all who baked and cooked for the event. It was based on the book written by Dr. Mark Hyman. The food was healthy and also delicious! Hard to beat that combination. We also watched a video presentation by Dr. Hyman. It was a wonderful evening.



In Memoriam

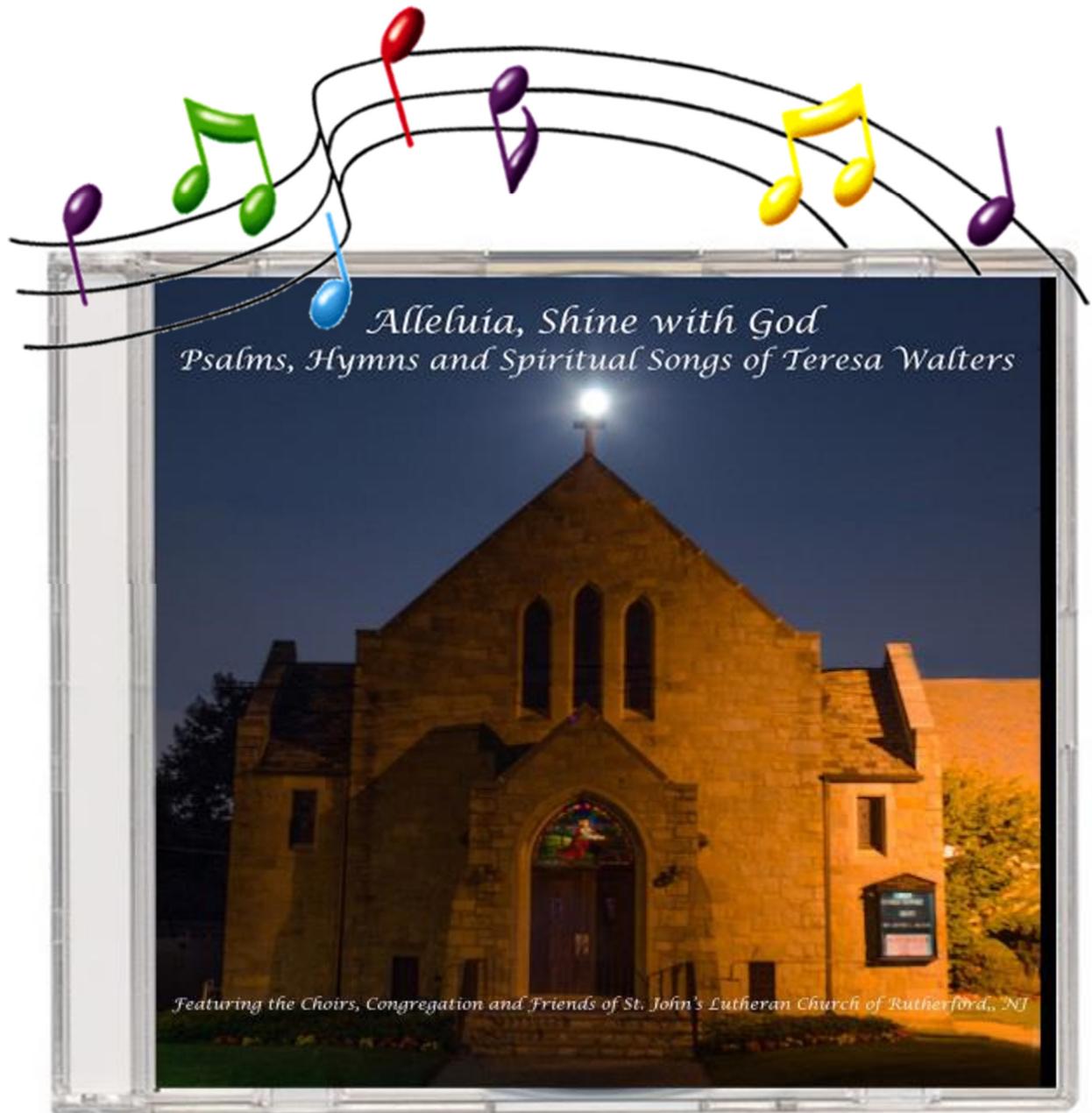


Marion Brinkman



*Our Dearest "Auntie"
Her Smile Was Made Of
Sunshine.
Her Heart Was Solid Gold.
She Wore The Fabric Of This
Family With Her Heart.
And In Her Garden, Planted
Kindness--Cultivating Love.
Elaine, Tami & Neil,
Tracy & Michael,
Heather & Christopher,
Luna, Trixie, Dixie And
The Lovebirds*

We miss you terribly! You were one of a kind. Loved by all! You did plant kindness wherever you went which grew into love. Rest in Peace Marion.



Don't forget December 2nd, a recording which our future family members can listen to for generations.

Add your voice to this and be a part of audio history. How many churches have hymns and music specially written for them. How blessed are we to have a talent as Teresa.

Come and watch our Sunday School kids sing on this, show them our support. This will be recorded for CD's, USB drives and we will try to stream it also for listening and downloading.

We hope to see you all there!

Last week Irene and I went out to have a bite to eat. We went to the Lyndhurst diner. Someone had suggested their burgers were excellent. As we sat down, we noticed this paper placemat. We thought would be good to put in the Lantern. We should all “take the time” to do what is written on it. Good advice especially during this hectic holiday season. I wanted to give credit to the Lyndhurst diner as well. How many other eateries will have “Take Time to Worship” on their placemats? So nice to see. By the way, the burger was indeed “delish.”



One final note, don't forget to Take Time to PRAY

It is our communication with God



DON'T MISS IT!!! DECEMBER 23rd—THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT!!!

Cute can not get cuter, this is the cutest ever. No one leaves after the pageant without feeling happier!! Come and see, you will love it and the children will love seeing a large crowd support them.

And after the pageant and service, we have our annual "Cookie Coffee Hour!" All kinds of cookies. If you have a favorite cookie, please bring and share. If you have a special recipe, feel free to share that. My motto is there is never ever too many cookies.

Home made or store bought....BRING 'EM.....and enjoy all the varieties....YUMMMMMM>

PLEASE DON'T MISS ONE OF THE MOST, IF NOT THE MOST, BEAUTIFUL SERVICES OF THE YEAR!!!!

The candlelight service on Christmas Eve!

7:30PM



St. John's

December 2018 Holidays Calendar Dates to Remember

Sunday December 2— Historic one of a kind recording session in church.

Saturday December 15— Decorating Christmas tree. Come and join the fun. Starting 11am.

Sunday December 23— Childrens Pageant and 'Cookie' Coffee Hour.

Monday December 24— Christmas Eve service at 7:30pm.

