



December 2012 Lantern



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Merry Christmas



Dear Family in Christ,

I trust you had a blessed Thanksgiving holiday with all the reminders that the reality for us all is that blessings need to be noticed and appreciated in the midst of an imperfect world, imperfect families and imperfect lives. Sometimes the turkey isn't even perfect!

Perhaps the greatest source of comfort and strength for us in the midst of so much imperfection is the power of forgiveness. It is no accident that our weekly worship always begins with confession and a declaration of forgiveness. Sin is what makes this world messy and imperfect. Sin is what makes our lives so much less than they might otherwise become. So we celebrate God's willingness to overcome the power of sin in our world and our lives ---"to have mercy on us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may delight in God's will and walk in God's ways to the glory of God's holy name."

There it is—a prescription for our fulfillment and happiness in every time and season of life. Having come down with a sore throat and sinus infection on a recent Saturday, I was forced to speak the liturgy the next morning for worship. (Never fear, on such occasions, I keep my distance from others and use lots of hand sanitizer for your protection) Speaking the liturgy allows us to take a fresh look at the kind of comfort and reassurance our faith provides. Every week we sing—"In peace let us pray to the Lord." We follow that beginning by praying for "the peace from above and for our salvation." Other petitions quickly follow and we conclude with a plea for God to "help, save, comfort and defend us."

If we had no other content on any given Sunday, these brief liturgical phrases would be enough to make it worth our while to attend worship every week. What seem like simple, common-place pronouncements in the context of weekly worship take on a whole new meaning when a loved one is near death, or a marriage is in trouble, or when we contend with guilt or shame. To have peace from above and the joy of salvation is to have all we need to navigate the most painful or disappointing or fearful avenues of our lives.

So the imperfections, stresses and blessings of Thanksgiving are behind us and looming on the horizon is all the potential for a bigger dose at Christmas. I don't know about you, but I need the benefits and blessings of worship to help me keep it all in perspective—to help me know that God is forgiving, renewing and leading me every step of the way. Each Sunday in Advent has been planned with such needs in mind. Our children's Christmas program/Family Christmas service will take place on Sunday, December 23 at 10:15 AM. Many discussions have been held regarding whether to add an early Christmas Eve service this year, but with the calendar the way it is, council thought it best to stay with the one late service that begins at 10:30pm and concludes as Christmas day dawns.

I cannot promise you perfection at any of these services, but I can promise that if you attend with open hearts and minds, you will find God present to help, save, comfort and defend you. You will find peace from above in great abundance and you will be captivated by the wonder of Gods salvation.

Teresa joins me in wishing all of you a Christmas filled with every blessing of love that God provides.

Pastor Walters



Council President's Page

Christmas.....Giving-----Thanks-----Praise-----Celebration-----Reflection-----

which one makes your heart sing, warms your soul, holds you tight or makes you happy? Hopefully, each emotion holds a special feeling for you during this Christmas season. A feeling we get to share with our friends and family. A feeling we want to shout out through our prayers and songs at church. The special feeling that only comes to us once a year.....Christmas. There's nothing else like it. The feeling you get when you look into someone's eyes, shake their hand and say "Merry Christmas". If you mean it, you can feel it inside. Warmth, Laughter, Joy, Smiles and Love. Gifts that are given to us on this very special day. Gifts that we hold dear to us. Gifts that could only be given to us by the celebration and birth of our Lord.

People are gifts too and we have had our share of special people. People who have been around for soooooo long and contributed so much that it is difficult to imagine St. John's without them. **Bill & Ruth Rice** who will be on their way to a new life in a new land, **Nancy Hart** who too, has decided to relocate closer to her family, **Ken & Lisa Oliver and Joy Christians** who will be retiring forever from council and **Bill Bartels** who after 25 years of property chores is calling it quits. **These people are gifts that come around only once in a lifetime** and we have had the honor to have them sit and celebrate at our table.

We also have little gifts and for these we look to our Sunday School class. Once again Lorraine and our Sunday School moms have kept our program running and the kids busy with crafts and religious instruction. And as our tradition, the kids will be presenting their annual Christmas Pageant for us. **Our children's service will be held on Sunday, Dec 23rd at 10:15am.** We encourage all families to pack the car and bring grandma and grandpa along to celebrate during this service. It is the perfect opportunity as **Christmas Eve service is the next night beginning at 10:30 pm** and is very crowded and runs pretty late.

We have to be thankful this year as the wrath of Sandy did not damage our church. In fact we really had no damage at all outside of a few fallen trees in the street. But we do have to think about those who were not as fortunate as we were. Those who lost everything and wonder where their Christmas will be. There are kids who will be looking for Santa and our prayers, thoughtfulness and generosity will give them the strength and resources they will need to have the best Christmas possible.

Thank you everyone for all you have done this year, for all of the new volunteers and for all of the behind the scenes folks. You are all very special people.

I want to wish everyone a Holy, Happy, Healthy and Joyous Holiday.

I hope to see you all on Christmas Eve.

Best Wishes,

Vince Mottola

Council President

ST. John's had it's Time and talent auction on October 28th. It was a terrific success with donations exceeding \$2,000. AND, lots of fun and laughter was had by all! Here are just some pictures from the even. If you missed it....make sure you are there for the next one!



The Prez was taking pictures!



We had to keep an eye on Samantha so she would only model items, and not make a run for it with these yummy goodies!



The auctioneer wins one. By the way, GREAT job Danielle!!



Perfect sign for the season



Joan was top bidder for this hand stitched blanket



This is what Joan won



The loud crowd



There were some delicious *goodies* served in addition to the *goods* offered for bidding.



Samantha enjoying her winnings



Geri serving AND bidding. Multitasker!!!

You have to have faith!

Tommy DiMeola was driving on his way to work a couple of days after storm Sandy. He saw three nuns by the side of the road with a flat tire. So Tommy pulled over and got out to help the nuns. After he changed their tire, one of the nuns thanked him profusely and asked if there was anything they could do for him. Tommy said, "You can pray for me to get back my electricity." The nun started praying immediately right then and there. After the prayer, she said "Done!" They thanked him again and drove away. Tommy proceeded to drive to his job site. When he returned home that evening there was a PSEG truck in front of his house and he, Stefanie and kids had their power back that evening!!!!

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Hebrews 13:2

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for such sacrifices God is pleased

Hebrews 13:16

A daily prayer Pastor found clipped in his Mom's Bible. When you are at a loss of what to say in a prayer, this is a good prayer to say during any day.....or every day! This was posted in the December 2011 Lantern, we think it is a good idea to have it again in this year's.

Morning

With each breath I take today, fill me, Holy Spirit. Thank you for your presence during the day and night that have passed. Be with me in the hours and events to come. In Jesus' name. Amen

Midday

Help me to take an inventory of my day so far, God of grace. Keep me focused in hope on all the ways you draw me into life. Help me turn to you. In Jesus' name. Amen

Evening

Eternal Peacemaker, let me know your forgiveness and joy for this day. For those times when I lost sight of you, I am sorry. For those times when together we brought peace and justice, even in the smallest ways, I thank you. Guard and protect me in sleep and bring me in hope to another day. In Jesus' name. Amen



ST. JOHN'S
COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP



SUNDAY of:

JANUARY 2013

Jan. 6

Jan. 13

Jan. 20

Jan. 27

Please Note If you would like to help with the Coffee Hour for a Sunday please sign up on the list posted by the serving table in the overflow room or speak to Penelope VanOsten.



There is still a little time!!!!

Christmas Poinsettia Plants

Dear Church family,

We've extended the order date to Sunday, Dec. 2nd for one more opportunity if you haven't placed your order for Christmas Poinsettia plant.

The price per plant of \$10 has remained the same for a number of years. The poinsettias beautify the chancel and altar for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service and through the Christmas holidays.

Please take a moment to complete a form to donate a poinsettia plant(s) in memory or honor of loved ones and that will add to the beauty of our church during the Christmas season.

Thank you & Blessings
St. John's Altar Guild

ORDER FORM FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

ORDER DEADLINE – DECEMBER 02, 2012

GIVEN BY _____

Phone # _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

☐ I will pick up plant after church, Christmas Eve.

☐ I will leave plant for distribution to a shut-in.

Please enclose payment of \$10.00 per plant payable to:
St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church



The holiday season and the cold weather are once again upon us. ***Our prime mission is to maintain services to keep our visitors warm and free from hunger.*** We work hard to maintain each individual's dignity by offering choices for personal needs as well. As of this date, we have **174 households registered for pantry services. This totals 365 persons.** (We do anticipate more before Christmas). In addition to the usual requests for food and personal hygiene products, we will be collecting **new** things such as:

- Warm accessories for adults and children (gloves, hats scarves, socks)
- Umbrellas
- Wallets
- Gift wrap
- Children's coloring books
- Body lotions and powders
- Holiday treats (cookies, candies, fruits, juices, hot chocolate, etc.)
- Clothing cannot be accepted

Families in need of toys will be referred to other sources. We have discovered by limiting our collection we are much more successful in the achievement of our mission. Please contact me with any questions. Suggestions are always welcome. Thank you for your constant support and encouragement.

With love, warm regards, and deep appreciation,

Kathlyn Hildebrand:

Director, Department of Social Services

THANK YOU FOR HELPING ANY WAY YOU CAN!!!

This information was copied from Rutherford's web site:

Www.rutherford-nj.com/pantry.asp

Request list:

- **Non –perishable Canned Hams**
 - **Canned Chicken**
 - **Canned Yams**
 - **Instant Mashed Potatoes**
 - **Stuffing Mixes**
 - **Muffin Mixes**
 - **Honey**
 - **Baking Powder, Baking Soda**
 - **Cinnamon**
 - **Poultry Seasoning**
 - **Pancake Syrup**
 - **Canned Beans (black, red, chick peas, cannellini, pink)**
 - **Pasta, all shapes**
 - **Beef Soup, also Beef Stock**
 - **Chicken Stock**
 - **Canned Tomatoes, Pasta Sauce**
 - **Canned Vegetables, (mushrooms, asparagus, corn, beets, pickled red cabbage, olives)**
 - **Potato Latke Mix**
 - **Juices, all varieties**
 - **Salad Dressing, croutons**
 - **Apple Sauce**
 - **Canned Fruit, (peaches, pears, pineapple, fruit cocktail)**
 - **Holiday Candy and Cookies,(such as candy canes and chocolate coins)**
 - **Wrapping paper, cards**
- All toiletries for men and women**

As of this printing, there was no new list of specific needs, only what is transcribed above. So we are copying the list we had last year as this is the usual list around holiday time. We are sure there is a need for any of the items listed in this section. We are also sure that they will be happy to receive any items you wish to donate as long as it does not have an expired sales date.

Important December Dates

Thurs. Dec. 13th: Christmas tree delivery is scheduled for

Sat. Dec., 15th: Christmas tree and Sanctuary decorating begin mid-to late morning. All help is appreciated and is always a fun time.

Sunday, Dec. 16th: Coffee hour with Christmas Cookie Exchange. This is the best fellowship time over coffee!

Friday, Dec. 21st: delivery of poinsettias; Altar guild

Saturday, Dec. 22nd, Sunday 23rd: preparation for set up of poinsettias and Altar dressings; Christmas candelabras set up and Christmas Eve candles for worship service. Altar Guild members and help from some men for carrying and setup of wooden candelabras. Please contact Nancy Hart if you can help out any of these times.

Sunday, Dec. 23rd: Sunday School Christmas Pageant, please plan to attend, bring family and friends, it's always a wonderful last Sunday of Advent.

Monday, Dec. 24th: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service - 10:30 p.m.





DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

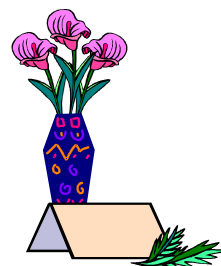


1-Vince Mottola
2-Josh Anderson
2-Jayne McCord
6-Stefanie DiMeola
6-Joan Kimball
9-Henry Fox
13-Lisa Oliver
14-Joanne Oliver
15-Chuck Lescinsky
17-Stephanie Balogh
18-Thomas Prawetz
26-Pastor Walters
27-Richard Pelser
27-Gregory Pitera
27-John Tupper
28-Diana Hart
30-Debbie Strom
31-Elizabeth Martin



ANNIVERSARIES

11-Wayne and Lorraine Herrnkind
28-Gerrit and Diana Hart





NOTES FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The end of the 2012 calendar year is fast approaching. It is time to review the list of member assigned offering envelopes and determine the assignments for year 2013. It is also time to estimate the order amount of packets of member envelopes for 2014.

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Member Envelope

Pew Envelope

To aid me in this task, I am asking the members of our congregation for their assistance.

I have divided the members of St. John's into the following categories. Please review the categories and complete the instructions applicable to you on or before December 15, 2012.

1. If you are a member, have a member assigned packet of envelopes for 2012 and wish to receive a packet of envelopes for 2013 - DO NOTHING you will continue to receive envelopes.
2. If you are a member, have a packet of envelopes for 2012 but, do not want/need a packet of envelopes for 2013 - PLEASE CONTACT ME BY DECEMBER 15, 2012 AND TELL ME YOU DO NOT WANT/NEED ENVELOPES.
3. If you are a member, do not have a packet of envelopes for 2012 but, wish to receive a packet of member assigned envelopes for 2013 - PLEASE CONTACT ME BY DECEMBER 15, 2012 AND TELL ME YOU WISH TO RECEIVE A PACKET OF ENVELOPES FOR 2013.
4. If you are a member that told me you did not want/need member assigned envelopes for 2012 - PLEASE CONTACT ME BY DECEMBER 15, 2012 AND RE-CONFIRM THAT YOU DO NOT WISH ENVELOPES FOR 2013.

If at any time during 2013 a member wishes to receive a packet of envelopes, all they need to do is contact me. I usually order a few extra sets of member envelopes and should be able to assign you one.

Knowing how many members wish to receive a packet of member envelopes will aid me when I place an order for the year 2014. Unfortunately, I need to place the order during the first quarter of next year for the following year. The order amount for St. John's is a best estimate.

Thank you for your assistance and continued faithful generosity and financial support, and have a blessed Christmas and wonderful New Year!

Carol S. Eveleens
Financial Secretary



Dear Church Family and Friends,

Dedication of our Stewardship Estimate of Giving cards is this Sunday, Dec. 2nd during worship service. We hope you've taken some time to consider your financial support of St. John's for the coming year and will offer your Estimated Giving card for dedication at Worship Service; just place your card in the wooden pledge box as you come into church. All that have been received these past weeks will be brought forward by our Financial Secretary, Carol Eveleens for dedication and blessing.

However, any time that you are able to submit your Estimate of Giving Commitment card for 2013 St. John's will thankfully accept it.

Thank you for your continuing support of St. John's.

In Faith and Thankfulness,
St. John's Stewardship Committee

Estimate of Giving Card - 2013
Stepping up to God's work

My Step Up in Faith and Commitment per week is:

\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

This commitment may be revised by my request at any time.

December 2012 - Volunteer Assignments

LAY ASSISTANTS

12/02 Karen Ohland
12/09 Joan Kimball
12/16 Lori Senatore
12/23 Nancy Murray
12/24 Lisa Oliver
12/30 Carol Eveleens



COFFEE HOUR

12/02 Irene and Geri
12/09 Lisa, Joy & Rebekah
12/16 Cookie Exchange!!!!Joan & Fran
12/23 Donna & Samantha
12/24 No Coffee Hour
12/30 TBD



USHERS

12/02 Marty Kaup, Joe Hohler
12/09 Vince & Samantha Mottola
12/16 Ken & Lisa Oliver
12/23 TBD
12/24 Ken, Vince & Marty
12/30 Lisa O. and Joy C.



TALLY

12/02 Marty & Irene Kaup
12/09 Bill Bartels & Joe Hohler
12/16 Fred and Jean Benzing
12/23 Joan Eveleens & Fran Heim
12/24 Marty & Irene Kaup
12/30 TBD



ALTAR GUILD

12/02 Irene Kaup
12/09 Nancy Hart
12/16 Lori Senatore
12/23 Joyce Miceli & all avail.
12/24 All Available Altar Guild
12/30 TBD



ACOLYTES

12/02 TBD
12/09 TBD
12/16 TBD
12/23 TBD
12/24 TBD
12/30 TBD



For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6

