

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Vine
MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to lovingly proclaim the Gospel among all people in order to form and nurture loving communities which confess by word and deed that Jesus is Lord and Savior



The February Vine 2010

The Newsletter of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School
(718) 761-1600

Divine Service:
Saturdays @ 5PM
Sundays @ 8 & 10:45 AM
Sundays @ 9:15 AM Family Education Hour
And Sunday School

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Church:
216 Jewett Avenue (Corner of Jewett & Post)
Staten Island, NY 10302 **(no mail)**
Email: stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com
Website: www.stjohnslutheransi.org
School & Church Office
663 Manor Road, Staten Island, NY 10314

Volume 2010

Issue #2

Our Partnership February, 2010

Dancing With the Stars or Shining Like a Star?

“To whom then will you liken God; or what likeness compare with Him? An idol?” Isaiah 40:18-19

“Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you SHINE as lights in the world...” Philippians 2:14, 15

“And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like stars forever and ever.” Daniel 12:2

Dear Members and Friends of St. John's Lutheran Church and School,

The Epiphany Season is a season of light – Light of Christ who is the Light of the world. It is a season with a missionary focus. As the Christ Child was revealed to the Wise Men on that first Epiphany, so today He is to be revealed not just during this Epiphany Season but through out the year. So we begin the Season of Epiphany with the bright star leading the Wise Men to the home of the Christ Child and continue with the reminder that we are to be bright stars, leading the way to Jesus each day of our lives.

I'm wondering, however, if we haven't gotten a little off track. I'm wondering if perhaps we don't spend too much time dancing with the stars of this world and too precious time shining like stars in this sin darkened world.

You all know how the highly rated "Dancing with the Stars" TV show works. Various well known individuals from various vocations are chosen and paired with professional dancers. Each week they dance in front of the judges and receive a score. They also receive electronic votes from the fans in the TV audience. Amidst the glitz and the hype, the contest promotes hero worship and encourages our own desires to identify with these god-like performers.

Deep inside us we wish that we could gracefully move across the dance floor and find ourselves wrapped up in the daring moves and wardrobes. We wish that we could be in the arms of a star, dancing the night away. We wish that we could receive all the attention the stars receive. And as we do that, we forget just who we are – forget that we are God's very special people. Forget that we have been created, formed and redeemed by Christ Jesus and called out of darkness into His marvelous light. Forget that we are God's special stars.

As a result of our forgetting, we begin to trust the idols in our lives for success and identity. We worship not our Lord and Savior, but rather the idols which we think will do us far more good than God could ever do. While dancing with a star might seem wonderful, the truth is that it cannot match what happens when we are connected to our

Lord and Savior. None of the idols we believe to be wonderful can match the one true God we adore. It is God who created us and continues to provide for all our needs – who has made us His very own children. And as His children we are to be lights to the rest of the world.

Have trouble shining? Your light not glowing like it did in years past? Perhaps your fuel is running low. Our light of faith is fueled by Word and Sacrament. The darkness of this world loves to put out our light of faith, but Jesus reminds us that He is the Light of the world and that if we walk with Him we will never be in the dark. Throughout this New Year, keep the light of your faith shining bright. Be a bright shining star wherever you live, work and play. Keep fueled up and let the Holy Spirit use you as a beacon to draw others to Jesus, the Light of the World.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Richard Lohmeyer



More on Stewardship.... February 2010

As I sit and write this article on stewardship only a few days after the arrival of 2010, I wonder how many New Year's resolutions have already been broken.

Looking at so many boxes of offering envelopes in the church basement that have not yet been picked up tells me not everyone is as caring a steward as he should be.

Seeing this reminded me of a story told many years ago on the subject of tithing. The writer said that "tithing is a blessing in disguise." Giving God ten percent of one's income is rather strange, one would think. We know He doesn't need anything that we have: He is the Creator and owner of everything anyway. Why would He need anything from us?

Yet, there it is in the Book of Malachi. God tells the people that they are "robbing Him." And if anyone wants to know how, God spells it out. "In your tithes and offerings" He says. Then He gets more specific: "Bring the full tithe into the store house", He says. (Malachi 3:10). Obviously God has a reason for wanting His people to give generously. It is to prove that we are serious about loving Him, calling Him our heavenly Father, and going about the business that He has for us to do for Him. Does anyone want to argue the point with

GOD? Ten percent means nothing to Him. He can take away all of our blessings any time He wants.

What if, in doing God's will as far as giving is concerned we find the windows of heaven "opened and overflowing blessings" have been showered upon us? Certainly God says this through His servant Malachi. We may be surprised how easy tithing can become and how much better we manage the remaining ninety percent of our income. More than being blessed with sufficient income, we have the joy of doing our part in spreading the GOOD NEWS of Christ and helping others who suffer a great deal.

Keeping in mind the words the Prophet Malachi wrote....May God Almighty help us to be better stewards in giving of ourselves to our church at St. John's with our Time, our Talents and our Treasury. Amen.

The Stewardship committee

Walter Francis



From Our Church Fathers:

JUSTUS FALCKNER

(1672-1723)

In 1701, 10,000 acres (40 km²) of land along the Manatawny Creek were sold to Swedish Lutheran Pastor Andreas Rudman and other Swedish settlers. After working with Pastor Rudman, Falckner reconsidered entering the ministry. He was ordained on November 24, 1703 at Gloria Dei Church, the Swedish Lutheran Church in Wicaco, today South Philadelphia. His first pastoral assignment was with the settlers on the Manatawny Creek in New Hanover Township, Pennsylvania. On February 23, 1704, King Carl XII of Sweden, issued an order formally confirming Andreas Rudman as Superintendent of the Swedish Lutheran Church in America. Shortly thereafter, Falckner was reassigned by Rudman to serve as the pastor of Lutheran congregations in New York and Albany. In 1714, Falckner led worshippers at the founding of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Oldwick, New Jersey's oldest Lutheran congregation.

Falckner evidently believed that music was a very important element of missionary work. He wrote to Germany to ask for an organ, which he said would attract more Native American converts. Falckner wrote hymns such as "Rise, Ye Children of Salvation" (German: Auf! ihr Christen, Christi Glieder) which he composed while a student at the University of Halle in 1697. Falckner's published works include Grondlycke Onderricht which first appeared in New York during 1708.

I will here take occasion to mention that many others besides myself, who know they ways of this land, maintain that music would contribute much towards a good Christian service. It would only attract and civilize the wild Indian, but it would do much good in spreading the Gospel truths among the sects and others by

attracting them. Instrumental music is especially serviceable here. Thus a well-sounding organ could perhaps prove of great profit, to say nothing of the fact that the Indians would come running from far and near to listen to such unknown melody, and upon that account might become willing to accept our language and teaching, and remain with people who had such agreeable things; for they are said to come ever so far to listen to one who plays even upon a reed-pipe (rohr-pfeiffe): such and extraordinary love have they for any melodious ringing sound....

If such an organ-instrument (Orgel-werck) were placed in the Swedish Church, (for the Germans as yet have no church, and the Swedish Church is of a high build and resonant structure) it would prove of great service to this church....The majority of the Swedes are young people, and mostly live scattered in the forest, far from the churches...When they have performed heavy labor for the whole week, as is customary here, they would sooner rest on a Sunday, and seek some pleasure, rather than perhaps go several miles to listen to a sermon. But if there were such music there, they would consider church-going as a recreation for their senses.

Thus does Luther of blessed memory in one place highly recommend the use of the organ and sacred music for this very reason, that it is serviceable, and induces young and simple and says, he, foolish folk, to listen unto and receive God's Word. It would also prove an

agreeable thing for God, angels and men if in this solitude and wilderness, which as it were struggles under so many Secula, the Lord of Hosts, with whom there is fullness of joy and at whose right hand there are pleasures for evermore, would be praised and honored with cymbal and organ, as he hath commanded. And it may be assured that even a small organ-instrument and music in this place would be acceptable to God, and prove far more useful than many hundreds in Europe, where there is already a superfluity of such things; and the more common they are, the more they are misused....

Then if an experienced organist and musician could be found, and a curious one who would undertake so far a journey, he would be very welcome here. In case this could not be, if we only had an organ, some one or other might be found here who had knowledge thereof...

In conclusion I now commend YOUR MAGNIFICENCE to the protection and grace of God to all prosperity, and remain For Prayer and service, most Devoted, Justus Falckner.

(Letter to Germany concerning the religious condition of Pennsylvania, known as New Sweden, 1701)

Principal's Corner



January flew past with its snowstorms and frozen weather. Our new "artist in residence" is working her magic with the students. Mrs. Griffin is introducing the students to artists, their work and the techniques they use.

Enrichment has started a new cycle. This time we have sign language, contests, digital photography, book club, and more.

Our robotics teams are doing well and are preparing to go to competition.

We will also be starting the Lenten Season and should be thinking of personal sacrifices that would benefit others.

We are preparing for our author visit during Lutheran School's Week. We are reading some of the books Michael Dooling wrote and/or illustrated.

The SI Yankees will be visiting that week also. We are still planning some more activities to complete our week.

Looking forward to our "Winter Recess" to rest and rejuvenate before finishing the second half of our school year.

Mrs. Palisay

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND
ANNIVERSARIES**



Happy Birthday

- 4 Nick Gencarello
Thomas Sax
- 6 Charles Herman III
- 12 Darlene Hewitt
- 13 Eleanor Hansen
- 14 Emmy Alvestad
- 15 Russell Browne, DC
- 19 Richard Baller
- 21 Daniel Hewitt
- 23 Laszlo Szoke
- 24 Joan Mohlenhoff
- 28 Elizabeth Johansson

Happy Anniversary

- 8 Fred & Shirley Bock
- 12 Eric & Eleanor Hansen

Offerings for December 2009 & January 2010

Expansion Fund (year to date).....	\$154
Love (year to date).....	\$ 25
Christmas.....	\$175
New Year's.....	\$ 75
December 2009.....	\$ 15,634
January 1-10, 2010.....	\$ 6,771

**Saints and Church Dates
in February 2010**

- 2 [Presentation of our Lord](#)
- 5 [Jacob](#), patriarch
- 10 [Silas](#), apostle
- 13 [Aquila](#), [Priscilla](#), and [Apollos](#)
- 14 [Valentine](#), martyr, 270
- 15 [Philemon](#) and [Onesimus](#)
- 16 [Philipp Melancthon](#), confessor, 1560
- 18 [Martin Luther](#), doctor and confessor,
renewer of the church, 1546
- 24 [Saint Matthias](#), Apostle

St. John's Lutheran Church encourages ALL to go online to view the newsletter, if possible. Click onto the church side, and then click onto the "VINE". There is also a link that has the church calendar and the serving schedule.

If you are viewing the "VINE" online and wish to opt out of the mailings, please contact the church office via e-mail, to request being taken off the mailing list.

stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gamil.com

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"Thank You"

Mr. Dick Neitzel, for stripping and waxing the church basement floor.



Dearest Friends in Christ Jesus,

I just want to remind everyone that Lent will soon be approaching next month. Midweek Lenten services will begin on Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 p.m. and continue each Wednesday evening ending on March 24. The adult choir will sing on the first Wednesday which is Ash Wednesday (2/17), and the school chorus will sing the remaining five Wednesdays in Lent. The school chorus is also scheduled to sing in church on Sunday, February 7 and Sunday, March 7, we will meet in the church balcony at 10:20 a.m. Please call me if you are unsure which Wednesday or Sunday your child is due to sing. (917 696 5227).

I would love to hear some feed back from those of you who attended or participated in the 4:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Everyone who participated did a wonderful job and the service seemed to be well attended. It's important that when Pastor and I plan something different for worship that we receive the opinions of those who attended.

I once again encourage everyone to attend Lenten services, especially Holy Week. I know everyone makes an effort to attend Easter Sunday services, which is wonderful. However, I do feel that as Christians, we must also experience those important and solemn days that lead to Easter

Sunday. These three days are Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Saturday's Easter Vigil, or the Triduum.

WHAT IS THE TRIDUUM?

The most solemn and joyful celebration of the Christian calendar is the period from Maundy Thursday through Holy Saturday. Worship on these days or evenings are traditionally considered to be parts of an unbroken liturgical service called the Triduum (Latin for "Three Days"). In the earliest days of the Christian church, the events we commemorate in the Triduum were celebrated in one day and night's continuous worship service called the Paschal (from the Greek transliteration of the Hebrew word for "Passover"). The Easter Vigil on Saturday evening begins in total darkness and ends in the Light of Christ who reigns victorious as we renew the vows we made at our Holy Baptism. I hope this year you will consider attending the Triduum services.

Holy Week begins with Christ's' ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and betrayal on Maundy Thursday, His death on Good Friday, His rest in the tomb during the Easter Vigil and His triumphant victory over death, sin and Satan on Easter morning. I pray that we will all be in attendance during this most solemn and sacred time in our Christian calendar.

In Christ,
Thomas Sax

St. John's Ladies Guild

The next meeting is Thursday, February 4th at 7:30PM in the church basement.

We'll be making Valentine's Day cards for shut-ins, and enjoying a Game Night. Everyone is welcome!

This year's activities will include the Easter breakfast, a Victorian Tea, and the Block Sale. We look forward to sharing details with you as plans unfold.

**Blessings in Jesus,
Joan Mohlenhoff
Secretary**



KNOWING – GROWING – SHOWING

Increase your knowledge!

Grow spiritually and raise your level of spirituality!

Let your faith show in your words & deeds!

Be a Knowing – Growing – Showing member of St. John's Lutheran!

Join one of the following Knowing-Growing-Showing opportunities:

SUNDAY MORNING – 9:15 AM
"A Closer Look at the Lessons"
Instructor – Pastor Lohmeyer

SUNDAY MORNING – 9:15 AM
Haggai/Zechariah/Malachi,
"Return to the Lord",
with Richard Neitzel

MONDAY AFTERNOON- 2:00PM
"Living Under His Wings"
Women's Bible Study at school

THURSDAY MORNING – 9:30 AM
"1st Corinthians"
Breakfast Bible Study at church
Instructor – Pastor Lohmeyer

Lent Begins February 17th

Ash Wednesday Worship

at 7:00 P.M.

**Will include the imposition of
Ashes and Holy Communion**

**The Adult Choir Singing Special
Anthem**

This year's theme:

"The Sign of Jonah"

**Ash Wednesday's Sermon Theme:
"God is Calling"**

**A Soup Supper served every
evening beginning at 6:00P.M.**

**Get in Better Spiritual Shape –
Worship Each Week!!**



Pancake Supper

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is planned for **February 16** and financial help is needed to underwrite the cost of the food and supplies. If you would like to make a donation, contact Judy Lohmeyer. Approximately \$300.00 is needed. The supper will be in the church basement and will be served from 3:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. The cost will be \$6.00 adults and \$3.00 for children 6 and under.

Mark your calendars!

Thank you,

Early/First Communion Classes Begin February 24th

Parents are reminded that the spring Early/First Communion Class will begin meeting on February 24th at 3:15 at the school. They will continue throughout the Season of Lent. The classes are open to all baptized 5th graders or older. A parent information meeting with Pastor Lohmeyer will meet on Thursday February 11th at 7:00 P.M. at the school. All interested parents are encouraged to attend this meeting. The class's First Communion will be on Holy Thursday.

Evangelical Pamphlets Available Project Connect

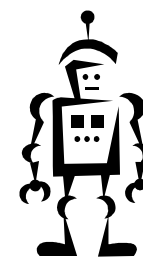
The Evangelism Committee of St. John's offers for your interest, booklets published by the Lutheran Laymen's League, pertaining to everyday problems and concerns.

The following booklets are available at the display rack in the Narthex of the church. If there is a subject of concern not listed, please contact Rhoda Browne (718) 698-3356

- Alone, Alive, Fulfilled
- Alzheimer's
- Battles with the Bottle
- Coping with Cancer
- Dealing with Depression
- Finding Peace
- Forgiveness Is for Giving
- Has God Abandoned Me?
- How to Know What's Right...And Do It
- No Need to Fear
- Now You're Talking
- Overcoming A Painful Childhood
- Parenting with Purpose
- Prayer and Thoughts for Caregivers
- Setting Priorities
- Raising Your Children with Respect
- So You Prayed for A Miracle...
- Surviving A Loved One's Suicide
- Surviving Breast Cancer
- Take Heart in Your Grief
- Talking with God
- The Purpose of Living, The Purpose of Dying
- The Truth About Angels
- "THHHPPPTT!" *And Other Helpful Ways to Manage Anger*
- Too Much to Do, Too Little Time
- Unlocking the Prison of Guilt
- When in Doubt...Read the Book!
- Where's God in All of This?
- Why Should I go to Church?

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

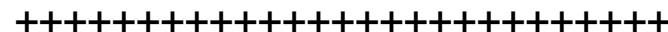
OFFICE	NAME	TERM PERIOD	TERM NUMBER	NOTE
<u>Officers:</u>				
President	Beverly Heming	2008-2010	First	
Vice President	Fred Bock	2009-2011	First	Previously Appointed
Secretary	Kathy Neos	2008-2010	First	Previously Appointed
Treasurer	<i>vacant</i>	2009-2011		
<u>Board Chairmen:</u>				
Elders	Walter Francis	2009-2011	Second	
Christian Education	Joann Mostovoy	2008-2010		Appointed
Evangelism	<i>vacant</i>	2009-2011		
Properties	Ken Birstler	2008-2010	First	Previously filled vacancy
Social Ministry	Daniel Wuerdeman	2009-2011	First	Previously appointed
<u>Board Members:</u>				
Elders	<i>vacant</i>	2009-2011		
	Tom Sax	2008-2010	Second	
Christian Education	B. J. Birstler	2009-2011	Second	
	Joy Rouse	2009-2011	First	
	Gerard Valles	2009-2011	First	
	Lori Chierchio	2008-2010	First	
	Karen Gannon	2008-2010	First	
	Bob Holls	2008-2010	First	
Evangelism	Leonor Abugel	2009-2011	Second	
	Rhoda Browne	2009-2011	Second	
	Joan Mohlenhoff	2008-2010	Second	
	Bonnie Selletti	2008-2010	First	
Properties	Les Szoke	2009-2011	First	
	Paul DeFazio	2008-2010		Appointed
Social Ministry	Barbara Pfaff	2009-2011	First	
	Vera Troncone	2009-2011	Second	
	Angela Small	2008-2010	First	
	Charles Small	2008-2010	First	



Sunday, January 10th, 2010 our two F.I.R.S.T. Lego Teams competed in the Staten Island Borough Qualifying Tournament at Wagner College. Both teams did very well. One of our teams, 8689 "The RoboRaptorz" won First place in the Teamwork section of the qualifying tournament. This will allow them to compete in the state competition at the Jacob Javits Center in March. We are VERY proud of the efforts of all of our robotics teams and wish them luck in March. GO RAPTORZ!

If anyone would like more information on how you can attend the next event- WHAT we do or HOW you can HELP out, please send an email to Mr. Smolka. SmolkaScience@gmail.com or call the school.

Tom Smolka



Church Office Hours
Monday-Thursday
9:00AM-2:00PM

**Weekly bulletin Notices Due
Tuesday's @ 10:00AM
Monthly Newsletter Notices Due
2nd Monday of the Month**



“2010 CELEBRATE OUR CHILDREN’S FUTURE AUCTION”

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 17, 2010

**At
Li Greci’s Staaten**

Further information to follow

Dear Members Of St. John's Lutheran Church
and School,

The people of Haiti are in great need. You have heard the news and seen the pictures of death and destruction. Please join me in praying for the people of Haiti, asking God to bring the hope and comfort through the relief efforts. You can contribute to the relief efforts through LCMS World Relief. This relief agency is a ministry of our church body and has received recognition for being highly efficient in its use of funds for relief. Almost all its funds go towards providing relief. Their web site is secure, therefore I encourage to make your contributions through this agency. May God bless our concern and efforts to help the people of Haiti in these trying times. If you have questions please contact me; 718-761-1600.

In Christ,

Pastor Lohmeyer



Mercy forever.

1333 South Kirkwood Road
Saint Louis, MO 63122-7295
Donor Care: 1-888-930-4438, Ext. 1672

HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST:

As news of what is being called the largest earthquake to hit Haiti in more than 200 years reached LCMS World Relief and Human Care, the Synod's mercy arm began preparing to reach out in the Caribbean nation with much needed assistance and working in cooperation with Lutheran partners.

"The unfolding drama in Haiti calls for unlimited mercy on the part of the people of the LCMS. The needs are urgent and overwhelming right now," said Glenn F. Merritt, director of Disaster Response. "I appeal to God's people to respond as generously as possible during this most difficult time."

Please join this effort today ... your gift in any amount -- \$50, \$100, \$500, or substantially more -- will strengthen and support our men and women who will respond to disaster in Haiti in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you!

Mercy forever,



Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director
LCMS World Relief and Human Care

P.S.: For updates please go to the LCMS World Relief and Human Care website at:

<http://www.lcms.org/pages/default.asp?NavID=891> Any funds not needed for this relief effort will be used for other disaster purposes as determined by LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

This email was sent to:

RevLohmeyer@Hotmail.com

This email was sent by: **The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod**

1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63112

The Monthly Newsletter of St. John's
Evangelical

Lutheran Church

216 Jewett Avenue (no mail)

School & Church Office

663 Manor Road, Staten Island, NY
10314

Church Email:

stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com

(718) 761-1600

FEBRUARY 2010						
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	...this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:13-14					

Volume 2010

Issue #2