

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 November Vine 2010

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

Divine Service:
Sundays @ 9:00 AM

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 **(Mail Accepted)**
Staten Island, NY 10314

Volume 2010

Issue #11



A Message from the Elders November 2010

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

Greetings in the Name of Christ Jesus,

The Church Year will soon be coming to an end. This year the last Sunday (Christ the King Sunday) will be celebrated on November 21, 2010. The following Sunday, (November 28, 2010) will begin the Church Year once again as we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent. This also means that we will change from Divine Service Setting One, to Divine Service Setting Three. What does this mean? It means that from Advent until Easter, we will follow a different order of liturgy for the next few months. Some of you may be more familiar with Divine Service Setting Three as the order of service found on "page 15" in the red hymnal.

"Advent" simply means coming as in Christ is coming, and for us now He has arrived. This is what the Old Testament prophecies foretold concerning Jesus' Incarnation, the Word made flesh for our hope that brought us our deliverance.

Advent represents our expectation, anticipation, and preparation for Christ. He arrived into the world as

a human being, being true God and true man. He came to identify as one of us, as the Son of Man, as a baby born in a manger. As we celebrate this

Advent season, let us once again prepare the way of the Lord as we pray, "Come Lord Jesus Come!"

Please remember there will be three midweek Advent Services at 7 p.m. on

Wednesday Dec. 1

Wednesday Dec. 8

Wednesday Dec. 15

"I can do all things in Him who strengthens me."
Philippians 4:13

Serving as Church Elders:

Thomas Sax

Walter Francis

Bruce Mohlenhoff

David Decker



Whenever November comes around the day of Thanksgiving just jumps off the calendar at me. What a wonderful opportunity for Christian Stewards to express themselves.

As I have mentioned several times in the past it is a day called THANKSLIVING. It is the name I first heard, when celebrating this holiday, from a great mentor of mine during confirmation days.

We know from our studies that Stewardship is a way of life from beginning to end. Should we not always be joyful and thankful in everything we do in this life, especially at Thanksgiving? Should we not be better Stewards hearing the Apostle Paul telling us to keep our eyes on the goal of eternal life? He tells us to "run the straight race, to fight the good fight, and so to attain the crown of life." Perhaps the most inspiring message of all on this subject is written in the Book of Hebrews. The writer had just completed a great story, sometimes known as the Faith chapter

(Heb 11:1-40). He continues in chapter twelve..."Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses let us

throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.”

My fellow Christians, should we not overlook many of our disagreements and differences with others, and take the “clutter” out of our lives, striving to become better Stewards?

God gave us life, and out of great love for us, gave us free will. Giving us these gifts and so many others, should we not share them with others, especially those who are members of the Body of Christ?

This wonderful and joyful holiday coming soon should always be remembered and celebrated with THANKSLIVING in everything we do in our efforts to be God’s kind of Stewards.

In His Name, Amen.
Walter Francis



St. John’s Inquirers and New Members Class

Pastor Miller will be providing instruction to all who are interested in learning more about the beliefs and practices of the Lutheran Church. Classes will meet at the parish office of St. John’s each Thursday afternoon from September 23- November 18. The class will meet every Thursday from 1:30-3:00 P.M. If you are unable to meet at this time, this same class will be offered on Saturday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bay Ridge.

This class prepares non-Lutherans for membership at St. John’s and Adult Baptism if needed. There is no obligation to join St. John’s upon completion of the class. The course will involve regular attendance and discussion as well as reading a small book introducing Lutheranism called: *Lutheran Identity: A Classical Understanding* by Frank C. Senn.

For more information, please contact the parish office at (718) 761-1600

CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE

Again this year St. John’s will be giving toys to children in needy families. A table will be set up in the church basement following the worship service

every Sunday from November 21 through December 12. If you would like to donate a gift, come to the table, select a child, and return a new toy for that child. Please wrap the gift, affix the label with the child's name and number, and return it by Sunday, December 12. Your generosity will be appreciated.

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



Terra Nova tests are behind us and we are all eagerly waiting for our Thanksgiving break.

CYO Shining Star Award was presented to Elizabeth Owen on October 16th at the S.I. Hilton. Congratulations !!!

Our Art Program is coming to an end. Report Cards will be given Nov. 12th.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Grades K to 8 for Monday, Nov. 15th.

We have much to be thankful for: great, loving and helpful parents, energetic and passionate teachers, amazing and surprising students, generous and caring adult volunteers, time managing workers, dear parishioners, and never ending projects. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't recognize and appreciate all the hard work done by all of you. St. John's is very lucky for your support. (Me too!)

Mrs. Palisay

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



3	Laura Emmanuele	10	Laura Emmanuele
7	Majorie Fandrei	15	Arlene & John Sellenthin
10	Daniel Wuerdeman	22	Barbara & Steve Pfaff
14	Jean Crisson	25	John & Susan Owen
17	Audrey Hansen		
17	Eleanor Hansen		
19	Joann Lambert		
29	Peter F. Sollog		

Offerings for October & November 2010

September.....	\$8,510
October 1-10.....	\$5,005
Memorials (year to date).....	\$1,330



Saints and Church Dates November 2010

- 1 [All Saints](#)
- 5 [Elizabeth](#), matriarch
- 8 [Johann von Staupitz](#), priest 1524
- 9 [Martin Chemnitz](#), pastor and confessor,
 - 10 Martin Luther's Birthday
- 14 [Emperor Justinian](#), confessor, Emperor of New Rome, 565
- 19 Elizabeth, Princess of Hungary, 1231
 - 29 [Noah](#), prophet
 - 30 [Saint Andrew](#), Apostle

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Please remember the following deadlines:

Weekly Bulletin every Tuesday @ 10AM

Monthly Newsletter the second Monday of every  
Month @ 11AM

These deadlines are to insure that the church office has ample time to review and publish news, upcoming events and important information pertaining to the school and congregation.

If you have posted information in the Weekly Bulletin and/or the Monthly Newsletter as an ongoing message, and it no longer needs to be posted, you MUST call the office to have it removed. Once again, I thank you for your kind cooperation in this matter.

## Evangelical Pamphlets

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?

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How well do you know your fellow parishioner?



Each month I will be adding a picture of a new person to the vine for all to see if they can guess who it is. This is strictly voluntary and only information giving to me will be submitted to the vine. You can either dig out an old picture of yourself, perhaps your confirmation or baby picture. You may also choose to write a brief Biography on yourself to see if others can guess who you are. The answers will be giving in the following month's vine newsletter. The purpose for doing this, other than having fun, is to let the congregation get to know each other a little better, and to promote fellowship with one another. This is not limited to individuals. You may choose to put in the adult choir, pastors, musicians, etc., from past years and have people guess who it is and the year the picture was taken. St. John's has a rich history and many memories to be shared and passed down to other generations. **Those interested must have their information/pictures sent to the church office by November 13, 2010, for the December Vine.** You may participate any time during the year by handing in your information during regular vine deadlines. You can mail or e-mail to the church office, 663 Manor Road, 10314 or e-mail at [stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com). Please contact the church office for any further questions.

In Christ  
Thomas Sax

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## **TAKE A GUESS, WHO IS THE FIRST PARISHIONER?**

**This individual was born on Staten Island in 1923.**

**This person has been a member of St. John's since birth!**

**This individual was baptized in St. John's on August 26, 1923.**

**Attended P.S. 26, Port Richmond and Wagner College.**

**For additional clues, please go down to the church basement after the services of November 14, 21, and 28.**

**Answers will be given in the December Vine, Good Luck and have Fun!**

**Please don't forget to submit your name to this fun interactive activity. You may fill out the form or request one from the church office.**

**WHO CAN IT BE?**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
D.O.B.: \_\_\_\_\_  
BIRTHPLACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT(S)/SIBLING(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEGREES: \_\_\_\_\_  
MILITARY SERVICE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CHILDHOOD RELIGION: \_\_\_\_\_  
YEAR JOINED ST. JOHN'S: \_\_\_\_\_  
INTERESTING FACTS  
(MARRIED, CHILDREN, JOBS, HOBBIES,  
ETC.) \_\_\_\_\_  
SERVED IN CHURCH AS....  
(CHOIR, SOCIAL MINISTRY, ACOLYTE, ETC.) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS  
WHO IS IT?

Each month we will be featuring a mystery parishioner in the monthly Vine Newsletter. A picture or clue of this person will be on the church basement cork board next to the piano. Let's see how well we know our fellow parishioners by trying to find out who they are by the clues given. The answer for our mystery parishioner will be published in the following months Vine. Good luck and have a little fun!

In Christ,

Tommy Sax



## CHOIRS

### Psalm 100:1-2

**<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all  
the earth!**

**<sup>2</sup>Serve the Lord with gladness!  
Come into his presence with singing!**

Dearest Friends in Christ Jesus,

Both choirs have started, and it's wonderful to hear the voices of our children and adult members. Both choirs will be working on some new anthems as well as some old favorites for the 2010 - 2011 season. This year's Service of Lessons and Carols will be celebrated during the 9 a.m. service on Sunday December 19, 2010. Please note that we will still celebrate Holy Communion during this service which is the last Sunday of Advent. Also, remember that there are three mid-week Advent Services on; Dec. 1, Dec. 8, and Dec. 15 all at 7 p.m.

Once again I would like to remind everyone that if anyone is interested in joining or making a partial commitment to either choir they may do so at anytime during the year. The adult choir meets at the church on Tuesday's from 8 -9 p.m. and on Wednesday's during Advent and Lent. The children's choir meets at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday's immediately following the 9:00 a.m. service. The children's choir will conclude at 11:00 a.m. I will dismiss the children from the church basement.

In Christ,

Tommy Sax



**Profits from the bus trip were donated to the church office to upgrade the computer monitors and the computer keyboards. The upgrade included two (2) 20 inch Flat Screens and two (2) keyboards. Thank you for those who supported this event.  
Ken Birstler, Coordinator**

**Christmas Memorial Lights**



The lights on the church Christmas tree will be memorialized. If you wish to remember a departed loved one in this way, please send your information to the church office. The cost is \$1.00 per name.  
**The deadline is December 20, 2010**

In Loving  
 Memory of:

By:

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**Please Print Clearly**

*St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*



**Christmas Poinsettias**

Once again we invite you to place as memorials the poinsettias used for decorating the sanctuary at Christmas. The cost per plant is \$ 11.00. You may order a plant by calling the church office, giving your request to Rhoda Browne or mailing your request, together with your check payable to St. John's Lutheran Church to the church office. **The deadline to order a plant(s) is December 2, 2010.** As usual, these plants will be distributed to our shut-in members.

**Poinsettias Order Form**

I/We would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ poinsettias.  
 Please use the following when you publish this gift.

**In Memory of:**

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**In Recognition/honor of:**

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 -----

**By:**

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Additional order forms may be found in the narthex or at the table. Please return to the church office or put in an envelope and place in the offering plate

**Please print clearly**

## *All Saints Day November 7, 2010*

St. John's Lutheran will celebrate All Saints Day on Sunday, November 7th. The name of all those called home to glory since All Saints Day, 2009 will be read during the worship service. If you wish the name of a loved one to be read and listed in the worship folder, please submit the name(s) to the Church Office before 10:00 Tuesday morning, November 2, 2010. Join us for worship on that Sunday, as we give God thanks for the example given us by the saints who have walked before us.

“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord  
from now on.” Rev. 14:13

*Please contact the church office with the  
names of loved ones that have been called  
home.*

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# **Universal Pre-K**

**THERE ARE TWO (2) OPENINGS  
FOR THE  
UPK AFTERNOON PROGRAM  
12:30-3:00 FIVE (5) DAYS A  
WEEK**

**THIS IS A FREE PROGRAM  
No tuition involved**



## **THANKSGIVING FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

**At Thanksgiving, St. John's will be giving food to various people in need.** Your contributions of food, time, and money will be greatly appreciated.

### Ways To Help

#### **1. Pack A Sack**

If you would like to donate all the food needed for a family, pick up a bag with a list of required items attached. Fill the bag with the requested items and return it to the church by Sunday, November 14 or to the school by Wednesday, November 17. Bags will be available at church on Sundays and at the school office during the week.

#### **2. Donate Individual Items**

If you want to donate individual cans or boxes of nonperishable food, you may do that. The following items are needed: canned vegetables (corn, green beans), yams, potatoes, rice, fruit, cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing, soups, canned meat (such as tuna), pasta, and tomato sauce. In particular, there is a need for low salt or no salt items. At the church food may be placed in the baskets in the narthex and in the basement. At the school food may be placed in designated boxes in

the breezeway. Please bring all items to the church by Sunday, November 14 or to the school by Wednesday, November 17.

#### **3. Donate A Turkey**

Donations of turkeys are also appreciated. If anyone would like to donate a turkey, we need to know in advance. Please call Daniel Wuerdeman at 718-816-6461 or the church office at 718-761-1600 by November 18.

#### **4. Help with Sorting and Packing**

Volunteers are also needed to help with sorting and packing the food. If you would like to help in this

way, come to the church at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 19.

#### **5. Donate Money**

Donations of money may be placed in the Hunger Box on Sundays or sent to the church office. Checks should be made payable to St. John's Lutheran Church and designated for Hunger.

#### **6. Deliver Food**

Most of the food will be picked up, but there may be a few baskets that need to be delivered. If you can help in this way, call Daniel Wuerdeman at 718-816-6461.

Out of thanksgiving to God for all his blessings to us, let us share with others who do not have what we have.

“I was hungry and you gave me food” (Matthew 25:35, ESV).



*Special Event*  
*St. John's Ladies Guild*

The Rev. John Walsted a world renowned creator of exquisite religious icons will be the guest speaker at the November meeting of the St. John's Ladies Guild. His current work is being installed at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Eltingville. Please join us in the church basement at 7:30 pm, for what promises to be a very stimulating evening. Please bring a friend. Hope to see all on November 9th.  
God Bless you all

Brigitte Hermann, President  
Joan Mohlenhoff, Secretary



**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Holiday Fair**  
**Friday, November 12, 2010**  
**9:30AM until 4:00PM**  
**216 Jewett Avenue**



**Come and visit the**  
**Holiday Boutique**  
**Religious Items**  
**Hand Stitched Items**  
**Bake Sale**  
**Trash and Treasure**  
**Tea Room 9:30 to 3:30**  
**Lunch 11:00 to 2:00**

**First SmartBoards; now, a**  
**Smartpen**

*Published: Thursday, October 14, 2010*



[Diane Lore](#)

### CASTLETON CORNERS

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Another high-tech tool has been introduced to Staten Island school children. This time it's a pen that not only writes notes, but talks back to you.

Most schools, these days, are equipped with SmartBoard technology for lessons; but now, at least one school in the borough is welcoming the “Smartpen” — a device that can record and play back the teacher’s lesson and link it to the notes that students take in class.

St. John’s Lutheran School teacher Brian Licata in Castleton Corners has been using the Smartpen in his class since last year. Licata, who teaches math, just won the National Digital Education Achievement Award for a project in which he has tracked his students’ progress through seventh-grade, and now into eighth-grade, as each uses the device.

The Smartpen (which is no relation to the SmartBoard) is made by Livescribe, based in Oakland, Calif. The device comes in two models, the Pulse or the Echo — which has more memory storage — that cost under \$200 a piece. Each records audio along with every pen stroke of handwritten notes jotted on a special notepad. The notepad is interfaced with the teacher’s computer.

The device also gives you the option of uploading the audio and notes to a computer, where you can

edit and print the notes or create a “pencast” with the audio. The device is available on Amazon.com and BestBuy.com.

Livescribe first came out with the pen in 2008. Licata got the idea to try it in his classroom after trying out a friend’s pen. He persuaded Livescribe to donate 20 pens to the school, one for each student in his class.

Licata, who has his own math blog (“Mr. Licata’s Math Classroom”) and Web site ([www.mrlicata.ning.com](http://www.mrlicata.ning.com)), said he sometimes uses the pen himself to create “pencasts” for his students, showing on paper how to work through a math problem while he explains the steps.

He observed that the pen has changed the way his students take notes, and has made them more relaxed and attentive. Instead of struggling to remember and write everything down in their notebooks, the students write “key words” in outline form. When they point the pen at the words, they’ll get his actual instructions played back.

“I teach in a one-to-one class. It has been so useful for math. I think that if I went back to a regular classroom I would have a hard time adjusting,” Licata said. “My students get to play with a lot of technology, they help me test out the bugs and we try to learn together.”



St. John's Lutheran school

**SPRING AUCTION**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**APRIL 1, 2011**

Cool and Interesting Thanksgiving Facts

The traditional cornucopia was a curved goat's horn filled to brim with fruits and grains. According to Greek

legend, Amalthea (a goat) broke one of her horns and offered it to Greek God Zeus as a sign of reverence. As a sign of gratitude, Zeus later set the goat's image in the sky also known as constellation Capricorn. Cornucopia is the most common symbol of a harvest festival. A Horn shaped container, it is filled with abundance of the Earth's harvest. It is also known as the 'horn of plenty'.

It was not until 1941, that congress declared Thanksgiving as a national holiday. It was declared to be the fourth Thursday in November.

The first known thanksgiving feast or festival in North America was celebrated by Francisco Vásquez de Coronado and the people he called "Tejas" (members of the Hasinai group of Caddo-speaking Native Americans).

Here's one of those funny Thanksgiving facts: Turkeys have heart attacks. When the Air Force was conducting test runs and breaking the sound barrier, fields of turkeys would drop dead.

Turducken, a turkey stuffed with a duck stuffed with a chicken, is becoming more popular in Thanksgiving (originated in Louisiana). A turducken is a de-boned turkey stuffed with a de-boned duck, which itself is stuffed with a small de-boned chicken. The cavity of the chicken and the rest of the gaps are filled with, at the very least, a highly seasoned breadcrumb mixture (although some versions have a different stuffing for each bird).