

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 2011

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

Divine Service:

Sunday @ 9:00 AM with Holy Communion

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Church:

216 Jewett Avenue (Corner of Jewett & Post)
Staten Island, NY 10302 **(no mail)**

Church Email: stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com

Church & School Website: www.stjohnslutheransi.org

School & Church Office

663 Manor Road **(Mail Accepted)**
Staten Island, NY 10314

Volume 2011

Issue #2

**Rev. Wade A. Miller
Vacancy Pastor
(347) 459-5206**

**Roster of Officer's
St. John's Lutheran
Church & School**

Mr. Fred Bock---President

Mr. Jerry Valles---Vice President

Mrs. Janis Szoke---Secretary

**Mr. Les Szoke---Chairman
Board of Properties**

**Mr. Tom Sax---Chairman
Board of Elders**

**Mr. Dan Wuerdeman---Chairman
Board of Social Ministry**

**Mr. Bob Holls---Chairman
Board of Christian Education**



**A Message from the Elders
February 2011**

Greetings in the Name of Christ Jesus,

As we continue through this season of Epiphany, we reflect on the Baptism of our Lord. As Jesus is being baptized in the Jordan River, we are given our first look of our Triune God. We hear the voice of God the Father, we see our Savior, God the Son, and we see the Holy Spirit descend on Christ as a dove. At this time, I would like all of us to take a moment and reflect on our own baptism. At baptism we were marked with the cross upon our foreheads and heart, proclaiming to all that we are part of God's family, and that our name was written in the Book of Life. In Christ Jesus, Lutherans believe that the Bible teaches that a person is saved by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone. The Bible tells us that such "faith comes by hearing" (Rom 10:17). Jesus Himself commands Baptism and tells us that Baptism is water used together with the Word of God (Matt 28:19-20). Because of this, we believe that Baptism is one of the miraculous means of grace (another is God's Word as it is written or spoken), through which God creates and/or strengthens the gift of faith in a person's heart (see Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Gal 3:26-27; Rom 6:1-4; Col 2:11-12; 1 Cor 12:13). As we mature in our faith, we reaffirm our Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation. I am happy to announce that beginning on

January 20, 2011, Pastor Miller will begin Confirmation classes for six of our seventh graders. Before they can confess the faith, they must learn the faith. Catechumens learn about the faith they received in Baptism. They learn to "say the same thing" along with the rest of the congregation. They begin a lifelong exploration of God's Word and what it means to live as God's child. Catechumens confess the Apostles' Creed in the Rite of Confirmation and pledge themselves to a life of faithful participation in worship and the Lord's Supper. Please keep our Catechumens in your prayers as they begin their instruction along with Pastor Miller who will instruct them.

We give God our praise and thanks for all that He has bestowed upon us and we thank God for sending us Pastor Miller, and for all he has done for St. John's during these last few months. We also pray for those who need our prayers. We pray for all those in our parish who need healing, and for the family of Eileen Simon, as they mourn the loss of their mother/grandmother. I especially would like to ask that everyone pray that God would send us a shepherd to lead our parish.

As of yet, I have not received a call list from the Atlantic District. Thank you again to everyone who continues to keep our church moving forward.

In Christ,

Thomas Sax
Elder Chair

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

Serving as Church Elders:

Thomas Sax
Walter Francis
Bruce Mohlenhoff
David Decker



More on Stewardship.....

We begin the season of Epiphany---always on January 6th. This year however it's going to last much longer than usual. It will go all the way to the beginning of March. Epiphany means the appearance or manifestation of the Lord beginning with the Magi, and the gathering of the Gentiles as God's people. It is also about His Baptism and the first miracle at the wedding of Cana.

It gives us a long time to read, study, and pray before the next season, Lent, arrives. It gives us time to review what it means to be a steward.

The things that come to mind include: We are unique, yet we belong to the community of God. We are served, yet we are servers. We are saints, yet we are sinners. We live in the present, yet we also look to our future in eternity.

Over all we are managers entrusted with life's resources and are given the privilege and responsibility of joyfully managing them for God.

Stewardship is the practice of "systematic and proportionate giving of time, abilities, and material possessions based on the conviction that these are a trust from God, to be used in His service for the benefit of all in acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love."

Perhaps the real significance of giving of our selves is what it does to US. What matters to God is NOT the gift but the giver. Stewardship is God's invitation to a way of life. It helps us to overcome our selfishness. What we do with what we have been given is a sign to God and to the world as to the meaning of our commitment.

Please God grant that we all become better stewards.

The Stewardship Committee
Walter Francis

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER



January has hit us with some major snowstorms - much to the delight of children and the exasperation of adults !!!

Our sports team has been busy winning and losing.

Robotics had a successful "Pasta Night".

"Open House" brought in a slew of prospective students.

We are all looking forward to our February break - Feb. 14th to 18th.

Grade 4 will be tested (on Feb. 7th) for the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Results will be used to plan better curriculum options in Math and Reading across the country.

Mr. Sax, our Music Director, will be taking a group of choral members to the Richmond University Medical Center for entertaining purposes.

Grade 8 is sponsoring a Valentine Craft on Wed. Feb. 9th for Pre K to Grade 4.

A Valentine Dance is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 11th for grades 5 through 8.

Plans are being finalized for LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK, March 6th through March 11th.

Stay Safe.

Mrs. Palisay

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



4	Nick Gencarello		
5	Thomas Sax	8	Fred & Shirley Bock
6	Charles Hermann III	12	Eric & Eleanor Hansen
12	Darlene Hewitt		
13	Eleanor Ferenczy		
14	Emmy Alvestad		
15	Russell Browne, DC		
19	Richard Baller		
19	Kathy Neos		
21	Daniel Hewitt		
23	Laszlo Szoke		
24	Joan Mohlenhoff		
26	Donald Crisson		
27	Christopher Fluker		
28	Elizabeth Johansson		

*Eileen Simon was called home
January 12, 2011*

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|                                                       |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Offerings for December 2010 &amp; January 2011</b> |                 |
| <b>December 2010.....</b>                             | <b>\$31,190</b> |
| <b>January 1-23.....</b>                              | <b>\$14,623</b> |
| <b>Memorials.....</b>                                 | <b>\$115.00</b> |



*A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?" A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know – Our Father, who does art in Heaven... "*

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

**February 3, 2011**

**7:30PM in the church basement**

**For our program: Brigitte Hermann will be sharing a travel log of Germany. Please join us for this winter getaway!**

**Hope to see you there.**

**Brigitte Hermann, President**

**Joan Mohlenhoff, Secretary**

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## Saints and Church Dates

February 2011

2-The Purification of Mary and the presentation of Our Lord

24- St. Matthias, Apostle

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**Please remember
the following deadlines:
Weekly Bulletin every
Tuesday @ 10AM
Monthly Newsletter
the third Monday
of every Month @ 11AM**

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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?

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



Psalm 100:1-2

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

Dearest Friends in Christ Jesus,

I can't believe we are already in Epiphany! Since Easter is later this year, we have a longer Epiphany Season. Before too long, both choirs will be rehearsing for Lent and for Holy Week. If anyone would like to make a partial commitment to either Lent or Holy Week, we will begin rehearsals for these seasons beginning on Tuesday Feb. 1 (adult choir) and Sun. Feb. 6 (children's choir). During the midweek Lenten Services, the adult choir will sing on Ash Wednesday, and the children's choir will sing the remaining five Wednesday night services in Lent. The adult and children's choir will sing on Palm and Easter Sunday's. In addition the adult choir will also sing on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Tenebrae Service.

*Adult choir Tuesday Nights 8 - 9 p.m.
Children's choir Sunday Mornings
10:15 - 11:00 a.m.*

In Christ,

Thomas Sax



**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL
SPRING AUCTION
SAVE THE DATE
APRIL 1, 2011**

For your convenience the serving schedule is posted as you enter the church



St. John's Lutheran School is looking for someone in our congregation who has experience in writing grants to help our principal to investigate grant-writing opportunities.

We are also looking for someone to develop alumni lists so that we can establish a greater relationship with our alumni.

If you can help in either of these areas, or know someone who could, please contact Mrs. Palisay at the school office.
(718) 761-1858

Thank You

To find further information on this event please go their website:
www.millneck.org

M I L L N E C K F A M I L Y

Corporate & Individual Annual

The Mill Neck Family of Organizations is pleased to present its exclusive Annual Event Sponsorship Opportunities Package. We view our relationship with sponsors and underwriters as a partnership that is essential to our mission. Your investment helps us sustain and initiate vital programs and services within the Mill Neck Family of Organizations.



Event Sponsorships The proceeds raised through event sponsorships are divided equally to fund **special projects** within the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, which include Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, the Mill Neck Manor Early Childhood Center and Mill Neck Services. For more information about Mill Neck Family events, please call Nancy Leghart, Director of Advancement, at (516) 628-4243.

By supporting an event in one of the sponsorship categories listed on the facing page, you will be provided with unique benefits and publicity opportunities. These include listings in programs, press releases, signs, social networking sites and newsletters, as well as your logo and link prominently displayed on our website and entries to our events.

Corporate & Individual Annual Sponsorship Program



In support of the programs and services offered by the Mill Neck Family of Organizations, I/we would like to sponsor the

Fall Harvest Festival Blue Jean Ball Passion for Fashion Show Spring Swing Golf Tournament

in the amount of \$ _____

Date: _____ (Print name(s)) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Credit Card (circle one): Visa MasterCard Amex Discover # _____ Exp. Date: _____

Billing Zip Code (circle one): _____ Signature: _____

I cannot sponsor an event at this time, but I would like to contribute a raffle gift.

Thank you for your support. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Please mail checks payable to Mill Neck Manor to the address provided.

Special Event Sponsorship Program

Fall Harvest
Festival

October - 2 days
Attendance: 20,000



\$2,500 GOLDEN SPONSOR

12 event passes and banner

\$1,000 EMPIRE SPONSOR

8 event passes and your own event sign

\$500 GALA SPONSOR

4 event passes and listing on sponsor sign

\$250 McINTOSH SPONSOR

2 event passes and listing on sponsor sign

DONATE a RAFFLE ITEM for ANY EVENT

All contributors will be listed in the event program, in press releases, on social networking sites, in newsletters and on the ME Neck website.

Blue Jean
Ball

March - 1 day
Attendance: 150 - 200



\$2,500 CASINO SPONSOR

4 event entries and banner

\$1,000 BONANZA SPONSOR

2 event entries and your own sign

\$500 TWO STEP SPONSOR

Your own event sign

\$250 RODEO SPONSOR

Listing on sponsor sign

Passion for
Fashion
Show

April - 1 day
Attendance: 150 - 200



\$2,500 COUTURE SPONSOR

Table of 6 and banner

\$1,000 VINTAGE SPONSOR

4 event entries and your own sign

\$500 RUNWAY SPONSOR

Your own event sign

\$250 TRENDSETTER SPONSOR

Listing on sponsor sign

Spring Swing
Golf

May/June - 1 day
Attendance: 120 golf / 200 dinner



\$2,500 HOLE in ONE SPONSOR

2 golf entries and banner

\$1,000 EAGLE SPONSOR

2 dinner entries, a tee sign and a pin flag

\$500 BIRDIE SPONSOR

A tee sign and a pin flag

\$250 PAR SIGN SPONSOR

A tee sign