

# 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 June 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](mailto:stjohnslutheranchurchoffice@gmail.com)

**Church & School Website: [www.stjohnslutheransi.org](http://www.stjohnslutheransi.org)**

**School & Church Office**

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

**THE JULY & AUGUST VINE WILL BE COMBINED**

**Volume 2011**

**Issue #6**

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

**Roster of Officers  
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**

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## **A Message from the President**

### **St. John's Lutheran Church needs your help.**

We currently have an outstanding debt of \$7,650:  
\$5,950-Kinetic Electric  
\$1,700-Maintenance (Church & Parsonage)

I am asking that our parishioners contemplate helping their Church relieve some of the debt.

Checks may be made out to either Kinetic Electric or St. John's Lutheran Church. Please include a directive in the memo area as to which your donation should go towards (Kinetic Electric or Maintenance).

The maintenance total includes plumbing problems, a new water heater for the parsonage and repair for the water damage caused by the old water heater.

I would like to resolve this debt before a new Pastor is called.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

Fred Bock  
Church Congregational President

**THE JULY & AUGUST VINE WILL BE COMBINED**



**A Message from the Elders  
June 2011**

*Greetings in the Name of Christ Jesus,*

*I am happy to report that on Saturday March 5, 2011, Pastor Miller and the elders had 14 students attend acolyte training at the church. Students were instructed by Pastor Miller on the duties and responsibilities of an acolyte, as Fiona Gannon and James Hart demonstrated their years of experience as tenured acolytes. The 2 hour training ended with a pizza party in the basement. The elders have also decided to make Fiona Gannon our new acolyte coordinator. Her responsibilities will be the scheduling of the acolytes as well as mentoring our rookie crew. At the present time, we have 18 acolytes, providing everyone fulfills their commitment. I just want to remind our acolytes that they must either contact Fiona or myself (917) 696-5227 if they are unable to serve on their scheduled date. Remember, an acolyte is part of the service, if you can't be in attendance, it is important to have a replacement.*

*Thank you to Julia Draper, who opened her home during Holy Week to Pastor Jonathan Sachs and his wife. Pastor Sachs led our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. This year six of our young members received their first Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday 4/21/11.*

**Congratulations to:**

*Joseph Chierchio  
Erik Hansen  
Christopher Langer  
Jack Varela  
Chelsea Hermann  
Sophia Mostovoy*

*The elders have supplied each student with their own copy of Luther's Small Catechism. Once again, congratulations, may you partake of the Lord's Supper often. Parents remember, Holy Communion is a gift from our Lord which should be celebrated each week. Please join your children regularly as we partake together the body and blood of our Risen Savior.*

*Confirmation class continues to receive instruction from Pastor Miller each Thursday at SJLS, and will be making their confirmation on Pentecost 2012. Pastor Miller also continues to visit shut-ins and those who have been hospitalized.*

*A very special thank you to the members of the Call Committee. The members are: Thomas Sax, Les Szoke, Dan Wuerdeman, Robert Holls, Karen Gannon and Kim Peters. The members of the committee have spent numerous hours of their time interviewing and researching possible candidates for our parish. It is an awesome responsibility and it has been a pleasure to work with each of you. May God Bless our efforts and may He reveal the next shepherd to our church. Finally, it wouldn't be complete if we did not acknowledge and thank Pastor Wade Miller for his service as our Vacancy Pastor. Thank you Pastor Miller, his wife Trish, and his children for all the support they have given to us from August 2010 to the present date. Pastor's last service is scheduled for Sunday, June 26, 2011. I think I speak for everyone, "You are a blessing and you will be truly missed!" May God continue to shower you with His Blessings in your ministry.*

*Thomas Sax  
Elders Chair*

*"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Philipians 4:13 KJV*

*Serving as Church Elders;  
Thomas Sax  
Walter Francis  
Bruce Mohlenhoff  
David Decker*



More on Stewardship.....

In last month's newsletter I mentioned starting writing a series of articles as a means of teaching stewardship to our congregation. Some of the material I have been studying changes the focus on church members who see themselves only as parents, workers, consumers, family people etc. Scripture tells us that we who are followers of Christ are therefore zealous disciples. If church goers are not thinking this way they certainly aren't thinking of themselves as stewards.

Yet, from Baptism onward everyone is a steward when we are called into His family. As part of this family we know that God Almighty is the owner of everything and that we are responsible to Him.

We aim at the wrong thing if we focus only on what the steward does and not on who he is.

While we have produced lots of new material for understanding what stewardship looks like we have failed to raise up stewards. The result is that everything seems to look like a new fund-raising project for raising money to pay bills, etc. Getting lost in the budget balancing business we apparently miss out on the preparation of our people to become informed Godly stewards. Because of this we fail to include the right attitude towards possessions, For example, everything we own is really on loan from God. The call to be a steward is the necessary pre-requisite to the life of biblical stewardship. St. Paul writes to Titus in Titus 2:11-14 that helps us understand this identity as steward "For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously, and Godly in the present are, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself, a people for His own possession, ZEALOUS for good deeds."

Focusing on who the steward is, in Christ, is vital to help him understand that what he does is a response to the Gospel. Pointing only at what the steward does misses the mark.

We continue next month.....In His name. Amen.

**The Stewardship Committee**  
**Walter Francis**

*IN OUR PRAYERS*

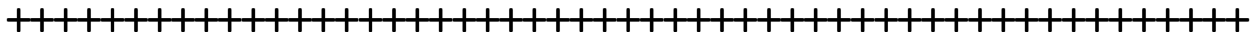


Please continue to pray for those who are listed in this month's bulletin.

*Henry Alvestad~Esther Charles*

*Samuel Bartzsch~Patricia Barber~Helen Iacobacci~Paulette Laird*

Please continue to pray for our Call Committee, that the Lord would reveal who the next shepherd of our church is to be.



**Alice D'Angelo was called home on May 18, 2011**

*We will hold you and your family in our thoughts and prayers as you move through the process of grieving and healing. Please know that we are thinking of you.*



## Principal's Corner

Our school year is quickly coming to a close.

Spring Concert June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM

We still have Field Day to look forward to (June 17th).

Graduation church service is June 12th

Regristration - June 16th

Half days - June 20, 21, 22, and 23.

Grade 8 Graduation - June 20th at 1 PM in the auditorium.

Kindergarten Graduates June 21 at 1 PM also in the auditorium.

S. I. Yankee Game - June 21 Fundraiser at the stadium.

Last chapel - June 22

Moving up ceremony for UPK - June 23rd.

Last day of school June 23 no bus service that day.

Enjoy your time off.

Mrs. Palisay

**Please visit our website for further information on all events**

**[www.stjohnslutheransi.org](http://www.stjohnslutheransi.org)**

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

**The Lutheran Schools Association Annual Dinner has honored:**

**Lower School: Ms. Felicia Caldaio**

**Administrator of the Year: Mrs. Rosemary Palisay**



# Vacation Bible School

*Come join us for the **Big Jungle Adventure week.**  
We will have fun learning and experiencing the Bible.  
**Children of ages 3-14** will enjoy the Arts and Crafts, lively  
songs and music that will keep you on your toes.*

*We promise you will never forget this  
Summer Vacation Bible week.*

*Come and be wild with Jesus!*

***Remember the dates; July 11th - 15<sup>th</sup>  
9:30am-12 noon***

*Board of Christian Education*

***Brigitte Hermann***

***contact: Church Office***

*718 761-1600*



*St. John's Ladies Guild*

June 2, 2011

Everyone is welcome to join us in the  
**CHURCH BASEMENT @ 7:30 PM**

**Please join us for the wrap up of an exciting Guild season.  
We have a special, fun, SURPRISE evening planned.**

**Hope to see you then!  
Brigitte Hermann, President  
Joan Mohlenhoff, Secretary**



***The July & August Vine will be  
combined***

***The DEADLINE to have any information  
posted in this summer combined  
Vine edition will be:***

***JUNE 20, 2011***

## 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

*"THHPPTT!" 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?



### **Mini Health Fair**

On Saturday, June 4, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. there will be a free Mini Health Fair at the church. Topics covered will be diabetes education, health maintenance activities, and CPR skills. The presenters will be Deborah Morotta, RN and certified diabetes instructor, and Barbara Pfaff, nurse practitioner and CPR instructor. Information will be available in English and in Spanish. This event is sponsored by the Board of Social Ministry. All are welcome to attend.

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### **New Direction Services Food Collection**

We are collecting food for New Direction Services, a food pantry located at 1027 Post Avenue, at the church and at the school through September. Nonperishable items June be left in the basement at the church or in the breezeway at the school. In particular, they request the following items:

- condensed/evaporated milk
- pasta
- sauces (such as tomato sauce)
- cereal
- juices
- canned meats (such as tuna)
- condiments (such as salad dressings)



**Dear St. John's Lutheran School and Church Families,**

Staten Island Project Home Front (SIPH) is a not-for-profit (501c-3) organization located here on Staten Island that supports our troops primarily in Iraq and Afghanistan by sending our armed forces packages every six weeks. The organization is always in need of supplies throughout the year. Currently, supplies are low and items are needed. Please see the attached list and send in any items you are able to purchase. The items you purchase and any financial donations made are *tax deductible*. If you choose to make financial donations, you may do so by sending a check into the school labeled for SIPH and your check should be made out to Staten Island Project Home Front. There will be a marked box placed in the school breezeway, as well as, in the church, where items may be dropped off. We will be collecting until Friday, June 3, and, our June 1 chapel collection will be for SIPH. The students will also create thank you cards to show their support of the troops. Also, if you have someone actively serving in these areas, you may register them at the following website: [siprojecthomefront.org](http://siprojecthomefront.org). We greatly thank you for supporting our brave men and women.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please call Carol Bucciero at [\(718\) 702-7253](tel:7187027253) or Alise Varela at [\(917\) 846-6198](tel:9178466198).

God bless you for your support and God bless our Armed Forces!

Please see next page for the list of supplies.

# **SUPPLIES FOR OUR TROOPS**

**TUNA PKS OR CANS**

**INDIVIDUAL DRINK PACKS**

**JELLO / PUDDING / FRUIT CUPS**

**INDIVIDUAL COFFEE PACKS**

**SLIM JIMS / BEEF JERKY**

**COFFEE CREAMERS**

**FRUIT SNACKS / RAISINS**

**SUGAR PKS. / SPLENDA**

**CANDY ( NO CHOCOLATE) / GUM**

**POP TARTS /**

**TIC TACS / LOZENGES**

**SMALL BOXES OF CEREAL**

**ALL PAIN RELIEVERS**

**ICY HOT PATCHES**

**SMALL MOUTH WASH**

**INSECT REPELLENT**

**EYE WASH**

**FLY PAPER**

**CORTIZONE / FOOT CREAM**

**ANTACIDS / TUMS**

**MEN'S / WOMEN RAZORS**

**CHAPSTICK**

**MEN'S WOMEN'S SHAVING CREAM SUN TAN LOTION**

**THE LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE**



# CHOIR

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,*

*Thank you to both our adult and children's choirs for an outstanding job this past year. There will be an end of year pizza party for the members of the church's children's choir on Saturday, June 11, 2011, from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Please contact me (917)696 5227, if you plan on attending the party by Friday, June 03, 2011. Our adult choir will end on Sunday, June 12, 2011. Both choirs will begin again in September. Once again, reading music is not required, nor do you have to commit to the whole year.*

*In Christ,  
Thomas Sax*

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



