

# 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 October Vine 2011*

The Newsletter of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School

(718) 761-1600

**Reverend Randall S. Russell, Pastor**

### **Divine Service:**

**Sunday @ 10:30 AM with Holy Communion**

***ALL ARE WELCOME!***

### **Church:**

216 Jewett Avenue (Corner of Jewett & Post)

Staten Island, NY 10302 **(no mail)**

Church Email: [sjlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sjlchurchoffice@gmail.com)

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

**School & Church Office**

663 Manor Road **(Mail Accepted)**

Staten Island, NY 10314

**Volume 2011**

**Issue #10**

**DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER VINE IS  
OCTOBER 21**

**Roster of Officers  
St. John's Lutheran  
Church & School  
2011 Church Committees**

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Board of Elders  
Board of Christian Education  
Board of Evangelism  
Board of Properties  
Board of Social Ministry

Frederick Bock  
Gerald Valles  
Janis Szoke  
Thomas Sax  
Robert Holls

Les Szoke  
Barbara Pfaff

**Board of Elders**

**Thomas Sax**  
Dave Decker  
Walter Francis  
Bruce Mohlenhoff

**Board of Properties**

**Les Szoke**  
Russ Browne  
Michael Clandorf

**Board of Christian Education**

**Robert Holls**  
Arne Abrahamsen  
Lori Chierchio  
Brigitte Hermann  
Joann Mostovoy  
Ruth Roscheska  
Beverly Heming

**Board of Social Ministry**

**Barbara Pfaff**  
Rhoda Browne  
Christine Meehan  
Joan Mohlenhoff  
Nancy Nye

**Board of Evangelism**

Leonor Abugel  
Jenifer Moat  
Ricardo Salazar  
Bonnie Selletti



## PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Family in Christ,

Peace be to you in the name of our Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Once again I find myself praising and giving thanks to God for all the kindness and generosity He has shown both my family and I through the hospitality and prayers of all His people. Thank you all so very much for the wonderful reception at the installation, the gifts, the food, the cards, all the hard work that has been done during the vacancy, and of course, your friendship. Everything everyone has done is most appreciated, most especially since moving from one place to another is never easy.

If there is any truth to that old saying “home is where the heart is”, perhaps we all have struggled from time to time to answer the question: where is home? When children move out, when loved ones pass away, or when we simply become overwhelmed with feelings of loneliness and worry, home never seems quite the same. Yet here we may recall the words of St. Peter when he writes to the “pilgrims” of Pontus, Galatia, Bithynia, Cappadocia, and Asia:

In *Christ* you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to the praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen, you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

—1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:6-9

In other words the Apostle is reminding us that we all are “pilgrims” in this vast wilderness of sin making our way to our true home above, the Promised Land of Heaven. And even though at certain times the road ahead looks tough and we become “grieved by the various trials” of this life, we should not become discouraged for heaven is already our eternal home. St. Peter explains, “Yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.”

Therefore as we continue to make our journey together through this vast and barren wilderness of sin I humbly ask that each of you keep me in your prayers, making every request that I may faithfully carry out those duties entrusted to the Pastoral Office. For it is my own prayer that we (and many more) shall one day enter the Promised Land of heaven together to live forever in the unending love of our gracious Savior and King.

In His service,  
Pastor Russell



**A Message from the Elders**

## **Elders Report**

Dearest Friends in Christ Jesus,

It's official! Welcome Reverend Randall Russell, his wife Amy, and their children James and Eleanor (Ella). The last time I submitted my article for the summer vine, I was reporting that a Divine Call was declined. One parishioner asked, "Now what will we do?" What will we do, pray and place our faith in our Lord and Savior. As it is recorded in Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD." God knew who our shepherd would be, and now He has revealed it to all of us.

Thank you members of St. John's for all you have done these past 14 months, and all you have done in welcoming Pastor Russell and his family. I pray that we all will continue to work together, supporting pastor, his family and his ministry. May the light of Christ be seen in all that we do! May all that we do, glorify and praise the Almighty!

In Christ  
Thomas Sax  
Elder Chair

*The LORD is my strength and my song; and he has become my salvation. Psalm 118:14*

### **News from Social Ministry:**

Thanks to all who volunteered their time and talents to make the Rally Day Block Party a success!

Again this year we will be giving food baskets to 22 needy families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We are in need on non-perishable items, especially canned vegetables (regular and low salt, rice or canned potatoes, canned yams, cranberry sauce, canned fruit, gravy, stuffing, soups(regular and low salt, canned meat(such as tuna), pasta, tomato sauce, miscellaneous: cereal, bottled juice, dessert, etc. Items can be left in the church basement or brought to the church office.

If you prefer you may "Pack a Sack" for hunger. Pick up a paper sack at the church or church office and fill with the listed items. Cash contributions are also gratefully accepted and can be placed in the "Hunger Box" in the church, or in the offering plate with a notation "for hunger".

Barbara Pfaff  
Social Ministry Chair

## More on Stewardship.....

In recent months we have talked about different things a Steward should strive for, such as identity, the changes that happen to him, and focusing on spirituality. Many times we have mentioned that it is a money issue. Hopefully over the years we have modified our thoughts on the matter. This month we will look at stewardship as a whole-life issue.

Many people, when they begin to look at stewardship see it as a sub-category of the Christian way of living. They refer to the “three T’s”, that is Time, Talent, & Treasure, with money being the most talked about subject. Simply put, that is aiming at the wrong target. Stewardship is not a sub-category of the Christian life, but rather it IS the Christian life.

Author, C.K. Robertson, in one of his many books told the story of a group of Vikings. I will paraphrase....Their king wanted them to join in his conversion to Christendom and ordered them to the river to be baptized. As they walked into deeper water, they held one of their arms high over their heads because they were taught that whatever goes under water belongs to God. They were willing, but their sword-arms would be held back.

It’s all about what we hold dear, what we protect, what we must control, despite the cost.

The Vikings may not have cared one way or another, but as Mr. Robertson said, “one part of their body was definitely not going under water”.

The life of the Steward is complete dedication to God through faith in Christ Jesus. Luther once said “If anyone should rap at the door of my heart and ask “who lives here?” I would answer “Martin Luther once lived here, but Martin Luther has moved out, and Jesus Christ has moved in”, or remember St. Paul’s great story....his first words right after his conversion,” Lord what will you have me do?” As we all know Paul gave his entire life, his whole life.

Many of us Christians are like the Vikings in the above story who wanted to separate our at least one part of their lives for themselves whether it us about power, possessions, or pleasure.

Only the Holy Spirit can enable us to live wholly and in God’s presence. However we can work to make things open for the workings of the Spirit in our individual and churchly lives. We become Stewards at birth. We become Stewards at baptism. Better understanding of our Christian identity as Stewards and learning from scripture what it means to be a Steward enables us to be a whole-life Christian.

May He grant it. 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~ Patricia Barber~Ruth Roscheska  
Sue Norton~Douglas Lanbau~John Draper~Christina Assanti  
Ann Gray~Audrey Hansen~Sonia Ingerson*



## DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER VINE IS OCTOBER 21



### Principal's Corner

School is off to a busy start. Welcome to Pastor Russell and all our new students and teachers and Welcome Back to our regular crew ! Our Enrichment Program and Music Programs have started. Teachers are busy assessing our skills, students are practicing routines and the lunch program has begun. In the year 2012, St. John's Lutheran School will be celebrating 60 years of service. We would like to have a yearlong celebration. I am asking alumni, parents, parishioners and friends for ideas and help. You can contact me if you have a willingness to assist. Thanks.

Enjoy the fall weather!  
Mrs. Palisay

**Sunday Morning schedule Beginning  
October 2, 2011!**

**9:00 a.m. Pastor's Bible Study  
in church basement**

**9:00 a.m. Sunday School in church basement**

**10:30 Divine Worship Service**

**Children's choir rehearsal immediately following  
the 10:30 Worship Service in the balcony.**

**New email for church office – [sjlchurchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sjlchurchoffice@gmail.com)**

**Please remember  
the following deadline:  
Weekly Bulletin every  
Tuesday @ 10AM**

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

4	Sandra Sollog
4	Charles Hermann, IV
9	Elizabeth A. Marro
11	Adelaide Mullick
19	Michael Riccardi
22	Ed Salvatore
22	Eleanor Hansen

## OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

1	Ronald & Joan Graboski
9	Bernard & Adelaide Mullick
17	Bill & Liz Heming
18	John & Martha Heintz
20	Donna & Michael D'Adamo
21	Charles & Donna Hermann
22	Barbara & David Vasquez
25	Karen & Kenneth Gannon

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

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

## 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

"THHHPPTT!" *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?

*For your convenience the serving schedule  
is in the Narthex*



# 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,

Wow! If you attended Pastor Russell's Installation, then you know what I mean. It was truly an honor and privilege to play at this service. The service was well attended, and the voices from Dr. Benke and the other pastors in attendance was incredible. Thank you to everyone that attended, and especially for the choir who beautifully sang their two anthems. Also, a special thank you to Diane Mohlenhoff and Karen Gannon as they joined the ranks during Rally Day and pastor's installation. I pray that you both would consider a permanent commitment to the choir, but I also would be pleased with a partial. Both the adult and children's choir are always looking for new members, for a full or partial commitment. If you have an interest in joining, you may simply attend rehearsal, or contact me at the church office. (718) 761 1600.

In Christ,  
Thomas Sax

***Adult Choir Tuesday Nights 8 - 9 p.m.  
Children's Choir Sunday Mornings Immediately Following the  
10:30 a.m. Service***



# Church Financials for Month of September

<b>Church Checking</b>	<b>\$4269.19</b>
<b>Church Savings</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>September Offering Received</b>	<b>\$11,863.84</b>
<b>Kinetic Bill Outstanding</b>	<b>\$1500.00</b>

- **Regular Tithe Offering** **\$10,435.63**
- **Plate Collection** **\$1077.10**
- **Expansion for Christ** **\$201.43**
- **Love** **\$35.36**
- **Bethesda Home** **\$2.32**
- **Hungry** **\$12.00**
- **Chapel Books** **\$50.00**
- **Kinetic** **\$50.00**

- **These are all included in the total of September Offering Received.**

<b>Additional Monies Received</b>	<b>\$400.00 – Sign</b>
	<b>\$540.00 – Chapel Books</b>
	<b>\$25.00 – Kinetic Electric</b>

**Submitted by**

**Fred Bock - President**

## **ST. JOHN'S LADIES GUILD**

Please join us for our meeting on OCTOBER 6, 2011, 7:30 P.M. in the church basement Anita Neitzel will be speaking on THE CHURCH YEAR IN COLOR.

As members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) we bring our mites for missions each month. If you would like to join us in giving, just ask for a MITE BOX.

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, the annual **CHRISTMAS FAIR** of the Mary/Martha Workshop will be held. A **VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TEA** is being planned for December 4<sup>th</sup>. Please mark these dates on your calendar and join us.

In His service,

Brigitte Hermann, President

