

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



November Vine 2011

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

Reverend Randall S. Russell, Pastor

Divine Services:

Sunday 10:30 AM with Holy Communion @ Church
Sunday 5p.m. school gym beginning November 30, 2011

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Church located at:

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

Church Email: sjlchurchoffice@gmail.com

Church & School Website: www.stjohnslutheransi.org

School & Church Office

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

Volume 2011

Issue #11

**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. As another Thanksgiving fast approaches I again must ask myself how this year's festivities will be any different from all the years' prior. Now, of course, this year my family and I will be celebrating Thanksgiving in a completely different state than before. Yet other than that I have to ask myself if anything else has truly changed. I mean, am I truly more thankful? Am I more forgiving, more charitable, or more appreciative of all I have?

In his first letter to the church in Corinth St. Paul writes, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things." And St. Paul's words here would seem to imply that in some way we all are supposed to grow. In some way we all are supposed to mature. In some way our understanding of what it means to give thanks must continue to grow and develop over the years. For when I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, and I honestly thought that all Thanksgiving was about was simply saying thanks. Yet when I became a man I began to realize that Thanksgiving was much more than just merely saying thanks. I began to realize that Thanksgiving is also supposed to be a time for personal growth and reflection.

For what exactly happens when we tell one another thank you? We remember that we are not alone. We remember that we are all connected. We remember that no man is an island to himself. From our heavenly Father who gives us our daily bread, to the farmers who raise the turkeys, to the drivers who deliver them, to the mothers who cook them, and to the families who enjoy them, whenever we say thank you we begin to realize that we are all connected. We begin to realize that we are dependent upon one another, and that is precisely why we need to give thanks!

As Americans we are often so busy celebrating our independence that we often forget our complete and total dependence upon God as well as one another. However, this is the very reason why President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday. For long ago President Lincoln wrote:

"We Americans have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us! We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied

and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Therefore, it has seemed to me fit and proper that such blessings should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People.

Therefore, this Thanksgiving may we not only say thanks, but grow to appreciate our total dependence upon God as well as one another. After all, that is partially what it means to be a part of the communion of all the saints!

In His service,
Pastor Russell

Why?

Why does the Divine Service begin with the Invocation?

Our English word “*Invocation*” is derived from the Latin word “*Invoco*” which means “*to call upon*”. So in the Divine Service we begin by calling upon the name of our Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Invoking His name orders our worship, making it clear that this is His service to us and not our service or someone else’s. And so, the Divine Service begins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

As Scot A. Kinnaman suggests, “We don’t come before God on the basis of our merits or by our deeds. We come because, with the whole Church, our Lord has called, gathered, and enlightened us by His Holy Spirit to worship Him. In the Invocation we call upon God to be true to His Word, for where His name is, there He has promised to be.”¹

In other words, where two or three are gathered together in the name of our Triune God for worship, there God has promised to be. [Matthew 18:20] Yet this meeting of two or three in worship is not a chance meeting, but is a meeting with a purpose. “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.” [Psalm 50:14-15] Therefore, our worship begins with the invocation. We call upon the name of the Triune God to bless us, to sustain us, and to continually wash away our sins just as He had done when we were baptized into that very same name.

Pastor Russell

¹ Scot A. Kinnaman, Worshiping with Angels and Archangels, An Introduction to the Divine Service. Saint Louis, MI: Concordia Publishing House., 2006.



A Message from the Elders

Dearest Friends in Christ Jesus,

Where has this year gone? As we quickly approach the end of the church year, let us remember to give thanks to God for all he has given to us. In this past year we have had our prayers answered when Pastor Russell answered the Divine Call. We have seen parishioners “step up” and offer their assistance where they have been needed and have taken on leadership positions. We see God’s hand in all we do and we see the grace that he offers each and every one of us.

As we look forward to the beginning of Advent, may we continue to anticipate and prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord and Savior, and may we always give him thanks!

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here
below Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; ☐
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.”

In Christ,
Thomas Sax
Elder Chair

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



Thank you to the member of the congregation for all their prayers and well wishes during my rehab/illness.

Ruth Roscheska

News from Social Ministry:



Dear Friends in Christ.

Thanks to all who donated during the "Chuck A Buck for Hunger" drive!

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".

If you can't donate food or cash, you can still help out by donating time. We are in need

of volunteers for sorting and distribution.

Sorting and packing will be done Friday evening November 18 in the church basement starting at 7:30.

Food distribution will be Saturday, November 19 from 11-2PM, Sunday, November 20 from 12-1PM.

Sign up on the sheet posted in the narthex.

Barbara Pfaff
Social Ministry Chairperson



MORE ON STEWARDSHIP

In focusing on what the Steward should strive for in the highly honored position of being a Christian Steward, we have been writing on various “Stewardship Targets”.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner and Advent starting this month we will change the emphasis to the appropriate calendar schedule. We will continue the series after the Holiday season.

“Time is money”, an old expression still heard from some people. This may be true but not for the Steward whose whole life is involved in complete stewardship of “service”. For some people it’s easier to write a check than to take the time to share your talents and give of yourself in doing for the church and school at St John’s

Christian Stewards should not mis-manage their talents any more than they should mis-manage their financial budget. We know by now that we are all blessed with talents, at least one that we can share with others. It’s not how many talents we have, but God holds us accountable for using the one we do have when it is used to His glory.

There’s an old story of a man who owned everything in the world and also had unlimited talents. In his latter years he confessed to people that he was very unhappy because he couldn’t share anything with others, especially those he loved.

When we think about doing for others and take it seriously, the likelihood is that you will come to understand that SHARING is absolutely necessary. We know God has made us to give of ourselves, to share as part of loving .It is what brings us an inner joy.

We will shortly be celebrating Thanksgiving. I have always called it THANKSLIVING. As Stewards, be generous in giving of talents, your time, and your treasure to our church and school. Jesus said “It is more blessed to give than to receive”. Then enjoy the blessings you will receive.

May HE grant it. Amen

The Stewardship Committee
Walter Francis



IN OUR PRAYERS



Please continue to pray for those who are ill or recovering;

*Henry Alvestad~Esther Charles~ Patricia Barber~Ruth Roscheska
Sue Norton~Douglas Lanbau ~Christina Assanti~Kenny Birstler~
Ann Gray~Audrey Hansen~Bruce Mohlenhoff*

Our Lord has called home Patricia Barber this past week. Please keep the Clandorf family, (Mildred, Michael and Kyle) and the Shirley family in your prayers.

Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.

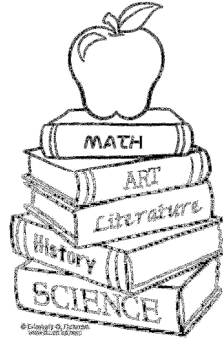
³He restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.

⁴Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Principal's Corner



*Students and Teachers seem to be settled and in routines for the new school year.

*Eighth Grades will be celebrating Pin Day, after Chapel, Nov. 2. All are welcome. Come to Chapel 9 AM and celebrate with us.

*School is closed Nov. 4. Teachers will be attending a "LSA Professional Development Conference" at Trinity Lutheran, Hicksville.

*Report Cards will be given out Wednesday, Nov. 9th.

*Veterans' Day Celebration will take place Nov. 10 - 10 AM

*P-T-C will be held Thursday, Nov. 10th. in the afternoon and evening.

*Nov.18 - Scholastic Book Fair

*Nov.24 -25 Thanksgiving Recess

Mrs. Palisay

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS	
3	Laura Emmanuele
7	Majorie Fandrei
10	Daniel Wuerdeman
11	Eleanor Russell
14	Jean Crisson
17	Audrey Hansen
17	Eleanor Hansen
19	Joann Lambert
29	Peter F. Sollog

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



**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.**

**Pastor's Thursday Morning Breakfast Bible Study will
begin on November 3, at 9:30. We will begin the study
with the book of Genesis.**

**Beginning Sunday, November 27, 2011 (First Sunday in
Advent) we will be adding a 5 p.m. Divine Worship
Service with Holy Communion each week in the school
gym located at 663 Manor Road**

**Midweek Advent Vespers Service 7:30 p.m. November 30,
December 7 and 14. Service will be preceded by a soup
supper from 6-7 p.m.**

**Voters meeting Wednesday, November 16, 2011 7:30 p.m. at
the school**

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?

New email for church office – sjlchurchoffice@gmail.com



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,

As Advent approaches, the choirs will be singing each Sunday and on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Once again the choirs will be participating in a Service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at the 10:30 a.m. service. This special service will feature special music by the choirs as we celebrate Holy Communion during this Divine Service. Immediately following the service, the choir invites everyone to join us as we go Christmas Caroling to our shut-ins at their homes, Eger Nursing Home, and the Harbor House. Help us bring Christmas cheer to those who cannot attend worship. Let the light of Christ shine through us as we sing His praises.

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***



ST. JOHN'S LADIES GUILD



Advent Soup Supper 6 – 7 pm

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Wednesday, Dec. 7

Wednesday, Dec. 14

Each week 4 soups, 4-6 quarts each are needed. Desserts are also needed. Hot and cold beverages will be supplied as well as homemade bread from Eleanor Hansen. Please be advised that if you wish to make something for the soup supper, you must sign up in the church narthex.

For further information, please contact

Rhoda Browne (718) 698 3356

In His service,

Brigitte Hermann, President

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

Please fill in the following captions. We are in the process of updating our records. Please mail this form to the church office or place it in collection plate in church by Thursday, December 1, 2011

**Thank You!
The Church Office Staff**

Name of each person in your household including their birthdate and wedding anniversaries. (Begin with the head of each household) Also indicate children's name.

Mailing Address –

Home and cell number –

Email address –