

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OCEAN CITY, NEW JERSEY

SEA SCROLLS



December 2011

Volume 3 ✧ Issue 3

PASTOR'S PROSE

*"IT'S TIME WE DECIDED FOR OURSELVES"*

Begin this Advent season singing the following carol, sung to the tune of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." Simplify these holy days! Prepare to receive the Lord Jesus Christ! Proclaim the wondrous birth! Decide for yourself!

*Slow down, ye frantic shoppers for there's something we must say.  
If you would spare a moment all the stores would go away.  
Big business has been telling us what Christmas means today.  
Now it's time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves,  
Yes it's time we decided for ourselves.*

*To some folks Christmas means a time for gathering with friends.  
And enemies might take it as a time to make amends.  
But TV says it's time for pricy gifts and selfish ends.  
Now it's time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves,  
Yes it's time we decided for ourselves.*

*Some people feel that Christmas is when Jesus makes a call.  
For others it's a time to stress good will and peace to all.  
But advertisers tell us it means Santa's at the mall.  
Now it's time we decided for ourselves, for ourselves,  
Yes it's time we decided for ourselves.*

O Lord our God, we stumble as those lost in the night.  
*WILL NOT DAY COME SOON?*  
We live burdened by the sorrow and cares of this world.  
*WILL YOU HELP US SOON?*  
We hear the promise of Your Word made flesh.  
*CHRIST IS COMING SOON!*  
We long for the light of Your salvation.  
*COME AND SAVE US SOON!*

*WILL NOT DAY COME SOON?*

O Lord our God, we live in the promise of Your coming. Help us to keep awake and be ready for Your birth in our world and in our hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*WILL YOU HELP US SOON?*

O Lord our God, You speak to us of comfort and peace. When the things of this world wither and fade, grant that we may stand steadfast in Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*CHRIST IS COMING SOON!*

*O Lord our God, we shout for joy at the nearness of Your birth. Renew us with Your love, and send us out into the world to share the good news of Christ's advent. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

*COME AND SAVE US SOON!*

O Lord our God, we long for Your coming. Grant us patience in our waiting. Shower us with Your peace. Lead us to live as Your holy people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*BROTHERS AND SISTERS, WE ARE LOST IN THE NIGHT NO MORE, BUT LIVE IN THE PROMISE OF CHRIST. MAY GOD, WHO SENDS LIGHT TO OVERCOME ALL DARKENSS, GRANT US GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE. AMEN.*

See you in Church!

EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD!  
ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD!  
EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY THE LORD IS HERE TO STAY!

*Pastor Mark*

---

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2011

### TABLE PRAYER FOR ADVENT

#### INVITATION

The King shall come when morning dawns.  
AND LIGHT TRIUMPHANT BREAKS.

#### PRAYER

Let us pray. As we prepare for the Advent of Your Son, O God, we give You thanks for this food and drink, signs of Your gracious love. May this meal strengthen us to share Your gifts with the hungry and all who look for Your justice and mercy. Grant this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



Let us pray. Lord our God, You call all people to walk in Your light and to seek Your justice and peace. Bless us as we light the candles of this wreath. Strengthen us in hope that we may be ready to greet our Lord when He comes and welcome Him into our hearts and homes. We make this prayer in the name of Him who is our light and our salvation. AMEN.

## TABLE PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

### INVITATION

The Word became flesh and lived among us,  
AND WE HAVE SEEN HIS GLORY.

### PRAYER

Let us pray. With shepherd and angels, we sing: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth. With Mary and Joseph we praise You, O God, for Christ, the Word made flesh. With joyful hearts we offer You thanks for the gifts that grace this table. Strengthen us with this food, that we may be witnesses to the light shining in darkness. We ask this in the name of our Savior, Christ the Lord. AMEN.



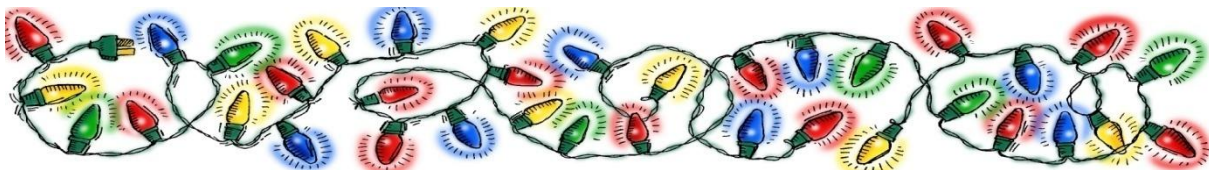
## BLESSING OF THE NATIVITY



Let us pray. O Lord our God, with Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, and the animals in the stable, we gather around Your Son, born for us. Bless us with Your holy presence and inspire us to help those who have no place to dwell. Be with us that we might share Christ's love with all the world, for His is our light and salvation. Glory in heaven and peace on earth, now and forever. AMEN.

## LIGHTING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Let us pray. God our Creator, we praise You for this Christmas tree. It is a sign of Your everlasting, evergreen presence. It is a sign of the reign of heaven, sheltering the creatures of the earth under its open arms. It is a sign of the cross, shining with the light of Your grace and mercy. Gracious God, let Your blessing come upon us as we light this tree. Send us Your Son, the tender shoot of Jesse, who brings us light and life. May all who stand in its light eagerly welcome the true Light which never fades. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.



## FIRST COMMUNION

Following the guidelines of *The Use of the Means of Grace*, a statement on the practice of Word and Sacrament, published by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and with the support of the Congregation Council, receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered at St. John following these steps:

- When parents (in discussion with the Pastor) feel their child is ready, they will present the child to the Pastor.
- The Pastor will offer supportive and educational material to both child and family.
- And finally, with a commitment by the parents to encourage and support their child in regular worship and the celebration of the Sacrament a First communion Celebration will be scheduled.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Dear leaders,

On November 1, I sent the following letter to President Obama and members of Congress. At the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA, members of this church requested that we "communicate to the president and members of Congress the support of the ELCA for comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act."

This is Christ's church and I know many of us are already involved in finding ways to welcome the newcomer. Let us continue to work together to support comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark S. Hanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

In God's grace,  
Mark S. Hanson  
Presiding Bishop



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Dear President Obama:

As the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a member of the Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, I write to lift up the support of our national church body for comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act.

We are a church that belongs to Christ, and we believe God calls each of us by name. Therefore, the ELCA has repeatedly affirmed the biblical witness and our shared experience of working with and on behalf of America's newcomers through our ministry with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

The 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA voted overwhelmingly in support of [immigration reform](#) and the DREAM Act. The churchwide assembly is the ELCA's highest legislative authority serving on behalf of 4.2 million baptized ELCA members.

The biblical call to hospitality also inspired Lutheran congregations across the country to discuss transforming communities into centers of hospitality through relationship building and advocacy. In addition, congregations are holding DREAM Act Sabbaths to lift up the experiences of undocumented youth and encourage broader public support for the legislation.

The need to overhaul the U.S. immigration system is becoming ever more urgent. In the absence of comprehensive immigration reform, states have felt compelled to write their own immigration laws, which are often shortsighted and misguided. The ELCA needs your leadership. We urge you to continue to speak to Congress and the American public to take action on comprehensive immigration reform and the DREAM Act and to explore other compassionate policy reforms that advance the common good.

As a national church body, the ELCA -- our congregations, bishops, schools and millions of individual members -- continues to preach, teach, advocate and work with and on behalf of America's newcomers. This nation has achieved such greatness due to the resilience, labor and intellect of immigrants. We will roll up our sleeves and work tirelessly until this nation is once again a place of welcome and justice for newcomers.

In God's grace,  
The Rev. Mark S. Hanson  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

## FINANCE

As of November 17, 2011 the portfolio has returned -7.76% YTD, lagging the S & P 500 Index and the Russell 2000, which returned -1.55% and -7.17%, respectively. Exposure to international stocks which are down 15-20% are largely responsible for the lag. The market has been extremely volatile to say the least. Stocks fell sharply, as investors worried about sovereign debt crisis in Europe and a global economic slowdown. In the U.S., concerns over the debit ceiling, Standard & Poor's recent downgrade of the credit rating for U.S long-term government debt and the Federal Reserve's plan to keep key short-term interest rates near zero through mid-2013 further unsettled the market.



**Finance  
Update**

Near-term, I believe the market is going to continue to be volatile, especially with the European debt crisis remaining unresolved and concerns of a global economic slowdown remain. Long term, however, I think the market's outlook is much brighter, especially given the fact that current stock valuations seem attractive and inflation is easing around the world.

It is important to realize that although the portfolio is down -7.76% YTD, the portfolio has not lost any of its original principle and is actually up 2.25% since inception. The portfolio has also been on a systematic monthly liquidation of \$3,100 in order to raise cash for expenses. Year to date withdrawals are currently at \$15,000.

Justin Odell

---

## PROPERTY

Recently we were cited by the town for our pavement and curb. Three areas of concern were mentioned in the citation. There is an uneven section of pavement which was elevated by tree roots to about one inch higher than the surrounding pavement. We were notified that someone had tripped in that area. Jeff Yerger has stepped up and gotten several estimates and will get this issue resolved. Thank you Jeff, once again, for your continued help with the Property Committee.

We received a large water bill as a result of a leaking toilet on the third floor. Attempts to repair it with new parts proved futile and a new toilet was installed. Lighting in the corridor around the chair lift has been upgraded and gives a much brighter light in the stairwell. A "thank you" to Rick Adamson for his electrical expertise is also in order. Karl Yunghans continues to keep the grounds looking great by donating his landscaping skills. Work was also done to secure pews in the church.

A committee meeting was held to discuss and schedule new projects for the months ahead.

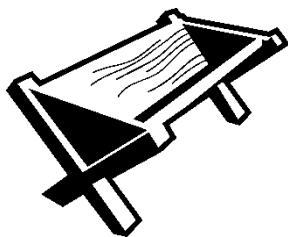
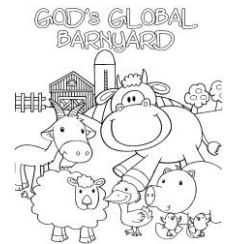
---

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

A special thank you to everyone who gave of their time and energy preparing and serving the Community Thanksgiving Dinner. You brought joy to lots of people who may have otherwise spent the day alone.

The Social Ministry Committee continues to be in touch with the people on the church's prayer list. Cards are sent, telephone calls are made and visits as needed.

Watch the lobby for **BARNYARD BUCKS**. For \$1. you can purchase and decorate a barnyard picture for yourself or in honor of a friend or family member. The Social Ministry Committee will display these colorful pictures as a reminder that we are helping Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) *World Hunger* make a life-saving difference for neighbors around the world and close to home.



**MEALS AT THE MANGER.** Have you noticed a manger in the sanctuary? Help fill the manger by bringing a non-perishable food item along with you each time you come to worship. Your gifts of food will be taken to the Ocean City Food Cupboard for distribution. Suggestions for food items include canned vegetables, fruit, or applesauce, tomato or chicken noodle soup, one-pound packages of dried beans or rice, boxes of oatmeal, crackers, macaroni and cheese or jars of peanut butter.

## STEWARDSHIP

### Dessert First

What does "Dessert First" mean? Remember when you were a kid and went out to dinner, and you were only able to have dessert if Dad had money left over? God doesn't treat us that way. God gives us the full bounty of creation...the beautiful sunrise this morning, a walk on the beach, God's Grace . . .

God gives to us right from birth, God gives to us **First**.

We need to give back to God the same way: Give to God **First**, take care of the rest afterward.



You may not think about it, but you're already doing a great deal. Through your donations to St. John and our Mission Support to the NJ Synod and our parent church, ELCA Disaster Relief:

- You gave food, water and necessities to folks in Louisiana after Hurricane Katrina
- You rebuilt homes in Joplin, MO after that devastating tornado
- You provided shelter to those evacuated from their homes in
- Delaware, PA & Northern NJ after Hurricane Irene

Through ELCA World Hunger:

- You fed hungry children in Nicaragua, Pakistan, and in Virginia

Through our sister church in Namibia:

- You built an addition to their church, fixed a pickup truck, and helped families in need

Through the Oyster, Ham, Chicken Dinner, your donations to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates):

- You helped neglected and abused children in Atlantic and Cape May counties

Through Waves of Caring and your donations to the Ocean City Food Cupboard and Clothes Closet:

- You fed the hungry and provided clothes to folks right here in Ocean City

As the man asked in Matthew,

‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ (NRSV Matthew 25:37-40)

There is no greater mission for St. John Lutheran Church. There is no greater mission for you.

Remember, **Dessert First**



## Stewardship of Creation

Another earthquake, another flood, more tornadoes where they never occurred before, ice caps melting, oceans rising, forest burning, drought, famine, poverty, unemployment, etc. etc. etc. We’ve heard these comments over and over again. Even made them ourselves. What on Earth is happening; we wonder. Is this wonderful world that we inhabit going to pot. Is there a correlation between forces of nature and economic upheaval? Could we be responsible for changes in our environment or is it Mother Nature having her way? What do you think?

Regardless of what each of us thinks, one thing we know for sure. God loved us so much that he gave us this wonderful world and entrusted it to us. Everything on this earth came from God’s hand and much of the destruction of this earth has come from humankind.

Those of us involved in Social Ministry and Stewardship have come to believe that social injustice and destruction of creation intertwine. We are working together to seek ways that our St John family can care for all of God’s creation. If you have ideas you would like to see implemented at St John, we invite you to share them with us. Comments can be sent to Barb Piston ( [jampiston15@comcast.net](mailto:jampiston15@comcast.net)) or Barb Ross ( [barbross56@comcast.net](mailto:barbross56@comcast.net)).

PS: Don’t think you can’t make a difference. You most certainly can. You can do lots of things for the earth. Here are ideas to keep in mind...

- ✓ **Help Save Energy** Turn off the lights when you leave the room. Turn off the TV when you're finished watching it. Don't leave the refrigerator door open. Get what you want quickly.
- ✓ **Keep Your Neighborhood Clean** If you see trash on the ground, toss it in a trash can.
- ✓ **Recycle Cans, Bottles, and Paper** Save them at home and at school, and help your family recycle them.
- ✓ **Help Keep the Air Clean** Ride your bike or walk to school. Too many cars cause a lot of pollution.
- ✓ **Save Paper** Use both sides of your paper at school and at home. To clean up messes, use sponges or washable cloths instead of paper towels.
- ✓ **Help Save Water** Don't leave the water running while you brush your teeth.
- ✓ **Reduce Purchases** of unnecessary things.
- ✓ **Reuse** Everything you can.
- ✓ **Recycle** everything that someone else can use.
- ✓ **Use** earth friendly cleaners
- ✓ **Look** for the Energy Star on appliances you purchase
- ✓ **Strive** always to become excellent stewards of God's creation.

---

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) collected their Thankofferings on November 20 at both the 8 AM and 10:30 AM worship service. Thankofferings are sent directly to the churchwide organization. They show gratitude for God's blessings. When significant or ordinary moments happen, we can say thank you to God! Thankofferings help Women of the ELCA provide new resources and events. Thankoffering jars are available in the narthex.

The Women of St. John are hosting a Christmas cookie Weekend, December 10 and 11. On Saturday, December 10 at 10 AM, cookie tins will be assembled and then delivered to our homebound. The following day the women will be hosint Fellowship and a (free-will offering) Christmas Cookie Walk. Donations received from the cookies will be give to *Waves of Caring* and *1000 Days Initiative* ([www.thousanddays.org](http://www.thousanddays.org)) Please drop your cookies off on Friday, December 9 or join the fun on Saturday morning. Call Susy Wilkins (513.0520) for more information.

WELCA will meet in January for dinner and yoga.

If you have any questions about WELCA or would like more information, check with President, Mary Grant; vice-president, Wendy Kern; or secretary/treasurer, Susy Wilkins.



Women  
of the  
**EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA**

## Stitches and Scripture

*Stitches and Scripture* will meet twice a month, on the second Thursday and the fourth Monday from 5 PM – 7 PM. January meetings will be held on January 12 and 23. The group has decided to spend their time together knitting for charity and to continue with a Bible Study. *Stitches and Scripture* is being offered to men, women, and children of all ages. Any and all knitting skill levels are invited and instruction will be provided for beginners. Anyone who crochets, or does needlepoint, counted cross-stitch, or any other fiber art is welcome. Dinner (provided by group members on a rotating basis) begins at 5:00 PM.



---

## THANK YOU!

Dear Friends,

Thank you so very much for the lovely flowers I received for my birthday, also all the cards and flowers I received when I was in the nursing home. It was a nice surprise to receive them. Thank you so very much and may God bless you all.

Sincerely, Alma Smith



Dear Pastor Bruesehoff,

On behalf of all of us at *The Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Families*, please accept our heartfelt appreciation for your generous donation of \$578.00.\*

Your gift will be used to help continue a much needed program in our community, provided at **no cost** to the children and families in Southern New Jersey. Last year we served over 450 family members here at our Northfield center from five different counties, who have lost loved ones, and anticipate serving many more this year. Also, the number of schools served in our School Outreach Program has increased from 4 in the 2006-2007 pilot school year, to 22 schools in three counties this past year.

We continue to expand our programming here at *The Alcove* as a direct result of the wonderful community support we receive.

Thank you, once again. We sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Warm regards,

Mindy Shemtov, LCSW

Executive Director/Co-Founder

*The Alcove Center for Grieving Children and Families*

\* Money collected from our Mother's Day – Father's Day offering

Dear Pastor Mark and the Congregation of St. John,

This month marks an anniversary for my spirit in the church. Besides being my 28<sup>th</sup> year baptized in the name of Christ, it also marks a more understated, personal, and completely random anniversary. This anniversary is not on any calendars; it's not even a reoccurring event. But it is significant in my spiritual life just like that day my bald head was wetted in the eyes of God and I probably started a toothless cry in His name.

When I was a freshman in college, I received a box from our church full of care-package goodies including Ramen, pens, all sorts of things that only God really remembers what, I'm sure, but also a package of wastepaper basket liners. That's right – trash bags.

Now, I'm sure you're wondering why that would have even mattered, why that especially stuck with me. Well, I was touched by the generosity I received in that box. It's a treasured thing to receive mail in college, especially mail with freebies and food!

But the reason this stuck with me was because those trash bags stuck with me. True enough it's taken me nine years to go through a value-sized package of 48 vanilla-scented "Ruffies" can liners. I don't throw away much, and I don't take out the trash much, or instead I use shopping bags or simply dump the debris into my kitchen bag, saving the bathroom or bedroom bag liner until it really needs to be disposed.

This month I finally got to the very last bag. As I held it above the trash can, I was moved to think of St. John. I thought back on the youth activities, the sermons, the bell choir, the time spent staring at the geometric shapes on the floor during service, and the burn of the wine when I was finally able to take the blood of Christ as a bond between me and my Savior.

I suppose, just as with fish, Christ multiplied my plastic linings to abound for me, taking care of my needs, being there to collect and hold my rubbish with no limit. God always is there to forgive us, no matter what we do. We try to reduce the sins we commit, to minimize future transgressions, but if they happen; if we lapse, God is there to collect and remove from our lives that waste which weighs us down.

I want to thank you, the congregation of St. John, for being there with me through these past nine years. While throwing away my garbage I was reminded of the lessons that stuck with me. I no longer attend service regularly but I am still a steward for God and my fellow man.

Reach out to each other and hold, just for a moment, your transgressions. We all have made some. But if we can let them go, God can use them as lessons, reuse them as inspiration, and show us the way to recycle our faith.

I've run out of bags, and by now I've learned not to throw things away lightly. God has never thrown me away, nor you, and we are still His most precious possessions.

How simple a thing for rubbish to make me remember my worth. Thank you St. John!

Danielle Best

Dear Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the staff, and our families – we would like to thank you for your continued support with your gift of \$350.00\*\*. We are honored that you chose to donate to our organization.

Family Promise's mission is to continue to serve homeless families through community partnerships and Interfaith congregations. There is no single cause of homelessness. While there may be many reasons for a family's crisis, the root cause of homelessness is the lack of decent, affordable housing for low-income families. Homelessness is a large and complex problem in Cape May County that has continued over a long period, and some may be tempted to accept it as part of our culture. Some might conclude that the problem is so big that there is nothing that individuals can do about it.

Fortunately, many congregations and individuals from our Faith Community believe that homelessness is unacceptable and that no child should be put to bed in the backseat of a car. And that one person **can** do a great deal about homelessness – especially working in concert with others.

Thank you again for your kindness and consideration in selecting Family Promise of Cape May County to receive your donation. We hope that you will continue to partner with us in our commitment to helping homeless children...one family at a time.

With warm regards, Laurie Johnson, Network Director, Family Promise of Cape May County

*\*\*This money was from our Spring Rummage Sale*



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$115.00\*\*\* to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.

Your kind support sends gifts of God's love to places like Sierra Leone, where years of war have left most people below the poverty line. The country is so poor, in fact, that hospitals cannot offer bedding to patients. Those who cannot afford bedding sleep on hard metal bed frames.

Because of people like you and the contributions you make to the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, LWR can send LWR quilts to Sierra Leone to comfort the sick.

Bishop Thomas J. Barnett of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone explains, "...with the war, everything was devastated. For those that have absolutely nothing we provide them with warmth – we use your quilts."

With your help, we can send even more of these gifts of compassion around the world. Thank you so much for your support.

To see where LWR quilts and kits go, visit our website, [lwr.org/beinvolved](http://lwr.org/beinvolved), today. If you have any questions, we're happy to answer them by phone at 800.597.5972 or e-mail at [lwr@lwr.org](mailto:lwr@lwr.org).

Again, please accept my heartfelt thanks for your gift. Your support keeps this ministry going strong!

In Christ's peace, John A. Nunes, President and CEO  
Lutheran World Relief

*\*\*\*Money collected on Health Kit night and given to help ship the more than 600 Health Kits that were assembled and donated by the St. John Family.*

Dear Pastor Bruesehoff,

Thank you so very much for storing 3 flood buckets in your church.## I wish we could tell you how long you will need to keep them – ideally forever! But we all know that the next flood *will* happen, and your help with these buckets of essential cleaning supplies will help the next disaster victims to recover and rebuild.

FEMA reports that New Jersey ranks No. 2 in the country in flood assistance grants, second only to Tennessee. People talk about the possibility of all kinds of disasters, but the most likely scenario in New Jersey is flooding.

Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey maintains a list of where the over 100 flood buckets are stored across the state. We will call you when they are needed. And please call us if you need assistance in your area.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Peace,

Trink Schwartz  
Disaster Recovery Center Coordinator  
(609) 234.2322  
[kschwartz@lsmnj.org](mailto:kschwartz@lsmnj.org)

Lisa Raylene Barnes  
Director of Cummunity Partnering and Advocacy  
(609) 699.4143  
[lbarnes@lsmnj.org](mailto:lbarnes@lsmnj.org)

## *Put together by the Junior High youth at their retreat in November.*



To our St. John family,

We have never been known as the techno type,  
But since June our relationship has been tethered by Skype!

Sue traverses the east coast corridor,  
She, still in OC, visits me in south Florida.

Tim got involved in a small statuary business not far from the beach,  
Fountains, benches, statues, birdbaths and more....all made of concrete some out of his reach.

The move for just Tim was a tough decision,  
But we've found many others down here in the same transition.

We're looking forward to summer and Sue will be here,  
And our traveling marriage will disappear!

Till then, its travel and visits and our time together with computer gear,  
But together we wish you...

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
Tim and Sue Richards

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

## RECENTLY ON THE PRAYER LIST

Grace Adamson

Ed and Steve Busch

Barbara Deaney

Vicki Flint

Pat Gum

Joanne Parsels

Dave Regar

Mary Lou Savina

John Sheeler

Dorothy Wilson

Ruth Burke

Ruth Dager

Kathy DiGuglielmo

Dave Grant

Lucy Kruegl

Joan Potts

Betty Renquest

Vivian and Bill Schroeder

Ric Waechter

## BIRTHS

Prayers of thanksgiving with Mike and Julia (Abigail and Anthony) Henrich at the birth of Austin Thomas on Sunday, September 18.

## MEMBERS IN THE MILITARY

Jon Waechter



# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- |    |                                    |    |                                 |
|----|------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1  | Kathy DiGuglielmo, Natalie Jackson | 14 | Jon Batastini, Elizabeth Miller |
| 2  | Garrett Cobb                       | 15 | Dorothy Schillinger             |
| 3  | Tom Jackson                        | 16 | Pattyann Tangy                  |
| 5  | Ric Waechter, Jessica Creamer      | 18 | June Dutch, Nicholas Johnson    |
| 7  | Sue Baker                          | 26 | Vicki Flint, Heather Monroe     |
| 8  | Janet Irwin, Annette Bubeck        | 27 | Jaclyn Stafford, Jacob Stafford |
| 11 | Carol Shimer-Young, Andrew Elliott | 31 | Janet Melven                    |
| 13 | Lew Wolf                           |    |                                 |



# DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| December 7, 1963  | Dick and Lillian Ellerman |
| December 15, 1973 | Rick and Wanda Adamson    |
| December 27, 1975 | Fred and Carol Prange     |



## DECEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Linda Jackson
- 14 Kathy DiGuglielmo
- 21 Ron Gifford, Tony Henrich
- 24 Tim Richards, Ron Gifford, Jr., Sonya McElwee
- 25 Mary Bullock, Ric Waechter, Caleb Garza
- 26 Pattynn Tangy, Holly Aiken, Tom Jackson

## WORSHIP DETAILS

### For December 2011 and January 2012

*"My mouth is filled with Your praise, and with Your glory all day long."* Psalm 71:8

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2011 + SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM SPOKEN SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Hymn: ELW 768 *Lead Me, Guide Me*

10:30 AM ELW, HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING TEN, PAGE 203

Hymns: ELW 259 *Fling Wide The Door*

ELW 257 v.1 *O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW 249 *On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry*

ELW 253 *He Came Down* (Communion Hymn)

ELW 768 *Lead me, Guide Me*

Sermon: "EVERYTHING WE PREPARE FOR"



#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011 + MIDWEEK ADVENT 2

6:00 PM SUPPER

7:00 PM WORSHIP

"PROCLAIM THE WONDROUS BIRTH"

THE BIRTH OF SAMUJEL IS GOD'S GIFT TO HANNAH

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2011 + THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM + 10:30AM

A CHORAL CANTATA

THEME: "EVERYTHING WE REJOICE FOR"



#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011 + MIDWEEK ADVENT 3

6:00 PM SUPPER

7:00 PM WORSHIP

"PROCLAIM THE WONDROUS BIRTH"

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST, SON OF ELIZABTH AND ZECHARIAH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2011 + THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
8:00AM SPOKEN SERVICE OF COMMUNION  
Hymn: ELW 253 *He Came Down*  
Sermon: "EVERYTHING WE NEED"  
10:30AM SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE & LIVING NATIVITY



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011 + MIDWEEK ADVENT 4  
6:00 PM SUPPER  
7:00 PM WORSHIP  
"PROCLAIM THE WONDROUS BIRTH"  
WE COME TO THE BETHLEHEM MANGER TO PONDER THE AMAZING BIRTH OF JESUS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2011 + CHRISTMAS EVE  
5:00 PM & 11:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES  
Sermon: "THE LIGHT OF LIFE"

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2011 + CHRISTMAS DAY  
9:00 AM COME-AS-YOU-ARE CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE (ONE SERVICE)  
"PROCLAIM THE WONDROUS BIRTH"  
WE CELEBRATE THE AMAZING BIRTH OF CHRISTIANS,  
WHO NOW BRING CHRIST TO THE WHOLE WAITING WORLD.



CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011 + NEW YEAR'S EVE  
4:00 PM  
"TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2012 + FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS  
9:00 AM A SERVICE OF CAROLS, LESSONS AND COMMUNION (ONE SERVICE)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2012 + BAPTISM OF OUR LORD  
8:00 AM SPOKEN SERVICE OF COMMUNION  
Hymn: WOV 748 *Bind Us Together*  
10:30 AM WITH ONE VOICE, HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING 5,  
*BREAD OF LIFE, PAGE 28*  
Hymns: WOV 652 *Arise, Your Light Has Come!*  
WOV 770 *Borning Cry*  
WOV 693 *Baptized In Water*  
WOV 709 *Eat This Bread* (Communion Hymn)  
WOV 748 *Bind Us Together*



Sermon: "BETTER BY BAPTISM"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012 + SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
8:00 AM SPOKEN SERVICE OF COMMUNION  
Hymn: WOV 752 *I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky*  
10:30 AM WITH ONE VOICE, HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING 5,  
*BREAD OF LIFE, PAGE 28*  
Hymns: WOV 712 *Listen, God Is Calling*  
WOV 796 *My Lord Of Light*  
WOV 709 *Eat This Bread* (Communion Hymn)  
WOV 752 *I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky*

Sermon: "BY INVITATION"



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012 + THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:00 AM SPOKEN SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Hymn: WOV 723 *The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve*

10:30 AM WITH ONE VOICE, HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING 5,  
*BREAD OF LIFE, PAGE 28*

Hymns: WOV 651 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

WOV 784 *You Have Come Down To The Lakeshore*

WOV 709 *Eat This Bread* (Communion Hymn)

WOV 723 *The Spirit Sends Us Forth To Serve*

Sermon: "COME-AS-YOU-ARE"



SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2012 + FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

8:00 AM SPOKEN SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Hymn: WOV 781 *My Life Flows On In Endless Song*

10:30 AM WITH ONE VOICE, HOLY COMMUNION, SETTING 5,  
*BREAD OF LIFE, PAGE 28*

Hymns: WOV 717 *Come, All You People*

WOV 741 *Thy Holy Wings*

WOV 709 *Eat This Bread* (Communion Hymn)

WOV 781 *My Life Flows On In Endless Song*

Sermon: "POWER IN HIS PRESENCE"



---

## CONTACT US

### STAFF EMAIL

Pastor Mark [pastormark@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:pastormark@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Church Office [office@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:office@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Julia Henrich [juliah@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:juliah@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Rick Adamson (Evangelism)

[ricka@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:ricka@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Mary Bullock (Worship)

[maryb@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:maryb@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Marcus Dobberfuhl (Social Ministry)

[marcusd@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:marcusd@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Dave Grant (Stewardship)

[davidg@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:davidg@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Sandy Lilley (Memorials)

[sandyl@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:sandyl@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Dave Muller (Property)

[davem@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:davem@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Justin Odell (Finance)

[justino@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:justino@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Sue Richards (Christian Ed)

[suer@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:suer@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Barbara Ross (Stewardship)

[barbarar@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:barbarar@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Glen Stewart (President))

[glens@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:glens@stjohnlutheranoc.org)

Karl Yunghans (Property/Finance)

[karly@stjohnlutheranoc.org](mailto:karly@stjohnlutheranoc.org)