

JULY & AUGUST

2012

# The MESSENGER

St. John's Lutheran Church/ 516-599-1778

[www.stjohnslynbrook.org](http://www.stjohnslynbrook.org)

## *Pastor's Reflection~*

Included elsewhere in this edition of *The Messenger* is my formal resignation letter, which was sent to the members of St. John's in June. It is reprinted here for those who are friends or "alumni" of the congregation. However, I would be remiss if I did not write some additional words to you for this, my final *Messenger* reflection.

First, my deep thanks to all of you who have allowed me the privilege of serving as your pastor over the past five years. It has been a great blessing to me to begin my ordained life in a congregation that was willing to let me grow and learn how to do this pastor thing and was also willing to grow and learn with me. Together we've tried many new things – new musical settings of the liturgy, new hymns, additional worship times, new worship styles (Holden Evening Prayer and our recent worship in the park, for example), a new Sunday school curriculum – and that's just a few off the top of my head! We've also expanded our understanding of who our neighbors are and the ways that we reach out to share God's love with those in need, whether that be through donations of school supplies or Christmas gifts and tins of cookies for Seafarers or coat and clothing drives; we even agreed to be a host or support congregation for a program to house homeless families! (The program we were going to work with didn't quite get out of the organization stage here in Nassau County, but maybe you'll have another similar opportunity in the future, and I hope you'll embrace it!) We've weathered some difficult economic times, both as a country and as a congregation. While there is still much to do in that area, St. John's is actually on more stable financial footing now in terms of a balanced budget, thanks to your faithful giving and the creative and sacrificial efforts of the many involved in managing the church's expenses.

Alongside all of the work we've done on a congregational level, I have also been honored to walk with many of you in a more personal, individual way: preparing for marriages, baptizing infants and children (and 1 adult!), teaching confirmation, and presiding at funerals. In times of joy and sorrow, I have been glad to walk with you through the ages and stages of life and to share the word and witness of God's deep, never-ending love with you.

I will always remember and thank God for the people of St. John's and the ways you have supported and loved me and my family, especially at the birth of Norah and our announcement of the impending arrival of Baby Fetters #2 (who is, by the way, a boy – and don't worry. We'll be sure to send pictures after he is born sometime in October!).

As I prepare to leave, my prayer for St. John's is that this time of transition between pastors will be a fruitful one, as you discern together who God is calling St. John's to be in the next 100 years and who best will help to lead you into God's future and mission. God is already preparing your next pastor for you and you for her or him. I will be praying for you and your new pastor in this time, and will rejoice with you when you begin your work together!

Abiding in God's peace with you,

*Fr. Becky*



## *St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

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Rev. Rebecka J. Fetters, Pastor

June 2, 2012

Dear people of God at St. John's,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is with a mixture of sadness and anticipation that I write to inform you that I am resigning from my call as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, effective July 15.

Many of you know that my husband Andy has been in the call process since January. While we had originally hoped that he might find a church near enough to allow me to remain at St. John's, God the Holy Spirit had other plans. Andy has accepted a call to a church in Waukesha, Wisconsin. We are grateful that he has found a congregation that is a good fit for his gifts, abilities, and interests, even as we are sad that it will take us far from people we have come to know and love over the past five (almost) years. After we move, I will go on leave from call in order to focus on our family, especially as we look forward to the birth of our second child in October.

Andy, Norah, the pets, and I plan to make the move to Wisconsin during the last week of June. Following a few weeks to move and settle in, I will return to Lynbrook to preside at a wedding, and my last day with you in worship will be July 15.

Times of pastoral vacancy are always filled with questions as congregations wonder what the next steps are and what the future might hold. I will work closely with the congregational council and other leaders in these next weeks to help to plan for this vacancy. Rev. Kathleen Koran, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations, will also be working with the council, and will preach and preside at worship on Sunday, July 8. She will then be available to meet with individuals after worship to help answer your questions, explain the next steps in this process, and inform you about what you can expect from the synod as St. John's goes through a time of exploring and discerning what gifts and skills this congregation most needs from its next pastor.

Thank you for your support, encouragement, openness, and constructive criticism over the past several years. St. John's has been a wonderful congregation for me to begin my ministry as an ordained pastor. I have learned many things, have grown as a leader and in my own faith, and have experienced the love of God expressed through all of you. I have loved being the pastor of St. John's, and will miss you all. Please keep our family in your prayers, as we will keep the people and congregation of St. John's in ours.

Trusting God's guidance with you,

*Pr. Becky*

Pr. Becky Fetters

## LETTER TO CONGREGATION CONCERNING COVENANT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Pastor Becky Fetters and the Congregation Council have prayerfully signed a covenant, which helps us understand our relationship with one another as we move forward without her.

When a pastor leaves a congregation, it is not appropriate for her to continue to function in the pastoral role. This is difficult and sometimes painful for us to understand. However, if we remember that part of our calling as the people of God is to care for the body of Christ and not injure different members of it, we might find it easier to accept. For instance, if a pastor does a funeral for Jane because she was so special, why won't the pastor perform a baptism for Joe's family? It's easy to see how hurt feelings would not only affect Joe's feelings towards the former pastor but perhaps also feelings within the body of Christ between Jane's family and Joe's family.

It is important for us to understand that as of July 15, 2012, Pastor Becky is no longer our pastor, but she will pray for our continued and future mission and ministry and for a strong and fruitful partnership with our future pastoral leader.

Therefore, Pastor Becky **cannot**:

- come back to perform weddings, funerals, or baptisms;
- visit the sick and the homebound;
- continue in any counseling relationship with a parishioner;
- be involved in any way in the call process (helping with the profile, recommending candidates, commenting on a particular candidate);
- support or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement;
- return and lead worship services (unless down the road she is invited back as a "former pastor" to participate in special events, such as a church anniversary).

This does not mean that friendships developed must come to an end, but the relationship to pastor and parishioner will no longer continue.

We give thanks to God for the time Pastor Becky was with us, and we pray for her as she now goes forth to serve God and the church in new ways. We trust that God will send us a new leader who will be different but called to serve God and the ministry of this congregation for the next stage of our ministry.

In Christ,



Pauline Feltkamp  
Council President

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## **WORKDAY**

A big thank you to Carol Clemente, Dennis Fernez, Ruth Williamson, Allison Koehler, Cora Sarver and Pauline Feltkamp for giving of their time and hard work to help St. John's "Shine"!

The windows in the knotty pine room were cleaned, the backyard of the church was raked and weeded, the left side of the stage was swept and organized, the paint closet was cleaned, the carts in the kitchen were cleaned, the refrigerator/freezer was cleaned and last but not least the many kitchen cabinets were cleaned out, organized, and several of the cabinets were Murphy Oiled on the outside. A lot was accomplished, but there is still more to do... Another day!

God Bless you all for your devotion and continual support of the many tasks that need to be done to keep St. John's the beautiful church that it is.

Dotty Criscuolo

Interim Property Chair

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## **MEMORIAL DAY PARADE**

The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee extends a big Thank You to all who marched in the Memorial Day Parade. Our model church (made by Charlene Comastri) was pulled by Joan Pirrone and made a big hit. Our St. John's banner was held high by Pauline Feltkamp and Cora Sarver. With the cooperation and coordination of the Evangelism committee we were able to hand out 294 bottles of water with our St. John's name on them. Thanks to Pastor Becky, Pastor Andy and Norah, Dotty Criscuolo, Lori and Dennis Fernez, Janet Pescatore, Susan Masciello, and Barbara (Susan's sister) no one went home thirsty. We were privileged to have a vintage car driven by Bruce Feltkamp with Gerda Weber riding shotgun to wind up our group. What a great day celebrating our 100 years of "Sharing God's Love"!

Joan Pirrone & Dotty Criscuolo

On behalf of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

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## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND CHURCH PICNIC**

On June 3rd, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee sponsored the picnic/BBQ at Greis Park. The 10 AM worship service was held in the park before the picnic began. Many thanks to Pastor Becky, Judy Opatow, Michael Fernez, and Ryan Dusenbury for an awesome service in the park and to John DeStefano for the audio set up. Thanks are also needed to be extended to Jill & Joe Pace, Debby & Bill Lindman, and Janet Pescatore for organizing the picnic/BBQ. It was a beautiful day with 68 of our family and friends sharing in worship and fun games. All left with a happy, spiritually filled heart and a full "belly". Thank you all!

Dotty Criscuolo & Joan Pirrone

On behalf of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

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## **NAN MOSER STEPS DOWN AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE BARBARA SEMMIG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

On behalf of our congregation and with great appreciation, we want to thank Nan Moser for her 17 year service as the chairperson of the Barbara Semmig Memorial Scholarship Fund. Her vision, dedication and caring made this scholarship program a success. Under her leadership, from the year 1995 through 2012 we have bestowed 30 high school seniors pursuing a higher education with a monetary scholarship in honor of Barbara Semmig. Nan's insight and dedication will be missed. On behalf of WELCA and our congregation, Nan we thank you!

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## **THANKS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER FOOD DRIVE!**

Because of your help we were able to donate over 500 pounds of food for those in need to Lutheran Social Services. Again, the members of St. John's Church have shown unlimited generosity for those in need. We should feel very proud. Peace and Love, Evangelism and Social Ministry Committee



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## **ST. JOHN'S FUND DONATIONS**

A gift was given to the St. John's fund in honor of my Godson and his wife, Bruce and Karen Feltkamp on their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.  
In His Services,  
Grace West

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## **WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK....**

-  Joe Pace for fixing the chairlift in the church.
-  Bruce Feltkamp, Dennis Fernez', and Kevin Hanson for changing the spot light over the sanctuary that light up the pulpit.

## **AND A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU....**

We received a very large anonymous gift to recharge the refrigerant in the air-conditioning unit in the church sanctuary.

# Youth Group News

## Youth Group Meeting

*There are no Youth Group meetings or activities planned over the summer. Our next meeting will be in September. Please watch for emails – we will let you know once we have a specific meeting date scheduled.*

*Hope that you all have a fun and safe summer and we'll see you in September!*

*Lori Fernez & Janet Powell*

# Young Adult group news

## Young Adult Group Meeting

### Save the Date!

*Our next meeting for our Young Adult Group will be on Sunday, August 5th, during the 10 AM service, in the council room. This will be our last meeting of the year; we will meet again in January. An email with the topic for discussion will be sent at least one week prior to our meeting. This group is for those who are post-high school aged and under 30 – if you are interested in joining and are not on our email list, please call the church office for more information.*

## ***Barbara Semmig Memorial Scholarship Award***

Each year **W.E.L.C.A.** presents the **Barbara Semmig Memorial Scholarship Award** to graduating high school seniors. This year we congratulate the following recipients of the Barbara Semmig Memorial Scholarship Award ~

**Danielle Dake** will be attending Marist College pursuing a degree in Special Education and History Education.

**Ryan Dusenbury** will be attending Boston College pursuing a degree in Clinical Psychology.

**Carrie Feltkamp** will be attending Cornell University pursuing a degree in Industrial Engineering.

**Chris Powell** will be attending Farmingdale College pursuing a degree in Professional Communications.

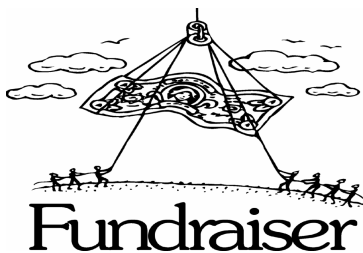
**Congratulations to all!! God Loves You!**

The Barbara Semmig Memorial Scholarship Committee,  
Nan Moser, Cora Sarver, Pauline Feltkamp, and Marie Obst (deceased)

## Bric-A -Brac Harvest Festival, Oct. 14, 2012...

Hard to believe that summer is here, and our Harvest Festival is fast approaching right after that. Please think of St. Johns as you begin any of your summer cleaning; please bring all of your unwanted items down to the old nursery room, this is located to the right of the stage, for this year's 2012 Harvest Festival. Should you have any questions please give either one of us a call. Thanks from the Bric-A-Brac Committee!

Diane Dake 599-2705 Susan Masciello 599-1956



## Harvest Festival Raffle Donations

The raffle table has always been one of the Harvest Festival's biggest fundraisers. If anyone would like to donate an "AWESOME" item that will generate ticket sales or if you know a company or business that would like to donate, please contact the church office via email or phone by September 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you. Harvest Festival Committee

*Do we have...*

**your @e-mail.address?**



Please send us your latest email address so we may update our files. If you do NOT have an email address, please notify the church office at 516 – 599-0778 so we can contact you via regular mail or phone. If you leave a voice mail please spell your name. Thank you.

*Commit to the Lord whatever you do,  
and your plans will succeed.*

*Proverbs 16:3*

# SAVE THE DATE

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Is celebrating the  
100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Sharing God's Love"  
September 30, 2012

10 am worship with Bishop Rimbo presiding  
at St. John's  
Followed by a Reception at Pompei Restaurant  
12:30 – 4:30 pm

## Calendar of Events – July & August 2012

### JULY

Sunday, 7/1	Worship, 9:30 AM
Wednesday, 7/4	Happy Independence Day
Sunday, 7/8	Worship, 9:30 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Pr. Kathleen Koran, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregations, preaching and presiding.</li><li>▲ Coffee Hour following worship – a chance to speak with Pr. Koran</li></ul>
Sunday, 7/15	Worship, 9:30 AM <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Pr. Becky's final Sunday</li></ul>
Sunday, 7/22	Worship, 9:30 AM
Sunday, 7/29	Worship, 9:30 AM

### AUGUST

Sunday, 8/5	Worship, 9:30 AM
Sunday, 8/12	Worship, 9:30 AM
Tuesday, 8/14	Council, 8 PM
Sunday, 8/19	Worship, 9:30 AM
Sunday, 8/26	Worship, 9:30 AM
Tuesday, 8/28	Evangelism & Social Ministry, 7:30 PM



## SERVERS FOR JULY 2012

DATE	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
7/1	9:30 AM	Elizabeth Hanson	9:30 AM	Roger Vargas	9:30 AM	Arlene Moglia
7/8	9:30 AM	Emma Lenz	9:30 AM	Kim Barbaro	9:30 AM	Dot Richetti
7/15	9:30 AM	Ashley Gavin	9:30 AM	Ryan Dusenbury	9:30 AM	Anna Lenz
7/22	9:30 AM	Victoria Dunn	9:30 AM	Andrew Dunn	9:30 AM	Joan Pirrone
7/29	9:30 AM	Jessica Gonzalez	9:30 AM	Hank Lenz	9:30 AM	Hank Lenz

## SERVERS FOR AUGUST 2012

DATE	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
8/5	9:30 AM	Christian Gianokos	9:30 AM	Jason Lipitz	9:30 AM	Arnelle Blinderman
8/12	9:30 AM	Katie Lenz	9:30 AM	Claire Lenz	9:30 AM	Claire Lenz
8/19	9:30 AM	Kaitlyn Gavin	9:30 AM	Bruce Feltkamp	9:30 AM	Susan Masciello
8/29	9:30 AM	Elizabeth Hanson	9:30 AM	Joan Pirrone	9:30 AM	Chris Powell

## SERVERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2012

DATE	ACOLYTES		ASSISTING MINISTERS		LECTORS	
9/2	9:30 AM	Jennifer Dalton	9:30 AM	Michael Fernež	9:30 AM	Arlene Moglia
9/9	10:00 AM	Jason Pace	10:00 AM	Janet Pescatore	10:00 AM	Janet Pescatore
9/16	10:00 AM	Erin Milano	10:00 AM	Karen Feltkamp	10:00 AM	Karen Feltkamp
9/23	10:00 AM	Jesse Pace	10:00 AM	Susan Masciello	10:00 AM	Anna Lenz
		Crucifer		Michael Fernež		
9/30	10:00 AM	Matt Fernež	10:00 AM	AM Dorothy Criscuolo	10:00 AM	Bruce Feltkamp
<b>100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary</b>		Crucifer		Jason Pace	AM Dorothy Richetti	
<b>Worship</b>		Torch Bearer		Kyle O'Connor		
<b>&amp; Dinner</b>		Torch Bearer		Ryan Milano		
		Gospel Bearer		David Powell		

If you cannot serve on a day you are scheduled, **please find a replacement** and notify the church office and the appropriate coordinator:

Bob Koehler - Assisting Ministers and Crucifers/Gospel bearers: 678-6623

Jill Pace - Acolytes and Torch bearers: 599-8896

– Claire Lenz - Lectors: 872-2063