

PRELUDE

From Anthony Achong, Executive Assistant / Administrative Office Mgr.
Anthony began at the LICC as an intern in 2015 and joined the staff in his current capacity in 2016.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Long Island Council of Churches unites diverse Christians to work together to improve living conditions on Long Island and to promote inter-faith understanding and cooperation.

Administrative Office

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LICC@optonline.net

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Riverhead, NY 11901
(631) 727-2210
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Freeport Food & Services Boutique

230 Hanse Avenue
Freeport, NY 11520
(516) 868-4989
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LICC@freeport.optonline.net

Christmas – “Jesus is the reason for the Season” “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16-17)

As another liturgical calendar/ calendar year comes to an end we are faced with a time where many of us make selfish promises (known as new year’s resolutions) that we can not or do not intend to keep, instead why not make selfless promises to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas is time of year where we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, it has over the year become a commercial holiday rather than a religious one for many people. It seems that year after year, the “Christmas shopping season” starts earlier and earlier with sales increasing dramatically as people purchase gifts, decorations, and supplies to celebrate.

The “reason for the season” is supposed to be about celebrating the birth of our Savior, not about gifts, nor parties, and not watching the “big game”. Of course, giving and receiving gifts, having celebrations, and watching the game of the day is not wrong. It is just that the meaning of Christmas is supposed to be a recognition of, and appreciation of, the birth of the One who loves us and died for in our places. It is a time to give in His name.

Christmas is the celebration of the historical event of where Jesus Christ entered into our world so that he might display the perfection and holiness of God and that through His work of living perfectly and also dying on the cross for our sins, that all who trust in Him would be saved from the righteous judgment of God.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16-17)

Christmas is a time for coming home and celebrating with family. The church family also comes home as we reflect upon the reason and meaning of Christ’s birth. More people go to church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day than any other time of the year. Christians come home to their church to celebrate the birth of Christ, and to wonder over his miraculous birth so long ago, and to rejoice for the hope he brings to the world.

Heaven knows the world is not perfect. It is not at peace and some of our *Neighbors* are struggling and

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starving, both psychically and especially spiritually. Christ's birth was to save us and bring us hope. At Christmas we think thoughts of peace - - and generosity abounds.

We note that Britain, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand celebrate St. Stephens's Day, or Boxing Day on December 26th. This is a day that the more fortunate give boxes filled with gifts to others who are less fortunate. In Nassau and Suffolk Counties the Long Island Council of Churches with the help of our *Neighbors*, helps to fill that roll in giving to our *Neighbors* that are less fortunate. *Neighbors* - helping - *Neighbors* are not merely words but the true expression of the meaning of Christmas.

We give our *Neighbors* hope in His name through our intentions and actions to be Christ-like by sacrificing and giving selflessly to others.

During this season of Christmas the Long Island Council of Churches wishes all our members, friends, and Neighbors a Happy and Healthy Day of Celebration.

If you know a Neighbor that needs a Christmas meal, please see the info on page 3. Thank you!



Thoughts & Prayers

Thoughts and prayers for all

The Long Island Council of Churches offers its thoughts and prayers for all of our members, friends, and Neighbors on a Happy Holidays and to a Happy, Prosperous, and Safe New Year.

Thank you and God Bless America



Welcome to the LICC

The Good News to Share LICC Continues to grow

The LICC welcomes the following as Members to the LICC: All Saint's Episcopal Church; Brentwood Presbyterian Church; Chamsarang Korean Methodist Church; Gateway World Christian Center; Summerland Church of Light NSAC; The Salvation Army - Greater NY Division.

If you are interested in becoming a member please email LICC@optonline and reference Membership in the subject line. Thank you.

LICC FOOD & SERVICES BOUTIQUES

The Long Island Council of Churches would like to remind all of our members, friends, and Neighbors that our Administrative Office and Food & Services Boutiques located in Hempstead, Freeport and Riverhead will be closed from December 25 to January 1, 2018. We will reopen on January 2, 2018 at 9:30 am. All Neighbors that come in for Emergency Food Services will be given enough food to help them through the holiday week.

Thank you for all of your support in 2017 and we look forward to continuing working with you in serving our Neighbors in need.

Please see locations and time of operation below.

Food & Services Boutique
Locations and Hours

Monday - Friday
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Closed between
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

Hempstead

40 Washington Street
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550
516-565-0290

Freeport

230 Hanse Avenue
Freeport, New York 11520
516-868-4989

Riverhead

220 Roanoke Avenue Suite #3
Riverhead, New York 11901
631-727-2210



Please help fill his bowl:

<https://www.liccdonate.org/collections/>

2017 COMMUNITY DINNER

The Long Island Council of Churches would like to thank all of our volunteers and donors for their generous donations for the 2017 Community Dinner in Riverhead.

Carolyn & Joe Baier

Kristina Hansen

Peter Harold

Joanne Horne

Gerry Manginelli

David Ramirez

Carol Schmidt

Thomas and Deborah Wallace

Dorothy Zondog

Astor Distributors

Briermere Farms

Reeve's Farm

**Greater Hampton Interfaith
Council, Inc.**

Riverhead Girl Scouts

St. John's Lutheran Church

**St. Paul's Reformed Church
of North Babylon**

Southampton Bath & Tennis Club

Southold Presbyterian Church

**The Community Presbyterian
Church of Malverne**

United Church of Rockville Centre

Wading River Congregational Church

Wickham's Farm



...serving our Neighbors in need...

PRELUDE

The newsletter of the
Long Island
Council of Churches

Editors

Anthony Achong

Hank Boerner

Items for publication
may be emailed to:
licc@optonline.net

Two months advance
notice for events
requiring registration.

Our appreciation and thanks to...

Emergency Food Pantry &
Family Support Programs

The Community Presbyterian
Church of Malverne
\$55

Greater Hamptons
Interfaith Council, Inc.
\$100

Bethany Congregational Church
\$207

Saint Paul's Reformed Church of
North Babylon
\$319

First United Methodist Church
\$467

Bob's Discount Furniture
Charitable Foundation
\$1,000

Congregational Church of
South Hempstead /
UCC Church Building
& Loan Fund
\$2,000

Where Most Needed

United Methodist
Church of Seaford
\$31

United Way of Long Island
\$132.60

West Hills United
Methodist Church
\$200

Community Church
of Syosset
\$225

First Presbyterian
Church of Northport
\$500

Congregational Church
of Manhasset
843.75

The Society of
St. Vincent de Paul
\$1,050

Hempstead United
Methodist Church
\$1,200

The Glena E. Jagger
Revocable Trust of 2005
\$13,286.61

*...continued
thanks to...*

*... the following individuals
for their gifts to support
our ministry to our
Neighbors in need:*

Linda Fardella; Kristina Hansen;
William Keller, PhD.; Janice
Kincaid; Marylou Swensen;
Shirley J. Russell; Cory Wilde;
Dorothy Zondog

Please visit us at
www.liccdonate.org