

St. John's Lutheran Church • 155 North St., JC, NJ 07307

E-mail: office@stjohnsjerseycity.org Website: www.stjohnsjerseycity.net

Phone: (201)798-0540



The **EAGLE** November 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

At this time of year there is a certain amount of focus on the idea of harvest. It is the season of Thanksgiving and in anticipation of the crop-free emptiness of the winter months, I do think about the gathering and giving of the harvest time, of providing for the hunger that we have. Give us this day our daily bread. However, as a Christian the mere thought of harvest also brings to mind Jesus saying, "The harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few." Matthew 9:37.

In this newsletter you will also read about *stewardship*. We are, each of us, called to share of our time, our talent and our possessions. Stewardship, a *churchy* word, is not unconnected to our spiritual call to be generous with our own harvest. God has blessed us with all manner of gifts, planted in us seeds, and we have these things with which to serve one another and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Recently, a church member raised an interesting question: "What does it mean to be called?" That happens to be a very good question, especially for this time of year. It is a question that binds together the ideas of harvest and stewardship, of laborers and being called. God has created in us all that is good and calls us to share it. Some of us will answer that call more or less. This question of what it means to be called in this season of a call to be generous

brings to mind more of Jesus words: Many are called but few are chosen. Matthew 22:14.

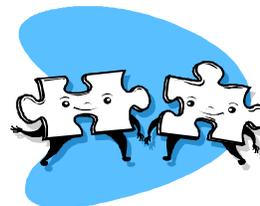
Is the writer of Matthew trying to confuse us? I don't think so, but maybe he is trying to get at the answer to that question our church member asked. For each of us: What does it mean to be called? If we are the source of the harvest, how might we be and who among us will be generous?

Prayerfully,
Pastor Mona Fitch-Elliott

PS: Pastor Mona has office hours on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. Please feel free to call for an appointment. (201)895-1498.

Murder Mystery Luncheon

A crime has been committed and we need your help to solve it!



Saturday, November 15, 2014
2:00 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church
155 North St., Jersey City

Featuring
The Attic Ensemble Theatre Company

Ticket price \$22
For tickets or more information call
(201)798-0540

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FEARLESS GENEROSITY



St. Johns celebrated our 146th Anniversary and what a wonderful celebration it was! The festival worship and Pot Luck dinner took place on Reformation Sunday, October 26, 2014. We celebrated with special music featuring St.

John's Choir and Ron McIntyre on Sax, Frankie Pellegrino on trumpet and Cindy Pellegrino, Music Director.



Save the Date!!!

St. John's will hold its **Annual Congregation Meeting on Sunday, November 16th** after church. There will only be one service that day at 11:00AM. Members will vote on several important decisions that will affect the ministry in the new year, such as leadership and budgetary concerns.

ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

A delegation of youth from St. John's will attend the national gathering which will take place in Detroit in July 2015. Our group will be traveling with a larger group representing the New Jersey Synod. We will be bringing a Peace Project to the gathering which focuses on conflict resolution. Please support this effort with

your kind donation for this will be an experience of a lifetime for our youth.



The first New Jersey Synod team meeting for the ELCA Youth Gathering 2015 was held at St. John's earlier this month on October 5th.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

- CONGRATULATIONS!! **Phil and Kay Garbarini** who were named Disciples of the Year at the 146th Anniversary Dinner.



- Throughout the fall season there have been several **Adult Forums** covering various topics. The result is more involvement, strengthened committees, and new ministries, and so we are raring to go as we continue our mission adventures!
- The church is looking a lot better these days as we make **progress in renovations** including a new roof on the church building, new ceilings and lighting in the narthex, and new carpeting.

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"I pray that Christ Jesus and the church will forever bring praise to God. His power at work in us can do far more than we dare to ask or imagine." Ephesians 3:20-21

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The Gifts and giving portion of our Stewardship campaign has begun. We have decided on the theme of "Fearless Generosity." During this initial phase, the focus will be on treasures, which include a "Commitment" card asking you to share how much you will be returning. We ask each person to take time and think and pray about how they will approach tithing (what they will give back to God). In the past, only about 20% or less of the congregation returns their commitment cards. Please consider returning yours even if you have not in the past. The cards have been mailed out and we ask that you complete and return them as soon as possible.



For those of you who missed the recent Adult Forum which focused on building up our committees. I am happy to announce that the Stewardship Committee has three new members and they are: **Norma Calhoun, Elaine McClusky, and Megan Kelly.** We welcome them and thank them for their support.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Scott Schantzenbach for meeting with the Stewardship Committee on October 20th, 2014 to help us, guide us and give us new ideas.

Finally, I would like to thank Pastor Mona Fitch-Elliott for her constant help, support and encouragement. May God bless

us as we continue to grow in our giving and in our faith.

Yours in Christ,
Sandra Weaver

Chair of the Stewardship Committee and
Committee Members:
Marie Seibert, Norma Calhoun, Elaine
McClusky and Megan Kelly

Please join us at St. John's for
our Thanksgiving Service on
Tuesday November 25, 2014
7:00PM



Christmas
Bazaar
And
Flea
Market

Saturday, December 6th,
2014
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
St. John's Lutheran
Church
155 North St., Jersey City

Holiday Gifts, Crafts,
Baked Goods and More!

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Tables available. For more information call (201) 798-0540 or email us at: stjohnswg@aol.com

Sponsored by:
St. John's Community Food Pantry. Hunger Has No Season!

CAN DRIVE



This Holiday Season we are asking for your HELP! 1 out of 4 kids in New Jersey will go to bed hungry. How can we expect children to learn on an empty stomach?

They cannot! Together we can make a difference. We invite our whole community to get involved: Schools, Offices, Organizations, Community Groups, Churches, Businesses, Fire Houses and Police Stations!

All you have to do is set up a bin to collect non-perishable food. Then call us to pick it up @ (201) 589-1781 or drop it off at St. John's Lutheran Church located at 155 North St. Jersey City, NJ Tuesdays to Thursdays 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and Sundays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm through January 3, 2015.

Help put food on someone's table.

Would you like to help by making a monetary donation or by volunteering? Please call us: (201) 589-1781

It's Easy! It's Local! It's rewarding! Tis the Season to be Giving!

ANNUAL COAT & TOY DRIVE

Also Sponsored by St. John's Food Pantry and Social Ministry

Just another way you might help provide warmth as well as put a smile on someone's face this Holiday Season!

Please donate new or gently used – Clean, Coats, Hats, Gloves & Scarves, for Men, Women & Children are greatly needed! New socks are also needed!

OR

You can also donate an unwrapped toy, new or gently used!



Toys will be distributed by Santa Claus at our Food Distribution on December 13, 2014!

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*Please drop off your donations at St.
John's Lutheran Church from 1pm to
4pm Tuesdays to Thursdays and 8am
to 12pm Sundays through December
13, 2014*